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JEHL

JEHL, SUE SERAFIAN

(OH-517)

48 pgs.

OPEN

WAC member of General Eisenhower's administrative staff at SHAEF Headquarters and also as Chief of Staff, 1943-47

DESCRIPTION: Personal background; reasons for joining WAAC; military experiences prior to assignment in Eisenhower's office in Algiers; personnel of Eisenhower's office (including Margaret Chick, Nana Rae, Jehl, Tex Lee, Colonel James Gault, Captain Harry Butcher); following the General (posts and conditions in England, France); office equipment; office security; correspondence; handling top security messages; filing systems; working hours and conditions; Eisenhower as an editor and writer; mess halls and living conditions at various command posts; anecdote concerning Elliott Roosevelt's marriage to Faye Emerson; Eisenhower's appointment schedule (including typical day, keeping the diary); anecdote about the German generals' surrender; anecdote about preparing Eisenhower's speech for the Joint Session of the House and Senate; Jehl's comments on her personal problems as a female-enlisted person among officers; office files (including allocation of documents; fan mail; filing clerks Sgt. Arthur Van Ostenburg, Pearl Hargrave; Inez Scott; SGS files); security for secretaries; preparations for D-Day; procedures for handling Eisenhower's fan mail (including SGS' role; access to files); physical layout of Saint George Hotel office (Algiers); comments about personnel (including Sgt. Leonard Dry, driver for the General; Captain Ruth Briggs; Kay [Summersby]; the Summersby-Eisenhower relationship; moral responsibilities of "Eisenhower's girls"; Jehl's assessment of Eisenhower as an individual; addressing the General; working on Crusade in Europe; anecdote concerning getting warrant officer's commission; Eisenhower's attitude toward civil service workers; Jehl's commission as a lieutenant; Mamie's resentment of Jehl; leaving the service; meeting Mrs. Roosevelt; flying back to Germany.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by Martin Mack Teasley, February 13, 1991]