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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, Modern Military Records Division:
Extracts from "Catalog of Combined British-American Records of the Mediterranean Theater of
Operations in World War II," 1942-47
(Microfilm)

Accession 69-26
Processed by: BSR, TB
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The microfilm copy of portions of the "Catalog of Combined British-American Records of the
Mediterranean Theater of Operations in World War II" was sent to the Eisenhower Library by
the Modern Military Records Division in December 1968.

Number of reels of microfilm: 1

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accordance with the general restrictions on access to government records as set forth by the
National Archives.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Allied Force Headquarters (AFHQ) was a joint U.S.-British military organization which commanded most of the allied forces in North Africa and the Mediterranean during World War II. AFHQ was initially organized in September 1942, with General Dwight D. Eisenhower as Commander in Chief, to prepare fro the invasion of North Africa. It was later expanded to cover allied operations in discontinued on 1 October 1945, although a small allied staff remained in operation for two years to finish disbanding the AFHQ organization.

Because both the U.S. and British governments had an interest in AFHQ, arrangements were made so that both countries could have copies of the AFHQ records. The Combined Chiefs of Staff decided that all the original records of AFHW would be given to the British government while microfilm copies of the records would be given to the U.S. A similar arrangement had earlier been made regarding the records f the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), the joint U.s.-British headquarters which commanded operations in western Europe. In the case of SHAEF, however, the British received a microfilm copy while the original records went to the U.S.

To handle the disposition of the records, the Allied Force Records Administration (AFRA) was created. The AFRA brought together all AFHQ records and organized them according to British archival principles. This involved assigning indicator and sub-indicator codes to each AFHQ office and numbering the files from the office sequentially with a serial number. The AFRA staff also microfilmed the records and prepared a detailed inventory of the material. This inventory was a massive typescript of over 2000 pages listing all the AFQH files. The inventory was titled "Catalog of Combined British-American Records of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations in World War II." The work was completed by late 1947 when the remaining AFHQ organization was discontinued. The records were sent to the British government and the microfilm copies and a copy of the inventory was sent to the U.S. government.

Once the microfilm was acquired by the U.S. it was held for several years by the Departmental Records Branch of the Adjutant General's office. In the mid-1950s the material was turned over to the national Archives and accession into Record Group 331, Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters.

The one reel of microfilm in this collection contains portions of the catalog prepared by AFRA. The pages filmed include listings of the files of the Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat and the Chief Administrative Officer. Each entry in the catalog gives the serial number, title and date span of the file, and the reel number of the film on which the file can be found. The complete catalog and the microfilm copies of the AFHQ records are at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and are not available at the Eisenhower Library. Researchers needing further information about these records are advised to contact the Archives.

Duplicate copies of a few AFHQ records can be found in Dwight D. Eisenhower's Pre-Presidential Papers, the Walter B. Smith Collection of World War II Documents, and the Eisenhower Library Collection of Twentieth Century Military Records.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No.	Reel No.	Contents
1	1	AFHQ 0100/4 Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat [28 pages; 683 serial numbers]

AFHQ 0100/4A Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat, AFHQ Message Center [3 pages; 60 serial numbers]

AFHQ 0100/4B Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat, Historical Section [11 pages; 273 serial numbers]

AFHQ 0100/5 Chief Administrative Officer [1 page; 23 serial numbers]

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