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LEE, ERNEST R.: Papers, 1942-52 (Microfilm)

Accession 71-9
Processed by: TB
Date Completed: April 1985

The papers of Ernest R. Lee were lent to the Eisenhower Library in 1970 by his widow, Mrs. Hermien Lee. The papers were returned to Mrs. Lee after being microfilmed by the Library.

Number of reels of microfilm:	1
Approximate number of pages:	190
Approximate number of items:	125

Mrs. Lee signed an instrument of gift for the papers in March 1983. Literary rights in Mr. Lee's unpublished writings have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Ernest R. "Tex" Lee was a native of San Antonio, Texas, but grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his college years he was active in the U.S. Army reserve. Upon joining the regular army in 1940 he was given a commission as a first lieutenant and was eventually assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. At Fort Sam Houston, Lee became an aide to Dwight D. Eisenhower who served as Chief of Staff of the Third Army during the Louisiana maneuvers in the summer of 1941. Eisenhower found Lee so useful that he invited Lee to accompany him to Washington, D.C., when he was reassigned to the war Department in December 1941.

Lee served as Eisenhower's military aide throughout the whole of World War II. Along with naval aide Harry Butcher, Lee was responsible for managing Eisenhower's personal affairs. He accompanied Eisenhower during his travels abroad and helped organize his offices in North Africa and Western Europe.

Following the war Lee resigned from the Army and returned to Indianapolis where he lived until his death in 1965. During the 1952 presidential campaign he was active on Eisenhower's behalf in Indiana.

Lee's papers are very fragmentary and provide little information on his life and work. With the exception of a few newspaper clippings on the 1952 campaign, the entire collection pertains to his service in World War II. The bulk of the material consists of clippings and routine social correspondence with his family and friends in the United States. The only correspondence of an official nature is a series of radiograms pertaining to the announcement of Italy's surrender in September 1943.

Of particular importance is Lee's diary. Over a period of several months in 1944 Lee made sporadic entries in a bound daily diary. He usually confined himself to general comments about the conduct of the war, however, and, with the exception of Winston Churchill, seldom discussed individuals. A much more detailed account of the activities of Eisenhower's staff can be found in the diary of Lee's colleague Harry Butcher, which is located in Eisenhower's pre-presidential papers.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

November 1910	Born, San Antonio, Texas
1937-40	Chevrolet salesman in San Antonio, Texas
August 1940	Entered active duty in U.S. Army
December 1940	Assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas
August 1941	Became aide to Dwight D. Eisenhower during the Louisiana maneuvers
1941-1945	Military aide to Dwight D. Eisenhower
December 1945	Resigned from the Army
1946-1965	Salesman and financial executive in Indianapolis, Indiana
1952	Active in Eisenhower presidential campaign in Indiana
May 23, 1965	Killed in automobile accident near Lebanon, Indiana

REEL LIST

Reel No. Contents

- 1 Diary January-August 1944 [Tehran Conference; Winston Churchill; Anzio Beachhead; Normandy Invasion; effects of V-2 rocket attacks on England; oil shortage in Germany; invasion of Southern France] [45 pages]

Typed transcript of diary prepared by Eisenhower Library Staff [9 pages]

Correspondence and Memorabilia 1942-45 [wager between DDE and Montgomery re date of war's end; Lee's trip to Malta, Egypt and Palestine; post-war business outlook in U.S. by Chevrolet Company; Lee's visit to Brussels and captured German towns; comment re destruction of cities and public works; DDE's speech to Belgium's Chamber of Deputies] [51 pages]

Capitulation of Italy Radiograms September 8-9, 1943 [typed copies of messages exchanged between Rome and AFHQ re the capitulation of Italy and the proclamation of Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio] [16 pages]

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings 1942-45 and 1952 [69 clippings]

END OF CONTAINER LIST