

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

COLLECTION SUMMARY SHEET

COLLECTION: William M. Stokes, Jr. Collection

ACCESSION NUMBER: 67

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1942-1945, 1951-1968

DONORS: William M. Stokes, Jr.

Wayne Stokes Goodall

RESTRICTIONS: None

DATE OF GIFT: April 1977

ADDENDUM: February 2006

LOCATION:

SIZE: .5 linear feet/1 box

COLLECTION REGISTER AVAILABLE: Yes

BIOGRAPHICAL AND SUBJECT SUMMARY:

William M. Stokes, Jr., was born February 5, 1901, the son of William and Agnes Stokes of Lynchburg, Virginia. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1921, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Cavalry Reserve in 1922. In 1940, he entered extended active duty as a major, and from 1940-1945, he served as battalion commander in the 67th Armored Regiment, and Regiment Commander of the 66th Armored Regiment. His duties took him to Algeria, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and the Croix de Guerre, among other honors. He was active in the VMI Alumni Association, and was appointed by Governor John Battle to be Acting Superintendent of VMI in 1952. In 1958, he retired from the Army Reserve with honors, and was living in Lynchburg, Virginia, at the time of this gift.

FORMS OF MATERIAL:

The collection consists of a single box containing correspondence, clippings, orders, field notes, and pamphlets and programs in 28 folders. The maps in the Collection have been removed to the Map Case, and the books and other printed materials have been transferred to the Marshall Library.

An Addendum was added to the Collection by Stokes's daughter, Wayne Stokes Goodall (Mrs. McChesney Goodall, Jr.) in February 2006: A Memoir: "Somewhere in Germany: World War II Letters of William M. Stokes, Jr., Second Armored Division, October 1942-June 1945"

WILLIAM M. STOKES, JR. COLLECTION

INTRODUCTION

The William M. Stokes, Jr. Collection consists of correspondence, orders, field notes, maps, clippings, magazines, pamphlets, and books relating to his military career in the United States Army during World War II, and regarding his relationship with the George C. Marshall Research Foundation. The papers were donated by William M. Stokes, Jr., in April 1977.

The materials are divided into four distinct groups: papers dealing with the war years, 1942-1945; papers regarding the formation of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation, 1951-1956; miscellaneous correspondence, 1955-1968; and printed materials. The papers are arranged chronologically in one document box, with the maps stored in the Map Case, and the books and other printed material transferred to the Marshall Library.

An Addendum was added to the Collection by Stokes's daughter, Wayne Stokes Goodall (Mrs. McChesney Goodall, Jr.) in February 2006: A Memoir: "Somewhere in Germany: World War II Letters of William M. Stokes, Jr., Second Armored Division, October 1942-June 1945."

There are no restrictions in the use of the collection.

WILLIAM M. STOKES, JR.

Biographical Sketch

- 1901 - Born February 5, Lynchburg, Virginia, Son of William Miles and Agnes Stokes.
- 1917 - Entered Virginia Military Institute, after graduating from Lynchburg Public Schools.
- 1921 - Graduated from Virginia Military Institute with a B.A. degree.
- 1922 - Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in Cavalry Reserve.
- 1924 - Married Lily Blanks Clarke of Monroe, Louisiana. Three children: Agnes, Mrs. McChesney Goodall; Elizabeth, Countess di Robilant; William M. Stokes, III.
- 1922-1940 - Engaged in insurance, investments, hardware business in Lynchburg.
- 1940 - December, entered extended active duty as a major in the Cavalry, ordered to duty with 2nd Armored Division. Participated in initial invasion by American troops of North Africa, commanding a landing team of the division at Safi, French Morocco. Continuous overseas duty with 2nd Armored Division until June 3, 1945. Served in campaigns in Algeria, Sicily, Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace.
- 1942 - July 4, promoted to Lt. Colonel.
- 1944 - November 2, promoted to Colonel.
- 1940-1945 - Battalion commander in 67th Armored Regiment, and as Regiment commander of 66th Armored Regiment.
- 1945-1946 - Director of Tank Department in Armored School.
- 1946-1947 - President of Virginia Military Institute Club of Lynchburg.
- 1948 - January 24, appointed Brigadier General, Organized Reserve Corps.
- 1947-1949 - Second Vice President of Virginia Military Institute Alumni Association.
- 1949-1950 - President of Virginia Military Institute Alumni Association.
- 1951 - Assistant division commander of 80th Airborne Division.
- 1952 - April-August, acting superintendent of V.M.I. during absence of Lt. General R. J. Marshall. Appointed by Gov. John S. Battle.
- 1951-1965 - A member of V.M.I. Board of Visitors, appointed by Gov. Battle.
- 1958 - Retired from Army Reserve, Honored at ceremonies, including a military review at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.
- 1965- - Living in retirement in Lynchburg, Virginia.

WILLIAM M. STOKES, JR. PAPERS

Scope and Content Note

The William M. Stokes, Jr. Papers is divided into four separate series. The collection includes papers from the World War II period; papers regarding the creation of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation; miscellaneous correspondence; and printed materials. The entire collection was donated by William M. Stokes, Jr., of Lynchburg, Virginia, in April, 1977.

The papers from the World War II period (1942-1945) contains official files, field notes, miscellaneous writings, maps, and clippings. The official files contain important items concerning various phases of Stokes' wartime activities. There are handwritten pages documenting Stokes' training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the arrival of the 2nd Battalion at Newport News, Virginia, for embarkation overseas on October 15, 1942 and subsequent landings at Yellow Beach and Safi, French Morocco. There is an order placing Stokes in command of the 67th Armored Regiment on October 8, 1942; orders and a hand drawn map of Yellow Beach instructing the men of the U.S.S. Calvert to land; documentation of the battle near Safi, the capturing of French prisoners, and Stokes' distinguished service at Safi and Mazagon. Road logs for French Morocco are also included.

From the campaign on Sicily there are printed field notes on the 67th Armored Regiment's arrival on July 11, 1943, written by Companies "G," "H," and "I." There are reports on the Sicilian Operation by officers Philips Bixby and Clifton Roe; and notes from the Sicilian campaign of June 26-July 25, 1943, which began with the battle against the Herman Goering Division on the beaches of Sicily.

The collection contains documents and papers pertaining to the 67th Armored Division's stay in England in 1944; its landing in Normandy on June 11, 1944; lists of casualties for both sides; a hand drawn map of the portion of France; accounts of Task Force "Stokes," and the Lanklaer-Stockheim campaign in Belgium in September 1944.

There are eight small handwritten notebooks Stokes kept in the field during his military service in North Africa and Europe. They contain notes on such matters as maneuvers and personnel. Along with the notebooks are notes made by Stokes at a later date to help clarify the contents.

Other assorted papers include: memos on recommendations for decorations; auditing notices; programs; a roster of officers of the 67th Armored Regiment; the order notifying Stokes that he is to receive the Croix de Guerre with palm, signed by General de Gualle; award of the Silver Star; award of the Purple Heart; a citation signed by Charles, Prince of Belgium, awarding the 2nd Armored Division the 1940 fourragere (the first time a foreign unit has ever been so honored); and a letter of discharge signed by George C. Marshall.

The papers regarding the formation of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation in Lexington (1951-1956) includes correspondence, minutes, and reports. There are two letters signed by Harry Truman, dated January 13 and January 19, 1953, to John C. Hagan, Jr., concerning the library. A letter is

included from Harry F. Byrd to John C. Hagan, Jr., dated February 16, 1953. Of special note is a letter to Hagan from General George C. Marshall, dated December 22, 1954, regarding the Marshall Foundation.

The miscellaneous correspondence (1955-1968) contains letters dealing primarily with two main topics. One set of correspondence is between Stokes and Ralph E. Pearson, Colonel in the U.S. Army, concerning Pearson's book, Enroute to the Redoubt. Included is a sample table of contents. The second set is a three-way correspondence between Stokes, Adjutant-General Kenneth Wickham, and a D. Grafer of Germany, concerning the identity of the American Commander of the 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division.

The collection's printed materials includes several books, maps of Europe (specifically London), newspapers and clippings, magazines and pamphlets, programs and foreign currency, all dealing with the World War II period. A portion of these materials have been transferred to the library.

The collection is organized into one box of 28 folders.

WILLIAM M. STOKES, JR. PAPERS

Container List

| <u>Box/Folder(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Papers Re World War II, 1942-1945. |
| 1 | Official Files. September 1942-March 1943. (29) |
| 2 | Official Files. April 1943-August 1943. (30) |
| 3 | Official Files. October 1943-March 1944. (25) |
| 4 | Official Files. March 1944. (19) |
| 5 | Official Files. April-July 1944. (19) |
| 6 | Official Files. September 1944. (15) |
| 7 | Official Files. November 1944-June 1945. (22) |
| 8 | Field Notes. November 1942-1943. |
| 9 | Field Notes. September 7-28, 1943; March 29-30, 1945. |
| 10 | Field Notes. November 1943. |
| 11 | Field Notes. 1943-1944. |
| 12 | Field Notes. December 1942-March 1943. |
| 13 | Field Notes. June 8-August 20, 1944. |
| 14 | Field Notes. September 5, 1944-January 22, 1945. |
| 15 | Field Notes. April 12-18, 1945. |
| 16 | Miscellaneous Writings. 1942. |
| 17 | Clippings. 1940-1944. |
| 18 | George C. Marshall Research Foundation Papers. November 1951-January 1953. |
| 19 | George C. Marshall Research Foundation Papers. January 1953-January 1956. |
| 20 | Miscellaneous Correspondence. 1955-1968. |
| | Printed Materials. |
| 21 | Pamphlets for U.S. forces in the United Kingdom, World War II. |
| 22 | French and German handbills. |
| 23 | Program. "Something for the Boys," a Cole Porter musical. April 1944, London. |
| 24 | Programs. "Organization Day" - 66th Tank Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, September 12, 1946. "106th Anniversary - 3rd Armored Cavalry," July 18, 1952. "5th Annual Reunion - 2nd Armored Division Association," July 31-August 1, 1959. |
| 25 | "67th Armored Regiment Song" and newsletter, "67th Siren." |
| 26 | Soldiers guide to Great Britain and Sicily - World War II. |
| 27 | <u>Deutsch Lernen</u> - a guide to the German Language. |
| 28 | <u>"Personal Affairs of Military Personnel and Aid for their Dependents and History and Heraldry of the 80th Division.</u> |

WILLIAM M. STOKES, JR. PAPERS

ADDENDUM
CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | 29 | Memoir—"Somewhere in Germany, World War II Letters of William M. Stokes, Jr., Second Armored Division, October 1942 – June 1945" (2006 Addendum) |
| S-1 | | Parchment overlay—"Task Force 'A'-Spearheads, The 'Cologne Plain Breakthrough' to the Rhine," 2 nd Bn, 66 th Armored Regiment, 8 February 1945 |

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SEPARATION RECORD

COLLECTION: William M. Stokes, Jr. Papers

ACCESSION NUMBER: (359)67

The following items have been removed from the collection:

| Description of items | Location |
|---|---|
| <p>BOOKS:</p> <p><u>Field Service Regulations: United States Army, 1914.</u> Washington: Government Printing Office.</p> <p><u>History: 67th Armored Regiment.</u> Brunswick, Germany: Georg Westerman, 1945.</p> <p><u>A History of the Second United States Armored Division, 1940-1946.</u> Atlanta, Georgia: Albert Love Enterprises, N.D.</p> | <p>Library</p> |
| <p>MAGAZINES:</p> <p><u>Saturday Evening Post, January 25, 1942.</u></p> <p><u>Life: Defense Issue, July 7, 1941.</u></p> <p><u>Saturday Evening Post, January 16, 1943.</u></p> | <p>Library</p> |
| <p>NEWSPAPERS: Folder 1</p> <p>"Vaincre" - December 6, 1942.</p> <p>"Stars and Stripes" - December 16, 1942; December 30, 1942; January 6, 1943; March 31, 1944; August 1, 1944.</p> <p>"Le Journal du Maroc" - November 18, 1942.</p> <p>"La Vigie Marocaine" - May 9, 1943.</p> <p>Magazine article on General Patton.</p> | <p>Map Case</p> |
| <p>MAPS: Folder 2</p> <p>Map of Holland, Belgium, France, and Germany.</p> <p>Belgium, Holland, Northern France (in German), 1940.</p> <p>Operations to Period April 1-30, 1945, in Germany. <i>1777 + or 2166 +</i></p> <p>West Germany (in German).</p> <p>London, England (2)</p> <p>London Area, Principal routes. <i>2467</i></p> | <p>Map Case</p> |
| <p>MAPS: Folder 3</p> <p>Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (French/English), 1942. <i>2503</i></p> <p>Tour maps of North Africa, (in French).</p> <p>Town plan of Mazagan, Morocco, 1942. <i>2417</i></p> <p>Mazagan, Morocco, Port and Town, December 1941. <i>2416</i></p> <p>Safi, Morocco - City Plan, 1942.</p> <p>Special map of Safi, Morocco. <i>2415</i></p> | <p>Map Case</p> |
| <p>French Currency (2).</p> | <p>Administrative Security No. 65</p> |