

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

CHASE, MARGARET A.: Papers, 1942-1960 & 1983

Accessions: A70-75, A71-18, A84-4

Processed by: CJS, KK

Date completed: 3-84

The Papers of Margaret Alma Chase, American Red Cross recreation club worker during World War II, were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in March 1970 with accretions in August 1970 and September 1983.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 1,100
Approximate number of items: 200

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Margaret Chase Camajani in March 1970. Literary property rights are retained by the donor until her death. At that time such rights pass to the United States. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to family and private business affairs.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have had correspondence with Margaret Chase.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to Margaret Chase in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.
6. The four-volume personal diary (1942-45) will be sealed entirely during Margaret Chase Camajani's lifetime and during the lifetime of her husband, Dr. Giovanni Camajani. [Rescinded by letter of donor dated September 25, 1983. "As soon as the hard cover book [her autobiography] comes from the printer I will send it. At that time, I believe it will be appropriate to allow access to all my papers deposited in the library. It is not necessary to wait until I die."]

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

- Oct 13, 1905 Born
- ca. 1927 Graduated from University of California, Berkeley
- ca. 1927-1940 Art teacher at Fortuna, Petaluma, Albany, Clarksburg, and San Francisco, California High Schools
- Summer 1936 Graduate study at Columbia University
- Jun-Dec 1941 Sabbatical: Art study and tour in South America
- Jan-Jun 1942 Art teacher at Lowell High School, San Francisco
- Summer 1942 Division of Intellectual Cooperation with Latin America of the Pan American Union, Washington, DC
- Sep-Dec 1942 American Red Cross, England
- Dec 42-May 44 American Red Cross, North Africa and Italy
- May-Jun 1944 Furlough in San Francisco
- Jun-Dec 1944 American Red Cross, England
- Jan-May 1945 American Red Cross, France
- 1945-1946 Art teacher at Lowell High School, San Francisco and Graduate Student at University of California
- Jan-Jul 1947 American Red Cross, Korea
- 1948-1969 Art and History teacher at Lowell High School, San Francisco
- 1949-1964 Director, Mademoiselle Summer European Tour
- 1952-1953 Sabbatical: Tour of Europe and Asia
- Summer 1956 Fellowship in Asian Studies at Harvard University
- 1965 Sabbatical: Study at University of California
- Spring 1966 Married Dr. Giovannia Camajani

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The personal papers of Margaret Alma Chase, American Red Cross recreation club worker during World War II, cover the years 1942 to 1960. The largest portion come from the period August 1942 to May 1945 when she was assigned to England and North Africa near Eisenhower's headquarters. Chase dated Ernest "Tex" Lee during most of this time and was considered a part of the AFHQ staff "family".

The material consists of four diaries (1942-1945), one hundred sixty items of correspondence with family and friends, and memorabilia accessioned in 1970. An autobiography was accessioned in September 1983. The diaries constitute about 30% of the total material, while Chase's autobiography makes up another 25%. The correspondence was subdivided according to correspondent and comprises roughly 30% of the papers. The remainder is comprised of memorabilia which was arranged by type of item. Fifteen photographs were separated and turned over to the Eisenhower Library Audiovisual Collection. Several Red Cross pins were transferred to the Eisenhower Museum along with her identification tags. A "short snorter" was removed for preservation purposes to vault storage.

Roughly half of the diary entries and correspondence cover the period December 1942 to December 1943 while Chase was assigned to Algiers. The remainder of the papers are distributed evenly throughout her war service. The autobiography is of interest in filling the gaps and elaborating on events mentioned in the diaries and correspondence.

The focus of all the material is on Red Cross club work and Chase's social life---dates, dinners, etc. These papers may be of use in researching the social life of the AFHQ staff, but Chase was not privy to decisions regarding military affairs. However, she does record the frequency of bombing raids on or near her duty station. Of particular interest are Red Cross activities such as the establishment of clubs, their routine operations, the type of women who served with the Red Cross, and the varieties of treatment they received.

Two letters from Dwight D. Eisenhower (May 22 and July 14, 1947) express his desire to stay out of politics. Chase's book contains a photo of Eisenhower and an additional congratulatory note from Mamie Eisenhower that are not a part of this collection.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Box Nos. Series

1 I. DIARIES (1942-1945), 1/3 container.

Four diaries cover the period September 21, 1942 to January 1, 1945. Describes work and social activities while a Red Cross worked in Europe and North Africa during World War II. Series arranged chronologically.

II. CORRESPONDENCE (1942-1960), 1/2 container.

Letters from Dwight D. Eisenhower contain routine messages of thanks and well wishes (1942-1945). Letters to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chase (parents) describe her overseas service (1942-1945). Miscellaneous letters and orders derive from World War II experience (1942-1945). All subseries arranged chronologically.

III. MEMORABILIA (1942-1947), 1/6 container.

Red Cross recreation club promotional material, 1946 AFHQ "Alumni" update, and similar items are arranged chronologically. Red Cross pins and identification tags were transferred to the Museum. Photographs of Red Cross workers, club bomb damage, and personal friends (Rosemary Ames, General Raymond Bell, Colonel Henagan, and Kay Summersby) were transferred to the audiovisual collection. Newspaper clippings of interviews with Chase while she was home on furlough, the January 1944 issue of the Red Cross "Courier", Algerian news accounts of Darlan's funeral and an article about Eisenhower are arranged chronologically.

2 IV. NEVER TOO LATE (1983), 1/3 container.

Galley proof of Margaret Chase's autobiography.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

SERIES I. DIARIES. 1942-45

- 1 Diaries, September 21 - December 23, 1942
Diaries, December 26, 1942 - January 1, 1945
Diaries, 1943 [Handwritten draft]

SERIES II. CORRESPONDENCE. 1942-1960

- Letters, DDE to Margaret Chase, 1943-1960
Correspondence, 1942-1943
Correspondence, 1944-1945
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1942-1945
Orders and Commendations

SERIES III. MEMORABILIA. 1942-1947

- Memorabilia
Museum Items
Photographs
Clippings

SERIES IV. NEVER TOO LATE. 1983

- 2 Never Too Late, Galley Proof (1)-(4)

END OF CONTAINER LIST