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COOK, GILBERT R.: Papers, 1908-1959

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The papers of Gilbert R. Cook, a major general in the U.S. Army, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library in 1991 by his son's widow, Mrs. Virginia B. Cook.

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Linear feet shelf space occupied: | 5.2    |
| Approximate number of pages:      | 10,400 |
| Approximate number of items:      | 2,000  |

In November 1991 Mrs. Cook executed an instrument of gift for these papers. Copyright in the unpublished writings of Gilbert Cook in these papers and in other collections of papers in any U.S. government agency are given and assigned to the United States of America.

By agreement with the donor the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers and other historical materials that are specifically authorized under criteria established by statute or executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such statute or executive order.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Cook's papers have been divided into an alphabetical subject file, which includes all manuscript materials relating to his military career, and a small printed materials series in the last three boxes of the collection. Subject annotations have been used to highlight materials of particular interest in the folders. Books, artifacts, maps, and photographs have been transferred to the proper departments. However, maps and printed materials with handwritten notes and underlinings have been retained in the collection.

Gilbert R. Cook graduated from West Point in 1912, and his military career lasted about thirty-six years. During World War II he served as commander of the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment (1941-42), assistant division commander of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (1942), commander of the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (1942-43), and finally as commander of XII Corps and Deputy Commander of 3<sup>rd</sup> Army (1943-44). His role as a field commander was cut short in August 1944 when he was hospitalized for illness and later returned to the states for recuperation and less strenuous duty.

Documentation relating to World War II includes a sizeable quantity of personal correspondence, Cook's 201 File, a diary, notebooks with speech, conference, and training notes, clippings, reports of operations of the XII Corps headquarters, and a report by the Pearl Harbor Review Board. Cook's files contain correspondence with numerous military officers, including generals Patton, McNair, and Middleton, with comments on military tactics, training, and equipment. The Cook-Patton correspondence is particularly interesting, Patton comments on the Battle of the Bulge, the possible use of his tactics in the Pacific Theater, and the organization of armored and infantry divisions.

The early part of Cook's military career is not well documented. The main source here is his 201 File which starts in 1917. Besides this file, there are a few clippings and a little correspondence from this era, plus some instructional materials which he evidently used while teaching at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia (1926-1930).

After Cook returned to the states in the fall of 1944 he was involved in a number of boards, groups, and studies which occurred in the mid and late 1940's. He was a member of the Army's Equipment Review Board in 1945. He was a member of the Chief of Staff's Advisory Group (1946-1948), the Army Ground Force Postwar Planning Group, and the Haislip Review Board which studied such subjects as military organization, mobilization, universal military training, and training. Reports, notes, memoranda, and correspondence dealing with the above activities are found in Cook's files. His 201 File, personal correspondence, and various printed materials help document the changes the postwar Army was undergoing and the different issues that were being discussed. Cook was called out of retirement to critique major war games in 1948 and 1955, and materials on these efforts are included in this collection.

There are a number of printed or published reports or studies in this collection on a variety of military topics. Items of interest include Eisenhower's final report as Chief of Staff (February 7, 1948), reports on the Strategic Bombing Survey, and historical studies relating to the German invasion of Russia in World War II.

Although the Cook Papers will be a source for people doing research on World War II, they also have documentation on troop training and instruction in the 1920's and 1930's plus significant materials relating to postwar reorganization of the military.

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| December 30, 1889 | Born in Texarkana, Arkansas  |
| June 12, 1912     | Graduated from the United States Military Academy; Commissioned a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of Infantry             |
| 1912-1915         | 18 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas  |
| September 2, 1914 | Married Doris Adair Frederick  |
| 1915-1916         | 27 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Panama Canal Zone  |
| July 1, 1916      | Promoted to first lieutenant   |
| 1916-1917         | Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, duty in mustering National Guard troops for border patrol duty                      |
| May 15, 1917      | Promoted to captain  |
| 1917-1918         | Recruiting duty at Jafferson Barracks, Missouri  |
| 1918-1919         | Served as captain, major (temp.), and lieutenant colonel (temp.), with 58 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in France. |
| 1919-1921         | Instructor at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia   |
| July 1, 1920      | Promoted to major (permanent rank)   |
| 1921-1923         | 8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Coblenz, Germany  |
| 1923-1924         | 8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Fort McPherson Georgia   |
| 1924-1925         | Attended Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  |
| 1925-1926         | Served as Professor of Military Science and Tactics, Georgia School of Technology                                    |
| 1926-1930         | Instructor at Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia   |
| 1930-1931         | Attended Tank School, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland   |
| 1931-1932         | Attended Army War College, Washington, D. C.   |
| 1932              | Assigned to 12 <sup>th</sup> Infantry at Fort Washington, Maryland   |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1932-1936           | Served in Operations and Training division, g-3, War Department General Staff, Washington, D.C.   |
| August 1, 1935      | Promoted to lieutenant colonel  |
| 1936                | Wife died   |
| 1936-1938           | Commanding officer, Fort Washington, Maryland   |
| 1938-1941           | Chief of Attack Section and later Chief of Command Section and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas   |
| 1941-1942           | Commanding officer, 21 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Scholfield Barracks, Hawaii   |
| April 1, 1942       | Promoted to lieutenant colonel  |
| 1942                | Assistant Division Commander of 25 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Hawaii  |
| August 10, 1942     | Promoted to major general (temporary)   |
| 1942-1943           | Commanding general, 104 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Adair, Oregon   |
| 1943-1944           | Commanding general, XII Corps, Fort Jackson, S. C. Camp Forrest, Tenn., England and France; also served as Deputy Commander for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Army                                |
| August 1944         | Hospitalized due to illness and returned to the United States   |
| 1944-1946           | Assigned to Headquarters, Army Ground Forces; organized and headed the Postwar Equipment Review Board and the Ground forces Postwar Planning Group and was Chief of Plans Section   |
| May 1946            | Retired from Army   |
| June 1946-June 1948 | Recalled from retirement and assigned to Chief of Staff's Advisory Group, Washington, D.C.; served as member ex-officio of War Department Board for review of Policies and Programs |
| June 30, 1948       | Retired from Army   |
| 1948                | Served as advisor to Department of Army on Wargame Pedrone  |
| June-Aug. 1955      | Special consultant to the Department of Army on problems relating to the Joint War Game   |
| September 19, 1963  | Died in La Jolla California   |

## CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Contents</u> |
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|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Books Transferred to Book Collection |
|---|--------------------------------------|

Items Transferred to the Museum

Photographs Transferred to the Audiovisual Collection

### SERIES I. ALPHABETICAL SERIES

Armored Division Organization, c 1948 [paper by Generals John H. Collier and Bruce C. Clarke]

Armored Division, Organization and Training, Gen. Bruce C. Clarke, 1951-1952 (1)(2)

Armored Division, Organization and Training, Gen. Bruce C. Clark, 1962

Army Information School, Military Policy in the U.S., 1946

Army War College, National Policy and Organization, Text, 1953

Art of War by Sun Tzu, 1910

Awards and Certificates, 1906-1942

Barriers to the East, Strategic and Terrain Study, European Command, 1952

Battle Leadership; Talk on, c 1943

Biography

Caribbean Defense Command, Accomplishments of Military Missions, 1945

Chief of Staff's Advisory Group, Recommendations, 1947-1948

Chief of Staff's Advisory Group, War Department Reorganization and Officer Training, 1945-1946, (1)-(3) [memos by Eisenhower on responsibilities of staff officers and scientific and technological resources as military assets; Pearl Harbor investigation; unification (Haislip); reorganization of the Army; National War College curriculum; Army school system]

Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, Final Report, February 7, 1948

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| 1<br>(cont.)   | <p>Clippings, 1919, 1927, 1930, and Miscellaneous [1930 article on role of aircraft in war]</p> <p>Clippings, 1942 [21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment in Hawaii; 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Adair, Oregon]</p> <p>Clippings, 1943 (1) (2) [104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; XII Corps]</p>  |
| 2              | <p>Clippings, 1943 (3) [104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division]</p> <p>Clippings, 1944, 1946 [XII Corps]</p> <p>Clippings, 1950's</p> <p>Clippings, 1960's</p> <p>Clippings, California Freeways, 1951-1955</p> <p>Clippings, Camp Adair <u>Sentry</u>, 1942 (1) (2) [104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division]</p> <p>Clippings, Camp Adair <u>Sentry</u>, 1943 (1)-(4) [104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division]</p> <p>Comparison Study, Generals and Colonels, 1942-1946 (1)-(3)</p> <p>Correspondence, 1939-1943 (1)-(3) [Camp Adair, 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Training, maneuvers; role of civilians in war effort; comments on different divisions and officers; Gen. Patch; Gen. Abrams; biography of Cook; recreation conference]</p>   |
| 3              | <p>Correspondence, 1939-1943 (4)-(6) [Camp Adair, 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, drainage and maintenance work; Gen. Middleton; Gen. Terrell; Gen. McNair; 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Hawaii; military training and needs of Army; armored forces; use of field artillery; memo on triangular infantry division and 1940 maneuvers-training, tactics, equipment, organization, supply]</p> <p>Correspondence, 1943-1944 (1)-(2) [XII Corps, Tenn. maneuvers; 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division]</p> <p>Correspondence, 1944-1946- (1)-(7) [HQ Army Ground Forces; Equipment Review Board; organization of Quartermaster Service; biography of Cook; reorganization of Army and War Department; postwar program for national security; Postwar Planning Group; atomic bomb vs. conventional weapons; unit losses in WWII; 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Gen. Terry Allen; role and mission of Army Ground Forces-Gen. Devers; Gen. Patton; use of Patton in Pacific Theater; Gen. Hodges-military organization and equipment; armored organization; U.S. artillery; Command and General Staff School]</p> |

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3  
(cont.)   Correspondence, 1947-1949 [Gen. J. Lawton Collins-unification issue, reorganization of Army; Army morale; Gen. Willard S. Paul; Gen. Gerow]

Correspondence, 1950, 1952 [Gen. Haislip; Gen. Collins; Korean War]

Correspondence, 1954-1957 [Korea]

Correspondence, Cook-Patton, 1944-1945 (1) [data on 3<sup>rd</sup> Army; organization of armored and infantry divisions; German POW's Patton-notes on combat; women in military; postwar Army Ground Forces; need for Patton in Pacific Theater]

4   Correspondence, Cook-Patton, 1944-1945 (2) [Patton-use of his tactics against Japanese; Patton-experiences of 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, Bastogne Operations, Battle of Bulge; Organization of light brigade; strategic air force and heavy bombardment; armored divisions]

Diary, July 1942-September 1945 (1) (2) [104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division-training, organization, maneuvers; XII Corps, training, Tennessee maneuvers-problems, tactics, equipment; XII Corps-briefings and training in England; Gen. Patton; tactics; French battle front; supply situation in France; role of XII Corps; illness and hospitalization; Battle of Orleans]

Early Military Career, 1912-1914

Equipment Review Board (Army), c 1945-1946 (1)-(3)

Fourth Infantry Division Asso. Reunion, 1954

German Anti-Allied Propaganda, 1920's

Haislip Review Board, Mobilization, UMT and Training, 1947 (1) (2) [comments on final report; training time requirements during mobilization; effect of UMT on mobilization; loss of manpower in WWII to avoidable causes]

Hoover Commission, Committee on National Security Organization, 1948 [Cook-memo on work of comm.]

Hoover Commission-Summary, 1949

Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia-Conferences, 1930 (1) (2) [tactics; theory of battle; characteristics of combat; forms of attack; pursuit; turning movement]

Infantry School, Instructional Materials, 1927-1930 (1) (4) [phases of combat; course in tactics; application of principles to peace strength units; process and theory of battle; training regulations]

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Contents</u>  |
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| 4<br>(cont.)   | Instructional Materials, Principles of Combat, n. d. [notes for lectures with slide nos.; tactics and training; economy, dispersion, and concentration of force; probably late 1930's or early 1940's]   |
| 5              | <p>Joint War Game Group, 1955 (1)-(3) [Cook's comments and critique of the war games; organization and functions of the Group; chart of U.S. collective defense arrangements]</p> <p>Lecture Notes, Quartermaster School, June 11, 1948 [future plans of the Army]</p> <p>Logistical Support Conference, Fort Leavenworth, February 1948 [outline of discussion and comments by Cook]</p> <p>Map, Battle of the Yalu, c 1905</p> <p>Map, Coblenz, Germany, 1920 [annotated]</p> <p>Map, Finland, n.d.</p> <p>Map, Hawaii, 1940 (1)-(3) [annotated, areas marked for each military unit]</p> <p>Map, Korea and Manchuria, 1906</p> <p>Map, Southeast Asia, 1952</p> <p>Map, United States, 1940</p> <p>Map, United States, Military Bases, 1955 [major Army, Navy, and Air Force installations in U. S.]</p> <p>Miscellaneous Documents on Military Theory, n.d.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Military Notes and Diagrams, n.d.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Printed Materials, 1944, 1952</p> <p>Mobilization Plan, Operations and Training Division, G-3, c 1933 [draft memo for Chief of Staff; tables of organization for all units of Army]</p> <p>Morale of the U. S. Army, Study of, 1941 (1)-(3) [by H. Howell for <u>NY Times</u>; refers to morale in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Armies; compares comments by commanders with interviews of men; Gen. Lear; Gen. Krueger; problems of drunk and disorderliness; chaplains; press; brief reference to Col. Eisenhower]</p> |
| 6              | Notebook, 58 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1917-1918 [notes personnel information; court martial materials]   |

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6            Notebook, Notes on Battle Leadership, 1942-1943, [104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; training; (cont.)    21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Hawaii; 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Hawaii; notes on field exercises and meetings]

Notebook, 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 1942-1943 (1)-(3) [speaking engagements; list of members of press; notes on Army Ground Forces; speech notes and outlines; statistics on soldiers in division; training; notes for commander' conferences- discipline, recreation, equipment, drilling, supplies, etc.; physical fitness tests; maneuvers]

Notebook, 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and XII Corps, 1943 [speech and lecture notes and outlines; mission of American soldier; Oregon maneuvers; staff conference notes, XII Corps; notes on discipline and how to command; Tennessee maneuvers; critique of maneuvers]

Notebook, XII Corps, 1943-1944 (1)-(3) [notes for talks; statistics; tactical methods and principles; roster of officers and units in XII Corps; 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; Tennessee maneuvers; training materials]

Notebook, XII Corps, 1944 (1)-(4) [Tennessee maneuvers-notes and critique of units and maneuvers; notes for conference meetings with officers and men; notes on talk by Gen. Montgomery; letters of instruction by Gen. Patton; notes for staff conferences; notes for talks to different units; operations of 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in France, July-Sept. 1944]

Notebook, War Department, Equipment Review Board and Planning Board, Army Ground Forces, 1945 [report on Review Board; postwar Army organization; airpower; various military topics]

Notebook, 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion, 1954 [chronology of Cook's involvement with Division; statistics on 104<sup>th</sup>]

Notebook, Teaching, Training, and Franco-German War, n. d. [principles and methods of teaching; subsistence of German armies, 1870-1871]

Notebook, Franco-German War and World War I, n.d. [causes and background of the wars; mobilization; tactics]

7            104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Orientation Course, Introductory Talk, 1943

104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion, 1954 (1) (2)

Pearl Harbor Board, Report, 1944 (1)-(4)

Personal Business, 1955-1956

Replacement System in the U. S. Army, A Study of World War II Experience, 1950 (1)(2) [draft ms.]

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| 7<br>(cont.)   | <p>Reorganization Study (Army), 1947-1948 (1) (2) [Chief of Staff's Advisory Group-Army organization; Haislip memo on Army organization; organization and operational requirements]</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, Defense of St. Vith, Belgium, December 1944</p> <p>Status of Field Artillery Components, Operations and Training Division, Army G-3, 1933 [draft memo to chief of staff]</p> <p>Tactical Study of Weather and Terrain, European Command, 1951</p> <p>Third Army Maneuvers, 1940 [comments on Louisiana maneuvers by Lt. Col. Ingles and Brig. Gen. P. B. Peyton]</p> <p>Third Army, Operations in Europe, August 1944-May 1945</p> <p>Training Guidelines for the Commander, 1959</p> <p>Triangular Infantry Division, Army Maneuvers, 1940 [memo by Cook on organization and functioning of triangular infantry division-result of observing Louisiana maneuvers in May 1940]</p> |
| 8              | <p>XII Corps Artillery in Combat, August 1944-May 1945</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, August 1944 (1) (2)</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, September 1944</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, October 1944</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, November 1944 (1)-(3)</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, December 1944 (1)-(4)</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, January 1945 (1)</p>  |
| 9              | <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Report of Operations, January 1945 (2)</p> <p>XII Corps, Headquarters, Staff Operational Procedures, August 1944-May 1945 (1)-(5)</p> <p>XII Corps, History of, 1862-1864 (1)(2)</p> <p>XII Corps, Nancy Bridgehead, September 1944</p> <p>XX Corps, Operational Report, August 1944</p>   |

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| 9<br>(cont.)   | XX Corps, Operational Report, September-December 1944<br>XX Corps, Operational Report, December 1944-March 1945<br>XX Corps, Operational Report, March 1945<br>XX Corps, Operational Report, March-April 1945<br>XX Corps, Operational Report, April-May 1945  |
| 10             | 201 File, 1917-1929 [letters; orders; commendations]<br>201 File, 1919, 1922-1924 [Distinguished Service Medal]<br>201 File, 1933-1938 [1936-wife died, buried at Arlington National Cemetery]<br>201 File, 1940-1944 (1) (2) [XII Corps; 104 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 25 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Hawaii]<br>201 File, 1918, 1940-1944 (1) (2) [Chief of Ground Plans Section, Army Ground Forces; Equipment Review Board; Infantry Combat Badge; Gen. Eddy-XII Corps; Gen. Patton]<br>201 File, 1946-1947 (1) (2) [Chief of Staff's Advisory Group; Haislip Board; Gen. Collins; physical disability]<br>201 File, 1948 [organization of Army School System; retirement; World War II action]<br>201 File, 1949-1950 [personal health history]<br>Universal Military Training, 1947 [discussion of plan for UMT by Gen. Clarke]<br>Universal Military Training, Experimental Unit; Report, 1947<br>Wargame Padrone, Critique and Related Materials, 1948 (1) (2) [critique of wargame; Haislip Board; notes for conference; table comparing U. S. and USSR re personnel and weapons, 1946; World War II materials-distribution of forces at start of war, war mobilization, statistics, losses]<br>West Point, 1908-1912 |
| 11             | World War I- Defense of Gallipoli, Study, Hawaiian Department, Military Intelligence Division, c 1936 (1) (2) [study of Turkish defenses vs. allies, 1915]   |

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- 11            SERIES II. PUBLICATIONS SERIES, 1916-1949  
(cont.)
- Army Ground Forces, Report of Activities, 1946
- Civil Defense Pamphlets, World War II, 1942 [air raid shelters; public water supplies]
- Foreign Logistical Organizations and Methods, Report, 1947 (1) (2) [Germany; Britain; France; Italy; Sweden; Switzerland]
- Geographical Foundations of National Power, Army Manual, 1948
- German Souvenir Booklets and Postcards, 1918-1920
- Military Training and Tactics, Pamphlets on, 1916-1920 [tactical problems; importance of discipline; battle formations]
- Miscellaneous Historical Pamphlets (1) (3)
- National Security Act of 1947, Hearings, 1947
- 12            National Security Organization, Reports, 1949 [report to Congress by Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government]
- Pearl Harbor Attack, Investigation of, Report, 1946 [notes and underlining by Cook]
- Reserve Forces for National Security, Report, 1948
- Strategic Bombing Survey, 1945-1946 (1)(3) [European war and Pacific war; effects of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; some notes and underlining]
- The Price of Peace by S. L. A. Marshall, 1948
- Unification of Armed Forces, Hearings, 1947 [congressional hearings; some underlining]
- 13            Universal Military Training, Report, 1947 [President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training-program for national security; some notes and underlining]
- World War II Historical Studies, German Report Series, 1951-1955 (1)-(4) [some notes and underlining; booklets on various aspects of German campaign in Russia in WWII]
- Awards and Certificates, 1906-1942 [cross-referenced from box 1]

END OF CONTAINER LIST