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U.S. ARMY, U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER, HISTORICAL DIVISION: The Administrative and Logistical History of the European Theater of Operations, The History of Preshipment, and The History of Military Government Training, 1939-46 (microfilm)

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The microfilm copy of the reports compiled by the Historical Division of the U.S. Forces, European Theater, was sent to the Eisenhower Library by the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, in March 1969.

Number of reels of microfilm: 4

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

U.S. involvement in World War II in Europe began in 1941 when a group of military personnel went to England to study how the British government was using American lend-lease supplies. This group was known as the Special Observers (SPOBS). In January 1942, after the U.S. formally declared war against Germany, the Army component of SPOBS was expanded to serve as the top administrative headquarters over the Army's combat and service forces and troop units in the European Theater of Operations (ETOUSA). On July 1, 1945, after the fighting had ended and U.S. troops were engaged in occupation duties, the name of the headquarters was again changed to United States Forces, European Theater (USFET).

The headquarters staff at ETOUSA was organized along standard military lines into general and special staff sections. Also a part of the ETOUSA staff was a historical division which prepared histories of ETOUSA activities. To document their histories, the historical division staff collected a large file of reference material relating to the operations of ETOUSA and its predecessors.

After the war ended the historical division staff prepared a fifteen-volume history of ETOUSA, titled The Administrative and Logistical History of the European Theater of Operations. The history was completed in March 1946 and was sent to the War Department in Washington, DC. The War Department microfilmed the ETOUSA history and several other historical reports so that they could be distributed to various offices within the War Department.

In March 1969 the Eisenhower Library obtained a copy of the microfilm of the ETOUSA history from the Office of the Chief of Military History. The history was on 4 reels of film reel numbers 9-12 of the War Department microfilming project. It was found that two other histories were also included on the film. Reel 9 contains a report titled History of Preshipment. This program involved sending equipment and supplies to England in advance of troops, and was active from April 1943 to August 1944. The second report, on reel 12, is titled History of Military Government Training. This report was compiled by the Provost Marshal General's office and describes a program to train officers to direct civil affairs in occupied countries.

The location of the histories reproduced on this film are not known. They may be among the War Department records at the National Archives. The records of the ETOUSA Historical Division, which were used in compiling the ETOUSA history, are at the National Archives as part of Record Group 338: Records of U.S. Army Commands. The Eisenhower Library has a microfilm copy of the administrative records of the Historical Division. This collection is titled U.S. Army, U.S. Forces, European Theater, Historical Division: Records.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Reel No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	9	History of Preshipment The Administrative and Logistical History of the European Theater of Operations Part I The Predecessor Commands: The Special Observers (SPOBS) and United States Army Forces in the British Isles (USAFBI) Part II Organization and Command in the European Theater of Operations Vol. 1 Part II Organization and Command in the European Theater of Operations Vol. II
	10	Part III Troop and Supply Buildup in the United Kingdom Prior to D-Day Part IV Operation Torch and the European Theater of Operations Part V A Survey of Allied Planning for Continental Operations Vol. I Part V A Survey of Allied Planning for Continental Operations Vol. II Part VI Neptune: Training for and Mounting the Operation, and the Artificial Ports Vol. I Part VI Neptune: Training for and Mounting the Operation, and the Artificial Ports Vol. II
	11	Part VII Opening and Operating the Continental Ports Part VIII Supplying the Armies Part IX The Procurement and Use of Manpower in the European Theater

Part X The Local Procurement of Labor and Supplies, UK and
Continental

Part XI The Basic Needs of the ETO Soldier Vol. I

12 Part XI The Basic Needs of the ETO Soldier Vol. II

The History of Military Government Training

Vol. I The Military Government Training Program – General

Vol. II The Program in Operation

END OF CONTAINER LIST