

Notes 28N, Copy 2

Henry Carter

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October 1, 1951 Interview with Mr. Henry Carter (formerly colonel) at Metropolitan Club, Washington, 1 October 1951 by F. C. Pogue.

Carter, a lawyer, went to the MC school at Charlottesville in 1942.

To England in 1943. When Wickersham set up planning group for Germany, Carter came into it as asst. chief of Planning Coordination Section. Later Chief. Was personal assistant to Wickersham.

Political advisers a part of SHAEF. State Dept controlled personnel. Army people on Murphy's staff were to all intents and purposes under his control up to a point. Remembers that Homer Richey--professor of Univ. of Va-- was officer in Murphy's office. Was given high efficiency rating. Army officer downgraded and made it stick.

William Phillips--was for a few months a political adviser on paper. Was uncomfortable in his job because publication of his India paper made him persona non grata to British. Has heard that Ben Cohen leaked the paper out of the White House. I was with Phillips a few weeks.

Charles Peake--Br Adviser. Ike proposed to set up a staff for Phillips. Phillips thought it a military trap. I tried to get him interested, but he wouldn't. I got him interested in some of the SHAEF Missions. They were G-5 contingents. Some of them were badly staffed. Picked by McSherry. Not a broad man; a trouble maker. Bendtsen one of the brightest men I ever met; probably too broad; thought too far ahead of people around him.

Julius Holmes- excellent man. Link between civil affairs and political direction.

Murphy appeared about November 1944. Had been in Italy. Assigned to Gen Ops in Oct or Nov 44. Came in as chief of political section. Very odd about that. The control council was at top under B.G. Wickersham. Then they were a number of major divisions. One of this--Public Affairs--had a political sub-section. Murphy was put down for that. I said to the military people you will have to change this, he is in ambassador. They said--this is an army show. I said he is four star ranks. They changed it after Murphy came.

Murphy's special responsibility for Germany gave a peculiar touch to the situation. He outranked Reber and was de facto political adviser. However, Reber in a way was responsible as political adviser to Ike. Same as Peake. In addition to general duties, Murphy given job of Germany. Some of his people said don't take Germany alone, but keep whole job.

In effect Holmes was political adviser much of the time.

(Phillips' influence weakened in part because Winant wouldn't let him see any of the cables; Winant didn't want to play ball).

EAC--Winant our representative. Had a staff of mil advisors, headed for a time by Wickersham. Winant wanted no visible relationship with SHAEF--a Anglo-Br organization.

Didn't want any appearance of Anglo-Saxon bloc against Russians. After control council set up to shield away for same reason.

Surrender terms hopelessly muddled by spring of 1945. Ike or Smith said to have asked that they be rewritten. Turned over to Wickersham. Carter one of four (two from SHAEF and two from Wickersham) who went to Winant. He refused to have anything to do with new terms or to let his people even answer questions. Gave us what appeared to be a scolding. Didn't want the French in. Didn't want us to raise question of corridor to Berlin. Our legal people disturbed about the corridor in spring of 45. Thinks Winant's fear of upsetting Russians largely responsible for our Failure to get the corridor. Thinks Winant may have shot himself when he realized how he failed to stop Russians.

British acted differently on control commission. Peake's position like that of Reber's. British elements of control council operated different in direct contact with Br For Office. They took the place of Murphy for the British. Kirby was opposite of Wickersham. Outranked Wickersham and had For Office to draw on.

Murphy—As Pol Adviser to Ike in 44-45 had practically no power and practically no support from State Dept. Had an extremely able staff from State Dept. Donald Heath, Jake Beam, Laukhuff all top men. No instructions from State Dept. Sent wire after wire to State Dept on densification, boundary question, organizational matters. No word. Had to make decisions without concurrence.

Murphy says he tried to persuade Ike to go to Berlin. Nothing from State Dept. Ike argued on military basis. Ike guilty of special pleading on this in his book.

Army wanted to get out of Czechoslovakia as soon as war ended. Pol advisers got this changed.

Control section--we were separate from SHAEF and ready to take over when they got out. SHAEF felt it should control and we should be appendage of SHAEF G-5. McSherry nearly got away with it until Clay arrived. Clay changed that. Clay instead of being absorbed; absorbed it.

German country section broken up, when it was decided to divide Germany into zones. A good thing that it broke up.

Three things stand out on period--(1) absence of political direction from Washington to Murphy—FDR ignored State Dept—operated through Hopkins. Murphy couldn't get acknowledgements (2) lack at understandable connection between Murphy and mil govt. Never defined. Murphy not a good executive. One man operator. Found it difficult to delegate authority. When he did was likely later to overrule his subordinates. (3) No real control by Murphy over pol matters at SHAEF. I went with Murphy to Paris in Nov 44 to talk to Psy Warfare people people who were putting out dangerous line of propaganda. Promises with no reality or possibility of fulfillment. We talked to C. D. Jackson. Murphy tried to tell him his program no good. Jackson laughed at him. Murphy said the best thing Psy War could do would be to close shop for ten days.

Kirby would call the War Cabinet or War Office and get the word. He came prepared with their viewpoint. Our pol and econ advisers would engage in pitched battles in front of the British.

Clay brought own political advisers in person of Lew Douglas, I could sometime get results out of Douglas when I couldn't through Murphy.

Had got difficulty getting information from State Dept on economic clauses and on the division of Ger zone.

Wickersham--secretive. Gave Murphy every outward consideration. Lived in same house in London. Murphy sat in on our meetings. Got his orders from Ike and Bedell and JCS and stayed in that sphere. Tried to keep own skirts clean. Winant had lost most of his influence over Eisenhower. Had wanted Ike to move into Embassy earlier.

Very popular notion in London and in US that Russia slow to agree but always kept promises. FDR apparently afraid to end of his life that Russia would make separate peace with Germans. Therefore didn't want to rock boat.