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Maj. Gen. Marshall S. Carter

Washington, D.C.

Fall 1956

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Interview with Major General Marshall S. Carter, formally an assistant to Gen.

Marshall, in General Marshall's office in the Pentagon, sometime in the fall of 1956.

Carter said that he was in the logistics group of OPD under Gen. Hull from June 1942-July 1945.

He went to the Cairo Conference in 1943 and then went around the world with Gen. Marshall and Frank McCarthy. (Sutherland came to Cairo in MacArthur's Plane. I wanted to go on around. Went to Tansey. Tansey went to Handy who wanted to go on. Then Handy went to Marshall who said he wanted to go. Arnold furnished another plane. Went to Eagle's Roost in New Guinea and Moresby.)

I worked with Col Chamberlain and Col Jenkins cutting down Wedemeyer's plan to 88 divisions.

In 1944 I reviewed a papers on Pearl Harbor. Thinks nothing was missed. Brig Gen. Thomas North, head of current section, worked on papers. Went through everything, especially letters to Herron and Short. Knows of no such thing as destruction of papers. (There was proposal to destroy the Chinese files after Mission to China. All these are in State Dept.) Went through files.

Left in summer of 1945 for China back in January 1946. Marshall had gone to China. I came back to work as asst executive for Jack McCloy.

Howard Peterson was assist secy of war when I came back/ When Marshall came back from China in late Feb or early March 1946. They made a shift in personal representative. I took the place of Col James C. Davis who wanted to go back to civilian life. During this period Marshall was here. I was his personal representative in State Dept and government agencies until he became Sec of State in Jan 1947. Then I remained as special assistant to Sec of State through which time he was Sec of State (got out about Jan 1949) and I stayed with Acheson and went to London as minister to Lewis Douglas. Was in contact with Marshall much of the time. To Army War College in 1950. Then to the Far East. Then when he became Sec of Defense—Sept 1950—I was called back from Far East and became director of executive office of Sec of Defense. Stayed until Nov 1952. Stayed on with Lovett. Then to Alaska. Became B.G. in March of 1957 while in Moscow with Gen Marshall. Then back to colonel and BG in 1957. Marshall kept him as BG.

Wedemeyer had a semi-promise of ambassadorship. Then was dropped. Purchased clothing back from him. Chiang didn't want Wedemeyer because of men of his staff.

In 1947 Judd and other people on the Hill got active on China to point where they were about to send a congressional committee. Marshall sent Wedemeyer out to make a firsthand report. Wedemeyer began to show MacArthur's stripes. Came to Pentagon and wanted to be personal representative of the President. We sent him out anyway and he brought in report. It was poorly written; uncoordinated. Most, save section on Manchuria, could have been released. It recommended UN trusteeship on Manchuria. State Dept thought it would be dynamite. I was appointed to go to Wedemeyer and suggest that to have an available Wedemeyer report this should be put in a separate report. Then release the whole thing. He would have no part of it.

From that point on no direct contact between Marshall and Wedemeyer, I think. I think most of the pressure for release of the Report was generated by him. I lost confidence in the guy.

(I attended Cairo Conference, Moscow Conference, Bogota, UN in New York and UN in Paris with Marshall).

A good story: A Chinese general named Wei Li Wan developed what they thought was a brain tumor. He came over here for treatment. Marshall said roll out the carpet for him. Had a big dinner party: then flew east. Got a good going over. They found and removed a benign cyst. Then operated on him for piles. Hell broke loose in China; failed to keep Marshall informed. One day he said what happened to Wei. I wrote telling him everything. Ended something like this: While his brain tumor (a benign cyst) was being removed, he was also operated on successfully for piles. Only connection apparently was Wei Li Wan.

Sent this out. Message in Marshall's basket. He read it through and did a double take. Went up to have a cup of coffee with Mrs. Marshall. Someone heard raucous laughter.

Some people to see:

Frenchie Williams, a wartime flier.

Col. Homer V. Munson, Air Force Colonel, pilot for general in China. State and Defense.

Col George V. Underwood.-War College--in China

Col. John Hart Caughey--China

Leo Cherne.-one of the few who whipped McCarthy. Asked to appear on forum to debate McCarthy's book attacking Marshall. He came to see me and we opened the files.