

Notes 59N, Copy 2

General Leonard T. Gerow

Petersburg, Virginia

February 24, 1958

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Interview with Gen Leonard T. Gerow, former commander of V Corps and 15th and Second Armies, at his home in Petersburg, Virginia, Feb 24, 1958, by F C Pogue.

(Most of this is on tape)

Feels we should study our errors. Books tend to reveal successes. Has some letters he wrote to Mrs. Gerow. May put them in a book sometime. Might give some of the material to VMI.

Says don't record this, but some of the stuff I worked on the first round in war plans was still there when I came back.

Liked Craig. Very human.

Close to Ike. Worked on the MacArthur reports at his apartment. Would discuss them with Gerow and Everett Hughes.

Air people had a problem at Omaha Beach. Still was a surprise for us/ However good thing 252 on the beach. If they had been at St. Lo could have come up and hit us.

He didn't expect the Ardennes attack at time it came and thinks no one else did.

On crossing into Germany. Wanted to get through obstructions before they were manned. Says Hodges thought he lacked ammunition and gasoline. Couldn't sustain drive. Didn't want to sustain drive. Wanted to get through these obstructions.

LEClerc very difficult. Didn't want to destroy Fr places. Would slow up rather than knock out a house or two. Didn't want to take orders. Difficult.

Koenig nasty about the handing over Paris. DeGaulle insisted on parade despite presence of Germans. Some firing into parade.