

Notes 154N, Copy 2

Brig. Gen. Charles H. Royce

Arlington, Virginia

April 4, 1961

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Brigadier General Charles H. Royce (Retired) Tyler Building - Arlington Towers Arlington, Virginia

Interviewed 1:30-2:30, April 4, 1961, by Edward M. Coffman.

I was a student at Fort Benning in 1928-1929, then I served as General King's aide for a couple of years. My desk was in the General's Office so I heard everything that went on.

General Marshall had a brilliant mind. I can recall one time that General King called him in to ask his recommendation on a problem. Before the General finished stating the problem, General Marshall had gone on beyond it. He had a fantastic memory. If he had a fault, it was that he never forgot a person -- if he thought highly of them or if he thought badly of them, /He told the Van Fleet mix-up story EMC/ All of the officers who impressed him at Benning later made general. Yet, he leaned over backward not to do anything about his son-in-law. Winn was a damn fine officer, yet he retired as a brigadier general (colonel: FCP).

General King was absolutely the perfect gentleman, He could be tough, but he was always the gentleman. He and Marshall were old friends. I think that they had known each other during the First World War His son--Dr. Richard King lives in Flat Rock, North Carolina. His twin sister committed suicide in the thirties and I think that killed the old man.

Marshall loved to ride. He played tennis a lot. He would get out of his office a lot. Sometimes he would take over a class and instruct it -- which was hard on the instructor. He was a reserved man. He entertained a lot even as a bachelor. My wife used to teach a dancing class once a week. He was always there sitting on the side watching. He started making student Officers ride to problems. He took part in hunts there.

I was in General King's office when General Marshall came in and said: "General King, I think I ought to tell you that I am going to be married. I don't want to announce it until the day, but I thought you ought to know." He looked at me and said: "Charlie, I know you won't tell anybody." I would have bitten off my tongue first. The day of the wedding, I told my wife that there would be some news which would rock the post. When it came out in the newspapers that day, she almost ended our engagement.

Mrs. Marshall was one of the most attractive women I have ever known. She was very gracious. The headquarters offices were in a temporary building next to the Commandant's home. The classes were in temporary buildings. The barracks were partially finished then,

When Mrs. Royce and I adopted a boy from the cradle in Evanston, we didn't know anyone there, so we wrote the Marshalls. (I believe that this was in 1938 and he was commanding Ft. Sheridan then.) I couldn't go but they had a car to take my wife and looked after her while she was there.

The only time I saw him was during the war in the 1943 maneuvers in Louisiana. I was chief of staff of a corps. After the maneuvers, he called in the regimental, division commanders to be

introduced, When he came to me, he said: "Take off your helmet, Charlie." He hadn't seen me since I was at Benning. I thought -- "My God, do I need a haircut?" I took off my helmet and stood at attention. He said: "You haven't changed a bit."

He was very thoughtful. If he ran into people he knew on his trips, he would take time from a busy day to write the man's wife when he returned home.

/General Royce introduced me to Maj. Gen. George W. Smythe who was at Benning as a student 1926-1927. He said that there were some good tennis players at Benning then -- Ray C. Johnson, Dave Hedekin, Christianberry, Van Fleet (not James A.). EMC/

General Royce said that these people might be able to give information,

1. Dr. Richard King /Campbell King's son/
Flat Rock, N. C.

2. Maj. Gen. H. B. Lewis /Adjutant at Benning during Marshall's tour. Served with San Francisco, Calif. GCM in China also./

3. General Ralph Lovett /Assistant Adjutant Benning during GCM's time/
Arlington Towers
Arlington, Virginia

4. Colonel William Hones /Instructor in TIS at Benning during GCM's stay/

5. Colonel Daniel H. Mallan / Veterinarian and horse lover at Benning during this period/

Lewis will be 72 on May 8 /May 8, 1889/ USMA 1913. AG and Dep. C/S 12th Army Gp.
2525 Larkin St. Asst AG 1946-1949.
AF 9, Calif.

Lovett is a retired Brigadier General. He was born on February 6, 1899.
Ralph B. Lovett.

Hones (no middle initial) was born on December 20, 1891.

Mallan was born on October 4, 1893.

I have found no addresses for the last three except c/o Department of the Army.

EMC