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## Hamlett, Barksdale, 1908-1979 (MSS 292)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 292 HAMLETT, Barksdale, 1908-1979**

½ box. 5 folders. 7 items. 1962-2006. Originals, photocopies, and typescripts.

2009.4.159

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE (ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY)***

Barksdale Hamlett, Jr. was born 30 December 1908 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, the son of Barksdale Hamlett, Sr. and Daisey (Crume) Hamlett. The family left Hopkinsville for Frankfort when Hamlett was three and remained there several years while his father served as Kentucky's Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Hamletts then moved to Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky where the father purchased a newspaper. Hamlett graduated from Adair County High School, spent a year at Lindsey Wilson Junior College, and subsequently received an appointment to West Point. Upon his graduation in 1930 he received a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the field artillery. In 1931 he married Frances Valencia Underwood of Bowling Green, Kentucky. They had one daughter Otila Crume (Hamlett) Stanley.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, Hamlett served as an artillery officer at Fort Sam Houston (Texas), Schofield Barracks (Hawaii), and Fort Sill (Oklahoma). In 1942 he was appointed assistant artillery officer of II Corps and landed in Morocco with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division during the invasion of North Africa. After a reassignment to Washington, D.C. in 1943, he returned to Europe where he was appointed artillery commander of the 16<sup>th</sup> Armored Division which advanced into Czechoslovakia, liberating Pilsen. After the war Barksdale attended the Ecole Militaire in Paris and the National War College.

In December 1949 he became the executive logistics officer at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in occupied Japan. During the Korean War he supervised the logistics planning for the landing at Inchon and later served as the division artillery commander of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Korea.

From 1952 to 1955 he was posted to the Department of the Army General Staff in Washington, D.C. In 1955 he returned to Europe as corps artillery commander for VII Corps. Barksdale was appointed United States Commander, Berlin, and Deputy Chief of the United States Mission in Berlin in 1957. He served in this command until 1959. After his return to the United States, he held several prominent positions at the Pentagon during the period of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the build-up of American forces in Vietnam. He retired in 1964 as a four-star general and Army Vice-Chief of Staff.

In 1965 Barksdale was elected president of Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, serving until 1972. After this retirement he resided in Charleston, South Carolina, serving as the

president of the Retired Officers Association, 1974-1975. He died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1979 and is buried at West Point.

### ***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection contains the transcription of five 1976 interviews conducted by Colonel John J. Ridgway and Lieutenant Colonel Paul L. Walter with retired General Barksdale Hamlett. These interviews were conducted as part of the Senior Officers Debriefing Program, US Army Military History Research Collection (USAMHRC). The audio and video tapes of the interviews are housed in the USAMHRC, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Folder 1 contains the permission granted by the USAMHRC for these transcriptions to be made available to researchers at the Kentucky Library and Museum.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>HAMLETT, Barksdale, 1908-1979</b>	<b>1962-2006</b>	<b>7 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory and data	1962-2006	6 items
Folder 2	Transcription of interview done by John J. Ridgway and Paul L. Walter that focuses on Hamlett's military career	23 January 1976	1 item; p. 1-121
Folder 3	Transcription of interviews done by John J. Ridgway and Paul L. Walter that focus on Hamlett's military career	4 February 1976; 10 March 1976	p. 122-229
Folder 4	Transcription of interview done by John J. Ridgway and Paul L. Walter that focuses on Hamlett's military career	11 March 1976	p. 230-315
Folder 5	Transcription of interviews done by John J. Ridgway and Paul L. Walter that focus on Hamlett's military career	11 March 1976; 12 March 1976	p. 316-397

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS HAMLETT, Barksdale, 1908-1979 1962-2006  
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Transcriptions of five interviews conducted with retired four-star general Hamlett in which he reflects on his 34-year military career, including service in World War II, the Korean War, and on the Army's General Staff in Washington, D.C.

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Lile/Jeffrey 12/07/2009