

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Joseph Dale

COLLECTION: 4700.0731

IDENTIFICATION: World War II veteran, Former Commandant of Cadets LSU

INTERVIEWER: Jack Fiser

SERIES: University History – Ole War Skule

INTERVIEW DATES: August 12, 1995; August 17, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1948-1995

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1057

Brief biography of Joseph Dale by Jack Fiser; attending LSU ROTC summer camp in Fort Benning, Georgia; reporting for active duty to Fort Sill in 1942; being a volunteer for assignments while in the military; training as a 2nd Calvary Division horseman; assignment to the 8th Armored Division as an executive officer as an artillery battery; assignment as a battery commander with a separate artillery battalion; assignments and movements once landing in Europe after D-Day; assignments after World War II; commission in the Regular Army in 1946; serving as aide-de-camp to General James Gavin who had commanded the 82nd Airborne Division in Europe in World War II; serving as aide to Lieutenant General Stephen Chamberlin, who had been General MacArthur's G3 operations officer; involvement in the Korean War; assignment to the First Corps as the artillery officer; becoming an aide to General Ridgway; assignment after the Korean War to a National Guard unit as a Regular Army advisor to an artillery unit; reassignment to Iran as a member of a Military Assistance Advisory Group Training Team working with the Shah's army; establishing command at Mashhad and Russian activities; an example of an incident with the Russians; becoming the Commandant of Cadets at LSU; efforts to revitalize the cadet corps at LSU (Cadets of the Ole War Skule); the effort to establish the LSU War Memorial Commission; becoming connected to LSU as the Director of Campus Safety; becoming the Director of the Employee Benefits Office.

Tape 1058

Dale's father's involvement in World War I; Dale's grandfather who was a steamboat river captain on the Mississippi; the LSU ROTC sponsor program where each cadet had a female sponsor; getting his commission in the Regular Army; his activities as an artillery battery commander as part of the later phases of the Normandy invasion; working with General Patton's 3rd Armored Division; getting wounded during World War II for which he received a Bronze Star; meeting the Russian troops; reaction after the agreements had been signed on V-E Day; becoming an aide to General Gavin; becoming an aide to General Chamberlin; trying to become involved with the Gulf War; training in the Army Winter Warfare School in Alaska; Dale's view of how an early Officer's Preference Statement effected his ability to rise higher in command positions; becoming the Commandant of LSU ROTC Cadet Corps; incentive programs to attract

recruits into joining the LSU ROTC Cadet Corps; working with the Army Special Forces; being the first live person to jump out of a C141 aircraft by parachute; Dale's reflection on his career and his one regret.

TAPES: 2 (T1057, T1058)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 20 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 23 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Photography Copy Release Form; Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: None