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COLLECTION NUMBER: 10141890-024-122004
NUMBER:
01729
OF 10,000 ISSUED

★ *First Edition* ★

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The Road to the Dwight Eisenhower Presidency

★ *The 34th President* ★

Dwight David Eisenhower: Biography



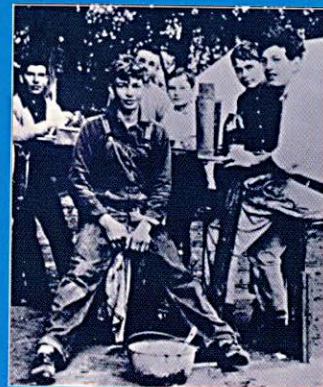
62-319 David, Milton, Ida (front row); Dwight, Edgar, Earl, Arthur, Roy (back row), 1902



62-296 First Abilene residence, Dwight with brothers, 1895



64-320 Fifth grade class, (Dwight 2nd row from left) Lincoln Elementary, Abilene, Kansas, 1900



64-165-1 Camping trip on the Smokey Hill River, Dwight front center, 1907

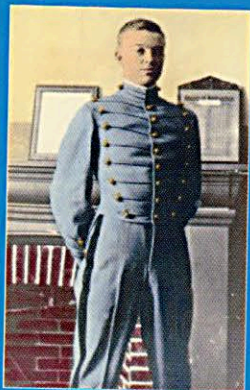
"There must be a respect for the constitution...or we shall have chaos." - Dwight D. Eisenhower

The 34th President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, was born as David Dwight to David and Ida Stover Eisenhower on October 14, 1890 in Denison, Texas. Eisenhower grew up with six brothers on a farm in Abilene, Kansas. The Eisenhower family, with meager means, worked the farm, raising most all of their food and selling the surplus. Eisenhower attended local public schools, where he gained the nickname "Ike" and excelled in sports. Upon graduating high school in 1909, Eisenhower worked at Belle Springs Creamery until 1911 when he gained his appointment to West Point Military Academy. While at West Point he played halfback on the Army football team, and was counting on All-American honors until he twisted his knee, ending the possibility of a football career.

Eisenhower graduated from West Point in 1915 and reported for duty as 2nd lieutenant of Infantry at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. It was here that he met Mary (Mamie) Geneva Doud, who came from a wealthy Denver family. The two married in Denver on July 1, 1916, the day Eisenhower gained promotion to first lieutenant. Mamie and Eisenhower shared the birth of two sons, Doud Dwight, who died at age three, and Sheldon Doud, who later graduated from the Military Academy and served as ambassador to Belgium.

During the United States involvement in World War I and World War II Eisenhower spent his military career with staff assignments. During the First World War, Eisenhower, with rank of captain, served as an instructor at several Army training camps and a coach to Army football teams. While commanding the Tank Training Center in Pennsylvania, he earned a Distinguished Service Medal and was promoted to temporary rank of major and lieutenant colonel, until the war's end, at which point he resumed his rank of captain and served at Camp Meade, Maryland and in the Panama Canal Zone. In 1920 he received a permanent promotion to major and graduated from Tank School the following year. In 1926 he graduated first in his class from the Command and General Staff School in

Leavenworth, Kansas. The following year, he served in Washington, D.C., attending the Army War College and writing a guidebook on World War I European battlefields. From 1929 to 1933, Eisenhower served as an Executive Officer in the office of the assistant secretary of war. In 1933, he assisted the chief of staff, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and two years later became Gen. MacArthur's senior assistant in the Philippines for four years, helping MacArthur in his role as a military advisor, building up the islands defense. By 1940, Eisenhower had risen in rank to lieutenant colonel and became executive officer of the 15th Infantry Regiment at Fort Ord, Ca. for a short time before becoming chief of staff of the 3rd Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, and in 1941 colonel and chief of staff for Gen. Krueger of the 3rd Division at Fort Sam Houston. In 1941, Eisenhower worked in the War Plans Divisions for the Far East in Washington, and was made a major general and head of the Operations Division in 1942. That same year, Eisenhower was sent to London to take command of the U.S. forces in the European Theater of Operations. While in London, he and George Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff, urged the Combined Chiefs of Staff (CCS) to plan a 1943 invasion of France, with a possible suicide invasion. However, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sided with the British and planned an invasion of North Africa instead (Operation Torch). Eisenhower was selected by the CCS to command Operation Torch, giving him command of all U.S. and British ground, sea and air forces involved. The African invasion beginning on Nov. 8, 1942, Eisenhower successfully negotiated with Vichy French force commander, Adm. Jean Darlan, giving him control of North Africa in exchange for French cooperation in the war against Germany. After the German surrender at the Battle of Kasserine Pass, Eisenhower, as a four-star general added the British Eighth Army, under Montgomery to his command and launched invasions against the Germans in Sicily and Salerno, Italy. In December of 1943, Eisenhower was called to leave Italy and head to London to prepare for the



62-320 Cadet Dwight D. Eisenhower, West Point, 1911



62-322 Wedding portrait, Dwight and Mamie, Denver, Colorado, July 1, 1916



62-286-2 Dwight with Tank Corps, Camp Meade, Maryland, 1919

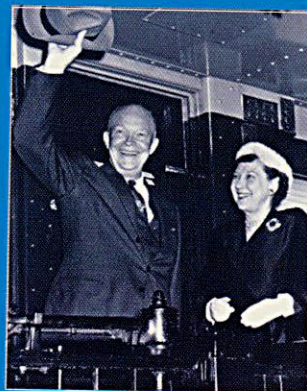
invasion of France. Eisenhower took over Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP) and Commanded the Normandy invasion in France on June 6, 1944, eventually driving Germany out of France. Eisenhower commanded the SHAEP forces in a battle victory, ousting the Germans in the Battle of The Bulge. After the Germans signed the unconditional surrender document on May 8, 1945, Eisenhower commanded the occupation forces for six months before returning to Washington to succeed Marshall as Army chief of staff. As chief of staff, he made speeches urging national defense, presided over the demobilization of the American Army, and wrote *Crusades in Europe*, an account of his war career.

During tenure as Army chief of Staff, both political parties pressed Eisenhower to accept a presidential nomination; however, Eisenhower expressed no interest in pursuing a career in politics and accepted the presidency of Columbia University in 1949, retiring from active military duty. At the height of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, he left Columbia the following year to accept his appointment by President Truman as supreme commander of the newly formed North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces. As NATO commander, both political parties once again asked Eisenhower about his availability for the 1952 presidential election. Although, reluctant to enter politics, Governor Dewey and Senator Lodge, Jr. persuaded Eisenhower to resign his NATO command and announce his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination in 1952.

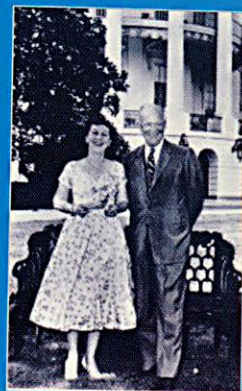
Eisenhower spent 37 years in his military career, and retired from active duty in 1952 as General of the Army. The same year, Eisenhower gained the Republican nomination with Richard Nixon as his vice presidential candidate, and was elected the Thirty-fourth President of the United States of America with 442 electoral and 33,937,252 popular votes to Governor Stevenson's 89 electoral and 27,314,992 popular votes; starting his two term appointment in office on January 20, 1953.



66-557-1 Press conference, Germany signed surrender at Rheims, France ending WWII



72-1972-1 President and Mrs. Eisenhower 1956 Campaign for re-election, Washington, D.C.



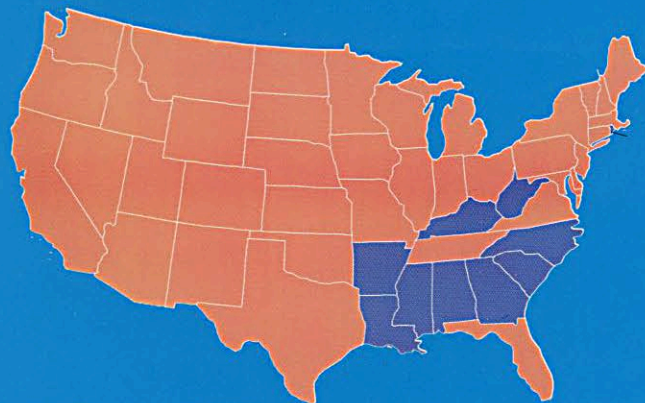
72-947 President & Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower White House portrait



The Eisenhower administration oversaw the end of the Korean War, the U.S. attempts to moderate the Cold War, the crises in Lebanon, Suez, Berlin, and Hungary, the induction of Alaska and Hawaii into the United States, the enforcement of school integration, and the launching of Explorer I. Eisenhower instituted the foreign and domestic policies of his Democratic predecessors, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman. Eisenhower also helped negotiate a cease-fire agreement that led to the end of the Korean War, improved the Social Security system, attempted to compromise with Russia on the development of atomic weapons, and upheld the plight of integration of the armed forces and of public schools.¹

Upon leaving office in 1961, Eisenhower retired to his farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, also spending time in Palm Springs, California. In the years following, congress restored his rank as five-star general, colleges bestowed honorary degrees, and private organizations granted him with awards. He spent his time advising Presidents Kennedy and Johnson on international issues, while also traveling and spending time with recreational activities—golfing, hunting, fishing and painting. He also helped establish a presidential library with a repository for his papers in Abilene, Kansas. After surviving a serious heart attack in 1965, he was left invalid after another heart attack in 1968. Eisenhower died March 28, 1969 at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. Dwight David Eisenhower served as the 34th President of the United States of America from January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961.

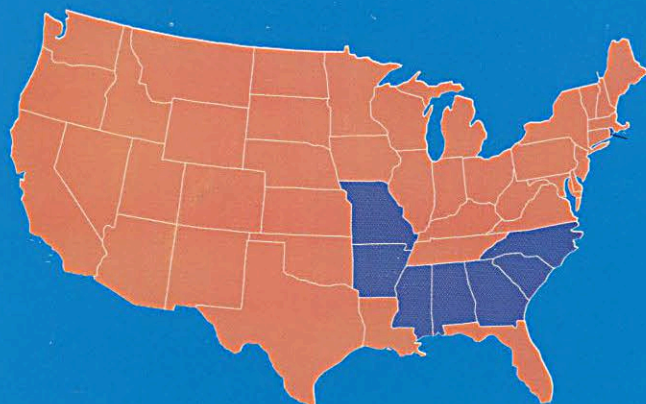
¹Upheld the United States Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* and enforced the Governor of Arkansas to allow the integration of Central High School in Little Rock by calling in the army.




The Presidential Election 1952



(R)Eisenhower state victories: 442 - 83%		33,937,252 popular votes (55%)	Electoral votes total: 531 Popular vote total: 61,551,919
(D)Stevenson state victories: 89 - 17%		27,314,992 popular votes (44.5%)	

The Presidential Election 1956



(R)Eisenhower state victories: 457 - 86%		35,581,003 popular votes (57.5%)	Electoral votes total: 531 Popular vote total: 62,027,040
(D)Stevenson state victories: 73 - 13.5%		26,031,322 popular votes (42%)	
(I)Jones state victories: 1 - .5%		414,715 popular votes (.5%)	

Dwight David Eisenhower: While in Office

1953 Department of Health, Education and Welfare created • U.S. and North Korea signed armistice ending Korean War • USSR exploded a hydrogen bomb • Iran Leftist government ousted • Josef Stalin died • Legislation signed vesting ownership of tidelands oil & gas deposits in the coastal states • Eisenhower delivered "Atoms for Peace" speech² at the United Nations • Senate Permanent Investigation Subcommittee conducted hearings on communist subversion in America and investigated communist

infiltration of the Armed Forces (1953-1954) **1954** Southeast Asia Treaty Organization established (SEATO) • Geneva Accords partitioned Vietnam at the 17th Parallel and provided for unifying elections in two years • French garrison at Dien Bien Phu surrendered to the Viet Minh • U.S. tested hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll • U.S. signed pact with Nationalist China (Taiwan) • St. Lawrence Seaway public works project passed • Racial segregation schools ruled unconstitutional in Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education

1955 Italy, West Germany, and France established the European Union • Warsaw pact signed • Elections in South Vietnam • Austrian sovereignty restored • A vaccine developed to combat the spread of poliomyelitis • Eisenhower submitted "Open Skies" proposal allowing mutual air reconnaissance over military installations at the Geneva Four Power Conference • Martin Luther King, Jr. led boycott of city buses in Montgomery, AL • West Germany joined NATO **1956** Federal highway bill signed • Suez Canal Crisis

• Soviet troops enter Budapest, Hungary; martial law declared • Japan joined UN **1957** Bermuda Conference • Opening of the International Geophysical Year, a joint effort by scientists of 60 nations • Civil Rights Act which seeks to protect voting rights signed • Desegregation crisis at Little Rock High School, federal troops enforced integration • Soviet Union launched first earth satellite, Sputnik, into orbit • International Atomic Energy Agency established • Great Britain exploded a thermonuclear bomb • First

commercial nuclear power plant opened in Pennsylvania **1958** First U.S. satellite, Explorer I, sent into orbit • U.S. Marines ordered into Lebanon at the request of President Camille Chamoun • National Aeronautics and Space Administration bill signed • National Defense Education Act signed • The Big Four met to discuss Berlin and German

reunification **1959** Fidel Castro's guerilla forces overthrew the Batista regime in Cuba • Alaska became the 49th state • St. Lawrence Seaway opened • Hawaii became the 50th state **1960** A U-2 reconnaissance plane shot down over the U.S.S.R. • The Paris

¹ Above material Courtesy of the Dwight D. Eisenhower library

² Proposed an international atomic energy agency and peaceful development of nuclear energy

Summit meeting collapses when Khrushchev demanded an apology from President Eisenhower for the U-2 flights • The Congo (Zaire) became independent from Belgium and widespread violence led to intervention by U.N. troops • Sen. John F. Kennedy defeated Vice President Richard M. Nixon in presidential election **1961** Eisenhower delivered Farewell Address warning the nation of the "Military- Industrial Complex" • Eisenhower administration ended

Key Establishments

Atoms for Peace program assisted nations in developing atomic energy for peaceful uses • Dealt with crises in Lebanon, Suez, Berlin, and Hungary • Secured the termination of the four-power³ occupation of Austria, restoring Austrian sovereignty • Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) established to prevent Communist aggression in Southeast Asia • Eisenhower Doctrine created to help prevent communist takeover of Middle East governments • Improved the Social Security System and the minimum wage law • Began the construction of interstate highways

Dwight David Eisenhower: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 34 Years **President:** 1953-1961 **Age at Inauguration:** 62 **Terms:** 2 **Political Affiliation:** Republican **State Represented:** New York **First Lady:** Mary "Mamie" Geneva Doud Eisenhower **Vice President(s):** Richard M. Nixon **Birth Date:** October 14, 1890 **Birthplace:** Denison, Texas **Birth Name:** David Dwight Eisenhower **Nickname:** Ike **Parents:** Ida Elizabeth Stover & David Jacob Eisenhower **Education:** U.S. Military Academy; West Point; Command and General Staff School, Army War College **Professions:** Army Officer & Instructor; Lieutenant Colonel, Five Star General in World War II, Supreme Allied Commander; President of Columbia University; Supreme Commander of NATO; 34th President of the United States of America **Pre-Presidential Offices:** U.S. Army Chief of Staff **Occupation after**

Presidency: Writer **Religion:** Presbyterian **Favorite Foods:** Vegetable soup, steak **Hobbies:** Bridge, fishing, golf, painting **Writings:** Mandate for Change, Waging Peace **Children:** Doud Dwight and John Sheldon Doud **Pets:** Heidi, a Weimaraner **Died:** March 28, 1969

Notable Facts

First president to ride in a helicopter while president **First** in graduating class of 245 from Command and General Staff School **Only** man to ever successfully command an integrated, multinational alliance of ground, sea, and air forces **Commanded** the launch of the greatest air and sea invasion in the history of the world with the Normandy Invasion⁴ **One** of the few generals to ever command major naval forces **First** to command a peacetime multinational force as the supreme commander of NATO

Interesting Facts

- ❖ Family name translates to "iron axe" or "iron hitter"
- ❖ Birth name David Dwight was reversed to Dwight David by mistake
- ❖ Parents joined the Jehovah's Witnesses when he was young
- ❖ Worked at a creamery in part to help one of his older brothers attend college
- ❖ Received \$2,000 and a 160-acre farm as a wedding gift from his father
- ❖ Survived a heart attack, stroke and operation for ileitis in his first term
- ❖ Grandson, David, married Richard Nixon's daughter, Julie
- ❖ Changed name of FDR's Maryland retreat from Shangri-la to Camp David
- ❖ Topped the list of most admired Americans in a Gallup poll released in 1968
- ❖ Held over 500 press conferences

³The Big Four comprised of the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain

⁴Attempt to liberate France from Nazi occupation

Dwight David Eisenhower: Timeline

1890

Born October 14 in Denison, Texas

1895-1905

Attended Lincoln Elementary and Garfield School

1905-1909

Attended Abilene High School, played baseball and football

1909-1911

Worked at Belle Springs Creamery

1911-1915

Attended West Point Military Academy; played football

1916

Married Mary (Mamie); Promoted to First Lieutenant

1918

Served with the Infantry in Camp Wilson, & Leon, Oglethorpe, GA



64-167 First known photograph of Dwight, age three, 1893, Authur holding Roy, while Edgar is standing behind Dwight *



64-381 1909 Abilene High School baseball team Dwight fourth row from left *



64-170 Abilene High School Graduation Portrait *



17-18-8 Cadet Dwight D. Eisenhower kicking a football at West Point

1892

Family moved to Abilene, Kansas

1915-1918

* Courtesy of the Dwight David Eisenhower Library

www.celebritydollmuseum.com

Beneva Doud July 1
Lieutenant July 1

18-1922

Served with Tank Corps in Camp Meade, MD, Camp Cold, Penn.,
Camp Dix, NJ, Ft. Benning, Ga., & Ft. Meade, MD
Promoted to Major (temporary) Jun 17, 1918
Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (temporary) Oct 14, 1918
Reverted to permanent rank of Captain June 30, 1920
Promoted to Major July 2, 1920
Tank Corps observer in the First Transcontinental Motor Convoy
Son, Doud Dwight died Jan 2, 1921

1925-1926

Attended Command and
General Staff School

1927-1928

Attended Army War College

1929-1933

Ex

1926-1927

Served as battalion
commander in Georgia



77-18-103 Mamie and Dwight with
son Doud Dwight, 1919 *

1917

First son, Doud Dwight born September 24
Promoted to Captain May 15

1922-1924

Executive officer to General Fox Conner, Panama Canal Zone
Second son, John Shelton Doud born August 3, 1922

1928-1929

In charge of guidebook revisio
and European office in Paris

1927

Served in Washington, D.C. office, writing guidebook of WWI battle

1933-

1948-194

Executive officer to General George Mosely, Assistant Secretary of War, Washington, D.C.

1940-1941

Regimental executive in Ft. Lewis, Washington
Served as Chief of Staff to several units in Washington and Texas

1943

Brigadier General & promoted to Major General Aug 30
Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces

1944-1945

Commanded Normandy invasion in France June 6
Promoted to General of the Army (5 stars)
Military Governor, U.S. Occupied Zone, Frankfurt, Germany
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

1935-1939

Assigned to General MacArthur as an assistant military advisor to Philippine government
Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Jul 1, 1936

1942

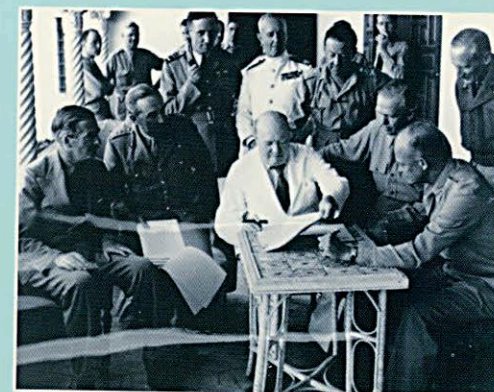
Commanding General, European Theater, London
Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, North Africa

1941-1942

General Staff, Washington, D.C.
Deputy Chief in charge of Pacific Defenses
Chief of War Plans Division
Assistant Chief of Staff

1935

Chief Military aide to General Douglas MacArthur, Army Chief of Staff



62-158-1 Eisenhower with Churchill, Turkish Embassy, Villa dar el Ouard, Algeria, June 3, 1943
Also pictured: Eden, Brooke, Tedder, Cunningham, Alexander, Marshall, & Montgomery *

1946

19

President of Columbia University
Wrote and published Crusade
in Europe

1953-1961

Served as the 34th President of the United States of America

1952

Retired from active military service
May 31
Resigned his commission July
Announced candidacy for the
Republican nomination for President
June 4
Elected President November 4

1961

Retired to his farm in
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

1969

Died March 28, 1969 at Walter Reed
Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

1950

Supreme Allied Commander, North Atlantic
Treaty Organization, Europe
Operational command of Treaty Organization
and U.S. Forces in Europe



72-1629-8 President Dwight D.
Eisenhower
Oval Office, February 29, 1956 *

1961-1969

Rank as five-star general restored by
President John F. Kennedy
Wrote Mandate for Change (1963)
Wrote Waging Peace (1965)
Received honorary degrees from colleges
Served as a statesman, advising
Presidents Kennedy and Johnson on
international issues
Helped establish a presidential library
in Abilene, Kansas
Wrote memoirs and traveled

1953

Inaugurated into office January 20

Wartime rank of General of Army
converted to permanent rank April 11