



AUSA BACKGROUND BRIEF

THE YEAR OF EISENHOWER

No. 19

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1990 marks the centennial year of the birth of one of America's most famous Army generals, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Numerous events are planned in the United States and other countries to honor this great American soldier and president. Recognizing the need for a concise document on his many achievements, AUSA has compiled a biographical summary of important and interesting facts on Eisenhower.

PERSONAL

Dwight David Eisenhower was born on October 14, 1890, in Denison, Texas, the third of seven boys. His family moved to Abilene, Kansas, in 1892.

He entered the United States Military Academy at West Point in June of 1911 and graduated in June of 1915, 61st out of a class of 164.

Eisenhower married Mamie Geneva Doud of Denver, Colorado, in July of 1916. They had two sons, Doud Dwight (1917-1921) and John Sheldon Doud (1922-).

Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; he was buried in his hometown of Abilene.

SIGNIFICANT ARMY CAREER ASSIGNMENTS

- Sept. 1915: Commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry and assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.
- 1917-1918: Army Service School Instructor, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 1918: Commanded the Tank Corps School at Camp Colt, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- 1919: Tank Corps observer in the First Transcontinental Motor Convoy.
- 1922: Assigned as executive officer at Camp Gaillard in the Panama Canal Zone.
- 1924-1925: Served in various positions in Maryland and Colorado.
- 1926: Graduated first in a class of 245 from the Command and General Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 1928: Graduated from the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.
- 1929-33: Assistant Executive Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of War.
- 1933-35: Chief Military Aide, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army.
- 1935-40: Assistant to General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines.
- 1940-41: Chief of staff, 3rd Division and later IX Corps.
- 1941: Chief of staff, Third Army.
- 1941-42: Chief of War Plans Division, War Department General Staff.
- June 1942: Commanding General, European Theater, London, England.
- Nov. 1942: Named Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, North Africa.
- Dec. 1943: Appointed Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces.
- Dec. 1944: Appointed General of the Army.
- May 1945: Appointed Military Governor, U.S. occupied zone after the German surrender.
- Nov. 1945: Appointed Chief of Staff, Army.

June 1948: Retired from active duty to become president of Columbia University.
Dec. 1950: Returned to active duty as NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.
May 1952: Retired from active service.

THE EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL YEARS

June 1952: Announced his candidacy for president.
July 1952: Nominated as the Republican candidate for president.
Nov. 1952: Elected 34th president of the United States.
Nov. 1956: Elected to a second term.
Jan. 1962: Retired to his farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

ARMY PROMOTIONS

Sept. 1915: Commissioned Second Lieutenant
July 1916: Promoted to First Lieutenant
May 1917: Promoted to Captain
June 1918: Promoted to Major
Oct. 1918: Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel
June 1920: Reverted to Captain (Post WWI)
July 1920: Promoted to Major
July 1936: Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel
March 1941: Promoted to Colonel
Sept. 1941: Promoted to Brigadier General
March 1942: Promoted to Major General
July 1943: Promoted to Lieutenant General
Feb. 1944: Promoted to General
Dec. 1944: Promoted to General of the Army

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

During the course of his military career, Eisenhower received numerous U.S. decorations and awards, as well as many awards from foreign governments.

U.S.

- Distinguished Service Medal-Army, with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters (Sept. 1943, July 1945, Feb. 1948 and May 1952)
- Distinguished Service Medal-Navy, 1947
- Legion of Merit, Legionaire, 1943
- Mexican Border Service Medal, 1918
- Victory Medal, WWI, 1919
- American Defense Service Medal, 1947
- Army of Occupation-Germany, 1947
- Victory Medal, WWII, 1947
- European, African, Middle Eastern Campaigns with 9 stars, 1947

Foreign

Eisenhower received awards and decorations from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nationalist China, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Thailand, Tunisia, USSR and Yugoslavia.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL YEARS

- Last president to balance the budget
- Inflation was negligible
- Interest rate was three to four percent
- Annual GNP rate was 3.2 percent
- The country was at peace
- The interstate highway system was created
- Proposed "Atoms for Peace"
- Hungarian revolution crushed by Soviets
- Sent National Guard to Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce school integration
- First U.S. satellite sent into orbit
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) created
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) created
- Castro seized power in Cuba
- Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states
- U-2 piloted by Gary Powers shot down over the Soviet Union

MAJOR CENTENNIAL EVENTS

The Eisenhower commemoration officially began with a tribute to Eisenhower by a joint session of Congress on 27 March 1990. Other major events that have taken place and scheduled for the remainder of 1990 include:

- May-Nov.: Eisenhower Municipal Salutes throughout France
- May 28: Special Memorial Day observances at American battle monuments in Europe and Manila, Philippines
- June 2-8: DoD "Journey to Victory" program in England and France
- June 5: Eisenhower Gala at Royal Festival Hall, London
- June 6: All Services salute to Eisenhower aboard the "Intrepid" and "Normandy" in New York harbor
- Aug. 25-26: Eisenhower Centennial Air Show in Russell, Kansas
- Oct. 14: Eisenhower Hometown Celebration in Abilene, Kansas; Eisenhower Celebration in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; and Documentary Premier: "The Eisenhower Legacy" at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and numerous other events throughout the world on this day, Eisenhower's 100th birthday
- Nov. 11: Special Veterans' Day observances at American battle monuments in Europe and Manila, Philippines

Additional information on scheduled events honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower can be obtained by writing the Eisenhower Centennial Foundation at 901 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 or by calling (202) 682-1333.

AUSA BOOKS ON EISENHOWER

AUSA, in conjunction with Brassey's (U.S.), Inc. has published two books on Eisenhower:

Kinnard, Douglas, Ike 1890-1990, A Pictorial History (ISBN 0-08-037445-X), Washington, D.C.: Brassey's (U.S.), Inc., 1990.

Kinnard, Douglas, President Eisenhower and Strategy Management (ISBN 0-08-037434-4), Washington, D.C.: Brassey's (U.S.), Inc., 1989.

AUSA members can receive a 20 percent discount on these and other Brassey's books by calling 1-800-257-5755 and providing your AUSA membership number and the ISBN number of the book. Credit cards are welcome.

BOOKS BY DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

*At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends. New York: Doubleday, 1967.

*Crusade in Europe. New York: Doubleday, 1977.

In Review: Pictures I've Kept. New York: Doubleday, 1969.

*Peace With Justice. New York: Columbia University Press, 1961.

Mandate for Change: 1953-1956, The White House Years. New York: Doubleday, 1963.

Waging Peace: 1956-1961, The White House Years. New York: Doubleday, 1965.

BOOKS ABOUT EISENHOWER

*Ambrose, Stephen E., Soldier, General of the Army and President-Elect. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1983.

*Ambrose, Stephen E., Eisenhower the President. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984.

Ambrose, Stephen E., The Supreme Commander. New York: Doubleday, 1970.

*Ambrose, Stephen E., Eisenhower and Berlin: The Decision to Halt at the Elbe. New York: Norton, 1967.

*Brendon, Piers, Ike, His Life and His Times. New York: Harper and Row, 1986.

*Divine, Robert, A., Eisenhower and the Cold War. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.

*Eisenhower, David, Eisenhower at War, 1943-1945. New York: Random House, 1986.

*Ferrell, Robert H., ed., The Eisenhower Diaries. New York: Norton, 1981.

*Hobbs, Joseph P., ed., Dear General: Eisenhower's Wartime Letters to Marshall. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1969.

*Sixsmith, E. K., Eisenhower as a Military Commander. New York: Stein and Day, 1972.

*Weigley, Russell, F., Eisenhower's Lieutenants: The Campaign of France and Germany. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1981.

* Denotes books in print.

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