

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 4/9/96

EISENHOWER

EISENHOWER, MAMIE DOUD
PRRCQ

OH-12

178 pgs.

Wife of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

DESCRIPTION: PART I:

A general summary of Ike and Mamie's wedding and honeymoon, her first meeting with the Eisenhower family in Abilene, and her first taste of military life in San Antonio; a description of their life at Camp Colt; advising Ike (incl. staying in the Army, accepting the Battle Monuments Commission assignment, Mamie's attitude toward giving Ike advice); experiences at Fort Meade (incl. description of living quarters, acquiring furniture, post life generally, the Eisenhower car); the Panama assignment (incl. conditions aboard the transport ship, living conditions in Panama, creating a hospital, birth of John); Ike's relationship with General Fox Connor; an anecdote about summer in Abilene; the Leavenworth assignment (incl. living quarters, social life, an anecdote about an Eisenhower family bed); living in France (incl. cultural problems, Ike's work for the Battle Monuments Commission); assignment in Washington (incl. effects of the Depression, budgeting, Ike's feelings about staff duty, Mamie's philosophy for getting along in life).

PART II:

General comments about the Eisenhower lifestyle in Washington (incl. the division of responsibility in the Eisenhower household, John's childhood, Ike and John's relationship, home entertainments, city life, adapting to the climate, an anecdote regarding the Bonus March); the Philippine experience (incl. assignment, an anecdote concerning Gen. George Sherwin Simonds and Ike, Ike's interest in the Philippines, Mamie's disinterest in tropical living, John's education, life in the Manila Hotel, social activities, military attitudes); a short stay in San Francisco; assignment to Ft. Lewis (incl. John's high school in Tacoma, life on the post, visitors); the trip back from the Philippines; John and West Point; San Antonio, 1941 (incl. effects of Pearl Harbor, Mamie's reaction, an anecdote regarding Ike's trip to Washington and Sid Richardson); Mamie's life during the war (incl. the Wardman Park apartment, Mamie's decision to stay in Washington, dealing with loneliness, an anecdote regarding the start of the African campaign, an anecdote regarding Mamie's equilibrium problems, Mamie's charitable activities and war work, letter writing, dealing with worry); Mamie's philosophy regarding Ike; Ike's first star; Ike's trip home in 1944 (incl. an anecdote regarding Mamie's difficulty in keeping his

arrival secret, demands on
Ike's time, an anecdote regarding Ike and fatigue, an anecdote regarding
Ike's sense of humor);
Mamie's sense of propriety; Mamie's thoughts on the end of the war;
Ike's return as a national
hero (incl. Ike's strength of character, Ike's religious philosophy, an
anecdote regarding decision-making, the importance of military strength,
Ike's belief in people working together); Ike as Chief
of Staff (incl. Ike's feelings about being a staff officer, dealing with
military wives); Mamie's
thoughts on being an Army wife and coping with life.

PART III:

Going to Columbia University (incl. Mamie's feelings about the job, the
president's house, and
her responsibilities); Mamie's reflections on John and Barbara's
wedding; life at Columbia (incl.
Mamie's feelings about New York, her work with the Manhattan Mission,
general observations
about university life, the first political overtures); the NATO
assignment (incl. President Truman's
call, traveling on the Queen Elizabeth, an anecdote regarding Mamie's
choice of housing,
furnishing the house, entertaining, Mamie's impressions of Paris, the
house staff, friends, Mamie's
parents); Ike's decision to run for office; returning to the U.S. (incl.
the Abilene announcement,
Mamie's comments regarding the NATO experience, return to Columbia);
some Mamie
observations (incl. her role as a wife, her reactions to the campaign,
moving into the White
House, her role as hostess of the White House, her secretarial staff,
state visits, military life as
preparation for the White House, relationship with the press,
entertaining in the White House,
relationship with the White House staff, personal guests at the White
House); the Gettysburg
house; anecdotes about White House visitors [Sir Bernard Law] Monty
Montgomery and [Sir
Winston] Churchill; White House treasures (incl. the Margaret Biddle
vermeil, the First Lady
Plates, the President Monroe couch); life after the White House (incl.
the Gettysburg home, the
Palm Springs winter home, Mamie's observations about life generally).

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interviews by Dr. Maclyn
Burg and Dr. John
Wickman, Part I, July 20; Part II, August 15; Part III, August 16, 1972]