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From a BBC talk
on
**GENERAL
DWIGHT D.
EISENHOWER,**
Commander - in -
Chief of the Allied
Forces in French
North Africa

(By Edward R. Murrow)



THE ARMY CALLS HIM "IKE"

BACK in the middle of the sixteen-hundreds, there was a family named Eisenhower living in Germany. I don't know very much about this Eisenhower family except that the head of it was a Protestant who objected to religious persecution. The family moved to Switzerland and lived there for about a hundred years before going to America in 1732 (that was the year in which George Washington was born). The Eisenhower family took up residence in the state of Pennsylvania where there were many German-speaking immigrants. When the big covered-wagon migration into the Middle and South Western part of the United States began, great-grandfather Eisenhower, together with thousands of other restless and adventurous people, loaded his family into a wagon and started West. That old man was the great-grandfather of Lieutenant-General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army in the European theatre of operations. This general was born in Texas, but when he was two years old his family moved to the town of Abilene in Kansas. Abilene was a small, typical mid-Western town in a state of flat, rich land, cut by occasional streams of slow-moving muddy water—fambus for its tall corn, open-handed hospitality, and neighbourliness.

The Eisenhower boys (there were six of them) attended the local school and worked during the summers, mainly on the nearby farms. Their father was a small-town business man and when two of the brothers, Edgar and Ike (that's the one who is now the general) had finished their secondary education, there was no money for them to go to college so Ike went to work. For two years he was cowpuncher, ditchdigger, professional baseball player and agricultural labourer. Finally, having saved enough money, he entered the University of Kansas, but shortly thereafter was ap-

pointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, the American equivalent of your Sandhurst. That was in 1911.

Football Helped

All the Eisenhower boys seem to have been successful. One of them, Milton, is now Associate Director of the Office of War Information in Washington, but we are concerned here only with Ike, the one who became a general. At West Point he was a famous football player and it was there he acquired the nickname of Ike: one that is now used by everybody in the Army from private to general. He completed his course at the Academy in 1915 and distinguished himself in the last war by outstanding organisational and training work at the Tank Training School in Gettysburg. He became one of the youngest lieutenant-colonels in the war and was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal. Ike Eisenhower served with line troops until 1926, and was then sent to the Command and General Staff School, where he was head of his class. By 1928 he had finished at the Army War College and by 1933 had gone through the Army Industrial College. When Gen-MacArthur went to the Philippines to take charge of the organisation of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, Eisenhower went with him as Chief of Staff. While in the Philippines, he learnt to fly.

He came home from Manila in 1940 and was made Chief of Staff of the Third Army, but as soon as the United States entered the war he was called from the field and made Chief of War Plans for the United States Army. A few weeks ago he went to Britain as Commander-in-Chief of the American Forces. Eighteen months ago he was a colonel, and now at the age of fifty-one he is a lieutenant-general with three stars on his shoulders. These stars, by the way, resemble the pips worn by British officers and Eisenhower is often mistaken for a captain, which does not bother him in the least. He told me the

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