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BEACH

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PRCQ

Military officer; naval aide to President Eisenhower, 1953-57.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1: Experiences with destroyers; Winston Churchill; experiences with submarines; memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor; convoy actions in the Pacific; problems with torpedoes; becoming personal aide to Admiral Louis Denfeld in 1945 in Naval Operation Atomic Defense Section; Admiral Hyman Rickover and the atomic submarine; DDE's view of Rickover; Admiral Lewis Strauss; DDE's desire to build a "Peace Ship"; the atomic powered *Savannah* built by the Maritime Association; how he was selected as naval aide; first meeting with the President and First Lady; appointed as aide to General Omar Bradley in 1949; Joint Chiefs of Staff; B-36 controversy; Denfeld's problems; General Chester Clifton; controversy with Admiral Arleigh Burke, Op-23.

Interview #2: Denfeld's problems; problem of focusing too heavily on the B-36; comparing Denfeld and Bradley; getting chewed out by DDE; Admiral William Fechteler; doing press relations for Bradley; in command of *Trigger II*; new engine designed for the vessel; start of the Korean War; General Douglas MacArthur; description of Bradley; personal friends of DDE; 1953 Presidential Inauguration; his role as naval aide to the President; comments on aides Robert Schulz and William Draper; given charge over White House social aides; arranging for MDE to launch the *Nautilus*; the President's travel arrangements; becoming the White House civil defense liaison; his role in planning for emergency evacuation of the President; Eisenhower's decision making; role of Robert Cutler to present a consensus of ideas to DDE from his advisors; relocation planning; the value of the White House Army Signal Agency; underground protective shelters for the White House; Ann Whitman; crew of the presidential yacht, *Williamsburg*.

Interview #3: Set up of the White House mess; typical working day for a naval aide; staff meetings; press conferences; Jim Hagerty; preparing for press conferences; Sherman Adams; areas in the White House where staff worked; visitors in the White House; how DDE handled signing documents; briefing the President on civil defense and military matters; Arthur Flemming and the Office of Emergency Planning; Camp David; work of a naval aide; events at Camp David; the President's phone calls; set up of a press conference at Camp David; press conference in Key West; decision to leave the White House and go back to sea; press conference in Panama; other details of the trip to Panama; impact of the U-2 incident; some impressions of DDE; trips to Bermuda and Greenbrier.

Interview #4: Restrictions on White House staff accepting gifts; gifts to the President; gifts finance by a donor and given by the President; accepting decorations and honors; DDE as a family man; DDE and cooking; personal observations about DDE; DDE and religion; Eisenhower's temper and quickness of mind; DDE's warm personality; MDE and her relationship with DDE; how the staff system operated; Operations Coordinating Board;

comparison of staff systems under various presidents; the Cabinet Secretary; DDE as advisor to Kennedy and Johnson; DDE as a writer; Arthur Flemming and civil defense; planning for emergencies; Flemming and Social Security; HEW; Emmett Hughes; Harold Stassen; Bernard Shanley; additional observation on White House staffers.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by John T. Mason, Jr., August 23 and 31, October 17, December 4, 1967]