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ABILENE, KANSAS

HAZLETT, EDWARD E. "SWEDE": Papers, 1941-1965

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The papers of Edward E. Hazlett, a captain in the U.S. Navy, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library in 1993 by his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Hazlett.

Linear feet shelf space occupied:	.8
Approximate number of pages:	270
Approximate number of items:	100

In January 1993 Mrs. Hazlett executed an instrument of gift for these papers. Copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward E. Hazlett in these papers and in other collections of papers in any U.S. Government agency are given and assigned to the United States of America. These papers have been reviewed under the donor's letter of gift, and all of the papers have opened to researchers.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hazlett Papers consist of ninety-one original letters from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Edward Everett "Swede" Hazlett, dating from October 1941 to August 1958, plus a few miscellaneous documents. The original copies have been placed in the vault for preservation reasons. The letters are organized in chronological order with one folder of miscellaneous materials at the end of the two-box collection. Carbon copies of most of the letters in this collection are located in Eisenhower's Pre-Presidential Papers and in the Name Series of Eisenhower's Papers as President (Ann Whitman File). In 1984 the University Press of Kansas published the letters in a book, *Ike's Letters to a Friend, 1941-1958*. Robert Griffith edited the volume, and his notes and introduction offer interesting insights into the Eisenhower-Hazlett relationship and the historical setting in which their correspondence occurred.

Both Dwight Eisenhower and Edward E. Hazlett grew up in Abilene, Kansas, and the friendship they developed there lasted until Hazlett's death in 1958. Eisenhower credits Hazlett with convincing him to apply for an appointment to the Naval Academy, and when that didn't work out, to West Point. Thus, Hazlett had a career in the Navy and Eisenhower pursued his in the Army.

Ill health ended Hazlett's active military career in 1939. Eisenhower's status, on the other hand, began to improve dramatically in 1941 when the U.S. entered the war. These papers represent Eisenhower's letters to Hazlett from 1941 to 1958. Earlier correspondence probably occurred but did not survive.

Eisenhower's letters to Hazlett contain many references to personal and family matters, including activities of their wives and children and health problems the two men suffered. In the 1940's the letters discuss such matters as the war effort, military service, military training, the need for reorganization of the military, and interservice rivalry. Other topics include the Korean War, NATO, and basic beliefs and principles.

Politics, campaigning, the presidential decision-making process, McCarthy, Vietnam, trade issues, the legislative program, foreign policy, civil rights, and the Middle East are among the topics covered in the letters from 1952 to 1958. Some of Eisenhower's letters in the 1950's contain long explanations on how and why certain decisions were made. Historians have suggested that Eisenhower may have been using this correspondence as a means of recording his thoughts on different subjects knowing full well that researchers would someday have access to these materials. Whatever the motive behind the correspondence, Eisenhower's letters to Hazlett remain an important resource for scholars interested in the President's thinking on many important issues.

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Feb. 22, 1892	Born in Abilene, Kansas
1907-1911	Attended Abilene High School for one year and a military academy in Wisconsin for three years
1911-1915	Attended U.S. Naval Academy, graduated in 1915
1917-1918	World War I, served aboard the U.S.S. <i>Leonidas</i>
1920's	Served in the submarine service
Mid-1930's	Served in Navy Dept., Washington, D.C.
1939	Retired from active duty due to disability
1939-1944	Called back to Naval duty as instructor at Naval Academy
1944-1946	Professor of Military Science for the Navy at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
1946	Retired
Nov. 2, 1958	Died at Bethesda Naval Hospital; burial at Arlington National Cemetery

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box No.    Contents

- SERIES I: LETTERS FROM DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER TO EDWARD EVERETT HAZLETT, 1941-1958
- 1    1941 October 11 [Hazlett's health problems; importance of training young leaders; recent visits to Abilene; John Eisenhower at West Point; credits Hazlett for his being in the military service]
- 1942 June 3 [response to invitation]
- 1943 April 7 [comments on war effort and importance of everyone working together; the word "politics;" naval officers in his command]
- 1943 October 20 [Milton Eisenhower accepting presidency of Kansas State University; importance of teaching and training the younger generation; lack of concept of obligation to country; John Eisenhower; Bob Baughey]
- 1945 April 18 [title of "General"; Army system for selecting wartime field leaders; role of seniority; attitudes on "home front"; John Eisenhower]
- 1945 July 9 [knew by March 24 that the Germans were beaten; Pacific Theater; Admiral Nimitz]
- 1945 November 27 [DDE hospitalized with bronchitis; DDE-Hazlett relationship; unification or reorganization of armed forces; GHQ in Mediterranean and Northwest Europe; one commander in a war theater; need for teamwork and cooperation between the three services and elimination of waste and duplication; naval officer as Chief of Staff to Secretary of the Armed Forces; desire to retire; current job]
- 1946 January 25 [Admiral Nimitz; unification of armed forces; John Eisenhower in Germany]
- 1946 March 13 [visit to Abilene; Gen. Bradley; attitude toward politics; Walter Bedell Smith and Moscow job; Hazlett considering writing career]
- 1946 June 17 [upcoming schedule; possible visit by Hazlett]
- 1946 July 1 [upcoming schedule; invitation to visit; Bikini nuclear tests; SHAEF reports]
- 1946 September 19 [acknowledges condolences re death of mother; not in Name Series of Whitman File]

1947 May 22 [prints of drawings by William Prince for Soldier of Democracy; upcoming visit and speech in Raleigh, North Carolina]

1947 July 19 [reasons for taking job at Columbia University; basic beliefs in democracy and America's role in world; John E.-Army career; Raleigh trip]

1947 August 20 [upcoming visit to Raleigh]

1947 August 25 [Raleigh visit; Abilene trip; political ambition; desire for private life; U.S. security and leadership in the world]

1947 October 29 [personal schedule; consideration for political leadership-a burden and cause of personal attacks; Army-Navy game; Abilene friends; Lois Harger Parker; planning vacations with Mamie]

1947 December 30 [thank you and season's greetings; not in Name Series of Whitman File]

1948 January 24 [answer concerning possible political career; Harold W. Whicker-educational system; weather; future grandchild]

1948 April 12 [future correspondence]

1948 April 28 [Hazlett considering writing a book about DDE--DDE unable to collaborate in effort; vacation at August-golf game; work schedule at Columbia; trip to Kansas-Charles Harger]

1948 September 14 [invitation to visit]

1948 October 6 [friendship with George Allen; Allen's comment re 1952 election]

1949 April 27 [Key West-stomach disorder; Augusta visit; value of carrier task force; rivalry between Armed Services--negative impact on country]

1949 August 12 [DDE describes types of correspondence he receives; work of DOD board examining Academy education in the three Services; questions need for "super carrier"; Admiral Spruance; defense organization and unification discussions; Secretary Louis Johnson-attitude toward Navy; problem of role of Marines in peacetime; ocean-going Transport Services switched from Army to Navy; politics; discusses hobby of painting]

1949 November 17 [need for fleet carriers; "super carrier"; Navy's mission; Forrest P. Sherman-Navy's position on unification]

1949 December 21 [holiday greetings]

1949 December 22 [Sherman]

1950 February 24 [comments on “best dressed man of the year” selection; Gordon Gray; Milton Eisenhower’s decision to move from Kansas State University to Pennsylvania State; DDE’s job at Columbia; political matters and politicians; Louis Johnson, Sec. of Def.; inter-service arguments; unification, budget cuts and reorganization at DOD]

1950 March 20 [Hazlett’s health; Abilene-Walter Alexander; Capt. John G. Crommelin, Jr.; Forrest Sherman; discipline and courage in Armed Services]

1950 September 12 [preparation of a lecture; Korean situation; “task force” or “strike force” to counter aggression; WWII-inadequate training; universal military training; situation in Germany; Gordon Gray]

1950 November 1 [Atlantic Defense Pact-its importance, leadership]

1950 December 16 [season’s greetings; Christmas wish]

1951 February 1

1951 June 21 [difficulties of organizing NATO; encouraging developments; collective security; role of U.S. leadership; need for countries of Europe to provide for own defense in long run; Turkey and Greece; Iran; China; Korean War; Gen. Albert Wedemeyer’s testimony re “punishing the aggressor”; politics and 1952 election; right-wing attacks on DDE as pro-Communist; appointment of Montgomery as DDE’s deputy]

1951 September 4 [H.W. Whicker-painting as a hobby; principles of decency and honor]

1951 November 14 [DDE-criticism from right and left; middle of the road position; Forrest Sherman; Joint Chiefs of Staff-need for character and moral courage; Donald B. Duncan, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Robert B. Carney; Admiral Gardner; Eisenhower considered for position of Baseball Commissioner; West Point Scandal; U.S.-USSR conflict; need to avoid political involvement while head of NATO]

1952 February 12 [Charles Harger-Abilene; Charlie Case; Senator Joseph Bristow; Senator Henry Cabot Lodge; desire to avoid participation in pre-convention political activities; concept of duty; Jacqueline Cochran-film of rally at Madison Square Garden; old proverb, “Always take your job seriously, never yourself”; problems involved in establishing a large Allied Command; “Supreme” title; military training and Organization]

1952 July 2 [Texas-tidelands issue; 18-year-old vote]

1952 October 16 [role of compromise, making decisions based on what is best for nation as a whole]

1952 December 8 [written on board the USS Helena; Jonathan Daniels-anti-MDE editorial; rank of military aides; old saying, "Big fleas have little fleas..."]

1953 January 2

1953 February 3 [Inaugural activities; Commander Beach]

1953 February 16 [Henry W. Clark]

1953 April 6 [essay by Whicker; death in family]

1953 July 21 [signing letters with "DE" instead of "Ike"; quotes old saying re genius in war means doing average thing when everyone else is in a panic; making decisions for country; people take stands for selfish interests; Sen. McCarthy-method for handling; yacht, Williamsburg; Camp Shangri-La renamed Camp David]

1953 December 24 [international meetings at Bermuda; Winston Churchill; problem of extreme left and right in world vs. center or middle of road; France; Germany; Pakistan; EDC; Atoms for Peace Speech at UN, world reaction to speech; Republican legislative program; 1956 election-doesn't want to be a candidate; Milton E. would make a good President; Republican leaders who could run for President]

2 1954 January 7 [print of DDE painting of Lincoln]

1954 January 26 [complains about busy schedule]

1954 February 26 [birthday, February 29]

1954 March 18 [press exaggerates importance of demagogues; ceremonial side of government; dairy products price supports-controversy over reduction; Ezra Taft Benson; struggle over tax program in Congress; problem in Indochina-French at Dien Bien Phu-Geneva Conference]

1954 April 27 ["Chance for Peace" Speech, criticism from the press; Dien Bien Phu; Southeast Asia; motives of French in fighting Communists in Vietnam; attitude of British in Asia; Army-McCarthy hearings; need for "inspector general's" service in federal government]

1954 July 20 [Dinosaur National Park; high tariffs; Indochina, Geneva Conf., Mendes-France; status of administration's programs in Congress; morale and pay in the Armed Services; TVA and role of government in power business]

1954 October 23 [fishing tackle; political campaign; Adlai Stevenson; DDE and John Foster Dulles; Richard Nixon; issue of U.S. intervention in Indochina; appointment of Earl Warren to Supreme Court; segregation issue]

1954 December 7 [media debate over whether DDE can be re-elected in 1956; Democratic Party dominated by labor unions and favors big government; division between Northern and Southern Democrats; McCarthy, TVA filibuster, and Bricker Amendment debates hurt Republicans; Cabinet members are more objective and less partisan than most politicians; issue of second term candidacy; Winston Churchill; discusses qualities of greatness; George Marshall]

1954 December 20

1954 December 22 [season greetings; print of painting of Washington]

1955 January 28 [pay increase for Armed Services and fringe benefits; John Eisenhower's decision to stay in Army]

1955 February [birthday greetings]

1955 June 4 [question of running for re-election in 1956; record of administration in domestic legislation and international relations; London Agreements; Big Four Conf.; Soviet tactics; moderate conservatism]

1955 August 15 [visiting in Denver; recalls June 8, 1944; question of running again in 1956; age; efforts to give younger Republican leaders public exposure; impact of amendment prohibiting 3rd term; Big Four Conf.; change in office of Chief of Naval Operations; differences between Admiral Carney and Secretary of Navy]

1955 October 6 [DDE hospitalized]

1955 October 26 [mentions finding the right successor; Milton E.; DDE current health and recovery]

1955 December 15 [gift of a print]

1955 December 23 [2nd term/successor question bothering DDE; DDE's physical condition]

1956 January 23 [DDE-sleep pattern, unsolved problems; Dr. Paul Dudley White-instructions re rest, exercise; issue of a President with failing health; 2nd term question]

1956 February 25 [birthday greetings]



1956 March 2 [decision to run for 2nd term-factors affecting this decision; running for Pres. in 1952 violated personal objectives; considered announcing in first Inaugural Address that he was a one term President; future hopes]

1956 July 12 [DDE recovering at Gettysburg; daily routine]

1956 August 3 [use of two illnesses by political opponents; Suez Canal Crisis and Nasser; free trade vs. high tariffs; U.S. a creditor nation; strength of middle class in U.S.; need to help underdeveloped nations, foreign aid as an investment in future]

1956 August 20 [postal service; Armed Services--each one thinks it alone can assure nation's security and tries to justify "fantastic programs"; attempts to develop corporate thinking in Joint Chiefs of Staff; U.S. strength based on economic, moral, and military force; need to balance requirements for arms with health of economy; Admiral Radford; non-military man as future president]

1956 September 17 [DDE-health; CBS talk and trip to Iowa and Illinois]

1956 November 2 [presidential campaign; problems in world; reason for making more campaign speeches; usefulness of having a comfortable majority in the voting; canceled two campaign trips; Mid East Crisis, Nasser, Britain, France, Israel, Jewish vote, U.S. policy; efforts to negotiate end of crisis; P.M. Eden; Walter Lippman and Alsops]

1956 November 12

1956 November 24 [declines invitation]

1956 December 21 [gift of medallion with likeness of DDE]

1956 December 23 [invitation to Inaugural functions]

1957 February 20 [Hazlett-health problems]

1957 February 26 [Hazlett-hospitalized; birthday wishes]

1957 March 13 [health of Hazlett and DDE; "sea voyage"]

1957 April 5 [the higher your rank, the less you control your own time; DDE sitting for a sculptor; Middle East situation; Bermuda Conference-Macmillan; Gettysburg Farm visit]

1957 June 24 [speech to Conf. of governors; Hazlett's health; foreign problems; govt. budget; prosperity-tight money]

1957 November 18 [Hazlett hospitalized; ignorance of Congress on foreign affairs and international relations; isolationist press; Status of Forces treaties; Fortress American-isolationism; mutual security programs; helping countries improve industrially-leads to expanding markets; civil rights; 1954 Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education; laws, emotions, and logic re to civil rights; school segregation and social, economic, and political patterns; Supreme Court plan; civil rights legislation; need for respect for Constitution; threat of inflation, causes of]

1957 November 18 [Hazlett's health , Suez Crisis-Nasser; Tunisia-arms deal with Bourguiba, role of French; upcoming speeches; Little Rock situation, reasons DDE acted as he did; busy schedule; DDE's health; problem-doing the right thing; control of temper]

1958 February 26 [recent illness; trip to Paris; Secretary of State Dulles; unjust attacks on Dulles, Benson, and Adams; new Russian ambassador to U.S., Mr. Mikhail Menshikov; congressional elections; Secretary of Defense McElroy; service integration, inter-service rivalries; reference to columnist, Drew Pearson; military pay increases; recession; Tunisia-Bourguiba; Summit Conference; football game; Hazlett's health; birthday greetings]

1958 March 25 [Hazlett hospitalized; Augusta visit]

1958 July 3

1958 August 15

#### SERIES. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, 1949-50, 1965

Miscellaneous Documents [DDE speech at Naval Academy-unification issue; Gordon Gray; Robert Schulz to Hazlett re his career in the army and service to DDE; DDE to Mrs. Hazlett re donation corres. to Eisenhower Library]

END OF CONTAINER LIST