Dwight D. Eisenhower graduated from West Point in 1915. From West Point he served in various posts around the states and trained soldiers for World War I. He wanted to serve on the front but was repeatedly denied the opportunity by his superiors. Eisenhower learned a lot about military maneuvers and tactics from General Fox Conner in Panama and later attended the army's Command and General Staff School. He graduated at the top of his class.

Eisenhower later served under General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines. In 1941, Eisenhower was a colonel and served at Ft. Sam Houston as Chief of Staff for the Third Army. During the Louisiana maneuvers in 1941, Eisenhower's outstanding leadership earned him a promotion to brigadier general. In early 1942 he was promoted to major general.

Eisenhower would not miss serving on the front in World War II as he had in World War I. He immersed himself into the command of battles with the forceful zeal of an intuitive military commander. His military service includes:

May 1942, England, Commanding General, European Theater

November 1942, North Africa, Operation Torch, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces

1943, Sicily and Italy, Commander of the Allied Invasions

1944, France, Operation Overlord, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces
December 1944, promoted to General of the Army (5-star general)

May 1945, Germany, appointed Military Governor of the U.S. Occupied Zone

1952, retired from active service

In an odd twist of fate, Eisenhower’s family originally immigrated to America from Germany. His family name means iron hewer. Although he was of German descent, Eisenhower would be a key factor in the defeat of Germany in World War II.

When Eisenhower returned from the war in 1945, he was a national hero. The young man from Kansas rose to a powerful military commander and eventually the highest office in the United States, President and Commander-in-Chief.