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SNYDER, HOWARD McC.: Papers, 1881-1976

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In 1971 selected papers of Major General Howard McC. Snyder, United States Army Medical Corps, and personal physician to Dwight D. Eisenhower, were copied and deposited in the Eisenhower Library. In February, 1971 Mrs. Alice C. Snyder, Mr. Howard McC. Snyder, Jr., and Mr. Richard C. Snyder executed an instrument of gift for these papers.

Linear feet:	5
Approximate number of Pages:	6,200
Approximate number of items:	3,100

Literary property rights in General Howard McC. Snyder's unpublished writings in these papers and in any other collections in the Eisenhower Library are reserved to the donors during their life times and thereafter will pass to the people of the United States.

By agreement with the donors, the following classes of material will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have had correspondence with General Snyder.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to General Snyder in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Major General Howard McC. Snyder span the years 1910-1968 with about two-thirds of the collection falling into the period 1955-1963. These papers pertain to Dwight D. Eisenhower's medical history and consist of medical records, a medical diary, correspondence, and drafts of chapters for a planned book.

General Snyder was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming on February 7, 1881. After receiving his M.D. degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1905 he became a contract surgeon at Fort Douglas, Utah. His experience with military service was so favorable that he decided upon a military-medical career. He graduated from the U.S. Army Medical School in Washington, D.C. in June 1908 with high honors and was simultaneously commissioned a first lieutenant in the United States Army Medical Corps.

General Snyder's first military assignment took him to the Philippines in 1909 where he served with the Research Board of Tropical Medicine. In 1911 he returned to the United States and, in the next twenty-five years, his varied command and instructional assignments took him to numerous posts in the United States and one in Puerto Rico. From 1936 to 1940 General Snyder was medical adviser to the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

From December, 1940 until June 1945 General Snyder was Assistant to the Inspector General of the War Department, a job which required him to travel to all theaters of operations during World War II. Toward the end of the war Snyder became closely acquainted with Dwight D. Eisenhower and, although technically retired because of his age in March 1945, remained on active duty in Europe as General Eisenhower's personal physician until after the surrender of Germany.

General Snyder continued his association with the Eisenhower family after the war, treating Mamie Eisenhower for pneumonia in November 1945 and, after retiring from military service, remaining close to Dwight D. Eisenhower at Columbia University. Dr. Snyder became senior adviser to the Conservation of Human Resources Project and Manpower Council, a project instituted by Eisenhower in 1950 to find ways of correcting the manpower wastage identified during World War II.

In January 1951 General Snyder was again called to active duty and was assigned to Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE) where he soon became a special adviser to General Eisenhower. After being retired from military service once again, Snyder rode Eisenhower's campaign train in September 1952 during Eisenhower's successful bid for the presidency.

After Eisenhower's inauguration as President in January 1953, Snyder was appointed to the White House staff and remained the President's personal physician throughout the Administration. General Snyder's duties in the White House involved providing close personal attention to the medical needs of President Eisenhower and his family, as well as the White House staff. This personal attention included accompanying the President on his travels--

overseas trips and those within the United States, vacations, and golf outings. He administered medications, took temperatures, gave the President daily medical advice and recorded observations on the President's activities, disposition, and physical condition. General Snyder rendered initial treatment to Dwight Eisenhower when the President suffered a heart attack in September 1955 and was at the President's side during the ileitis operation in June 1956.

General Snyder continued his association with Dwight Eisenhower after the President left office. It was during the former President's retirement that General Snyder assumed the role of historian. General Snyder believed that a record of Eisenhower's medical history could be of significant medical and historic value, especially since General Eisenhower was the first president to have suffered a heart attack in office and to have undergone an ileitis operation. In 1961 General Snyder began reviewing Eisenhower's medical history, gathering materials from military and medical files from 1910 forward in order to supplement his own knowledge and data concerning Eisenhower's medical background. In addition to acquiring summary notations from various files for the period 1910-62, Snyder gathered folders of Eisenhower medical reports from 1939 until 1967 and studied Eisenhower's appointment calendars from 1945 through his presidency.

In 1965 Dr. Snyder dictated three draft chapters of a narrative medical history of Dwight Eisenhower. These drafts included chapters covering the years 1945-51, Eisenhower's heart attack in September 1955 and his ileitis operation in June 1956. General Snyder's poor health from 1966 until his death in September 1970 precluded his completing the book.

Documentation in these papers is especially detailed for the period in Eisenhower's life following his heart attack in 1955 through 1963. General Snyder's own notes which he began dictating following the heart attack comprise an extensive diary-like chronology of Snyder's observations and notations of factors and stresses affecting the President's physical condition and disposition. Interspersed throughout this detailed medical record are summaries of conversations and comments regarding policy issues, politics, personalities and trips. Supplementing the medical diary are files of doctors' progress notes, narrative summaries, laboratory reports and other clinical records plus correspondence between General Snyder and other doctors and Eisenhower's personal friends. The extremely personal information contained in these papers provide insights into Dwight D. Eisenhower's behavior and personality seldom found in his official military and presidential papers.

The portions of General Snyder's papers which were copied and deposited in the Eisenhower Library in 1971 consist of significant correspondence and medical records pertaining to General Eisenhower. In accordance with arrangements made by Snyder in 1958 his complete personal papers were donated to the University of Wyoming. The portion of the Snyder papers copied for deposit in the Eisenhower Library have been organized in six series, retaining with slight modifications the basic arrangement of the papers as received by the Library in 1971. In addition to the approximate 6,200 pages contained in boxes 1 to 11, the Snyder papers include duplicates of the medical diary, the correspondence series and the book draft. This duplicate material has not been processed. When the Snyder papers were reviewed by a staff archivist, 53 pages were closed in accordance with the donor's letter of gift.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

### Box Nos. Series

1 DDE MEDICAL REPORTS. 1939-62. 1 box.

Arranged chronologically with gaps for years 1940-44 and 1948. Consists of laboratory reports, physical examinations, radiological reports, correspondence, dietary information, consultation reports, press releases, handwritten doctors' notes, doctors' progress notes and memoranda.

2-3 DDE OFFICIAL MEDICAL RECORDS. 1910-67. 2 boxes.

Arranged chronologically. Includes medical records borrowed from AG Records Section, the Pentagon, and other official records concerning the President's health. Contains copies of reports of physical examinations, radiological reports, laboratory reports, histories of illnesses, clinical records, doctors' progress notes, narrative summaries and other records.

4-6 DDE CLINICAL RECORDS. 1946-63. 3 boxes.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title and chronologically within folders by category of document. Contains various types of clinical reports covering President Eisenhower's heart attack and subsequent cardiovascular care, ileitis operation and his health following these medical crises. Includes doctors' progress notes, electrocardiograms, prothrombin charts and other data.

7-10 MEDICAL DIARY. 1955-63 3 1/4 boxes.

Arranged chronologically. Consists of General Snyder's dictated notes which provide a chronology of Snyder's observations and comments on events, personalities and stresses affecting the President's physical condition and disposition.

10-11 CORRESPONDENCE. 1951-68. 1 1/4 boxes.

Consists of alphabetically arranged correspondence between General Snyder and other doctors and Dwight Eisenhower's personal friends. Much of correspondence focuses on Eisenhower's heart attack in 1955 but other health problems concerning the President are covered. Among the many correspondents are George Armstrong, Earl Blaik, Joel Boone, Arthur Eisenhower, Earl Eisenhower, Edgar Eisenhower, Milton Eisenhower, John Eisenhower, Alfred Gruenther, Barry Leithead, Wilton Persons, I.S. Ravdin, Cliff Roberts, Ann Whitman, and Paul Dudley White.

Box Nos. Series

11 BOOK DRAFT. 1945-51, 1955, 1956. 2 box.

Consists of draft chapters for a book on Eisenhower's medical history planned by General Snyder. These chapters cover in narrative form the years 1945-51, Eisenhower's heart attack in September 1955 and his ileitis operation in June 1956.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box No.    Contents

DDE MEDICAL REPORTS 1939-62

- 1      Medical Reports on DDE - 1939
- Medical Reports on DDE – 1945 [no folders for 1940-44]
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1946
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1947
- Medical Reports on DDE – 1949 [no folder for 1948]
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1950
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1951
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1952
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1953
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1954
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1955
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1956 (1)-(3) [DDE's fitness for second term; publicity re  
        DDE's health]
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1957
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1958
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1959
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1960
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1961
- Medical Reports on DDE - 1962

DDE OFFICIAL MEDICAL RECORDS 1910-67

2 DDE's 201 File Copied from AG the Pentagon

DDE Medical Records - 1910

DDE Medical Records - 1911

DDE Medical Records - 1912

DDE Medical Records - 1913

DDE Medical Records - 1914

DDE Medical Records - 1915

DDE Medical Records - 1916

DDE Medical Records - 1917

DDE Medical Records - 1918

DDE Medical Records - 1919

DDE Medical Records - 1920

DDE Medical Records - 1921

DDE Medical Records - 1922

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DDE Medical Records - 1943

DDE Medical Records - 1944

DDE Medical Records - 1945

DDE Medical Records - 1946

DDE Medical Records - 1947

DDE Medical Records - 1948

DDE Medical Records - 1949

3 DDE Medical Records - 1950

DDE Medical Records - 1951

DDE Medical Records - 1952

DDE Medical Records - 1953



DDE Medical Records - 1954

DDE Medical Records - 1955

DDE Medical Records - 1956 (1)-(3)

DDE Medical Records - 1957

DDE Medical Records - 1958

DDE Medical Records - 1959

DDE Medical Records - 1960

DDE Medical Records - 1961

DDE Medical Records - 1962

DDE Medical Records - 1963

DDE Medical Records - 1964

DDE Medical Records - 1965

DDE Medical Records - 1966

DDE Medical Records - 14 Feb. 1961 - Mar. 27, 1962

DDE Medical Records - 3 May 1962 - 3 May 1963

DDE Medical Records - 11 May 1963 - 31 Aug. 1965 (1)(2)

DDE Medical Records - 23 Sept. 1965 - 6 Oct. 1967 (1)(2)

#### DDE CLINICAL RECORDS

- 4 DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (1) [Narrative Summary and Doctors' Progress Notes]
- DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (2) [Doctors' Progress Notes and Summary report]
- DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (3) [temperature-pulse-respiration]
- DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (4) [Doctors' Orders]

DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (5) [Patient Intake Worksheets]

DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (6) [Nursing Notes]

DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (7) [Laboratory Reports]

DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (8) [Laboratory Reports]

DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (9) [Electrocardiographic Records]

DDE Heart Attack - 24 Sept. 1955 (10) [Radiographic Reports]

DDE Ileitis Operation (1) [Cardiology Consultation Sheets and Doctors' Progress Notes]

DDE Ileitis Operation (2) [Electrocardiographic Records]

DDE Ileitis Operation (3) [Laboratory Reports]

DDE Ileitis Operation (4) [Radiographic Reports]

DDE Ileitis Operation (5) [Operation Report]

DDE Ileitis Operation (6) [administration of anesthesia]

DDE Ileitis Operation (7) [Doctors' Orders]

DDE Ileitis Operation (8) [blood pressure and temperature]

DDE Ileitis Operation (9) [Patient Intake and Output Worksheets]

DDE Ileitis Operation (10) [Nursing Notes]

DDE Ileitis Operation (11) [history, physical examination and Narrative Summary]

DDE Ileitis Operation (12) [Doctors' Progress Notes]

5 Electrocardiograms (1)-(5)

Laboratory Reports - 24 Sept. 1955 - 20 Nov. 1956 (1)-(7)

Laboratory Reports - 3 Jan. 1957 - 29 Oct. 1959 (1)-(4)

6 Laboratory Reports - 13 Jan. 1960 - 27 Dec. 1962 (1)-(5)

Col. Mattingly's Reports 1955-58 [cardiovascular examination of President Eisenhower]

Prothrombin Charts - DDE (1)-(5)

WBC & Sedimentation Rate

#### MEDICAL DIARY

7 Medical Diary re DDE 24 Sept. 1955 - 31 Dec. 1955 (1)-(3) [all Medical Diary Folders contain information concerning DDE's health]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Jan. 1956 - 30 Sept. 1956 (1)(3) [no entries for period Jan 28, - July 15; DDE's trips to Panama; revocation of article re ileitis operation]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Oct. 1956 - 31 Dec. 1956 (1)-(3) [reference to USSR]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Jan. 1957 - 31 April 1957 (1)-(3) [DDE's trip to drought area in Southwest; trip to Bermuda]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 May 1957 - 30 June 1957 (1)(2)

Medical Diary re DDE 1 July 1957 - 31 Dec. 1957 (1)-(5) [West Point Class of 1915; presidency and tensions; vascular spasm; attendance at NATO conference]

8 Medical Diary re DDE 1 Jan. 1958 - 30 June 1958 (1)-(5) [DDE discussion with Pete Aurand on aircraft carriers and defense; reporter and defense reorganization plan; speech at Quantico re defense]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 July 1958 - 31 Dec. 1958 (1)-(5) [Sherman Adams; DDE & Mamie; California politics; Denmark and atomic submarines; Pete Aurand's discussions with President; Polaris submarine]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Jan. 1959 - 31 May 1959 (1)-(5) [DDE & Mamie; John Foster Dulles' encouragement of DDE trip to Far East; Pete Aurand and Polaris missiles; military promotion laws; John Foster Dulles' health; Pete Aurand and atomic-powered airplane; golf and DDE's temper; visit by Winston Churchill; Sherman Adams and 1952 election; Pete Aurand and missile defense system]

- 9 Medical Diary re DDE 1 June 1959 - 30 Sept. 1959 (1)-(4) [speech for American Medical Association; George Marshall and great men; Soviet exhibition of science and technology; Andrew Wyeth and painting; DDE's European trip; Harold Macmillan, DDE, and Anglo-Saxon and Norman culture; DDE and British wartime associates; General Montgomery; Nikita Khrushchev's visit to United States; Khrushchev's comments re World War II and Joseph Stalin]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Oct. 1959 - 31 Dec. 1959 (1)-(4) [DDE and four great Americans; great paintings; DDE and national indebtedness; DDE and bridge; comments re Winston Churchill and re Bernard Montgomery; DDE re budget, defense and space programs, Nelson Rockefeller, and atomic aircraft carrier; Congress; gold; DDE's 11 Nation trip; India, Queen Frederika of Greece, France and Algeria]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Jan. 1960 - 30 April 1960 (1)-(5) [football; rating presidents; Pete Aurand and proposed submarine circumnavigation of globe; air alert program; Admiral Rickover and nuclear power; Khrushchev statement re America capitalism; DDE trip to South America; Kenneth Royall and DDE discussion of John F. Kennedy, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Adlai Stevenson and Douglas MacArthur; Richard Nixon and Jews; visit by Harold Macmillan; Nikita Khrushchev; writing of Crusade in Europe; conference on youth; Arthur Summerfield and pornography; William Rogers and antitrust actions]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 May 1960 - 31 Aug. 1960 (1)-(4) [U-2 incident; DDE's Far East trip; defense matters; Khrushchev; Chiang Kai-Shek, China and Russia; federal employees pay raise bill; Fidel Castro; Mexico and Cuban sugar quota; America and International Court; 1960 presidential campaign]

- 10 Medical Diary re DDE 1 Sept. 1960 - 31 Dec. 1960 (1)-(4) [Pete Aurand and the navy; Nixon's presidential campaign; article re DDE's health; labor pro-Kennedy literature; USIA report; DDE's campaign work for Nixon; emotional impact of election on DDE; Pete Aurand and strategic planning re USSR; 1960 campaign discussion re Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Nixon and Lodge remark concerning black in Cabinet]

Medical Diary re DDE 1 Jan. 1961 - 4 Nov. 1963 (1)(2) [football and service teams; defense appropriations; Goldwater dinner]

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence re DDE All thru DRA (1)-(3) [DDE's heart attack and other health matters; correspondence with Maj. Gen. George Armstrong, Frank Berry, Earl Blaik, Joel Boone,--including comments re death of President Harding]

Correspondence re DDE EIS thru LEI (1)-(5) [DDE's heart attack and other health matters; includes correspondence with Arthur, Earl, Edgar, and Milton Eisenhower, John Eisenhower, considerable correspondence with Alfred Gruenther; some letters re American Medical Association and disability amendments to Social Security Act; Barry Leithead]

Correspondence re DDE LES thru SOL (1)-(5) [DDE's heart attack and other health matters; includes correspondence with Wilton Persons, I.S. Ravdin, Cliff Roberts, William Robinson, Leonard Scheele, Ellis "Slats" Slater, Walter Bedell Smith; Slater re record of DDE Administration accomplishments]

- 11 Correspondence re DDE STR thru WHI (1)-(5) [Includes correspondence with Ann Whitman and Paul Dudley White; and analysis of speech by DDE and nonfluencies; Medicare bills and doctors support for Republican candidates; publicity re President's health]

#### BOOK DRAFT

Draft on DDE - 1945-46 (1)(2) [Mamie Eisenhower's health; DDE's request for General Snyder's services; War Department organization; personal family matters; DDE's health]

Draft on DDE - 1947-48 (1)(2) [general health matters; DDE and presidency of Columbia University; DDE and writing of Crusade in Europe]

Draft on DDE - 1949-50 [health matters; DDE and Mamie at Columbia University; functioning of university system; DDE and smoking; DDE and possible presidential candidacy; DDE, General Omar Bradley and Korean War]

Draft on DDE 1951 [DDE's good health during period; DDE and NATO]

Draft on DDE's Heart Attack September 1955

Draft on DDE's Ileitis Operation June 1956

END OF CONTAINER LIST