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Date: 09/13/12

SNYDER

SNYDER, RICHARD C.

OH-559

37 pp. (Fair use citations only)

Son of Dr. Howard M. Snyder, Eisenhower's physician.

DESCRIPTION: First meeting with General Eisenhower at Camp Lucky Strike in May 1945; as a former prisoner of war, waiting for transport home; flying a mission in Operation Market Garden; getting shot down over the Netherlands on September 17, 1944; the deep impression General Eisenhower made on the released POWs; anecdote about meeting Eisenhower and painter, Tom Stephens at a cocktail party in 1946; his father's belief that painting later served as a good stress reliever for Eisenhower; becoming godfather to David Eisenhower; gift of golf clubs from President Eisenhower; working for General Arthur Radford during a briefing for the President; Eisenhower's distaste for nuclear weapons; Eisenhower's funeral service; summary of his impressions of Eisenhower; how his father became Eisenhower's physician following World War II; his father named an honorary graduate of West Point; the role of the President's physician; meeting between his father, press secretary James Hagerty and Eisenhower on how to handle any health problems of the President; the decision to be forthright and honest about any health issues; the President's heart attack in September 1955; bringing in cardiologist Paul Dudley White; communication with the press and public about the heart attack; treating Eisenhower's ileitis; balancing health care and release of information to the public; Eisenhower's decision to run for a second term; Eisenhower's stroke in 1957; issues regarding medical confidentiality; Mamie Eisenhower; more on the President's stroke; the 1956 inauguration; similarities between Eisenhower and his father.

[Interview by Pam Parry, April 2, 2011. Transcription and editing by Pam Parry.]