### Omar Bradley

Omar Bradley, born in 1893, graduated from West Point and just missed service in World War I. In World War II he was assigned to the European Theater where he served for a while under General George Patton. General Eisenhower later selected Bradley to command the 1st US Army during the D-Day invasion. It was under his command that Paris was liberated and the Germans were turned back at the Battle of the Bulge. He was known by the men under his command as —the soldier’s general— because of his care and compassion for his men. In 1949 he became the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 1950 he was promoted to five star General of the Army rank. He later served as a leader of the Veterans Administration. He died in 1981.

**What were the major contributions?**

**How did his contributions help the United States?**

**What were his most important and least important contributions? Why?**

### Dwight Eisenhower

Dwight D. Eisenhower was the thirty-fourth President of the United States. He was born in Texas, but grew up in Kansas. After attending West Point, Eisenhower was stationed in Texas where he met his future wife, Mamie Doud. Eisenhower had outstanding organizational skills, graduating first in his group at Army War College. During World War II, he was commander of the Allied Forces that landed in North Africa and the Allied forces that fought in Sicily and Italy. He was the Supreme Commander of the troops that invaded France on D-Day and was promoted to General of the Army. In five years he went from being a Lieutenant Colonel to the highest ranking position in the American Army. In 1952 and again in 1956 Dwight Eisenhower was elected President of the United States and was responsible for establishing the Interstate Highway System.

**What were the major contributions?**

**How did his contributions help the United States?**

**What were his most important and least important contributions? Why?**
### Douglas MacArthur

Douglas MacArthur, born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1880, was educated at West Point. In 1917, after the U.S. became involved in World War I, he was sent to France where he distinguished himself at the second battle of the Marne. At the war’s end in 1918, he was the youngest divisional commander in the field. From 1930 to 1935 he was the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, he was put in charge of the Philippines. When the Japanese forced the Americans to withdraw from the Philippines, MacArthur vowed, “I shall return.” He used the “island hopping” strategy to return to the Philippines. After the war, he became the head of occupation forces in Japan from 1945 to 1951. He was then chosen to head UN forces after conflict broke out between North and South Korea. After the Chinese Communists threatened to intervene in the war, MacArthur came into conflict with President Harry Truman over military strategy, and President Truman relieved him of his command. MacArthur returned home to a hero’s welcome. He ended his career with an address to the U.S. Congress in which he concluded with these famous words, “Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.” He died in 1964.

**What were the major contributions?**

**How did his contributions help the United States?**

**What were his most important and least important contributions? Why?**

### Chester A. Nimitz

Chester Nimitz was born in 1885 in Fredericksburg, Texas. As a student at Tivy High School in Kerrville, he originally wanted to join the army. When no positions were available at West Point, he decided to take the exam at Annapolis and thus began his career in the Navy. He would eventually command the Pacific Fleet during World War II. In 1945, he represented the United States when the Japanese surrendered aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. As a result of his knowledge of submarines, he became one of the leading naval authorities of his time. He would later serve as a goodwill ambassador with the United Nations before dying in 1966.

**What were the major contributions?**

**How did his contributions help the United States?**

**What were his most important and least important contributions? Why?**
### George Marshall

George Marshall, born in 1880, graduated from VMI in 1901 and from the Army Staff College in 1908. He served as an aide-de-camp to General John J. Pershing from 1919 to 1924. He later achieved the rank of Five Star General and served as Chief of Staff of the War Plans Division during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He became FDR’s chief consultant during World War II. In this position he was responsible for making sure that the needs of the military were met. This required him to work with Congress and the American people to explain what was necessary on the home front to win the war. He retired from the military in 1945 but in the same year began his diplomatic career. He represented President Truman on a special mission to China in 1945-1946. In 1947 he became Truman’s Secretary of State. During this time he formulated and proposed the Marshall Plan which was an economic plan to rebuild post war Europe and insure that the spread of communism would be contained. Some have called the Marshall Plan one of the most significant pieces of legislation in the modern era. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 and died in 1959.

**What were the major contributions?**

**How did his contributions help the United States?**

**What were his most important and least important contributions? Why?**

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### George Patton

George Patton, born in 1885, graduated from West Point in 1909 and later served as a member of General Pershing’s staff in search of Pancho Villa. In 1917 he became the first member of the newly established U. S. Tank Corps, where he would win fame. In World War II he was with the allied forces during the invasion of North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Patton was an often controversial figure with definite opinions on how he thought the war should proceed. He was not afraid to voice his views to his superiors. As D-Day approached, the Allies needed Hitler to believe that they were going to invade near Pas de Calais, France. The plan was to create a fictitious unit, and to make this believable, they had to have a real commander of this fake unit. General Patton was given this assignment. This did not sit well with Patton because he saw this as a demotion. His real command, which was a secret, was to command the Third Army which he would lead into battle following D-Day at the Battle of the Bulge. He ordered a 90 degree turnaround of forces to relieve American troops that were surrounded. He was killed in a car crash in 1949.

**What were the major contributions?**

**How did his contributions help the United States?**

**What were his most important and least important contributions? Why?**