



# Military Heritage Museum

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[www.militaryheritagemuseum.org](http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RARE EISENHOWER AND BRADLEY LETTERS DISCOVERED AT MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM**

**PUNTA GORDA, FL** – The Military Heritage Museum has announced the discovery and verification of a remarkable collection of original and draft correspondence from General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Omar N. Bradley, offering an extraordinary glimpse into the post-World War II era and the personal leadership of two of America’s most iconic military figures.

Recently uncovered within the museum’s archives, the collection includes letters primarily dating to the late 1940s, a pivotal period when Eisenhower was transitioning from his role as Supreme Allied Commander to President of Columbia University from 1948 to 1953. Many documents are typed on official letterhead bearing the five-star insignia and DDE initials, while others are draft copies preserved on thin carbon paper, complete with handwritten edits, annotations, and corrections. The collection also includes material connected to General Omar Bradley, further enriching the historical scope of the discovery.

“This is an extraordinary discovery for our museum and historians alike,” said Isaac James, Executive Director of the Military Heritage Museum. “These are not just letters, they are the working documents of some of the most influential leaders in modern history, revealing the thought process, discipline, and humanity behind their leadership.”

The collection spans a wide range of correspondence categories, including condolences, recommendations, invitations and civic matters. Several letters provide deeply personal insight. A condolence letter dated April 27, 1948, expresses Eisenhower’s deepest sympathy to the family of General C. P. Summerall reflecting both his compassion and his enduring bonds with fellow military leaders.

Other documents reveal the demands placed on Eisenhower during this transitional period. In an April 26, 1948 letter declining an invitation, he cites an overwhelming schedule and his concern about maintaining commitments, illustrating the weight of responsibility he carried even outside of wartime service.

The collection also includes draft speeches and public statements, such as a message to a Veterans Housing Conference emphasizing the urgent national need for adequate housing in post war America, demonstrating Eisenhower’s engagement with domestic policy and the challenges facing returning veterans. Additional documents associated with Bradley provide further insight into the leadership environment and strategic thinking of senior United States Army command during this era.

Perhaps most compelling are the handwritten edits and marginal notes visible throughout the drafts, clear evidence of Eisenhower's personal involvement in shaping his communications and his meticulous attention to detail. "What makes this collection so powerful is that you can actually see these leaders thinking on the page," James added. "Their handwritten edits, their tone, their discipline, they remind us that great leadership is deliberate, thoughtful and deeply human."

While many of the letters address non-military topics, they collectively provide a rare window into the social, political and military landscape of the immediate post war years, including references to selective service, international relationships and the evolving responsibilities of American leadership on the global stage.

The Military Heritage Museum is currently undertaking a full cataloging and preservation effort. Plans are underway to digitize the collection, making it accessible to historians, academic researchers, and the public.

"At the Military Heritage Museum, our mission is to preserve and share the stories that define our nation's history" James said. "Discoveries like this remind us that history is not static, it is alive, waiting to be uncovered, studied and shared with future generations."

The Military Heritage Museum is located at 900 West Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda. For more information or reservations, please go to the website and sign up at [www.militaryheritagemuseum.org](http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org) or call 941-575-9002.

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