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**WALTER B. SMITH**

Former Commanding General of the First Army of the  
United States of America and now Director  
of Central Intelligence.

Walter B. Smith was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 5, 1895. He entered the military service as a second lieutenant of the Infantry Reserve on November 27, 1917.

He was promoted to first lieutenant on September 10, 1918. He was appointed a first lieutenant of Infantry in the Regular Army on July 1, 1920 and was promoted to Captain on September 24, 1929; to major on January 1, 1939; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on April 18, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) on May 4, 1941; to colonel (temporary) on August 30, 1941; to brigadier general (temporary) on February 2, 1942; to major general (temporary) on December 3, 1942; to lieutenant general (temporary) on January 13, 1944.

He attended the Officers' training camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana from August 26, 1917, until November 27, 1917. He was then assigned to the 39th Infantry, 4th Division at Camp Greene, North Carolina, where he served until April 20, 1918, when he went to France. He served with the 4th Division in France until September, 1918, when he returned to the United States for duty in the Bureau of Military Intelligence, War Department, Washington, D. C., and later as Intelligence Officer and Adjutant of the 379th Infantry at Camp Sherman, Ohio. In February, 1919, he went

to Camp Dodge, Iowa, where he served with the 163rd Depot Brigade. In March, 1919, he was assigned to the 2nd Infantry. Later he transferred with this organization to Camp Sherman, Ohio.

Remaining with the 2nd Infantry at Camp Sherman, Ohio, until November, 1921, he was then transferred with that organization to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and later to Camp Custer, Michigan. On October 16, 1922, he was assigned to headquarters of the Sixth Corps Area, Chicago, Illinois, later returning to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and Camp Custer, Michigan, as Aide to General George Van Horn Moseley. Subsequently he became Adjutant of the 12th Infantry Brigade, with headquarters at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where he remained until April 16, 1925. He was then assigned as Assistant to the Chief Coordinator, Bureau of the Budget, in Washington, D. C., serving as such until April, 1929. He was ordered to duty in the Philippine Islands, where he served with the 45th Infantry at Fort William McKinley.

He returned to the United States in March, 1931, and was assigned to the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, completing the advanced course on June 1, 1932. He remained at the Infantry School as Secretary until August, 1933, when he went to Fort Leavenworth,



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### EDITOR'S NOTE

It has been my firm belief since graduation from college in 1939, that there is no better way to predict future events than to study and understand the biographies of those men and women in the world today who guide the political destinies of the various nations.

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Kansas, to enter the Command and General Staff School. He completed the two-year course in June, 1935, and returned to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, as an instructor in Weapons for one year.

On August 17, 1936, he entered the Army War College, Washington, D. C., being graduated on June 23, 1937. He then returned to the faculty of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, remaining there until October, 1939, when he was appointed to the War Department General Staff, in Washington, D. C., and assigned as Assistant Secretary of the General Staff, becoming Secretary on September 1, 1941. He was assigned as United States Secretary of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D. C., on February 10, 1942, with additional duty as Secretary of the Joint Board.

In September, 1942, he became Chief of Staff in the European Theater of Operations with headquarters in England, and subsequently became Chief of Staff of the Allied Forces in North Africa and the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. He accompanied General Eisenhower to the European Theater of Operations in January, 1944, when General Eisenhower became Commanding General of that Theater. In March, 1944, he was announced as being Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces and Chief of Staff in the same theater. On behalf of General Eisenhower, he signed the surrender of Italy and the unconditional surrender of Germany. In December, 1945, he was relieved of his assignment and given forty-five days recuperation leave while temporarily assigned to the Office, Chief of Staff. In February, 1946, he was appointed as United States Ambassador to Russia, remaining on a duty status while on this non-military assignment. He was a member of the United States delegation at the Paris Peace Conference in 1946. His resignation as an Ambassador to Russia was accepted by President Truman on March 25, 1949. He was named Commanding General, First Army with headquarters on Governors Island, New York City, and assumed command on March 20, 1949.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in July, 1943, with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility as first Secretary of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff and as

first United States Secretary of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. He displayed initiative, foresight, tact, and administrative ability of a high degree, as well as superior judgment, in treatment of the intricate problems attendant upon the organization of the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff. Efficient functioning of these military general headquarters has contributed largely to the establishment of unity and concert of action through which the United States and Great Britain move forward to their common goal."

He received a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal in July, 1943, the citation for which is as follows:

"For exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility. As Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, from its formation until the present, General Smith has carried the full load of planning and executive responsibility. He has displayed great courage, tact, resolution, and sound judgment in carrying out his duties. He has been largely responsible for the fine spirit of integration which exists in Allied Force Headquarters and for the cooperation among British, French and United States units that made possible the outstanding success of the combined forces. His contribution to the victorious termination of the Tunisian campaign has been a notable one."

He has also received the following decoration: Second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Distinguished Service Medal (Navy); Legion of Merit; Bronze Star.

Foreign Decorations: Knight Grand Cross, Order of the British Empire; Lion of the Netherlands; Crown of Belgium; Croix de Guerre of Luxemburg; Knight Commander, Order of the Bath (British); Legion of Honor (France); White Lion (Czechoslovakia); Order of Glory (Tunis); Order of Alouite (Morocco); Polonia Restituta (Poland); Cavalier of Order of Kutuzof (First Class) Russia; Silver Cross, Virtuti Militari (Poland); Croix de Guerre, France, 1918, France, 1944, Belgium, 1944, Czechoslovakia, 1945; Order of Military Merit of Brazil; Military Medal of Brazil.

He has received Honorary Degrees as follows: Lit.D., Louvaine, 1945; LL.D., Duquesne University; D.Sc.Mil., Pennsylvania Military College, 1945; LL.D., Hofstra College, 1949; D.C.L., Colgate University, 1950; LL.D., Butler University, 1950.