

## MALTA AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

### Dwight D. Eisenhower The 34<sup>th</sup> President of the USA

The 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, Dwight Eisenhower knew Malta well. In his time as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Eisenhower used Malta as his base for the Invasion of Sicily during WWII. While in Malta Eisenhower was a guest of Field Marshal Lord Gort, then Governor General of Malta

The Historical Dictionary of Malta states:

With the end of the North African campaign, Malta became more of a provider than a receiver of bombs and other munitions. Ships, stores, ammunition, vehicles and all accoutrements of the impending Allied invasion of Europe were everywhere. There was also a massive buildup of the air arm. Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower

chose Malta as the headquarters for the initial invasion activities 'because of her splendid naval communications system.' In addition to Eisenhower, Bernard Montgomery, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and others of the top command



were there. D-Day was 10 June 1944 and 3000 ships and large landing craft with 115'000 British Commonwealth and 66'000 American troops,

were ready. Harsh weather from a freak storm made the operation much more difficult, but it proceeded successfully. Among the first to land was the 231<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade of the King's Own Malta Regiment, which used a white Maltese cross on a red shield as its brigade insignia. On 13 July, the Supreme Allied Commander first set foot on Axis-dominated Europe. Italy surrendered on 8 September



EMBASSY OF MALTA  
WASHINGTON D.C.