

Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.

Secondary Source Background

Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr. was born on June 3, 1947.

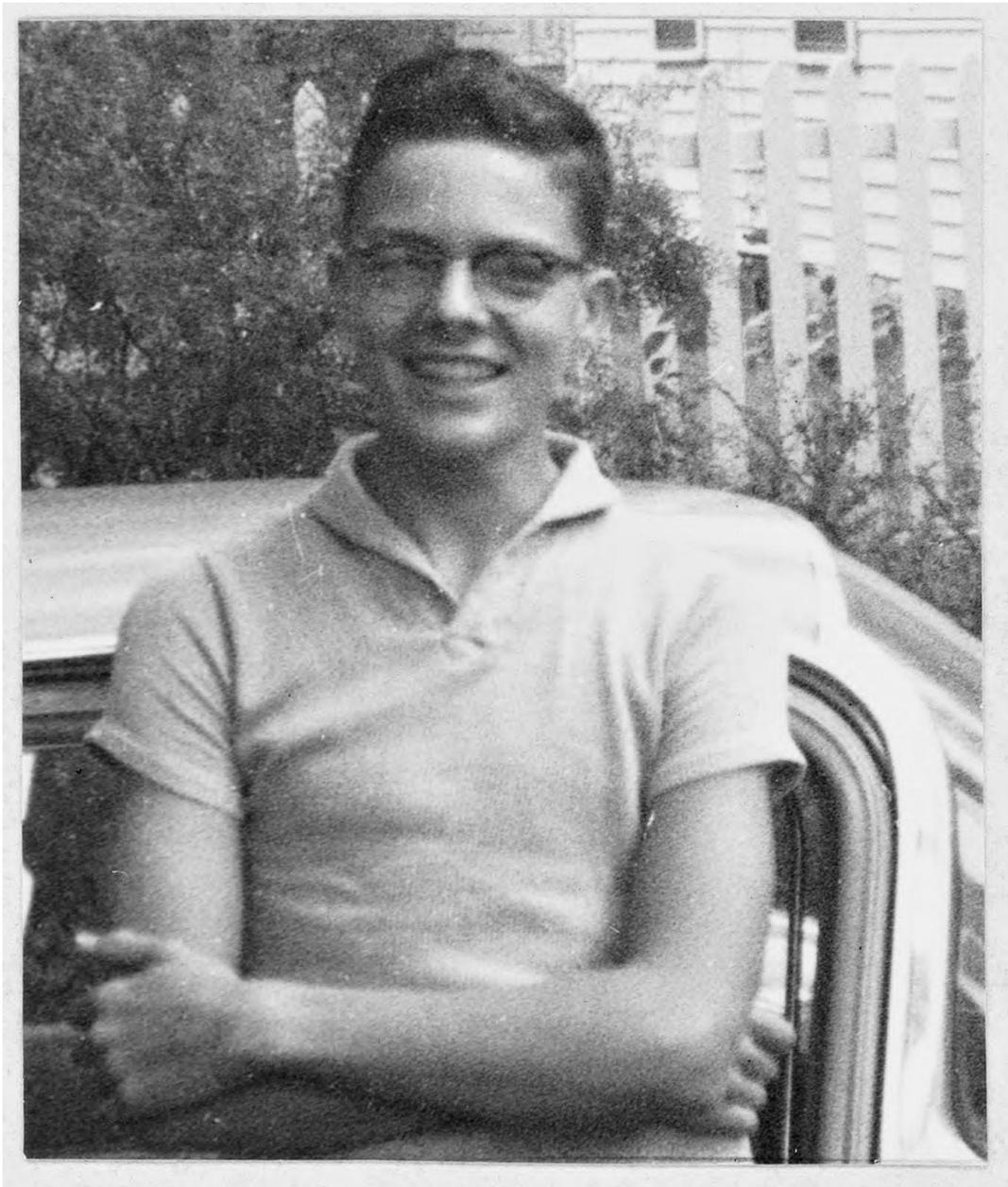
He grew up in New York and had three younger siblings.

In October 1964, at age 17, he ran away from home to enlist in the Army.

He was killed in Vietnam in 1966, the day after his 19th birthday.

Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.

Primary Source #1: Photo



Denton at age 15, 1962–1963. (Library of Congress)

Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.

Primary Source #2: Letter

Mum and Dad,

After weeks of thought I have come to the decision that I must run away and join the service. Please do not search for me! ...

I wanted to join the service this year which I knew you would never allow. My reasons for wanting to join were:

- 1. A realization that without military force S.E. Asia would collapse. I wanted and still want to help the Vietnamese to keep their freedom.*
- 2. Even if I was not sent to Vietnam I could still use my military training in helping freedom loving peoples after I was discharged....*
- 4. I wanted to earn my own way in the world while helping people at the same time. I still believe that individual freedom is the most important thing in the world and I am willing to die defending that idea.*

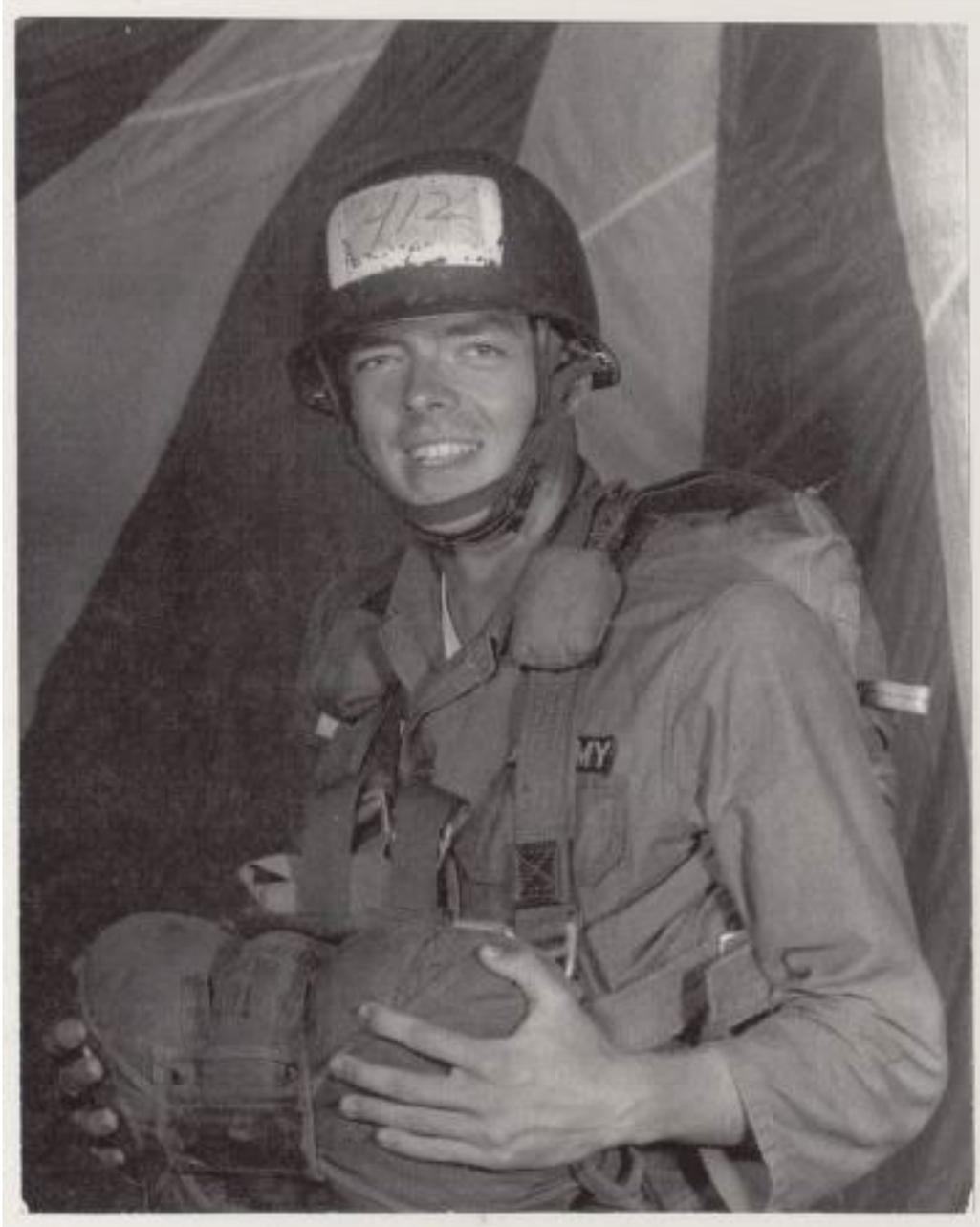
Try to understand my decision.

Love,

“Mogie”

Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.

Primary Source #3: Photo



Private Denton Crocker, Jr., age 18, during Army training in September 1965. (Library of Congress)

James Reese Europe

Secondary Source Background

James Reese Europe was born in 1880 in Alabama.

He was a musician, composer, and bandleader.

Europe joined the Army in 1917 to serve in World War I. He served in the 369th Infantry Regiment, a segregated unit made up of Black and Puerto Rican soldiers.

At the time, Black service members were not allowed to serve alongside white service members.

Europe led the band of the 369th Infantry Regiment. The band played for French, British, and American troops to maintain morale during the war.

The band helped make African American jazz music popular.

James Reese Europe

Primary Source #1: Photo



James Reese Europe conducting the 369th Infantry Band in 1918. The band was playing jazz for a wounded American soldier outside a Paris hospital. (Library of Congress)

James Reese Europe

Primary Source #2: Music

Listen to a recording of Europe's 369th Infantry Band play "Memphis Blues."

<https://youtu.be/4CUkTUZbTpE>

George C. Marshall

Secondary Source Background

George C. Marshall was born in 1880. He was a U.S. Army general and statesman.

He served as Army Chief of Staff during World War II, and then as Secretary of State from 1947 to 1949.

As Secretary of State, he proposed the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan was a program created by the United States after World War II to help rebuild European countries that had been damaged by the war. The U.S. gave money, food, and supplies so these countries could recover and become stable again.

Marshall died in 1959 at 78 years old.

George C. Marshall

Primary Source #1: Photograph



George C. Marshall (left) being sworn in as Secretary of State in the Oval Office by Chief Justice Fred Vinson (right) as President Harry Truman (standing behind desk) and dignitaries look on, January 21, 1947. (National Archives)

George C. Marshall

Primary Source #2: Speech

This quote is an excerpt from a speech Secretary of State George Marshall gave at Harvard University on June 5, 1947, proposing the Marshall Plan.

“It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.”

John F. Kennedy

Secondary Source Background

John F. Kennedy was born in 1917. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Kennedy was U.S. President from 1961-1963, during the Cold War. In 1962, he led the country through the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union came close to nuclear war.

Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

John F. Kennedy

Primary Source #1: Photograph



President John F. Kennedy (right) shakes the hand of Soviet Chairman Nikita Khrushchev (left) during a diplomatic meeting in June 1961 in Vienna, Austria. (National Archives)

John F. Kennedy

Primary Source #2: Speech

This quote is an excerpt from a speech President John F. Kennedy gave in February 1962 about American life and values.

“We welcome the views of others. We seek a free flow of information across national boundaries and oceans, across iron curtains and stone walls. We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.”

Anna Kelton Wiley

Secondary Source Background

Anna Kelton Wiley was born in 1877 in California.

She was a suffragist (a person who supported women's right to vote) and social reformer.

She was arrested in November 1917 for protesting outside the White House in support of women's suffrage.

Between 1917 and 1919, over 100 women were arrested and jailed for picketing outside the White House. During this time, the United States was also fighting overseas in World War I.

Anna Kelton Wiley

Primary Source #1: Photo



Suffragists picketing the White House in 1917. (Library of Congress)

Anna Kelton Wiley

Primary Source #2: Article

This quote is an excerpt from an article Wiley wrote in 1918 explaining why she and other suffragists protested at the White House.

“We determined to organize at the White House gates, a silent, daily reminder of the insistence of our claims...

The anguish in the world today, caused by arrogant, autocratic governments, proves that all educated, responsible, human beings should participate in the maintenance of the governments under which they live....

Suffice it to say that the untenable position of imprisoning women for demanding democracy at home, while sacrificing precious lives in securing democracy abroad, could be endured no longer.”

Name:

Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.

Notes:

Select one Declaration of Independence quote that relates to Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.'s life:

“All men are created equal”

“[All men] are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

“That these United Colonies ... have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.”

How does the quote relate to Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.? Reference a secondary source or the primary source that supports your claim.

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IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future



security.–Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.



He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.



He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.



He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.



Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.