

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 26

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 14 April 1955

The Department of the Army announces with deep regret the death of General PEXTON CONWAY MARCH which occurred at Washington, D. C., on 13 April 1955.

General MARCH was Chief of Staff of the United States Army in 1918 during one of the most trying periods in the history of the nation. Under his direction, the Army successfully completed the first World War, and was converted to a peacetime status. During the thirty-three years in which he served his country as a soldier, General MARCH displayed gallantry, zeal, intelligence, and devotion to duty which marked him as a leader of extraordinary ability.

General MARCH was born at Easton, Pennsylvania, on 27 December 1864. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy and commissioned an additional second lieutenant of the 3d Artillery on 11 June 1888. He was promoted to second lieutenant of Artillery on 30 November 1888 and advanced through all the grades and was appointed a major general on 5 August 1917 and a general on 20 May 1918. He reverted to major general on 1 July 1920, and was retired from active service 1 November 1921. He was advanced to general, retired, on 21 June 1930.

General MARCH attended the Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and was graduated 14 May 1898. In June 1898, he sailed for the Philippine Islands, participating in the assault and capture of Manila. After a brief return to the United States in the early months of 1899, he again went to the Philippine Islands in April of that year, where he served as aide to General Arthur MacArthur; on staff duty with the 2d Division, VIII Army Corps; and in command of the 2d Battalion, 33d United States Volunteer Infantry to 21 June 1900, during which time he participated in numerous engagements, and received the surrender of General Venancio Concepcion, Chief of Staff to Aguinaldo, at Cayan, 5 December 1899. He returned to the United States in August, 1901, and commanded the 10th Battery, Field Artillery, at Fort Riley, Kansas, from 7 October 1901 to 5 June 1903. On 5 June 1903, he was assigned to the War Department General Staff.

He sailed for Tokyo 5 March 1904 where he served as military attaché, and on duty in the field with Japanese troops until 30 November 1904. Upon his return to the United States, he served successively in the Office of the Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.; at Fort Riley, Kansas; as Adjutant General, Department of Missouri; at Fort Riley, Kansas; as Adjutant General, Central

Department; and with the 2d Division to 12 October 1913. He was then ordered to duty in The Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C., serving there until 25 August 1916. He then returned to duty with troops and on 30 May 1917 was ordered to Washington, later sailing for France for extended field service abroad.

General MARCH commanded the artillery of the American Expeditionary Forces in France until February 1918, at which time he returned to the United States and was detailed as Acting Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 4 March 1918. On 20 May 1918, he was appointed Chief of Staff, United States Army, and served in that capacity until 30 June 1921.

General MARCH was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star medal with four Oak-leaf clusters, and the following foreign decorations: Belgian Order of the Crown (Grand Cross), British Order of St. Michael and St. George (Knight Grand Cross), Chinese Order of Pao Kwang Chah-Ho (Precious Light of the Golden Grain) (First Class), French Legion of Honor (Grand Officer), Greek Order of George I (Grand Cross), Italian Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus (Grand Cross), Japanese Order of the Rising Sun (Grand Cordon), Roumanian Order of the Crown (Grand Cross), Czechoslovak Cross of War, Polish Decoration "Polonia Restituta" (Poland's Regeneration) (First Class). "The Thanks of Congress" were tendered to General MARCH by the Congress of the United States on 27 July 1953.

As a mark of respect to the memory of General MARCH, the national flag will be displayed at half staff on all installations under the control of the Department of the Army on day of death, 13 April 1955, until sunset on day of burial, 18 April 1955.

The Commanding General, Military District of Washington, will render appropriate honors.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

M. B. RIDGWAY,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

JOHN A. KLEIN,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.