

GENERAL ORDERS

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GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. PERSHING CENTENNIAL

September 13, 1960, will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

By Congressional Resolution and Presidential Proclamation, 13 September 1960 has been designated as a day upon which all Americans should pay honor and respect to General of the Armies John J. Pershing and the men who served under him.

Throughout 66 years of distinguished service General Pershing held responsibilities vital to the security and welfare of his country. In leadership, courage, and steadfastness of purpose he was unexcelled. Whether in command of vast bodies of troops, in leading men into battle, or in cooperating with the commanders of allied forces, he proved himself one of the world's great military leaders. With his passing the Nation lost a faithful servant and the Army a great commander.

General Pershing entered upon his active military career in 1882. After his graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1886 and his appointment as a second lieutenant of Cavalry, he was promoted in regular order to the grades of first lieutenant and captain, reaching the latter grade in 1901. He served in the meantime as chief ordnance officer and as assistant adjutant general of volunteers, with the rank of major, in the war with Spain and the Philippine Insurrection.

During his early career, while on the western frontier, he took part in campaigns against hostile Apache and Sioux Indians. In 1898 he participated in the Santiago campaign in Cuba and was highly commended and recommended for brevet promotion for personal gallantry in the battle of San Juan. In the Philippine Islands, 1902-03, he commanded expeditions against the Moros and was in the engagements of Gauan, Bayabao, Maclu, Bacoled, Calahul, and Taraca River. His great ability and outstanding leadership were demonstrated in these campaigns; and it was because of the superiority then evidenced that, in 1906, he was advanced from the grade of captain to that of brigadier general. In this grade he commanded the Department of Mindanao from 1909 to 1913 and was made Governor of the Moro Province.

After his return to the United States, he commanded a brigade on the Mexican Border, and in 1916-17, he was charged with the difficult task of leading the force that pursued into Mexico the bandits whose depredations on the border had compelled the United States to take drastic measures for their suppression. In 1916 he was advanced to the grade of major general, and, on the entrance of the United States into World War I, was selected by President Wilson to be the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces sent to France to join those of the nations allied against the aggressive central empires of Europe. He was advanced to the grade of general on 6 October 1917, in which grade he served until 3 September 1919, when in recognition of his accomplishments, he was appointed for life General of the Armies of the United States.

General Pershing was Chief of Staff of the Army from 1 July 1921 until his retirement on 13 September 1924. After his retirement he continued to serve as Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which was created by Congress for the purpose of commemorating the services of the American forces in Europe during World War I. In November 1924, he was designated

by President Coolidge as Ambassador to represent the United States in Peru during the Centennial of the Battle of Ayacucho. He returned the following year to South America, where he served as head of the Tacna-Arica Plebiscitary Commission. On 24 June 1936, he was appointed by the President a member of the commission to prepare plans for the erection of a memorial within the Panama Canal Zone to Major General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal.

In 1937, General Pershing was appointed by President Roosevelt a member of the special delegation to represent him at the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI, and attended the ceremonies in London. Following the coronation ceremonies he participated in the dedications of the monuments and chapels erected in France by the American Battle Monuments Commission. He was present also at the dedication of the statue erected at Versailles by the French to commemorate the services of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Congress, in a public resolution approved by the President 29 September 1919, extended its thanks to him in the following words:

*"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of the American people and of the Congress of the United States are due, and are hereby tendered, to General John J. Pershing for his highly distinguished services as commander in chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe * * *."*

He holds the Distinguished-Service Cross, the Distinguished-Service Medal, and Silver Star decorations awarded by the United States. He was granted 20 honorary degrees by universities and colleges throughout the world. The esteem in which he was held in foreign countries was evidenced by the action of 15 governments in conferring upon him decorations of their highest orders. His name will pass into history as that of the American commander who led through World War I the Army without whose intervention the cause of the allied nations of Europe, and possibly of democracy, might have been lost.

As a mark of respect to the memory of General Pershing and his lengthy career of distinguished service to the Nation, the Secretary of the Army desires that appropriate ceremonies or events be held at all Posts, Camps, Stations, and Installations where United States Army personnel are serving.

Wilber M. Brucker.

WILBER M. BRUCKER,
Secretary of the Army.

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