

GENERAL ORDERS

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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 8 February 1980

The death of GENERAL GEORGE HENRY DECKER, former Chief of Staff, United States Army, which occurred on 6 February 1980 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center is announced with deep regret.

GENERAL DECKER was born on 16 February 1902 in Catskill, New York. He was commissioned on 9 June 1924 in the Officers' Reserve Corps as a second lieutenant of infantry. An Honor Graduate from the Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps program of Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, he became an officer in the Regular Army on 15 June 1924. GENERAL DECKER advanced through the grades with appointment to General on 1 June 1956.

He graduated from the Company Officers' Course, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia in June 1932; and from the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in June 1937. His attendance at the Army War College was cancelled just prior to the outbreak of World War II. He was later credited with possessing the educational equivalent of the National War College.

GENERAL DECKER's initial service assignments included duty with the 26th Infantry, Plattsburg Barracks, New York; the 35th Infantry, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; the 29th Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia; the 7th Infantry, Vancouver Barracks, Washington; the 10th Infantry, Fort Thomas, Kentucky and Fort McClellan, Alabama; and with the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In December 1940, GENERAL DECKER was assigned to I Army Corps, Columbia and Fort Jackson, South Carolina where he served in company command and corps staff assignments. He was reassigned to the Army General Staff in December 1941 serving with the Planning Branch and Operations Section, G-4 Division. He became Deputy Chief of Staff, Third Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas in August 1942. In February 1943, he was ordered to the Southwest Pacific to become Deputy Chief of Staff, later Chief of Staff, Sixth Army.

Upon inactivation of Sixth Army in January 1946, GENERAL DECKER returned to Washington, DC for assignment to Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, and 2 months later was transferred to Army Service Forces Headquarters. In July 1946, he was appointed Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, US Army Forces, Middle Pacific, with duty station in Hawaii.

GENERAL DECKER became Commander, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Jackson, South Carolina in July 1948. In March 1950, he was reassigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army for duty as Chief, Budget Division. In June 1953, GENERAL DECKER was appointed Comptroller of the Army, a

position he held for almost 2 years. GENERAL DECKER assumed command of VII Corps, Stuttgart, Germany in February 1955. He became Deputy Commander-in-Chief, United States European Command, Camp des Loges, France in June 1956. Subsequently, he was transferred in July 1957 to Korea as Commander-in-Chief, United Nations/Commander, United States Forces, Korea/Commanding General, Eighth United States Army.

In August 1959, GENERAL DECKER became Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army. He was appointed Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 1 October 1960, and served in this position until his retirement on 30 September 1962.

For his extraordinarily meritorious and distinguished service, GENERAL DECKER was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal. His service medals included: the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with Four Bronze Service Stars), the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal (with Germany and Japan Clasps), and the National Defense Service Medal. His foreign decorations and service medals included: The "Antonio Nariño" Order of Military Merit, Grade of the Grand Cross (Columbia); the Legion of Honor, Rank of Commander (France); the Military Order of Ayacucho, Grade of Grand Officer (Peru); the Distinguished Service Star (Republic of the Philippines); the Taeguk Distinguished Military Service Medal with Gold Star (South Korea); the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, First Class (Thailand); Order to the Merit of the Italian Republic, Degree of Grand Officer; the Cross of the Venezuelan Ground Forces, First Class; and the Philippine Liberation and Independence Ribbons. GENERAL DECKER was also awarded the State Conspicuous Service Medal by his native state of New York.

In the performance of his duties at the highest levels of responsibility, GENERAL DECKER displayed outstanding judgment, great energy, and an ability of high order which proved to be invaluable to the United States. With his passing, the country has lost a prominent citizen and the Army a very distinguished leader.

As a mark of respect to the memory of GENERAL DECKER, the National Flag was directed to be flown at half-staff on all installations under the control of the Department of the Army from day of death, 6 February 1980, until retreat on day of burial, 8 February 1980. The Commanding General, Military District of Washington, provided appropriate honors.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

E. C. MEYER
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

J. C. PENNINGTON
Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

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