

GENERAL ORDERS

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GENERAL RICHARD GILES STILWELL

The death of General Richard G. Stilwell, on 25 December 1991, in Fairfax, Virginia is announced with deep regret. His last duty assignment was as Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command; Commander-in-Chief, United States Forces, Korea; and Commanding General, Eighth United States Army.

General Stilwell was an officer of the highest ideals. His courage, sound judgement, and superb leadership produced brilliant military achievements of the greatest value to his country. General Stilwell's military career spanned 39 years and 14 campaigns in three wars. With his passing the nation has lost a faithful, valiant servant and the United States Army a commander of great stature.

General Richard G. Stilwell was born in Buffalo, New York, on 24 February 1917. He graduated from the United States Military Academy, standing thirteenth in General Order of Merit and commanding his cadet company. He was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers on 14 June 1938. He advanced through the grades with appointment to General on 1 August 1973.

His initial assignments were in Hawaii, first as a platoon leader in the 3d Engineer Regiment and subsequently as Assistant Engineer of the Hawaiian Department. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he was Operations Officer, 18th Engineer Regiment at Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

In early 1942, he became Executive Officer of the 315th Combat Engineer Battalion of the 90th Infantry Division at Camp Barkeley, Texas. He assumed command of the battalion in June of that year and held this post and that of Division Engineer until September 1943, when he was designated as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3. In this latter capacity, Lieutenant Colonel Stilwell had a major role on the Division's final field training, movement to England and planning for Normandy invasion.

He continued as Operations Officer of the "Tough Hombres" Division from initial landings through the months of combat that followed. At the conclusion of the Ardennes campaign, he was detailed as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, of the XXII Army Corps and promoted to Colonel. He served in

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this position through the end of the war and the garrisoning of Czechoslovakia.

In August 1945, Colonel Stilwell joined the G-3 Section of the Theater General Board, formed from the 15th Army under command of General Patton, to study the conduct of the war and draw lessons therefrom. He transferred to the Infantry in November.

Colonel Stilwell was appointed in January 1946 as Assistant Military Advisor to the Secretary of State who was performing the duties of U.S. Member of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the quadripartite organization designed to deal with post-war problems. As an outgrowth of this assignment, in 1947 Colonel Stilwell was named Special Military Advisor to the American Ambassador in Italy. Over the next two years, his staff responsibilities encompassed the Trieste question, finalization of the Italo-Yugoslav boundary and Italian rearmament. Thereafter, from 1949 to 1952, he held important posts in the Central Intelligence Agency.

In November 1952, he assumed command of the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3d Infantry Division, leading it in combat in two Korean campaigns. He then became Senior Advisor, I Republic of Korea Army Corps and served therewith through the balance of the Korean conflict.

As an instructor at the Army War College, Colonel Stilwell organized the first National Strategy Seminar and was a member of the Advanced Studies Group. In the summer of 1954, he was temporarily detached for duty as Chief of Staff of a Presidential mission to the Far East.

In 1956, he was assigned to Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, SHAPE, as Chief of Strategic Planning. He left SHAPE in June 1958 to become Commander of the Western Area, Germany. In January 1959, he was detailed to the President's Committee for the study of Foreign Assistance Programs. He left that assignment in July 1959 to report to the United States Military Academy. During his first two years at West Point, he was successively Commander of a Cadet regiment and Deputy Commandant of Cadets.

Effective with his promotion to Brigadier General in May 1961, the President appointed him Commandant of Cadets, a post he held until early 1963.

In April 1963, he proceeded to Saigon as Chief of Operations (J-3) of the United States Military Assistance Command. The following year General Westmoreland made him his Chief of Staff. There he had a major role in the planning and preparation for the massive American Commitment to Vietnam.

In mid-summer 1965, General Stilwell left Vietnam to become Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand (MACTHAI) and concurrently Chief, Joint United States Military Group. For the next two years, he superintended the major buildup of United States military forces and facilities, primarily Air Force in that country.

Effective 12 April 1968, General Stilwell became Deputy Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, and on 30 June 1968 he assumed command of the Provisional Corps Vietnam, a three division force, concentrated in the northern two provinces of South Vietnam. On 15 August 1968, the Provisional Corps Vietnam was redesignated the XXIV United States Army Corps.

Upon his return from Vietnam in August 1969, Lieutenant General Stilwell was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and concurrently, Senior United States Army Member of the Military Staff, Committee of the United Nations.

On 20 October 1972, General Stilwell became Commanding General, Sixth United States Army. Effective August 1973, he assumed his final assignment as Commander-in-Chief United Nations Command, Commander-in-Chief United States Forces Korea and Commanding General Eighth United States Army. General Stilwell retired from Active Duty on 31 October 1976, but did not stop his contributions to the Department of Defense. He served as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy from February 1981 to February 1985. He continued his service in various capacities to Government, veterans organizations, and the military.

For his exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service, General Stilwell's awards and decorations include The Defense Distinguished Service Medal; The Army Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters); the Silver Star (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster); Legion of Merit (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters); The Distinguished Flying Cross; Bronze Star (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters); Air Medal (with 29 Oak Leaf Clusters); Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster); the Purple Heart; American Defense Service Medal with star; American Campaign Medal; Europe, Africa, Middle East Campaign Medal with Silver Star; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Korean Service Medal with 3 Campaign Stars; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with 7 Campaign Stars; United Nations Service Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" Device; Combat Infantry Badge; Parachutist Badge; Order of Leopold with Palm; Croix de Guerre (Belgium); Croix de Guerre with Star (France); Croix de Guerre (Luxembourg); Order of the White Lion; Croix de Guerre (Czechoslovakia);

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Order of Italy; Order of Ulchi (Korean); War Cross with Crown (Greek); Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm; Vietnamese Army Distinguished Service Order, 1st class; Chuong My Medal; 1st Class (Korea); Vietnamese National Order, 3d Class; Vietnamese Rural Reconstruction Medal; and Vietnamese Fourragere of the National Order.

General Stilwell's life was characterized by courage, dedication, vision, and patriotism. These qualities earned him the respect of all who knew him. The grief caused by the death of General Stilwell is deeply shared by all members of the United States Army.

General Stilwell is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice S. Stilwell; three daughters, Ann S. Strong, Barbara S. Snook, and Dian S. Shackelford (MAJ, USA Nurse Corps); and his son, Richard G. Stilwell, Jr. (LTC, USA Ret)). His son William J. Stilwell is buried at the West Point Cemetery.

M. P. W. Stone

M.P.W. Stone
Secretary of the Army

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