

GENERAL ORDERS }

No. 3

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 28 January 1994**GENERAL MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY**

The death of General Matthew Bunker Ridgway former Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 26 July 1993 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is reported with deep regret.

General Ridgway 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. With his passing the nation has lost a faithful, valiant servant and the United States Army, a commander of great stature.

General Matthew Bunker Ridgway was born at Fort Monroe, Virginia on March 3, 1895, son of Army Colonel Thomas Ridgway. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in April 1917 and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry.

In June 1917 he was assigned to the 3d Infantry at Camp Eagle Pass, Texas, where he served successively as a Company Commander, Regimental Adjutant and Commander of the Regimental Headquarters Company. In September 1918 he was assigned to the United States Military Academy as an instructor of Spanish. He remained at the academy where he became the Executive for Athletics and in July 1922 was appointed Graduate Manager of Athletics.

General Ridgway joined the Company Officers course at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia in September 1924. Following graduation, he was assigned as a company commander of the 15th Infantry at Tientsin, China. In the summer of 1926 he was ordered to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to command Company E, 9th Infantry, later becoming Regimental Adjutant of the 9th Infantry.

From December 1927 until December 1928, General Ridgway was on duty with the American Electoral Commission in Nicaragua. In January 1929 he was stationed in Washington, DC on the Commission of Inquiry and Conciliation pertaining to the Bolivian-Paraguayan boundary dispute. In September 1929, he began the Advanced Course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, and graduated in June 1930. He then returned to Nicaragua for further duty with the American Electoral Commission.

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In December 1930 General Ridgway was sent to Fort Clayton, Panama Canal Zone, for duty with the 33d Infantry. In the spring of 1932 he was assigned as Liaison Officer to the Insular Government in the Philippine Islands. There he served as technical advisor to Governor General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

In August 1933, General Ridgway entered the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and graduated in June 1935. In July of the same year, he was detailed to the General Staff Corps and assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Sixth Corps Area, Chicago, Illinois. In August 1936 he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Second Army. He entered the Army War College in 1937, and upon completion in 1937, he went to the Presidio of San Francisco for duty as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, of the Fourth Army.

In May 1939, he accompanied General George C. Marshal, then Chief of Staff Designate, to Brazil for a special mission, and in September of the same year until January 1942, he was assigned to the War Department General Staff for duties with the War Plans Division.

In March 1942, General Ridgway was designated Assistant Commanding General of the 82d Infantry Division and later became Commanding General in June 1942. He was in command when the division was redesignated 82d Airborne, in August 1942. In April 1943, he led the division to North Africa where he was responsible for planning and executing the first large-scale airborne assault in the history of the Army—the attack on Sicily. He led his division in its rapid conquest of the western half of that island. He continued to lead the 82d Airborne Division in the Italian Campaign. In June 1944, he parachuted at night with leading elements of the division into Normandy, where he played a major role in the invasion of Western France. In August 1944, he was selected to command the XVIII Airborne Corps where he directed operations in the Ardennes Campaign in Belgium, the crossing of the Rhine, the Ruhr Pocket, the crossing of the Elbe and the advance to junction with Russian forces on the Baltic on May 1945.

General Ridgway returned to the United States with his Corps in August 1945 for redeployment to the Pacific. The same month he was flown to the Philippines in advance of the XVIII Airborne Corps to prepare for its participation in the proposed invasion of Japan.

In September 1945, General Ridgway was assigned to command the Mediterranean Theater of Operations and was appointed Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean.

General Ridgway became the United States Army Representative on the Military Staff Committee, United Nations in January 1946, representing General of the Army, Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was first in London, then in New York City. In March 1946, he received the additional duty of Senior U.S. Delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board and assumed chairmanship of the Board.

In June 1948, General Ridgway was assigned as Commander-in-Chief, Caribbean Command, at Quarry Heights, Canal Zone. In September 1949 he was transferred to Washington, DC, and became Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration, U.S. Army, and in November 1950 assumed the additional duty as Chairman, Inter-American Defense Board.

General Ridgway was transferred to the Far East Command in December 1950 and assumed command of the Eighth Army in Korea.

On April 11, 1951, he was appointed Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command in the Far East and Commander-in-Chief of the Far East Command in Japan, succeeding General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. President Truman nominated him for promotion to the rank of General on May 9, 1951; his nomination confirmed by the Senate the following day, and he was officially appointed a General on May 11, 1951.

In May 1952, General Ridgway succeeded General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers, Europe, with his headquarters in Paris, France. During this assignment he furthered the development of the elements of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization into an efficient team and strengthened the bonds of friendship and cooperation among the many nations serving together in the common defense of democratic principles.

On August 15, 1953 he was appointed Chief of Staff, United States Army. Under his direction the Army was maintained in a state of combat readiness and fulfilled its world-wide commitments in a manner which contributed significantly to the advancement of the foreign policies of the United States.

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He retired from active duty on June 30, 1955, but remained active in national and local military and civic organizations. From September 1955 to September 1960, General Ridgway was Chairman, Board of Trustees, Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His many contributions include establishment of the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies at the University of Pittsburgh which was dedicated in his honor in 1987.

For his exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service, General Ridgway's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross (with oak leaf cluster); the Distinguished Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters); the Silver Star (with oak leaf cluster); Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star (with oak leaf cluster); the Purple Heart; Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal; World War I Victory Medal; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with eight stars and arrowhead; World War II Victory Medal; Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal with one arrowhead and six stars; United Nations Service Medal; Distinguished Unit Emblem; and French Fourragere.

General Ridgway's Foreign Decorations include: The Order of San Martin, Grade of Grand Officer, Argentina; Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown, Order of Leopold II with Palm, rank of Commander, and the Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm from Belgium; The Order of the Southern Cross, Grade of Officer from Brazil; Honorary Knight Commander of the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and Honorary Companion of the Order of the Bath from Great Britain; Military Medal of the First Class from Chile; Order of Boyaca, Military Class, Grand Officer from Colombia; Order of Military Merit, First Class with white ribbon from Cuba; The Legion of Honor, Grand Cross, The Legion of Honor, rank of Officer, and the Croix de Guerre with Palm from France; The Royal Order of George I, Grand Cross from Greece; Cross of Military Merit, Second Class—Guatemala; The Italian Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus, Grand Cross, Military Order of Savoy Cross of Grand Officer, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic; Military Order of Taeguk with Gold Star from Korea; The Grand Cross of the Grand-Ducal Order of the Crown of Oak from Luxembourg; The Mexican Great Cross of the National Order of Aztec Eagle and Order of Military Merit, First Class; The Grand Cross of the Order of St. Carlo from Monaco; The Grand Croix de L'Ouissam Alaouite from Morocco; The Grand Cross of the Order of

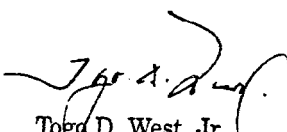
Orange-Nassau from The Netherlands; The Order of Vasco Nunex de Balboa, Grade of Grand Officer from Panama; The Military Order of Ayacucho, Grade of Grand Officer from Peru; The Legion of Honor, Chief Commander from the Philippines; The Grand Cross of the Military Order of Avis from Portugal; The Thailand Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, First Class; and the Order of the Red Banner from the Soviet Union.

General Ridgway received Honorary Degrees to include Doctor of Military Science from the University of Maryland in 1952; Doctor of Laws, Lafayette College, 1953; Doctor of Laws, Hofstra College, 1953; and Doctor of Laws, Seton Hall University, 1955.

On 12 May 1986, President Ronald Reagan presented General Ridgway The Presidential Medal of Freedom. On 7 November 1991, General Colin Powell and Senator Sam Nunn presented him the Congressional Gold Medal which is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. In 1992 he received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Association of Graduates, United States Military Academy, West Point.

General Ridgway'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 Ridgway is deeply shared by all members of the United States Army.

General Ridgway is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary A. (Penny) Ridgway, and a son, Matthew B. Ridgway, Jr.



Togo D. West, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

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