

General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Army

General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur received his Medal of Honor citation for World War II: “For conspicuous leadership in preparing the Philippine Islands to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for the heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula. He mobilized, trained, and led an army which has received world acclaim for its gallant defense against a tremendous superiority of enemy forces in men and arms. His utter disregard of personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanized the spirit of resistance of the Filipino people, and confirmed the faith of the American people in their Armed Forces.”

Biography: Douglas MacArthur was born on an Army base in Little Rock, AR, on 26 January 1880, into a family with a strong military history. His father, Arthur, was a captain at the time of Douglas’ birth, and had been decorated for his service in the Union Army during the Civil War. Douglas’ mother, Mary, was from Virginia, and her brothers had fought for the South during the Civil War. The base where Douglas was born was just the first of several military posts on which he would live during his youth.

In 1893 his family moved to San Antonio, TX, where he attended the West Texas Military Academy and began to show academic promise. After high school, MacArthur received an appointment to West Point, where he graduated with honors in 1903. After graduation, MacArthur was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers and spent the next decade fulfilling a variety of duties. This early period in his military career was marked by frequent promotions and led to posts in countries around the world, including the Philippines, Japan, Mexico and, France, where he fought in World War I.

World War II Philippines Campaign: On 26 July 1941, Roosevelt federalized the Philippine Army, recalled MacArthur to active duty in the U.S. Army as a major general, and named him commander of U.S. Army Forces in the Far East. MacArthur was promoted to lieutenant general the following day, and then to general on 20 December. On 31 July 1941, the Philippine Department had 22,000 troops assigned, 12,000 of which were Philippine Scouts. The main component was the Philippine Division, under the command of Major General Jonathan M. Wainwright. The initial American plan for the defense of the Philippines called for the main body of the troops to retreat to the Bataan peninsula in Manila Bay to hold out against the Japanese until a relief force could arrive. MacArthur changed this plan to one of attempting to hold all of Luzon and using B-17 Flying Fortresses to sink Japanese ships that approached the islands. MacArthur persuaded Washington decision-makers that his plan represented the best deterrent to prevent Japan from choosing war and of winning a war if worse did come to worse.

Between July and December 1941, the garrison received 8,500 reinforcements. In addition, the Navy intercept station in the islands, known as Station CAST, had an ultra secret Purple cipher machine, which decrypted Japanese diplomatic messages, and partial codebooks for the latest JN-25 naval code. Station CAST sent MacArthur its entire output, via Sutherland, the only officer on his staff authorized to see it.

On 7 December 1941, CAST received notice of the attack on Pearl Harbor and informed MacArthur. The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, General George Marshall, ordered

MacArthur to execute the existing war plan, Rainbow Five. MacArthur did nothing. The commander of the Far East Air Force requested permission to attack Japanese bases in Formosa, in accordance with prewar intentions, but was denied. Nine hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft attacked Clark Field and destroyed or disabled 18 of Far East Air Force's 35 B-17s, 53 of its 107 P-40s, 3 P-35s, and more than 25 other aircraft. Substantial damage was done to the bases, and casualties totaled 80 killed and 150 wounded. The Far East Air Force was all but destroyed over the next few days.

MacArthur attempted to slow the Japanese advance with an initial defense against the Japanese landings. MacArthur's plan for holding all of Luzon against the Japanese collapsed as it spread out the American-Filipino forces too thin. However, he reconsidered his confidence in the ability of his Filipino troops after the Japanese landing force made a rapid advance after landing at Lingayen Gulf on 21 December, and ordered a retreat to Bataan. Within two days of the Japanese landing at Lingayen Gulf, MacArthur had reverted to pre-July 1941 plan of attempting to hold only Bataan while waiting for a relief force to come. Most of the American and some of the Filipino troops were able to retreat back to Bataan, but without most of their supplies, which were abandoned in the confusion. Manila was declared an open city at midnight on 24 December, without any consultation with Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commanding the Asiatic Fleet, forcing the Navy to destroy considerable amounts of valuable material.

On 24 December, MacArthur moved his headquarters to Corregidor in Manila Bay. A series of air raids by the Japanese destroyed all the exposed structures on the island and USAFFE headquarters was moved into the Malinta Tunnel. Later, most of the headquarters moved to Bataan, leaving only the nucleus with MacArthur. The troops on Bataan knew that they had been written off but continued to fight. Some blamed Roosevelt and MacArthur for their predicament, but most clung to the belief that somehow MacArthur "would reach down and pull something out of his hat."

Australia and New Guinea: In February 1942, as Japanese forces tightened their grip on the Philippines, President Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to relocate to Australia. On 12 March 1942, MacArthur, his family, and a select group fled Corregidor and flew to Australia.

George Marshall decided that MacArthur would be awarded the Medal of Honor, a decoration for which he had twice previously been nominated, "to offset any propaganda by the enemy directed at his leaving his command." Eisenhower pointed out that MacArthur had not actually performed any acts of valor as required by law, but Marshall cited the 1927 award of the medal to Charles Lindbergh as a precedent. Arthur and Douglas MacArthur thus became the first father and son to be awarded the Medal of Honor. They remained the only pair until 2001, when Theodore Roosevelt was awarded posthumously for his service during the Spanish–American War, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. having received one posthumously for his service during World War II.

On 18 April 1942, MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA). Initially located in Melbourne, GHQ moved to Brisbane—the northernmost city in Australia with the necessary communications facilities—in July 1942. Anticipating the Japanese would strike at Port Moresby again, the garrison was strengthened and MacArthur ordered the establishment of new bases at Merauke and

Milne Bay to cover its flanks. The Japanese struck first, landed at Buna in July, and landed at Milne Bay in August. The Australians repulsed the Japanese at Milne Bay, but a series of defeats had a depressing effect back in Australia. MacArthur ordered Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger to assume command of the Americans, and "take Buna, or not come back alive." MacArthur moved the advanced echelon of GHQ to Port Moresby in November 1942 and received approval for the advance on Rabaul, New Guinea.

Lieutenant General Walter Krueger's Sixth Army headquarters arrived in SWPA in early 1943 but MacArthur had only three American divisions, and they were tired and depleted from the fighting at the Battles of Buna and Guadalcanal. As a result, "it became obvious that any military offensive in the SWPA in 1943 would have to be carried out mainly by the Australian Army." Australian Divisions took Nadzab, Lae, Kaiaput, Dumpu, and Finschhafen in September 1943. In early November, MacArthur's plan for a westward advance along the New Guinea coast to the Philippines was incorporated into war plans against Japan.

Leyte: In February 1944, MacArthur attacked the Admiralty Islands, and after six weeks of fierce fighting, captured the islands. MacArthur next assaulted Hollandia and Aitape, 600 miles up the coast, surprising and confusing the Japanese. Although out of range of the Fifth Air Force's fighters, the timing of the operation allowed Nimitz's Pacific Fleet carriers to provide air support, and though risky, the operation was successful. Because the Japanese did not expect an attack, their garrison was weak, and Allied casualties were correspondingly light.

In July 1944, President Roosevelt met MacArthur in Hawaii "to determine the phase of action against Japan." Nimitz promoted attacking Formosa. MacArthur stressed America's moral obligation to liberate the Philippines. In September, Admiral William Halsey, Jr.'s carriers conducted air strikes on the Philippines. Opposition was feeble and Halsey incorrectly concluded Leyte was "wide open" and possibly undefended, and recommended that projected operations be skipped in favor of an assault on Leyte.

On 20 October 1944, Krueger's Sixth Army landed on Leyte. The advance had not progressed far, snipers were still active, and the area was under sporadic mortar fire. MacArthur's whaleboat grounded in knee-deep water, and he waded ashore and said: "People of the Philippines: I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God our forces stand again on Philippine soil—soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples. We have come dedicated and committed to the task of destroying every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives, and of restoring upon a foundation of indestructible strength, the liberties of your people."

Since Leyte was out of range of Kenney's land-based aircraft, MacArthur was dependent on carrier aircraft. Japanese air activity soon increased, with raids on Tacloban, where MacArthur decided to establish his headquarters, and on the fleet offshore. Over the next few days, the Japanese counterattacked in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, resulting in a near-disaster that MacArthur attributed to the command being divided between himself and Nimitz. Carrier aircraft proved to be no substitute for land-based aircraft, and the lack of air cover permitted the Japanese to pour troops into Leyte. Adverse weather and tough Japanese resistance slowed the American advance, resulting in a protracted campaign.

On 18 December 1944, MacArthur was promoted to the new five-star rank of General of the

Army, placing him in the company of Marshall, Eisenhower, and Henry "Hap" Arnold, the only four men to achieve the rank in World War II. Including Omar Bradley, MacArthur was one of only five men to achieve the title of General of the Army since the 5 August 1888 death of Philip Sheridan. MacArthur was senior to all but Marshall.

By the end of December, an estimated 5,000 Japanese remained on Leyte, and on 26 December MacArthur announced, "the campaign can now be regarded as closed except for minor mopping up." Yet, Eichelberger's Eighth Army killed another 27,000 Japanese on Leyte before the campaign ended in May 1945.

Luzon: MacArthur's next move was the invasion of Mindoro, where there were good potential airfield sites. The problem was getting there. Kinkaid balked at sending escort carriers into the restricted waters of the Sulu Sea, and Kenney could not guarantee land-based air cover. The operation was clearly hazardous, and MacArthur's staff talked him out of directing operations on the *Nashville*, which was struck by a kamikaze, killing 133 people and wounding 190. Australian and American engineers had three airstrips in operation within two weeks, but resupply convoys were repeatedly attacked by kamikazes.

The way was now clear for a Luzon invasion. MacArthur's wanted to capture of the port of Manila and the airbase at Clark Field, which were required to support future operations. He ordered a rapid advance on Manila. Unknown to the Americans, the Japanese had decided to defend Manila to the death. The Battle of Manila raged for three weeks.

In preparation for Operation Downfall, the invasion of Japan, in April 1945, MacArthur became Commander-in-Chief U.S. Army Forces Pacific with command of all Army and Army Air Force units in the Pacific, except the Twentieth Air Force. Nimitz became commander of all naval forces. Command in the Pacific remained divided. The invasion was pre-empted by Japan's surrender in August 1945. On 2 September, MacArthur accepted the formal Japanese surrender aboard the USS *Missouri*, thus ending hostilities in World War II.

After the Battle of Manila, MacArthur turned his attention to Yamashita, who had retreated into the mountains of central and northern Luzon. Yamashita chose to fight a defensive campaign, being pushed back slowly by Krueger, and was still holding out at the time the war ended, much to MacArthur's intense annoyance as he had wished to liberate the entire Philippines before the war ended. On 2 September 1945, Yamashita came down from the mountains to surrender with some 100,000 of his men.

Protecting the Emperor and War Crimes Trials: On 29 August 1945 MacArthur was ordered to exercise authority through the Japanese government and Emperor Hirohito. Unlike in Germany, where the Allies abolished the German state, the Americans chose to allow the Japanese state to continue, albeit under their ultimate control. Unlike Germany, there was a partnership between the occupiers and occupied as MacArthur decided to rule Japan via the Emperor. The Emperor was a living god to the Japanese people, and MacArthur found that ruling via the Emperor made his job in running Japan much easier.

MacArthur took the view that a few militarists had hijacked Japan starting in 1931 with the Mukden Incident; the Emperor was a pro-Western "moderate" who had been powerless to stop the militarists, and thus bore no responsibility for any of the war crimes committed by the Japanese between 1931 and 1945. MacArthur confirmed that the emperor's abdication would not be necessary. He ignored the advice of many members of the imperial family and

Japanese intellectuals who publicly called for the abdication of the Emperor. MacArthur protected the Emperor from being held accountable for his actions, and allowed him to issue statements that incorrectly portrayed the emerging democratic post-war era as a continuation of the Meiji era reforms. MacArthur reported to Washington that the Emperor could not be indicted for war crimes. MacArthur gave immunity to the Emperor.

MacArthur was responsible for confirming and enforcing the sentences for war crimes handed down by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. In late 1945, Allied military commissions in various cities of the Orient tried 5,700 Japanese, Taiwanese, and Koreans for war crimes. About 4,300 were convicted, almost 1,000 sentenced to death, and hundreds given life imprisonment. The charges arose from incidents that included the Rape of Nanking, the Bataan Death March and Manila massacre.

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers: MacArthur and his staff helped Japan rebuild itself, eradicate militarism and ultra-nationalism, promote political civil liberties, institute democratic government, and chart a new course that ultimately made Japan one of the world's leading industrial powers. The U.S. was firmly in control of Japan to oversee its reconstruction, and MacArthur was effectively the interim leader of Japan from 1945 until 1948. In 1946, MacArthur's staff drafted a new constitution that renounced war and stripped the Emperor of his military authority. The constitution instituted a parliamentary system of government, under which the Emperor acted only on the advice of his ministers. It outlawed belligerency as an instrument of state policy and the maintenance of a standing army. The constitution enfranchised women, guaranteed fundamental human rights, outlawed racial discrimination, and strengthened the powers of Parliament.

Presidential Aspirations: In 1948, MacArthur made a bid to win the Republican nomination for president. MacArthur's status as one of America's most popular war heroes together with his reputation as the statesman gave him a strong basis for the presidency, but MacArthur's lack of connections within the GOP were a major handicap. MacArthur declined to campaign for the presidency, but he privately encouraged supporters to put his name on the ballot. MacArthur stated he would retire when a peace treaty was signed with Japan. His push in late 1947 to obtain a peace treaty with Japan would allow him to retire on a high note, and thus campaign for the presidency. For the same reasons, Truman refused, saying more time was needed before the U.S could make peace with Japan. Without a peace treaty, MacArthur decided not to resign. Defeats in Wisconsin and Nebraska effectively ending his chances of winning the nomination.

MacArthur handed over power to the Japanese government in 1949, but remained in Japan until relieved by President Harry S. Truman on 11 April 1951. The San Francisco Peace Treaty, signed on 8 September 1951, marked the end of the Allied occupation, and when it went into effect on 28 April 1952, Japan was once again an independent state.

Korean War: On 25 June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, starting the Korean War. The United Nations (UN) Security Council authorized a UN force to assist South Korea and empowered the U.S. to select a commander. The Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously recommended MacArthur, and he became Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command. As South Korean forces retreated, MacArthur committed U.S. ground forces and fell back to the Pusan Perimeter. By the end of August, the North Korean force numbered

88,000 troops, and Lieutenant General Walton Walker's Eighth Army numbered 180,000, with more tanks and artillery pieces.

In September, MacArthur's soldiers and marines successfully landed at Inchon, deep behind North Korean lines. Launched with naval and close air support, the landing outflanked the North Koreans, recaptured Seoul, and forced the North Koreans to retreat.

In October, MacArthur and Truman met at Wake Island. Questioned about the Chinese threat, MacArthur said that he hoped to withdraw the Eighth Army to Japan by Christmas, and to release a division to Europe in January. He regarded the possibility of Soviet intervention as a more serious threat. A month later, things changed. The Battle of Unsan demonstrated the presence of Chinese soldiers and rendered significant losses to UN troops. The next day, 25 November 1950, Walker's Eighth Army was attacked by the Chinese Army and soon the UN forces were in retreat. MacArthur provided the Chief of Staff, General J. Lawton Collins with nine successive withdrawal lines. On 23 December, Walker was replaced by Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway.

In April 1951, the Joint Chiefs of Staff drafted orders for MacArthur authorizing nuclear attacks on Manchuria and the Shantung Peninsula if the Chinese launched airstrikes originating from there against his forces. The next day Truman arranged for the transfer of nine Mark 4 nuclear bombs to military control. The Joint Chiefs were not comfortable giving nuclear weapons to MacArthur, fearing he might prematurely carry out his orders. Instead, the nuclear strike force would report to Strategic Air Command.

Removal from Command: Within weeks of the Chinese attack, MacArthur was forced to retreat from North Korea. Seoul fell in January 1951, and both Truman and MacArthur were forced to contemplate the prospect of abandoning Korea entirely. Under Ridgway, the Eighth Army pressed north again in January, inflicting heavy casualties on the Chinese, recapturing Seoul in March 1951, and pushing on to the 38th Parallel. With the improved military situation, Truman now saw the opportunity to offer a negotiated peace, but three MacArthur communications prevented this. First, on 24 March, MacArthur called upon China to admit that it had been defeated, simultaneously challenging both the Chinese and his own superiors. Second, in March 1951, secret U.S. intercepts of diplomatic dispatches disclosed clandestine conversations in which General MacArthur expressed confidence to the Tokyo embassies of Spain and Portugal that he would succeed in expanding the Korean War into a full-scale conflict with the Chinese Communists. Third, on 5 April, MacArthur's letter critical of Truman's Europe-first policy and limited-war strategy was read in the House of Representatives. These three communications made President Truman conclude he could relieve MacArthur of his commands without unacceptable political damage.

Truman summoned Secretary of Defense George Marshall, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Omar Bradley, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Averell Harriman to discuss the MacArthur situation. They concurred MacArthur should be relieved of his command, but made no recommendation to do so. Although they felt that it was correct "from a purely military point of view," they were aware that there were important political considerations as well. Truman and Acheson agreed that MacArthur was insubordinate, but the Joint Chiefs avoided any suggestion of this. Insubordination was a military offense, and MacArthur could have requested a public court martial similar to that of Billy Mitchell. The

outcome of such a trial was uncertain, and it might well have found him not guilty and ordered his reinstatement. The Joint Chiefs agreed that there was "little evidence that General MacArthur had ever failed to carry out a direct order of the Joint Chiefs, or acted in opposition to an order." "In point of fact," Bradley insisted, "MacArthur had stretched but not legally violated any JCS directives. He had violated the President's 6 December directive (not to make public statements on policy matters), relayed to him by the JCS, but this did not constitute violation of a JCS order." Truman ordered MacArthur's relief by Ridgway, and the order went out on 10 April with Bradley's signature.

The relief of the famous general by the unpopular politician led to a constitutional crisis and public controversy. Beginning on May 3, 1951, a Joint Senate Committee investigated MacArthur's removal, concluding "the removal of General MacArthur was within the constitutional powers of the President."

Later life: MacArthur arrived in San Francisco from Korea on 18 April 1951. It was his first visit to the U.S. since 1937. On 19 April 1951, MacArthur made farewell address to the U.S. Congress presenting and defending his side of his disagreement with Truman over the conduct of the Korean War. His speech was interrupted by fifty ovations. MacArthur ended his address with the familiar quote: "old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

Douglas and Jean MacArthur spent their last years in the penthouse of the Waldorf Towers, a part of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. At the 1960 celebration for MacArthur's 80th birthday, many of his friends were startled by the general's obviously deteriorating health. The next day, he collapsed and was rushed into surgery at St. Luke's Hospital to control a severely swollen prostate.

In 1962, West Point honored the increasingly frail MacArthur with the Sylvanus Thayer Award for outstanding service to the nation, which had gone to Eisenhower the year before. MacArthur's speech to the cadets in accepting the award had as its theme *Duty, Honor, Country*: "The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished, tone and tint. They have gone glimmering through the dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wondrous beauty, watered by tears, and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday. I listen vainly, but with thirsty ears, for the witching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille, of far drums beating the long roll. In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield. But in the evening of my memory, always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: Duty, Honor, Country. Today marks my final roll call with you, but I want you to know that when I cross the river my last conscious thoughts will be of The Corps, and The Corps, and The Corps. I bid you farewell."

Death and Legacy: MacArthur died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on 5 April 1964, of biliary cirrhosis. President Kennedy had authorized a state funeral before his own death in 1963, and Johnson confirmed the directive, ordering that MacArthur be buried "with all the honor a grateful nation can bestow on a departed hero." On 7 April, his body was taken to Union Station and transported by a funeral procession to the Capitol, where it lay in state. MacArthur had requested to be buried in Norfolk, VA, where his mother had been born and where his parents had married. Accordingly, on 11 April, his body was laid to rest in the rotunda of the Douglas MacArthur Memorial (the former Norfolk City Hall).

MacArthur's concept of the role of the soldier as encompassing a broad spectrum of roles that included civil affairs, quelling riots and low-level conflict, was dismissed by the majority of officers who had fought in Europe during World War II, and afterwards saw the Army's role as fighting the Soviet Union. Unlike them, in his victories in New Guinea in 1944, the Philippines in 1945 and Korea in 1950, he fought outnumbered, and relied on maneuver and surprise for success. MacArthur is often considered our greatest soldier.

However, Truman once remarked that he did not understand how the U.S. Army could "produce men such as Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing, Eisenhower and Bradley and at the same time produce Custers, Pattons and MacArthur." MacArthur's relief "left a lasting current of popular sentiment that in matters of war and peace, the military really knows best," a philosophy which became known as "MacArthurism."

MacArthur remains an enigmatic figure. He has been portrayed as a reactionary, although he was in many respects ahead of his time. He championed a progressive approach to the reconstruction of Japanese society. He was often out of step with his contemporaries, such as in 1941 when he contended that Nazi Germany could not defeat the Soviet Union, when he argued that North Korea and China were no mere Soviet puppets, and throughout his career in his insistence that the future lays in the Far East.

Honors and awards: During his lifetime, MacArthur earned more than 100 military decorations from the U.S. and other countries including the Medal of Honor, the French *Légion d'honneur* and *Croix de guerre*, the Order of the Crown of Italy, the Order of Orange-Nassau from the Netherlands, the Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath from Australia, and the Order of the Rising Sun with Paulownia Flowers, Grand Cordon from Japan. Since 1987 the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awards are presented annually by the United States Army on behalf of the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation to recognize company grade officers and junior warrant officers who have demonstrated the attributes of "duty, honor, country" in their professional lives and in service to their communities.

Masonic History: Brother MacArthur was made a Mason at Sight by the Grand Master of the Philippines on 17 January 1936, and affiliated with Manila Lodge #1. He joined Scottish Rite in Manila in 1936, and became a 33° degree in 1947 in Tokyo. He was a life member of Nile Shrine in Seattle, WA and wrote positively about Freemasonry on several occasions. He was a National Sojourner.