

JONATHAN MAYHEW WAINWRIGHT

Jonathan M. Wainwright was born in Walla Walla, Washington, on 23 August 1883. He was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1902 and distinguished himself while there by being appointed First Captain of the Cadet Corps. Upon his graduation in 1906 he was commissioned a second lieutenant of Cavalry on 12 June of that year.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant on 30 July 1912; to captain on 16 July 1916; to major (temporary) on 5 August 1917; and to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on 16 October 1918. He reverted back to his permanent rank of captain on 30 June 1920, and was promoted to major on 1 July 1920; to lieutenant colonel on 2 December 1929; to colonel 1 August 1935; to brigadier general on 1 November 1938; to major general (temporary) on 1 October 1940; to lieutenant general (temporary) on 19 March 1942; to major general (permanent) on 31 August 1943; to general (temporary) on 5 September 1945.

SERVICE

From September 1906 until February 1908, he served with the 1st Cavalry at Fort Clark, Camp Eagle Pass, and Camp St. Felipe, in Texas. He then sailed with his regiment for the Philippine Islands, where in June 1909 he participated in the expedition against hostile Moros on the Island of Jolo. Returning to the United States in February 1910, he served with the 1st Cavalry until September 1912, at Boise Barracks, Idaho; Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont; and Fort Yellowstone, Wyoming. During this tour with the 1st Cavalry, he was a member of the Cavalry rifle team in the summer of 1910, participating in the matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

After a three-month course at the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, Kansas, he rejoined the 1st Cavalry in January 1913, and served with that regiment until October 1915, successively, at Boise Barracks, Idaho; Presidio of Monterey, California; on border patrol duty at Calexico, California; again at the Presidio of Monterey; and at the Presidio of San Francisco, California, during the Panama-Pacific Exposition. From October 1915 to March 1916, he took the advanced course at the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, Kansas, and upon completion served on border patrol duty for a year.

Upon entrance of the United States in the World War, he was assigned to Plattsburg Barracks, New York, where he was Adjutant of the 1st Officers' Training Camp. On the termination of that camp in August 1917, he was ordered to Camp Devens, Massachusetts, for a tour of duty on the General Staff of the 76th Division. He sailed to France in 1918. From March to May 1918, he was a student officer at the General Staff College at Langres. Upon completion of the course at this school he was assigned to the General Staff of the 82d Division, with which Division he served in defensive sectors in the vicinity of Toul and Point-a-mousson, and in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. In November 1918 he was assigned to the General Staff of the Third Army, which he accompanied into the Rhineland. He later served at the Headquarters of the American Forces in Germany at Coblenz.

He remained on duty in Germany until October 1920, when he returned to the United States for assignment as an instructor at the Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kansas. Early in 1921 he was ordered to Camp Pike, Arkansas, as a General Staff Officer, 3d Division, and to Washington, D. C., on 1 July the same year, for a tour of duty with the War Department General Staff, first with the Operations and Training Division, and later with the Supply Division. His next service was with the 3d Cavalry at Fort Myer,

Virginia, where he remained from January 1923 to March 1925, when he returned to duty with the Operations Division of the War Department General Staff in Washington, D. C.

In June 1928 he attended, successively, the Field Officers' Course at the Chemical Warfare School, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland; the Advanced Course at the Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kansas; and the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from which he was graduated in June 1931. He then served for two years as Director of Instruction at the Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kansas. In the summer of 1933 he was ordered to Washington, D. C. To attend the Army War College, from which he was graduated the following year. Upon completion of his course at the Army War College, he returned to Fort Riley for assignment for two years as Assistant Commandant. In July 1936 he returned to Fort Myer, Virginia, to assume command of the 3d Cavalry. He remained on duty at Fort Myer until December 1938 when he was transferred to Fort Clark, Texas, to command the 1st Cavalry Brigade. He went to the Philippine Islands in September 1940, and in October was promoted to major general (temporary) to command the Philippine Division. He assumed command of the Philippine Theater upon General MacArthur's transfer to Australia.

He was reported as a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government, since May 1942. In August 1945 he was liberated from a Japanese Prison Camp. On 8 September, General Wainwright arrived in San Francisco to be met with loud acclaim from an admiring populace. In the next four days he was received with the same admiration and praise as he stopped in Washington, D. C. and New York, arriving at the latter city on 12 September. He next went to White Sulphur Springs, Virginia on 19 September for a well-earned rest where he stayed until near the end of October. Then started his tour throughout the entire country boosting the sales of Victory Bonds. He assumed command of the Eastern Defense Command on 11 January 1946. On 19 January he was ordered to Fort Sam Houston, Texas and assumed his duties as Commanding General of the Fourth Army.

DECORATIONS

MEDAL OF HONOR:

For his "intrepid and determined leadership against greatly superior enemy forces" in the Philippines in 1942, General Wainwright was awarded this country's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor on 19 September 1945. The Citation reads as follows:

"General Jonathan M. Wainwright, O2131, commanding United States Army Forces in the Philippines from 12 March to 7 May 1942. He distinguished himself by intrepid and determined leadership against greatly superior enemy forces. At the repeated risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in his position, he frequented the firing line of his troops where his presence provided the example and incentive that helped make the gallant efforts of these men possible. The final stand on beleaguered Corregidor, for which he was in an important measure personally responsible, commanded the admiration of the Nation's Allies. It reflected the high morale of American arms in the face of overwhelming odds. General Wainwright's courage and resolution were a vitally needed inspiration to the then sorely pressed, freedom-loving peoples of the world."

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS:

For action in the Philippines following the Japanese aggression, General Wainwright was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in February 1942 with the following citation:

"For extraordinary heroism in action in Northern Luzon, Philippine Islands, during the period from 21 December 1941, to 5 January 1942. As commander of the Northern Luzon Force, General Wainwright repeatedly visited the points of most severe conflict throughout the command, displaying outstanding courage and indifference to danger. By his presence and soldierly bearing during the severe enemy aerial bombardment and strafing attacks, and during attacks by infantry and tanks, he stimulated and inspired the troops of his command."

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for World War I service in May 1920 with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious service as Assistant Chief of Staff, 82d Division, First Assistant to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Third Army, and later as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, American Forces in Germany. By his untiring energy, devotion to duty and exercise of initiative, he contributed in a large measure to the success attained by the commands which he served."

OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:

In November 1942 he was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Service Medal for heroism in the Philippines. The citation for the Oak Leaf Cluster is as follows:

"For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility in the Philippines, from 8 December 1941, to 11 March 1942. As commander of the North Luzon Force on the outbreak of hostilities, General Wainwright disposed his forces for the defense of the Island of Luzon north of Manila. He pushed delaying forces northward to meet hostile forces which had landed at Aparri, Cagayan, and Vigan, holding his main forces intact to meet a major landing effort. When a large hostile force landed on the eastern shore of Lingayen Gulf, he skillfully employed his recently mobilized divisions of the Philippine Army to the limit of their capabilities in delaying the enemy advance and succeeded in withdrawing the bulk of his force to the Bataan Peninsula. As commander of the I Philippine Corps, General Wainwright organized for defense the Western Half of the Bataan Peninsula and skillfully conducted the defense thereof during this period, successfully repelling the major enemy effort to penetrate the Corps' front and three strong landing attacks which gained temporary beachheads on the west coast of the peninsula. His personal courage and repeated presence with forward elements of his command during combat inspired his troops to sustained effort."

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:

General Wainwright has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the following medals:

Mexican Border Service; World War I With 3 Bronze Stars; Occupation of Germany, World War I; American Defense with one Bronze Star; Asiatic-Pacific Theater with two Bronze Stars; General Service World War II; Philippine Defense with one Bronze Star; the Conspicuous Service Cross by New York; Distinguished Service Medal by Connecticut.

PHILIPPINE MEDAL FOR VALOR:

A grateful Philippine government recognized his heroic efforts to save their country from being overrun by the Japanese by awarding him the Philippine Medal for Valor.

General Wainwright has also received the Polish War Cross (Virtuti Militari) and the Medal of Military Merit, 1st-Class from Mexico.

He wears overseas stripes (6 months each) consisting of 4 for World War I and 7 for World War II.

General Wainwright was retired from active duty in the Army on August 31st, 1947 after 45 years' service.



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