

MacARTHUR, Douglas, soldier, was born at the U. S. Arsenal in Little Rock, Ark., January 26, 1880, son of Arthur and Mary Pinckney (Hardy) MacArthur and grandson of Arthur MacArthur (q.v.), a native of Scotland, who was Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin and later a Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. His father (q.v.) was a distinguished army officer who attained the rank of lieutenant general, and was the last Military Governor of the Philippine Islands. Douglas MacArthur received his early education in schools in various cities and at military posts where his father was stationed. In 1899 he entered the U. S. Military Academy where he was graduated in 1903, being first captain of the Cadet Corps and standing first in his class, with the highest scholastic rating made at West Point in twenty-five years. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps, his first assignment was to the Philippine Islands. In 1905-06, as Aide to his father, then the Commanding General of the Pacific Division, he executed a confidential mission to Japan, Siam, the Malay States, Burma, India, Java and Ceylon. He was Military Aide to President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906-07. After various other assignments he was detailed to the General Staff Corps in 1913 and in the following year participated in the seizure of Vera Cruz, Mexico, as a member of the staff of Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston (q.v.). When the United States entered the first World War he was a major. Promoted to colonel in the National Army in August 1917, he was made Chief of Staff of the 42d "Rainbow Division," accompanying it to France in October 1917. By his personal valor in the field and his skill, energy and sound judgment as a military leader, he won the admiration both of his superiors and those who served under him. In the Champagne-Marne offensive and the second battle of the Marne, as Chief of Staff, and at St. Mihiel and in the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, as brigadier general commanding the 84th Brigade, he was frequently

parts of the staff, organized the payment of the soldiers of the 42d  
Corps. He went to the Philippines again in 1932 to assume command

Douglas MacArthur (2)

in the front lines with his men. He was twice wounded in action but refused to permit himself to be evacuated. His brigade broke through the famous Kriemhilde Line north of Verdun on October 14-16. Early in November 1918, though only a brigadier general, he was placed in command of the "Rainbow Division." In recommending his promotion to the grade of major general, Gen. Charles T. Menoher, the division commander, wrote General Pershing: "This record represents the unremitting endeavor of a very brilliant and gifted officer who has...filled each day with a loyal and intelligent application to duty such as is, among officers in the field and in actual contact with battle, without parallel in our Army. He has actually commanded larger bodies of troops on the battle line than any other officer in our Army, with, in each instance, conspicuous success. His efforts have been untiring, uninterrupted, and without the least regard for his own personal safety at each of the many times when he felt his personal leadership required his presence in the thick of the struggle." After the Armistice he served with his division in Germany as part of the American Army of Occupation. Upon his return to the United States in 1919, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker referred to General MacArthur as "the greatest American field commander produced by the war." He became Superintendent of the United States Military Academy in 1919 and during the next three years completely revised the academic course to shape it to modern university thought, broadening the concept of the officer corps of the Army, and materially raising its standard of training. The youngest Superintendent in the Academy's history, he introduced new and modern methods in military instructions and training which had a profound influence upon the service of its graduates in the second World War and, through the introduction of a system of intramural athletics which was destined to become the model in the United States and other parts of the world, advanced the physical development of the members of the Cadet Corps. He went to the Philippines again in 1922 to assume command consecutively

Douglas MacArthur (3)

of the district of Manila, the 23d Brigade and the Philippine Division, remaining there until January 1924, when he returned to the United States. In 1925 he became the youngest major general in the Army, and was assigned to command the 4th Corps Area and later the 3d Corps Area. In 1928 he took the American Olympic team, as its president, to the games in Amsterdam, Holland. Later he returned to the Philippines as Department Commander and remained there until 1930. In September 1930 he was detailed to command the 9th Corps Area in San Francisco, but a month later President Hoover appointed him Chief of the Army General Staff, with the temporary rank of general. He was the youngest man ever appointed to that post. In this capacity he made two trips to Europe to study at first hand the organization and methods of training foreign armies and later developed the four-army plan for the land forces of the United States, conceived and established for General Headquarters Air Force, greatly increased the effectiveness of the United States air defenses, and initiated a comprehensive program of modernization of the Army's tactics, equipment, communications, training and organization. Though his four-year term as Chief of the General Staff expired in 1934, by direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt he continued to officiate in that capacity until October 26, 1935, when he was granted leave to assist the Philippine Commonwealth, which was established soon afterward, in preparing its national defense system. On January 1, 1936, in the Philippines, President Manuel Quezon appointed him Military Adviser to the Commonwealth and later made him Field Marshal of the Philippine Army. Entrusted with supreme authority to organize the military defenses of the archipelago, General MacArthur applied himself to this task with characteristic energy and decision. Using as a nucleus the Philippine Scouts, an organization of native troops with American officers, and the Philippine Constabulary, he inaugurated a universal military training program which was planned to give the Philippines an adequate standing army and well-trained reser

Douglas MacArthur (4)

numbering 400,000 men by the year 1946. As part of this program he founded a military academy to train officers for the Philippine Army, formed an airforce and began to accumulate reserves of ordnance, clothing, mechanized equipment and provisions. On November 20, 1937, he was awarded a vote of thanks by the Philippine National Assembly "for his invaluable services in organizing the Philippine Army and the national defense of the Philippines." At his own request he was placed on the retired list of the U. S. Army, December 31, 1937, President Roosevelt approving his application "with great reluctance and deep regret" and stating that "your record in war and in peace is a brilliant chapter of American history." He continued, however, to serve as Military Adviser to President Quezon and as Chief of the Philippine Army. On July 26, 1941, with relations between the United States and Japan rapidly deteriorating, President Roosevelt recalled him to active duty in the U. S. Army, appointed him Commanding General of all U. S. troops in the Far East and promoted him to Lieutenant General. At the same time, President Roosevelt incorporated the Philippine Army, consisting of 40,000 Regulars and 100,000 Reservists, into the Armed Forces of the United States, under powers granted by the Philippine Independence Act and the Philippine Constitution. When Japan launched her offensive in the Pacific in December 1941, and within a few days landed 200,000 soldiers in the Philippines at half a dozen different points, General MacArthur's American-Filipino Army numbered between 55,000 and 75,000 troops, including Regulars and the Philippine Scouts. His small air force was practically wiped out in the first onslaught. Despite the great disparity in the strength of the opposing forces, his command conducted a superb defense. In the hope of saving Manila from destruction from the air, he ordered all military personnel and equipment evacuated and declared it an open city, but it was nonetheless bombarded mercilessly by Japanese planes. Coincident with the withdrawal from Manila, General MacArthur, by a brilliant and daring maneuver

Douglas MacArthur (5)

concentrated his army on the narrow, jungle-covered Bataan Peninsula where, backed by the island fortress of Corregidor and with its flanks on the China Sea and Manila Bay, it staged one of the inspiring dramas of the war. He had been elevated to the rank of four-star general December 19, 1941, and in March 1942 was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic defense of the Philippines, the citation stating that "his utter disregard for personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanized the spirit of the Filipino people, and confirmed the faith of the American people in their armed forces." General MacArthur remained with his beleaguered troops on Bataan until mid-March 1942, when he was ordered by President Roosevelt to proceed to Australia to assume supreme command of all land, sea and air forces of the United Nations in the Southwest Pacific. Accompanied by his family and a small staff, he left Corregidor under the cover of darkness in motor torpedo boats from which he and his party transferred at Mindanao to Army planes that bore them swiftly to Australia, covering in twenty hours a course that it took him nearly all of the next three years to retrace. President Quezon and the U. S. High Commissioner had been previously evacuated by submarines. His arrival in Australia, March 17, 1942, and his prophetic declaration upon landing that "I came through and I shall return," revived the morale of the people of Australia, already under air attack and threatened with invasion, and sent a wave of optimism throughout the Allied world. From then on, General MacArthur, even in the face of strong opposition, never wavered from his original concept of reaching and recapturing the Philippines, thus splitting the enemy in two by weaving in and out, by enveloping and by-passing, by the constant use of surprise and the establishment of air superiority to cover each forward movement. He remained firm in his conviction that the capture of the Philippine Islands would end Japan's organized powers of resistance and would be

Douglas MacArthur (6)

followed by her collapse. By cutting off her flow of supply from the conquered South, he felt her industrial resources would be strangled and her power to maintain and support her armed forces would end. The very essence of the success of this strategy, with only limited forces available, lay in the tactical ability of General MacArthur to select for his points of attack areas lightly held by the enemy and suitable for airfields and temporary bases. To have attacked frontally where the enemy was in force would have incurred losses such as to stalemate the advance or to have drained the limited strength available to a level which would have rendered further advance impracticable. The ensuing campaigns, with their extraordinarily light losses, enormous forward air strikes and the by-passing and reduction to strategic impotence of enemy ground forces greatly in excess of those employed in the advance, demonstrated the soundness of this new and unique scheme of warfare. Setting up headquarters in Melbourne and later in Brisbane, he immediately began to plan the strategy and marshal the forces necessary to turn back the Japanese tide which was spreading rapidly over the Southwest Pacific. To meet this challenge by multi-pronged enemy force, he had available for deployment only the limited resources of men and materiel which Australia, then engaged in all quarters of the globe, could muster, and a relatively small contingent of American troops diverted to Australia while en route to the Philippines after the Pearl Harbor attack. By the middle of April 1942, the Japanese had established bases in the New Guinea-New Britain-Solomon Islands area, which placed them in a position to threaten Australia, and were concentrating their forces in preparation for an extension of their offensive to the southeast. By 6 May, enemy forces had been sufficiently consolidated in the Bismark Archipelago-New Guinea area and an amphibious operation initiated against Port Moresby. American Navy fliers, however, detected this armada and severely damaged it in the historic battle of the Coral Sea, May 7, 1942. Stopped at sea, the enemy turned to land and established

Douglas MacArthur (7)

bases on the north coast of Papua, for an advance on Port Moresby. General MacArthur had foreseen that the Battle for Australia would be fought in New Guinea and disposed his meager forces as rapidly as possible to that end. Realizing the strategic position of Milne Bay, he had wrested airfields from the fever-ridden swamps of that area. In August, the Japanese attempted a pincer movement on Port Moresby, one thrust from the north coast of Papua and the other toward Milne Bay. The attack on Milne Bay was repulsed and the Japanese force driven into the sea in the first Allied land victory of the war. In early September he started the counter-offensive and turned back a Japanese column which had crossed the towering Owen-Stanley mountain range and reached a point only twenty miles from Port Moresby. American and Australian troops, in an original and daring move, were flown with complete equipment from Australia to northern Papua, where they annihilated the Japanese force at Buna and Sanananda, thus effecting the first major setback of the Japanese war machine. It was always General MacArthur's plan to return to the Philippines by a succession of "leap-frog" advances along the northern coast of New Guinea and the parallel chain of island groups, seizing en route strategic objectives lightly held by the enemy and isolating those which, although strongly held, presented no serious menace to current or future operations, thus leaving their garrisons "to wither on the vine." By exercising rare judgment in estimating enemy dispositions and by rapid movement under cover of complete surprise, General MacArthur, by amphibious operations, was able to seize and secure beachheads at the following strategically important points on the way back: Woodlark, Kiriwina, Lae, Finschhafen, Arawe, Cape Gloucester, Saidor, Admiralty Islands, Tanamerah, Humbolt Bay, Aitape, Wakde, Biak, Sarmi, Noemfoor, Sansapor, Morotai, Leyte, Mapia-Asia, Mindoro, Marinduque, Lingayen Gulf, Zambales, Subic Bay, Nasugbu, Bataan, Corregidor, Palawan, Zamboanga, Panay, Cebu, Negros, Sanga Sanga, Jolo, Bohol, Parang, Tarakan,

Douglas MacArthur (8)

Brunei Bay, and Balikpapan. These landings made between June 30, 1943 and July 1, 1945, cost in the aggregate only 272 Allied lives representing an operational result without parallel in military history. The economy of life resulting from the application of the concept underlying General MacArthur's counter-offensive in the Southwest Pacific Area, of "hit 'em where they ain't," is best reflected in the fact that in no individual amphibious landing was there a resulting loss greater than 83 lives and many such operations were concluded without the loss of a single life, a record which might compare favorably with the casualty risks incident to peacetime activities involving similar mass movement of ships, men, equipment and supplies. Casualty lists for the entire campaign in relation to accomplishments were probably the lightest war has ever known. This unparalleled economy of life and effort distinguished these campaigns from those of all other fronts and theaters of operations. In August 1944, General MacArthur attended a three-day conference with President Roosevelt and Admiral Nimitz at Pearl Harbor. A month later he moved his headquarters from Port Moresby to Hollandia, New Guinea, N. E. I., and in October, convoyed on the 1300-mile voyage by a fleet of 600 ships of all types, including six battleships, he returned to the Philippines. Two corps of his Sixth American Army landed on the east coast of Leyte in the central Philippines on October 20, the General wading ashore with his men accompanied as he had long planned by President Sergio Osmena of the Philippines. On the spot where he landed, grateful Filipinos later erected a monument commemorating the event. The landing operation was facilitated by a Philippine guerrilla espionage ring and radio network which had kept General MacArthur accurately informed concerning the strength and disposition of the Japanese forces and the location of their fortifications and food, fuel and ammunition dumps. The sustenance of Filipino spiritual resistance to the enemy occupation and the development, organization and supply of Philippine Guerrilla



Douglas MacArthur (9)

forces by General MacArthur from his distant headquarters in Australia was an instance of military and spiritual leadership of a people probably without parallel in history. Countering the enemy propaganda offensive against the Filipino spirit by all means available to disseminate the truth and the constant reiteration of his pledge to return, General MacArthur kept a firm hold upon the flagging spirits of the Filipino people and succeeded in having organized in the interior a potent combat force and vast intelligence and communications systems by the time of the initial landing of American forces on Philippine soil. For six days after the landing on Leyte, General MacArthur's troops pushed inland, while at sea the battle was waged for Leyte Gulf, in which U. S. Naval Forces almost annihilated three Japanese fleets dispatched to intercept General MacArthur's return. This series of naval engagements, which General George C. Marshall (q.v.) later termed "one of the most decisive battles of history," virtually eliminated Japan as a sea power. Disregarding the danger of being isolated on Leyte, General MacArthur proceeded with the land operation. Despite heavy naval losses, the enemy succeeded in reinforcing Leyte from Luzon and for two months a savage campaign was fought in the Leyte mountains and rice paddies, with torrential rains augmenting the natural difficulties of the terrain. The Japanese, however, were steadily cut to pieces and on Christmas Day, 1944, General MacArthur, who had been promoted by Congress to the new military rank of General of the Army on December 18, announced that Japan had suffered its greatest defeat on land, having lost 125,000 troops killed in action. By the end of the year the battle of Leyte was over, except for mopping up operations. The next objective was the Island of Luzon, from which General MacArthur had departed for Australia nearly three years earlier. After an intense air bombardment of roads, bridges and tunnels on Luzon to prevent the Japanese commander, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, from shifting his forces to meet the assault, forward elements of General MacArthur's Sixth

Douglas MacArthur (10)

American Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger (q.v.), landed on the shores of Lingayen Gulf, on the island's west coast, Jan. 9, 1945. From the beachhead a protective screen was established to the north while the bulk of the invading force turned south toward Manila, the Japanese retreating in confusion. Later other landings were made at Subic Bay and at Nasugbu, south of Manila, and a regiment of airborne troops dropped near the Cavite Naval Base, to aid in the encirclement of the capital. On the night of January 30, a combined force of American Rangers and Filipinos slipped twenty-five miles behind the enemy lines in Nueva Ecija and rescued from a Japanese concentration camp near Cabanatuan 500 half-starved prisoners, including many American survivors of the 1942 "death march" from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell. The first American troops entered the northern environs of Manila February 3, setting free 3700 internees, for the most part American civilian men, women and children, at Santo Tomas University which the Japanese had converted into a prison. During the ensuing three weeks 20,000 enemy troops, trapped in Intramuros, the old Walled City, engaged in an orgy of massacre of helpless Filipino civilians while American artillery reduced Intramuros to shambles. Manila was liberated February 24 and the capture of Corregidor, Bataan Peninsula, Mindanao and other islands soon followed. To the acclaim of the joyous populace, General MacArthur returned to the Philippine Capital February 25 and with the declaration that "my country has kept the faith," proclaimed the restoration of the Commonwealth Government and turned its administration over to President Osmena. On July 5, General MacArthur announced the liberation of the entire Philippine Islands and the virtual termination of the Philippine campaigns, stressing that the enemy's center had been pierced thus dividing the homeland from the captured Pacific possessions to the south, enabling each half to be enveloped and attacked in turn. General Marshall, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, referred to General

Douglas MacArthur (11)

MacArthur's campaign culminating in the liberation of the Philippines as "one without a flaw." Later (July 8), by invitation; he addressed a joint session of the first Philippine Congress in which he praised the fighting spirit of the Philippine people and was advised that he had been made an honorary citizen of the Commonwealth; that the Congress had directed that his likeness be imprinted on Philippine stamps and coins; that his name be carried in perpetuity on the company rolls of the Philippine Army and called at all parade roll calls; and that a guard of honor consisting of twelve soldiers of the Philippine Army be made available to him at all times during his lifetime. Except for bitter fighting in Northern Luzon, where pockets of fanatical Japanese troops held out until after Japan surrendered, the Philippine campaign was over by mid-June, giving the armed forces of the United Nations another advanced base for trip-hammer blows against the enemy. On April 6, 1945, General MacArthur was made Commander of all United States Army Forces in the Pacific and was directed to proceed, in cooperation with Admiral Nimitz, with the scheduled operations for the final conquest of Japan. The initial attack was to be delivered against Kyushu, one of the main Japanese islands, with thirteen divisions on November 1, 1945, for which the Navy had allocated 3033 ships. This operation was to have been followed in the spring of 1946 with the landing of twenty-five divisions on Honshu for the decisive battle of the Tokyo Plain. As Japan still had in being a well-equipped, well-trained army of several million men, of whom 4,000,000, including naval personnel, were garrisoned in the home islands, the Allied military leaders expected that hostilities would continue well into 1946 unless the overwhelming sea and air superiority of the United Nations forced an earlier decision. For the Kyushu campaign, General MacArthur had the Sixth and Eighth American Armies in the Philippines and, after the conquest of Okinawa, the Tenth American Army in the Ryukyus, directly south of Japan, together with the Fifth, Seventh and Fifteenth

Douglas MacArthur (12)

Air Forces of General George C. Kenney's Far East Air Forces. After the defeat of Germany, other formations were scheduled for redeployment to the Pacific from the European Theater of Operations and from the United States. Meanwhile Japan's fortunes were moving, disaster by disaster, toward a fatal catastrophe. Based on the Philippines, Allied naval and air power was sweeping the China Sea clear of Japanese naval and merchant ships, establishing air superiority over Formosa and the China coast, and blasting airfields, naval bases and other targets on the Japanese home islands. By the end of July the remnants of her naval and merchant fleets were sunk or hiding in home ports, her air force largely destroyed or reduced to impotence, 60 per cent of her largest cities wiped out and her dream of a vast Asiatic-Pacific empire under Japanese rule completely shattered. August brought still further ruin. American-built atomic bombs almost obliterated Hiroshima (August 5) and Nagasaki (August 10) and a new enemy, Russia, entered the war against her. Facing inevitable defeat, the Japanese government sued for peace on August 14, yielding to the demand for unconditional surrender made in the Potsdam Declaration of July 26 (see biography of President Truman). The capitulation, which brought the second World War to an end, was announced to his people by Emperor Hirohito in person in an imperial rescript broadcast by radio, the first time he had ever spoken over the airwaves. As the senior Allied military commander in the Pacific theater and the one with the broadest experience in the Orient, General MacArthur was immediately designated Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan and was instructed to proceed with the execution of the surrender terms in the Potsdam Declaration, which prescribed that from the moment of capitulation the Emperor and government of Japan would be subject to the authority of the Supreme Commander, though the emperor would be permitted to remain on his throne. The appointment clothed General MacArthur

document was signed first by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Arita Jigoro,

Douglas MacArthur (13)

with the highest exclusive responsibility ever entrusted to an American officer overseas and made him the dominant figure in one of history's greatest international dramas. As a preliminary to the occupation of Japan, he directed the Japanese government to send emissaries by air to his headquarters in Manila to receive instructions with respect to requirements that must be met for the entry of the Supreme Commander and his accompanying forces. In compliance with this order, Lieutenant General Torashiro Kawabe with a party of fifteen reached Manila August 19 and the next day returned to Tokyo with a comprehensive outline of the arrangements demanded with respect to Japan's armed forces and shipping, the protection of prisoners of war and civilian internees and precautions to insure the safety of the initial landing personnel and Allied naval forces. After receipt from Tokyo of formal acceptance of the stipulated conditions, an advance party of approximately 200 from General MacArthur's Headquarters, including communications experts, landed at the Atsugi airdrome thirty miles from Tokyo August 28 from American planes and began to prepare it for the arrival of the Supreme Commander and a formation of airborne troops. Two days later General MacArthur and his escort reached Atsugi. General MacArthur's landing in Japan with such a small force of troops in the face of several million organized and armed Japanese was later referred to by Winston Churchill as in his opinion "the outstanding accomplishment of any military commander during the war." He immediately established temporary headquarters in Yokohama from which all Japanese armed forces had been evacuated, and on September 2 (Tokyo time), in an impressive ceremony on the deck of the 45,000 ton dreadnaught, "Missouri," backed up by an armada of over 400 other fighting ships, anchored in Tokyo Bay and in the presence of over 100 high ranking military and naval officers of the United Nations, he formally received Japan's unconditional surrender. The surrender document was signed first by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu,

Douglas MacArthur (14)

on behalf of the Emperor, and by Gen. Yoshijiro Umezū, for the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters; then by General MacArthur, as Supreme Commander, and by Fleet Admiral Nimitz for the United States, and next in order by the representatives of China, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. The proceedings, which were broadcast to the world by radio, included opening and closing remarks by General MacArthur who presided over the ceremonies and supervised the order in which the signatures were affixed. The next day he received a message from Secretary of War Stimson, reading in part: "With the full realization of our Pacific victory, I send my warmest greetings and congratulations to you who have been its principal architect." Made public with the text of the surrender instrument were proclamations by the Emperor and an Imperial General Headquarters order commanding cessation of all hostilities and directing Japanese commanders wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control to the appropriate Allied Theater commanders. While the capitulation ceremony was in progress American troops, marines and bluejackets -- spearheading an occupation army of 500,000 men -- disembarked from planes and ships in the first invasion of the empire of Nippon by a foreign foe in its entire recorded history. This unparalleled operation was accomplished without the firing of a single hostile shot by either side and without a single American death. While no resistance was offered, a number of prominent Japanese, including two cabinet officers, committed suicide in the humiliation of defeat and Hideki Tojo, Premier of Japan at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, shot himself to avoid arrest as a war criminal. His life was saved by an American Army surgeon. Later Prince Fumimaro Konoye, thrice premier of Japan, committed suicide when he was listed for arrest. As the virtual ruler of Japan, with its population of 70,000,000, General MacArthur's new role took him for the most part from the field of military science into the realm of

Douglas MacArthur (15)

statesmanship. With permanent headquarters in Tokyo near the Imperial Palace, he has with firmness, vigor and wisdom proceeded to effectuate a complete reformation of the social habits, economic order and governmental and political structure of the country, laying the foundation of a new order of peace, security and justice such as the Japanese people had never known. One of his early moves was to liberate the thousands of Allied soldiers and civilians found in Japanese prisons and concentration camps and start them on their homeward journey as rapidly as transport facilities would permit. An important phase of the occupation was accomplished in the demobilization of 51 divisions, 30 brigades and 30 to 40 separate regiments, in the homeland. Without delay the Japanese forces were disarmed, demobilized and returned to their homes; stores of munitions and the plants which had produced them were destroyed or neutralized, and arrangements were begun to repatriate more than one and one-quarter million Koreans, Formosans and Chinese held as slave laborers in Japan, and approximately six million Japanese soldiers and civilians in China, Manchuria, Southeastern Asia and the islands of the Pacific. From the outset General MacArthur's policy was to issue directives to the Japanese government to execute all measures he deemed essential to the fulfillment of the surrender terms and the success of his reform program. One of the early measures taken to destroy Japan's war potential was the abolition of the Imperial General Headquarters which for fifty years had been the nerve center of the arrogant Japanese military clique. In the swift flow of MacArthur directives came others repealing all laws restricting political liberty and freedom of speech, the press, and religion; establishing strict control over Japanese press and radio; ordering free elections and giving women the right to vote; granting the right of assembly, removing from office all who had been identified with the former militarist regime; abolishing all secret police organizations and the famous Black Dragon Society, long the instrument of Japanese imperialism;

Douglas MacArthur (16)

freeing political prisoners; suppressing the opium trade; seizing twenty-one of Japan's leading banks which had exploited the resources of alien territories dominated by Japan during the war; suspending diplomatic and consular services and all foreign trade; prohibiting financial, commercial or other business communications from Japan except by permission of the occupation authorities; permitting the organization of trade unions; dissolving the once powerful financial and industrial houses of Japan; demanding an accounting of all property, assets and records controlled by the government; restoring Christian teaching in foreign religious institutions; and declaring United Nations nationals and institutions, including corporations, outside the jurisdiction of Japanese courts. Among the more drastic of the Supreme Commander's orders was one depriving Shinto worship of state support and placing it on a par with other religions. Although these measures were of alien origin, they brought a visible sense of relief and security to the Japanese people and for most of them the General became a liberator rather than a conqueror. Before the end of the year 1945, he was able to announce that, except for certain long range education and guidance controls, his reform and demilitarization program was virtually complete and that it was favored by the mass of the people. A further revolutionary departure from Japanese tradition was made by Emperor Hirohito himself when in a rescript issued as a New Year's message to his people on January 1, 1946, he repudiated the ancient faith that the emperor was of divine origin, declaring this a "false misconception, based on legends and myths." Three months later, with General MacArthur's approval, he "commanded" his government to prepare for the consideration of the Japanese people a new constitution which would strip him of all political power, transfer full sovereignty from the throne to the people, abolish war as a sovereign right of the nation, forbid the formation of any army, navy or air force or other agency for belligerent action, and



02 220  
The copy  
Douglas MacArthur (17)

guarantee to the people for all time the fundamental human liberties. In accordance with the surrender terms, General MacArthur ordered the arrest and trial as war criminals of all the leading officials charged with complicity in starting Japan on her course of aggression and military and naval commanders accused of ordering or permitting atrocities and other inhuman acts by troops under their command. He refused to interfere with the death sentences passed by military tribunals upon Lieutenant Generals Tomoyuki Yamashita and Masaharu Homma for war crimes in the Philippines. As the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers he has administered occupied Japan with a stern, uncompromising hand, yet with fairness and a high sense of justice. In the formulation and execution of his policies he has had advice and suggestions from the recently constituted four-power Allied Council for Japan, sitting in Tokyo, of which he is chairman, and the eleven-power Far Eastern Commission, sitting in Washington, but has maintained unaltered, with dignity and firmness, his authority and responsibility as the sole executive authority for the Allied Powers in Japan. Among many honors, he has been awarded the Thanks of the United States House of Representatives and of the United States Senate, the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Silver Star with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, Order of the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as many foreign decorations. Honorary degrees conferred on him include that of L.L.D. by the University of Maryland in 1928; Western Maryland College in 1929; the University of Pittsburgh in 1932; the University of the Philippines in 1938; the University of Wisconsin in 1942; the University of Queensland in 1945; Santo Tomas University, Manila, in 1945; Harvard University in 1946; Seoul University, Korea, in 1946; that of S.T.D. by Midwestern College, Australia; that of D.M.S. by Pennsylvania Military College in 1928; that of M.M.S. by Norwich

Douglas MacArthur (18)

University in 1935; that of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Hawaii in 1946; and that of Doctor of International Law by Pennsylvania Military College in 1946. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the World War in 1927. General MacArthur was married in New York City, April 30, 1937, to Jean Marie, daughter of Edward Cameron Faircloth of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They have a son, Arthur MacArthur.



Tecnológico  
de Monterrey