

GENERAL ORDERS }
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 15 July 1948

The death of General John Joseph Pershing, General of the Armies of the United States, which occurred at Washington, D. C., on 15 July 1948, is announced to the Army with deep regret. Throughout 86 years of distinguished service he held responsibilities vital to the security and welfare of his country. In leadership, courage, and steadfastness of purpose he was unexcelled. Whether in command of vast bodies of troops, in leading men into battle, or in cooperating with the commanders of allied forces, he proved himself one of the world's great military leaders. With his passing the Nation has lost a faithful servant and the Army a great commander.

General Pershing entered upon his active military career in 1882. After his graduation at the United States Military Academy in 1886 and his appointment as a second lieutenant of Cavalry, he was promoted in regular order to the grades of first lieutenant and captain, reaching the latter grade in 1901. He served in the meantime as chief ordnance officer and as assistant adjutant general of volunteers, with the rank of major, in the war with Spain and the Philippine Insurrection.

During his early career, while on the western frontier, he took part in campaigns against hostile Apache and Sioux Indians. In 1898 he participated in the Santiago campaign in Cuba and was highly commended and recommended for brevet promotion for personal gallantry in the battle of San Juan. In the Philippine Islands, 1902-03, he commanded expeditions against the Moros and was in the engagements of Gauan, Bayabao, Maciu, Bacolod, Calahui, and Taraca River. His great ability and outstanding leadership were demonstrated in these campaigns; and it was because of the superiority then evidenced that, in 1906, he was advanced from the grade of captain to that of brigadier general. In this grade he commanded the Department of Mindanao from 1909 to 1913 and was made Governor of the Moro Province.

After his return to the United States, he commanded a brigade on the Mexican Border, and in 1916-17, he was charged with the difficult task of leading the force that pursued into Mexico the bandits whose depredations on the border had compelled the United States to take drastic measures for their suppression. In 1916 he was advanced to the grade of major general, and, on the entrance of the United States into World War I, was selected by the President to be the commander of the American forces sent to France to join those of the nations allied against the aggressive central empires of Europe. He was advanced to the grade of general on 6 October 1917, in which grade he served until 3 September 1919, when in recognition of his accomplishments, he was appointed for life General of the Armies of the United States.

General Pershing was Chief of Staff of the Army from 1 July 1921 until his retirement on 13 September 1924. After his retirement he continued to serve as Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which was created by Congress for the purpose of commemorating the services of the American forces in Europe during World War I. In November 1924, he was designated by President Coolidge as Ambassador to represent the United States in Peru during the Centennial of the Battle of Ayacucho. He returned the following year to South America, where he served as head of the Tacna-Arica Plebiscitary Commission. On 24 June 1936, he was appointed by the President a member of the commission to prepare plans for the erection of a memorial within the Panama Canal Zone to Major General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal.

In 1937, General Pershing was appointed by President Roosevelt a member of the special delegation to represent him at the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI, and attended the ceremonies in London. Following the coronation ceremonies he participated in the dedications of the monuments and chapels erected in France by the American Battle Monuments Commission. He was present also at the dedication of the statue erected at Versailles by the French to commemorate the services of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Congress, in a public resolution approved by the President 29 September 1919, extended its thanks to him in the following words: "*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of the American people and of the Congress of the United States are due, and are hereby tendered, to General John J. Pershing for his highly distinguished services as commander in chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe * * **" He holds the Distinguished-Service Cross, the Distinguished-Service Medal, and Silver Star decorations awarded by the United States. He was granted 20 degrees by universities and colleges throughout the world. The esteem in which he was held in foreign countries was evidenced by the action of 15 governments in conferring upon him decorations of their highest orders. His name will pass into history as that of the American commander who led through World War I the Army without whose intervention the cause of the allied nations of Europe, and possibly of democracy, might have been lost.

As a mark of respect to the memory of General Pershing, a period of national mourning has been directed by the President from sunrise 16 July 1948 until sunset on the day of burial 19 July 1948, during which period flags on all public buildings will be displayed at half staff. The flag will be displayed at half staff at the headquarters of all military commands and vessels under the control of the Department of the Army for 30 days from date of death 15 July 1948, west longitude dates.

The wearing of mourning bands and the draping of colors and standards will be dispensed with. Firing of salutes, however, will be accomplished.

The Commanding General, Military District of Washington, is charged with such military arrangements in connection with the funeral as may be ordered by the Department of the Army.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General

OMAR N. BRADLEY

Chief of Staff, United States Army