

THE  
AMPHIBIOUS  
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THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

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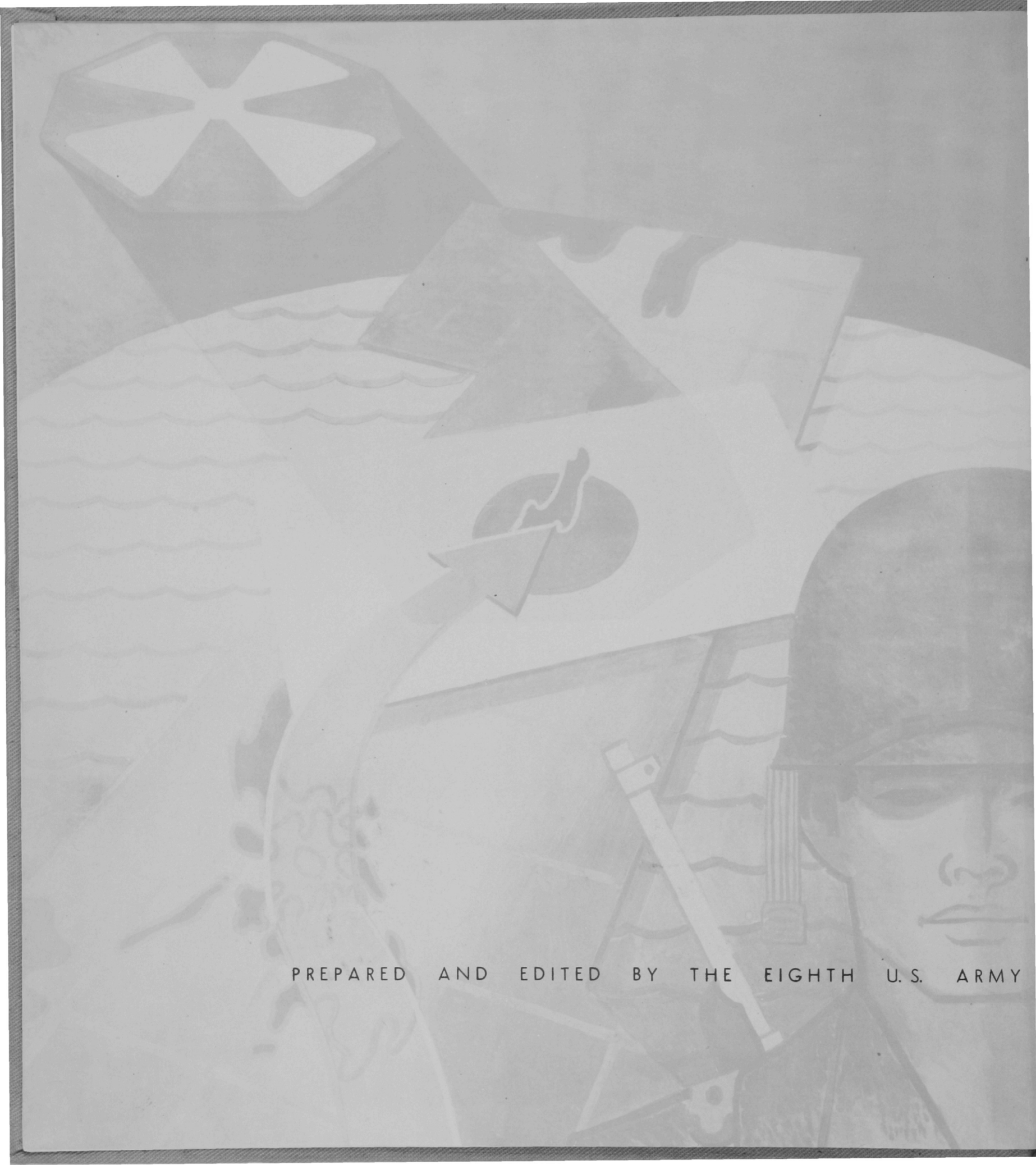
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PREPARED AND EDITED BY THE EIGHTH U.S. ARMY

U. S. Army. Eighth Army.

THE  
AMPHIBIOUS  
*in*  
EIGHTH

HISTORICAL SECTION

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DEDICATED TO THE BRAVE OFFICERS AND MEN WHO FO

IGHT AND DIED UNDER THE BANNER OF THE EIGHTH ARMY



GENERAL OF THE ARMY DOUGLAS MACARTHUR  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

NO ARMY OF THIS WAR HAS ACHIEVED GREATER  
GLORY AND DISTINCTION THAN THE EIGHTH

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas MacArthur". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the introductory text. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

## GENERAL OF THE PACIFIC

When as Supreme Commander of the Occupation, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur made his dramatic entry into Japan he climaxed one of the most outstanding military careers in United States history.

The military epic that is General MacArthur's life story started from the day of his birth. He was born the son of Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur in Little Rock, Arkansas, where his father was stationed at the time. Raised in an army atmosphere, it was natural that he should enter the United States Military Academy. On June 11th 1903, he graduated at the head of his class with the commission of a second lieutenant of Engineers.

Shortly after leaving West Point the youthful MacArthur was on his way across the Pacific bound for the Philippine Islands—the land which was in the years to come to furnish the setting for the greatest chapters of his life. His assignment on engineer construction work gave him an early opportunity to study the Philippine people and the Islands.

He returned to the States, only to be reassigned to the Orient in October 1905 to serve as aide to his father who was then on duty in Tokyo. A secret mission which was entrusted to him at the time afforded him additional opportunity to travel in the countries of the Far East.

Following his tour in Japan he served as Aide to President Theodore Roosevelt until 1907. During these years, he developed many friendships with the leaders of the Washington administration and government which were to last through the adventurous years to come and served him in good stead when later confronted with the gigantic task which came before him.

The ten years following his White House activities were filled with professional assignments and duties which served to broaden his experiences and deepened his brilliant understanding of military affairs and requirements. Four years with the General Staff climaxed this period of endeavor prior to our entrance into the First World War.

It was at this time that General MacArthur conceived the idea of the Rainbow Division—the Division that was destined to serve so gallantly. As Chief of Staff he was instrumental in directing its organization and training. He arrived with the Division in France in October 1917.

His World War service encompassed practically all of the major offensives. In turn he served in the Vanvoulere, La Franche and Rolamont training areas; and later in the Luneville, Baccarat, Esperance-Souain sectors. Following these actions he was engaged in the Champagne-Marne defensive, and in the Aisne-Marne offensive. He was in command of the 84th Infantry Brigade when that organization went through the poignant days of the St. Mihiel, Essey and Pannes, Woevre, Meuse-Argonne and Sedan offensives. The General then assumed command of the 42nd Division until November of 1918; completing his foreign tour with the Army of Occupation.

After the close of the war, General MacArthur served in the office of the War Department Chief of Staff.

When in 1919 he started a four-year term as Superintendent of the West Point Military Academy, General MacArthur saw an opportunity to modernize the training and improve the administrative and executive offices of the Academy. Many graduates of these years are the leaders who directed the streamlined victory of this war.

General MacArthur added three more tours of duty in the Philippines during the years of 1922-1925; 1928-1930; and 1935-1936. His 1928 assignment to the Philippines was that of Philippine Department Commander. In 1935 he became Military Adviser to the Commonwealth of the Philippines; and in 1936 Field Marshal of the Philippine Army.

From 1930 to 1935, General MacArthur served as Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, an assignment for which his earlier duties qualified him preeminently. The effects of these years as Chief of Staff were far reaching and effectively constructive.

When he was retired from the Army in 1937 his withdrawal from public office lasted less than four years. As conditions in the Orient became increasingly critical, President Roosevelt again called on Pacificwise General MacArthur, this time to assume command of the United States Army Forces in the Far East.

In March, 1942, President Roosevelt directed General MacArthur to leave Corregidor and establish our outpost in Australia. There he was to organize and prepare to lead our forces back

for the liberation of the Philippines. In mid-April, General MacArthur was given the Command of the Southwest Pacific Area; and heading this command he began the long march which was to end in Japan with the complete surrender of the Japanese Empire.

As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, his policies have transformed Japan from a ruthless military dictatorship into a democratic government and in the short period of its existence under his guidance, its leaders have formulated and adopted one of the world's most enlightened constitutions. The Japanese now have freedom of thought, speech, and religion; militarism has been destroyed, both as a factor in international policy and as a national ideal; land reform is transforming feudal peasants into self-respecting landowners; the strength of the Zaibatsu, which lowered the living standards and stifled the free economic life of Japan, has been broken, and much progress has been made in the restoration of the peacetime economy of the nation. In his wisdom, General MacArthur has not imposed these reforms from above but has insisted that the Japanese bring about these changes through their government by democratic processes. In doing so he has won the admiration of the world and the respect of the Japanese people. In a world where many nations are torn by internal strife, Japan under the guidance of the Supreme Commander has been a model of constructive progress and has made rapid strides toward the day when it will take a respected place among the nations. The concept which has guided General MacArthur throughout the occupation was indicated in a statement he made on the second anniversary of Japan's defeat:

“History records no other instance wherein the military occupation of a conquered people has been conducted with the emphasis placed as it has been here, upon moral values involved between victor and vanquished. Right rather than might has been the criterion.”

In recognition of his outstanding services as a soldier and statesman General MacArthur has been awarded the following decorations and awards by the people of the United States and nations the world over:

Congressional Medal of Honor  
Distinguished Service Cross with Two Oak Leaf Clusters  
Distinguished Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters  
Distinguished Service Medal (Navy)  
Silver Star with Six Oak Leaf Clusters  
Bronze Star Medal  
Air Medal  
Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster  
Australian Pacific Star  
Belgian Commander Order of Crown  
British Knight Grand Cross of the Bath  
Chinese Grand Cordon of Pas Ting  
Czechoslovakian Grand Cross Order of White Lion  
Ecuadorian First Class Decoration Abdon Calderon  
French Grand Officer Legion of Honor  
Legion of Honor Fourragere (French)  
French Croix de Guerre with Four Palms

French Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor  
Greek Medal of Valor  
Guatemala Cross of Military Merit of the First Order  
Hungarian Grand Cross Order of Military Merit  
Italian War Cross  
Italian Grand Cordon Order of the Crown  
Mexican Grand Cross of Military Merit  
Netherlands Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau with Swords (Military Division)  
Philippine Medal of Valor  
Philippine Distinguished Service Star  
Philippine Defense Medal  
Philippine Liberation Medal  
Polish Grand Croix Polonia Restituta  
Polish Virtutae Militaire  
Rumanian Grand Cross Order of Military Merit  
Yugoslavian Grand Cross Order of White Eagle



LT. GEN. ROBERT L. EICHELBERGER  
COMMANDING EIGHTH U. S. ARMY

## TO THE TROOPS OF THE EIGHTH ARMY

The accomplishments and victories of the "Amphibious Eighth" may be viewed with pride and with the realization that they will go down in history as outstanding achievements.

To all who valiantly served to overcome an aggressive adversary that at the end victory might be assured and that the ideals of our country might be perpetuated, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. And to those for whom there was no returning we extend our solemn pledge that their death shall not have been in vain - - -

Since our victorious entry into Japan well over two years ago it has been our privilege to serve as occupational forces to implement the policies and to execute the directives of our Supreme Commander, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. The mission of the occupation has been one to challenge your best qualities as soldiers and as proponents of the democratic way of life. In both you have served your country well!

May you who have served or are serving with the Eighth know that it is you who have provided its glory and distinction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Moberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

T H E   E I G H T H ' S   C O M



THE GENERAL WITH HIS FAMOUS B-17, "MISS EM"



THE COMMANDING GENERAL WITH LT. COL. LEONARD WING AT ZAMBOANGA

The arrival in Japan of Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger with the advance elements of the Amphibious Eighth Army on August 30, 1945 terminated a period of wartime combat leadership that began in the jungles around Buna and included the engagements in New Guinea, the Netherland's East Indies, and the Philippines. The war was over but many great problems still had to be faced. Above all others was the difficult problem of executing the directives of the Supreme Commander over Japan, a nation in whose defeat his own soldiers had played such a decisive role. His success in meeting this problem is manifested in both the American and the Japanese reactions.

Robert L. Eichelberger was born in Urbana, Ohio, on March 9th, 1886, the youngest of five children—four boys and a girl. His father, a successful attorney-at-law, believed in teaching his children to be self-reliant and Bob spent several summers in his boyhood working on his father's farm. Along with a love of the outdoors he developed an interest in sports and played on the varsity of his high school football and baseball teams. This zest for sports was to stand him in good stead when he took over as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

He received his appointment to West Point in his sophomore year at Ohio State University and became Lieutenant Eichelberger on June 11th, 1909.

One of the greatest turning points of Eichelberger's life was his marriage, on April 3rd, 1913, to Miss Emma Gudger of Asheville, North Carolina, who was to prove a constant inspiration to him. During the war, his repeated references to her were an indication of his devotion; even his personal Flying Fortress was named, "Miss Em."

His military trail led through Indiana, Texas, the Panama Canal Zone, New York, and the Mexican border. His pre-World War I service culminated in his appointment to the position of professor of military science and tactics at Kemper Military Academy in the latter months of 1916.

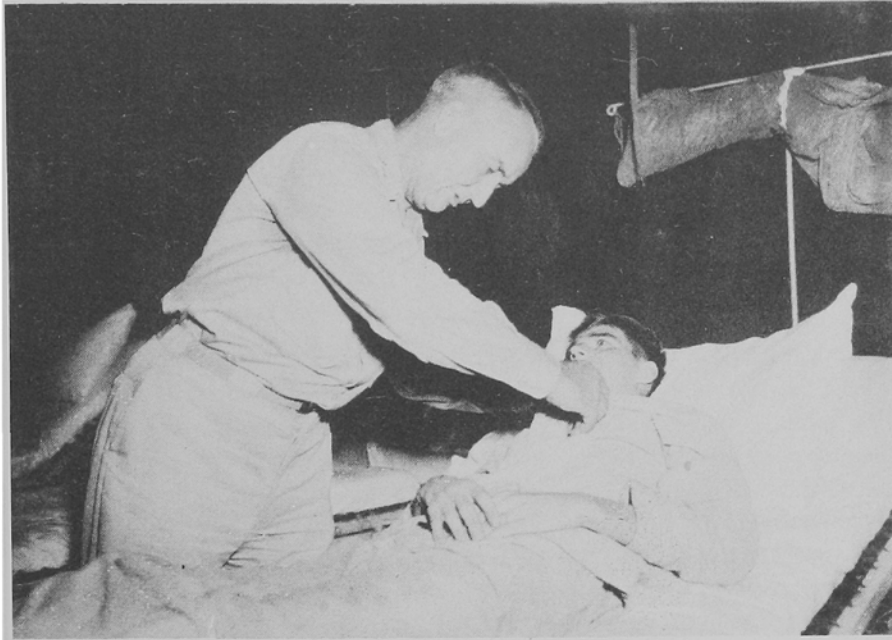
His first love, however, was field service with the infantry and with the outbreak of the war he became a battalion commander in the 20th Infantry and, later, in the 43rd Infantry. In July, 1917, he was assigned as G-3, Eighth Division.

Arriving in Siberia on September 2nd, 1918, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations Division, and Chief Intelligence Officer, American Expeditionary Forces, Siberia, until April 3, 1920; he participated in operations in Suchan Valley during June and July, 1919. Completing this tour of duty he was transferred to Manila, where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence Division, Philippine Department, until

## M A N D E R



GENERAL EICHELBERGER, GENERAL SWING AND COLONEL BOWEN NEAR CAVITE



AWARDING THE PURPLE HEART TO PVT. HAROLD THOMPSON, 40TH DIVISION

October, 1920; and on special duty for the Philippine Department in China, until February 24th, 1921.

In 1921, during the Limitation of Armaments Conference in Washington, D.C., General Eichelberger served as American liaison officer with the Chinese delegation. After completion of the conference, he remained on duty with the Military Intelligence Division until August 1st, 1924.

He attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth in 1926 and served on the staff of the school from the time of his graduation until the summer of 1929 when he attended the Army War College. Later he served on the staff at West Point and as Secretary of the War Department General Staff under General MacArthur and General Malin Craig.

Returning to troop duty in January, 1939, he assumed command of the 30th Infantry at the Presidio, San Francisco. The War Department, however, realizing the inevitability of the Second World War and recognizing the need for the best possible leadership at its most important training school appointed him Superintendent of West Point on October 18th, 1940. In January, 1942, he was released to organize the 77th Division which was reactivated under his command in March 1942. In June he was appointed to the command of the I Corps with which he went to Australia in August 1942.

The I Corps first entered the fighting in the Pacific Area in the combined American-Australian offensive against the Japanese in the jungle defenses in the Buna area.

On December 1st, 1942, when he assumed command at the front, he found a force weakened by malaria and reduced in combat effectiveness by its failure to crack the Japanese defenses. General Eichelberger analyzed the situation quickly, reorganized and regrouped units, corrected weak points in command, improved the supply, and developed methods of breaching the enemy lines. Above all, he furnished the battle weary troops with inspirational leadership. The revitalized force attacked,



GENERAL EICHELBERGER AND GENERAL BYERS OFF-SHORE NEAR LEYTE

taking Buna Mission on January 2nd, 1943.

General Eichelberger's success at Buna resulted in his being placed in command of all Allied Forces in the Buna-Sanananda area and he turned his efforts toward taking Sanananda. Within three weeks the last Japanese position was reduced.

After Sanananda fell, the I Corps returned to Australia where General Eichelberger trained and rehabilitated his troops until he moved to Goodenough Island in February, 1944. It was here that General MacArthur gave him the assignment of taking the great Japanese stronghold at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. This operation, which isolated a great Japanese Army, was successful and the I Corps was soon busy at the task of constructing a base of operations complete with port and airfield facilities from which further operations were conducted.

The 41st Infantry Division (reinforced) assaulted the strongly defended island of Biak on May 27th, 1944. After the Division had suffered bloody reverses in the early stages of the fighting, General Eichelberger and his I Corps staff were sent to Biak to take charge. Within a week after their arrival the main objective had been captured.

The American Force in the Pacific was now to launch the great offensive against the Philippines and, on September 7th, 1944, General Eichelberger assumed command of the Eighth Army in Hollandia, New Guinea. Space limitations prevent even the brief mention of all of the combat landings of this army. To mention a few: Palawan, Zamboanga Peninsula, Southwestern Luzon, Cebu, Negros, Bohol, the Sulu Archipelago, and Mindanao—fully two-thirds of the land area of the Philippines—were taken by the divisions of the Eighth Army.

General MacArthur had assigned the main assault at the heart of Japan to the Eighth Army; however, the sudden end of the war obviated this mission. As a result, on the 2nd of September,

1945, the Commanding General of the Eighth Army stood on the deck of the battleship, "U. S. S. Missouri," proud in his knowledge of the part he had played in bringing the Japanese to their knees.

Two years have passed since the day of the surrender. General Eichelberger as Ground Force Commander is still in Japan, his divisions spread from Hokkaido to Kyushu; the people are placid and are working hard to absorb the principles of democracy; the soldiers are noted for their exemplary conduct. His administration of the Occupation has been a success.

To this great commander, leader, and administrator, for his outstanding services the United States and other nations of the world have presented high honors and awards. These indications of appreciation and esteem are presented herewith:

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS:** For extraordinary heroism in action, 28 June to 3 July 1919, while serving as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, American Expeditionary Force, Siberia.

**OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS:** For heroism in action in New Guinea during the Papuan Campaign, 23 July 1942 to 8 January 1943.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:** As Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, for his conspicuous service with the American Expeditionary Force, Siberia.

**FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:** As Commanding General, I Corps, for meritorious service in the Southwest Pacific Area from 24 January 1943 to 19 August 1944.

**SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:** As Commanding General of the Eighth Army from September 1944 to May 1945, he commanded operations in many islands of the Philippine Archipelago and destroyed organized Japanese resistance on them in a series of masterful amphibious operations.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (NAVY):** For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility as Commanding General, I Corps, the Papuan Campaign, Southeastern New Guinea, from 25 August 1942 to 23 January 1943.

**SILVER STAR:** For gallantry in action in Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 3 February 1945.

**FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO SILVER STAR:** For gallantry in action at Biak, Netherlands East Indies, on 23 June 1944.

**SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO SILVER STAR:** For gallantry in action at Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, on 4 May 1945.

**LEGION OF MERIT:** For performance of outstanding service as Commanding General, 77th Division, in 1942.

**BRONZE STAR MEDAL:** For heroic achievement in connection with military operations on Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, 1 to 12 March 1945.

**AIR MEDAL:** For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the Southwest Pacific Area from 1 December 1942 to 1 August 1945.

**PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:** Headquarters, I Corps, for Buna Campaign, 1943.

**OAK LEAF CLUSTER PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:** 11th Airborne Division, for operation south of Manila, February 1945.

**HONORARY KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE:** For courageous and valiant leadership as Commander of the Buna Sector of the Papuan Campaign.

**GRAND OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF ORANGE-NASSAU WITH SWORDS:** Awarded by Queen Wilhelmina of Holland for liberation of Hollandia and Biak.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE STAR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES:** For meritorious service rendered in the reconquest and liberation of the Philippines.

THE  
EIGHTH IN  
WAR  
AND PEACE



## THE EIGHTH ARMY IN WAR AND PEACE

By land, by sea, by air the Eighth Army has swept, always triumphant, from Memphis, Tennessee, to Tokyo, Japan.

The Eighth Army began its role in the Pacific War on the 7th of September, 1944 when Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger assumed command in Hollandia, New Guinea. Two days later, the Army received its first mission.

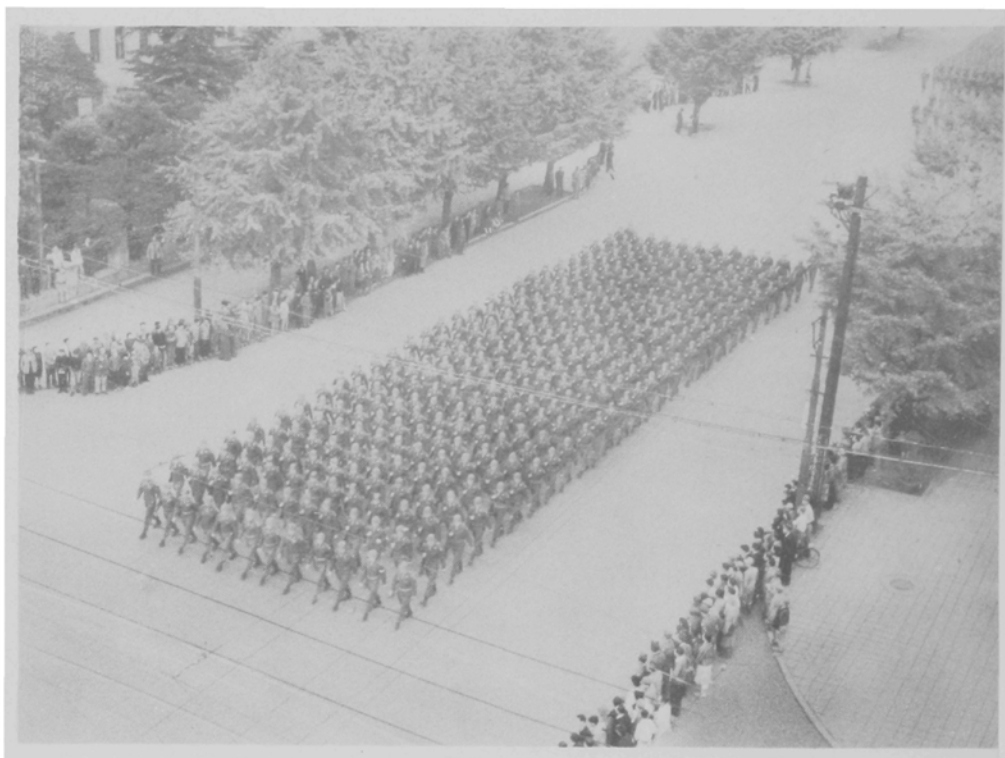
When it arrived in the Southwest Pacific the Eighth Army Headquarters consisted, almost intact, of the experienced Second Army Staff built up by Lieutenant General Ben Lear and Lieutenant General Lloyd R. Fredendall during three years of training in the States.

General Eichelberger brought from his old command, the I Corps, his chief of staff, Major General (then Brigadier General) Clovis E. Byers, and his G-3, Brigadier General (then Colonel) Frank S. Bowen, Jr., who had served under him in the battles of Buna, Sanananda, Hollandia, and Biak. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Colonel Arthur P. Thayer; G-1, Colonel August E. Schanze; G-2, Colonel George A. A. Jones; and G-4, Colonel Henry C. Burgess, remained in the positions they held in the Second Army. When the staff was assembled in Hollandia in September, it was a well tempered unit, ready for action.

Eighth Army's first mission involved assuming control of all operational areas in New Guinea, New Britain, the Admiralties and Morotai and taking command of about 200,000 troops dispersed in 20 localities extending from Australia to Morotai. These first four months prior to initiation of major Eighth Army amphibious operations furnished an excellent opportunity for reorganizing and training the staff to meet the peculiar administrative, logistical, and tactical conditions of the Southwest Pacific.



MEMPHIS 1944



YOKOHAMA 1945

In the early fall of 1944, General MacArthur outlined to General Eichelberger his brilliant scheme for the liberation of the Philippines and his proposed employment of the Eighth Army. As the plan finally crystalized, Sixth Army was to take Leyte, establish a beachhead on Mindoro, and strike a blow against Luzon at Lingayen Gulf.

Eighth Army would move up to Leyte and conduct operations to regain control of the southern Philippines, feint toward southern Luzon from Mindoro, and support Sixth Army in Luzon by delivering two sharp blows on the west coast; one at Bataan and the other south of Manila.

By the first of the year, Eighth Army Headquarters had moved to Leyte and assumed control of operations in the Philippines south of Luzon. The long drawn out task of hunting out the 27,000 Japanese remaining on Leyte began, and continued on a decreasing scale for several months as the enemy was gradually exterminated.

At the same time, Brigadier General William C. Dunkel's Western Visayan Task Force, composed of the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team, and elements of the 24th Division, pierced through the Japanese-infested Visayan Islands to take Mindoro. This action also caused the enemy additional concern regarding the possibility of a landing on the southwestern coast of Luzon. It was the last preparatory step for the heavy blow struck at Lingayen.

Near the end of the first month of 1945, as the XIV Corps, under Major General Oscar W. Griswold, moved from the beachhead at Lingayen down the central plain toward Manila, the Eighth Army entered the Luzon picture.

On January 29th, Lieutenant General Charles P. Hall's XI Corps, composed of the 38th Division



THE INFANTRY MAKES A WET LANDING ON PANAY



PATROL FROM THE AMERICANS ADVANCES IN NORTHERN CEBU

and a Regimental Combat Team of the 24th Division, struck the Zambales coast about 15 miles northwest of Subic Bay. The Corps mission included the seizure of our pre-war naval base at Olongapo, the protection of the XIV Corps' right flank, and the blocking off of Bataan Peninsula. General Hall achieved complete strategic and tactical surprise and the assault waves waded ashore unopposed. The initial objectives were captured so rapidly that General Eichelberger was able to hand the force over to General Walter Krueger only 24 hours after the landing. In three days, the Corps captured Olongapo and moved out across the base of Bataan Peninsula toward Manila.

The second Eighth Army blow was aimed at Nasugbu, 45 miles south of Manila. In view of reports of large and shifting Japanese concentrations in the area, it was prescribed that no exploitation of a successful landing could be made unless personally ordered by the Commanding General, Eighth Army; the same limitation applied to committing the reserve parachute regiment from the air. It was essential, therefore, for General Eichelberger to be present. D-Day found him in the field.

Major General Joseph M. Swing's aggressive 11th Airborne Division, reinforced, effected its landing at Nasugbu on January 31st. The Japanese were completely surprised and within three hours after the landing General Eichelberger made the decision to drive on to Manila. That was the beginning of the famous beachhead that was to become 200 yards wide and 50 miles long.

Brushing aside infantry-artillery delaying action, the 11th thrust inland to run up against well organized positions in hill masses flanking the road. On February 2d, the 188th Infantry, under Colonel Robert H. Soule (promoted to Brigadier General as a result of his brilliant execution of this operation), decisively defeated the Japanese holding these positions, and drove on up the road that same day. On February 3rd, the 511th Parachute Regiment dropped on Tagaytay Ridge, key point



UNLOADING TO START A SCOUTING MISSION ON CEBU

on the road to Manila, and moved out to spearhead the column. One hundred and four hours after the initial landing, the 11th ran up against heavily fortified positions, supported by artillery up to eight inches in caliber, extending across the narrow corridor in the southern outskirts of Manila. The reduction of these positions was underway when the operation passed to Sixth Army control on the 10th of February.

Thus a flexible, aggressive, battle-wise command, immediately at the scene of the action, was able with only a light force to outflank and neutralize 10,000 Japanese troops in southern Luzon and prevent the full concentration of forces that would have massed to defend Manila. After the Nasugbu blow the Japanese south of Manila never again regained any semblance of effective organization.

By the time Eighth Army's job in Luzon was finished, preparations were well under way for the Visayan Campaign. General MacArthur's strategic plan for the liberation of the central and southern Philippines was a classic. First, bases for air and light naval forces on Palawan and in the Zamboanga Peninsula—Sulu Archipelago areas would be seized to complete the isolation of the central Philippines, bring under control the vital seaways to the west and south of the Philippines, and render the large Japanese forces in Mindanao and the Celebes strategically impotent. Then, the big ports and developed areas on Panay, Cebu, and Negros Islands would be taken in a rapid succession of amphibious strikes. From these points, the Eighth could reach out to reoccupy the entire Visayan area. The liberation of isolated Mindanao was to follow. By conducting these operations concurrently with the Luzon Campaign, the entire Philippines would be free and the bulk of our troops would be made available for operations against Japan by the time Luzon was cleared.



AMERICAN TROOPS CRAWL ASHORE UNDER JAPANESE FIRE ON CEBU ISLAND

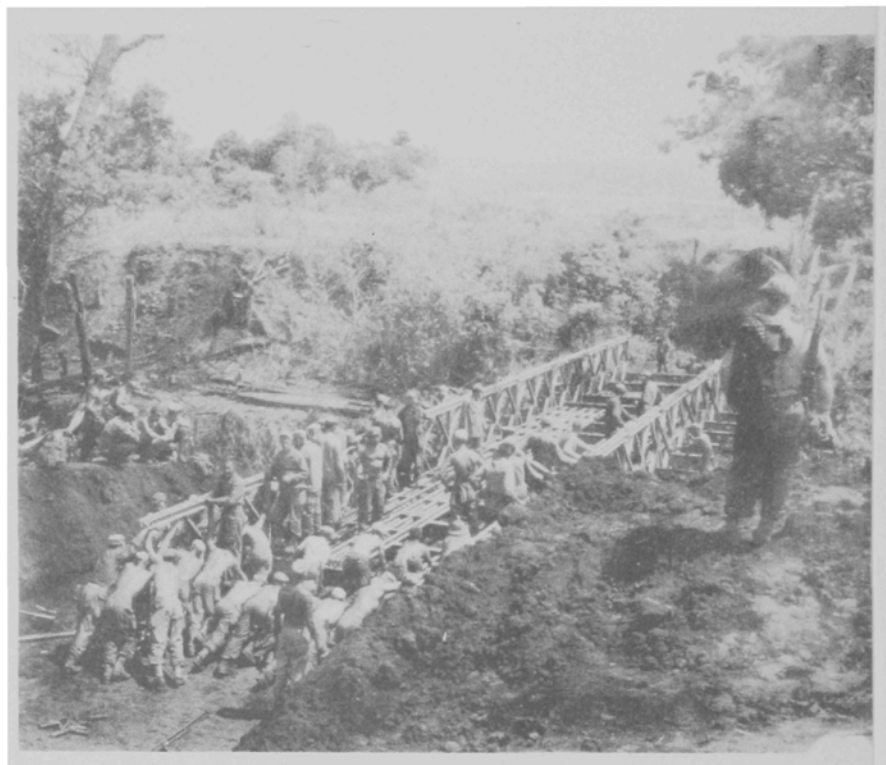
To support its operations in the southern Philippines, the Eighth Army had the cruisers, destroyers, submarines, PT boats and amphibious components of the Seventh Fleet; the bomber, fighter, reconnaissance, and transport elements of the Thirteenth Air Force, and four Marine Air Groups. Great credit is due to these supporting forces for their participation in the operations. The Seventh Fleet transported troops, protected convoys, and furnished fire support for landings. The Thirteenth Air Force and the Marine airmen performed invaluable services in close support, air supply, evacuation, troop transportation, and reconnaissance.

The veteran 41st Division, under the leadership of Major General Jens A. Doe, was given the job of securing Palawan, Zamboanga, and the Sulu Archipelago. On the 28th of February, a task force built around the 186th Regimental Combat Team, commanded by Brigadier General Harold Haney, landed against an estimated 1,700 Japanese near the key Palawan port, Puerto Princesa. Resistance to the landing was negligible; and a demoralized enemy fled to the hills. While reconstruction of the ruined Japanese airfield was rushed, the force started the tedious process of occupying the remainder of Palawan and nearby islands and destroying the Japanese garrisons.

Eleven days after the the Palawan landing, under cover of the planes of the Thirteenth Air Force and the guns of the Seventh Fleet, the 41st assaulted the beaches west of Zamboanga City. The surprised garrison of about 9,000 was unable to defend its beaches and airfields and by the day after the assault, the 41st had seized the airfields and had driven down to capture Zamboanga City. Harassed by extensive mine fields and spasmodic delaying action, General Doe drove the Japanese back into their main mountain positions. At the same time amphibious blows were launched against the 2,500 Japanese on Basilan, Jolo, and the Tawi Tawi groups. It took more than a month of



MEN OF THE 40TH DIVISION MOVE FORWARD ON PANAY



ENGINEERS BRIDGE A STREAM IN MINDANAO

heavy mountain fighting to knock out the Japanese resistance at Zamboanga, but by the third week of April, the bulk of the enemy forces in the areas had been destroyed; and the Eighth had airbases at Zamboanga and throughout the Sulu Archipelago.

The Eighth had cleared the way for the imminent invasion of Borneo by our Australian Allies.

The next major strike after Zamboanga was against Panay Island. The 40th Division was withdrawn from the battle of Luzon and turned over to the Eighth Army for the job. Under command of Major General Rapp Brush, the division formed the nucleus of the task force which, on the 18th of March waded ashore at Tigbauan 14 miles west of the port of Iloilo and raced eastward against light delaying action to take Iloilo in three days. The 2,200 Japanese on Panay could make no strong effort to defend the vital port and fled to the hills in disorder.

There were an estimated 15,000 well-organized Japanese troops concentrated in the northwestern coastal plains of Negros and opinion varied as to whether the Eighth should hit them with the available five battalions or build up a strong force. General Headquarters offered reserves; but this would mean a delay. General Eichelberger's previous successes had been based on the utilization of a single mobile army reserve to cover several operations. These experiences, then, decided the issue, and preparations for a landing on the central coast opposite Iloilo were initiated immediately. The 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team, reserve force, under Colonel George M. Jones, was alerted for a drop on northern Negros.

General Brush struck Negros on the 29th of March. A small gallant raiding party, led by Second Lieutenant Aaron Hanson, captured the vital Bago River Bridge intact, use of which was essential to a rapid northward advance, before the prepared demolitions could be set off. In the first two days,



11TH AIRBORNE PREPARES FOR THE BIG JUMP—LUZON



THE END OF THE PHILIPPINES CAMPAIGN—MANILA

the 40th drove northward to take the key City of Bacolod and its airfield. The disorganized Japanese, unable to execute their scheme to block the Eighth's advance up the coastal highway at the successive river lines lying across the path, started withdrawing into the rugged interior of the island as we drove northward.

By May 10th, northern Negros was ours. It had been unnecessary to drop the 503rd; but it was brought in by water to aid in the reduction of the Japanese mountain positions which the enemy defended doggedly for weeks before they could be overrun.

On the 26th of March, between the dates of the Panay and Negros landings, the battle-wise Americal Division, less the 164th Infantry, under Major General William H. Arnold, initiated operations against the 15,000 enemy on Cebu Island. The troops of the Americal Division went ashore rapidly, and, after clashes with delaying detachments on the road leading from the landing beach reached Cebu City within 30 hours.

The Japanese made no effort to defend the ruined city but withdrew in good order to honey-combed positions that had been prepared in the steep hills overlooking the harbor. Defense of the excellent positions was stubborn and unyielding. Initial losses were heavy and the division's 164th Regiment, under Colonel William J. Mahoney, was brought in to deliver the knockout punch in a successfully coordinated division attack.

Remnants of the Japanese deserted their positions and scattered to the hills. While our troops and guerrilla forces cleared the island of remaining Japanese, the 164th Regimental Combat Team struck at Dumaguete in southern Negros to eliminate the last important Japanese stronghold in the



THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF HIROSHIMA

Visayas. Landing on 26th April against light resistance, our forces drove the ever-withdrawing enemy into the mountains of the hinterland. By 16th June, the last resistance was overcome.

Although not officially closed until June 20th, the Visayan operations were virtually complete by the end of April. After the campaign, General MacArthur paid tribute to the Eighth Army and to General Eichelberger with the statement:

**"...my heartiest commendation for the brilliant execution of the Visayan campaign. This is a model of what a light but aggressive command can accomplish in rapid exploitation."**

In 44 days the Eighth Army had conducted 14 major landings, and 24 minor ones, averaging almost one a day.

The key points of the Visayas once seized, the Eighth Army prepared for Mindanao. The strongest Japanese concentration on Mindanao, later proved to be 30,000, was on heavily defended Davao Gulf near Davao City. At the other end of a muddy east-west road connecting the Davao Gulf to the west coast lies the Cotabato area, where approximately 2,000 Japanese were located. Midway along the road, another narrow twisting trail-like road, the Sayre Highway, leads northward to Macajalar Bay. Along this road was a third Japanese concentration consisting of between 10,000 and 12,000 troops. Thorough advance reconnaissance revealed that an amphibious assault at the beaches near Davao would be too costly. The decision was made, therefore, to strike at Cotabato and extend the Eighth Army's control over the island from a base to be established there. This course would be slower but would save countless American lives.

Major General Franklin C. Sibert's X Corps was designated to undertake the Mindanao operation.



## OPERATION CORONET

SHOWING MAJOR GROUND COMBAT ELEMENTS ALLOCATED FOR THE OPERATION

SIXTH ARMY

He was given two reinforced divisions; the 24th, under Major General Roscoe B. Woodruff; and the 31st, under Major General Clarence A. Martin. Initial plans for a landing at Malabang 30 miles north of Cotabato were changed enroute when Colonel Wendell W. Fertig's guerrilla information showed that the Japanese were withdrawing from the area and that guerrillas had occupied the objective airstrip. On April 17th, the 24th Division effected their main landing at Parang, 10 miles north of Cotabato; only a battalion went in at Malabang. The following day, Cotabato was taken amphibiously. The unpredictable Japanese, caught unaware, could attempt no strong defensive action at any point; so the Eighth Army utilized the opportunity with a quick thrust toward Davao.

At the same time, an attempt was initiated to secure as a line of supply the twisting, treacherous waterways of the great Mindanao River which paralleled the Davao Road at its midpoint. Mounted in the heavily-armed assault craft of the amphibious 3rd Engineer Special Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General David A. D. Ogden, a regiment attacked up the river line. Both the overland and waterborne expedition advanced rapidly. Brushing aside minor resistance, they reached the halfway point across the island in a four-day drive. The enemy forces in the north were now cut off from those around Davao. The river route proved useable and the poor road was abandoned as a main line of supply.

Our unexpectedly rapid advance to the center of the island placed us within striking distance of Davao Gulf and created a remarkable opportunity to assault the Davao Gulf positions from their defenseless rear before the Japanese could prepare adequate defenses. The situation was reminiscent of Singapore. General Woodruff did not hesitate. While the 31st moved up to strike northward toward Macajalar Bay, he sped on to Davao Gulf. April 27th, just 10 days after the landing at



EIGHTH ARMY  
 FOUR CORPS  
 ELEVEN DIVISIONS      FIRST ARMY

Parang, the 24th reached the gulf. The beachhead which was now established did away with the long and tenuous overland route, and supplies could be brought in directly by sea.

The same day the gulf was reached, General Woodruff attacked northward up the coastal road. His objective was Davao City. Three days later he had captured the city, while the enemy dug in above Davao for a fight to the finish.

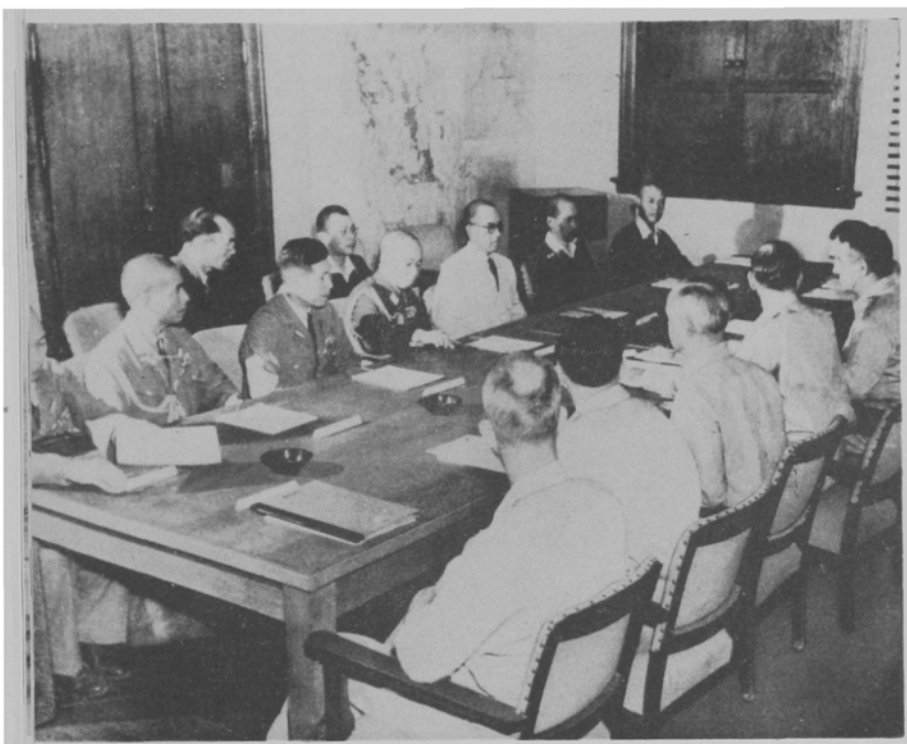
The 24th Division, which was strung out for 50 miles along the inadequate narrow road, knifed deep into an enemy force numbering 30,000.

General Eichelberger proclaimed the achievement as one of the bright pages of the war. The rapid exploitation and the fearless, offensive action had reduced a four months' job to a two weeks' task.

With the taking of Davao City, the strategic victory was won; but one of the most brutal land battles of the Philippines Campaign had just started.

The 31st Division ran into real trouble. The rainsoaked, rutted road disintegrated rapidly. This eventuality was anticipated, however, and while General Martin's spearhead thrust forward, supplied largely by air, the 108th Regimental Combat Team, commanded by Brigadier General Robert O. Shoe of the 40th Division landed at Macajalar Bay to secure a new coastal base. Landing on May 10th, the force fought southward against sporadic delaying action to join with the 31st Division 13 days later. The new supply road was soon in operation and the two forces merged to destroy the enemy area which had faded into the mountains east of the road. By the 10th of June, the remnants of the enemy had been driven into the hills to starve or die of disease.

It took General Woodruff's 24th Division nearly two months of hard fighting to destroy the



JAPAN SUES FOR PEACE - MANILA



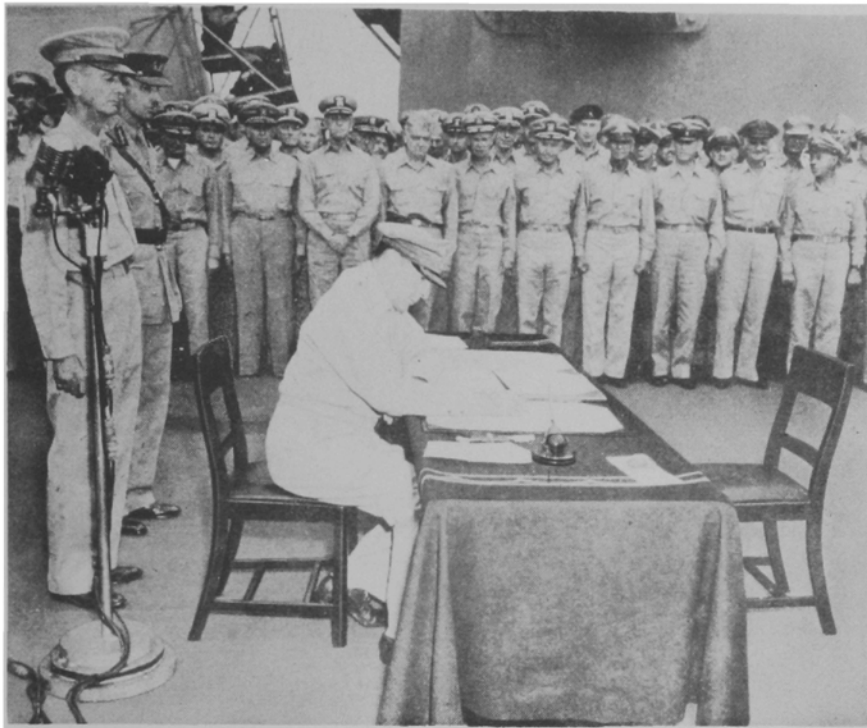
THE EIGHTH'S COMMANDER GREETS GENERAL MacARTHUR AT ATSUGI

fanatical enemy in the Davao area. By the end of June, General Franklin Sibert's X Corps had extended its control over all Mindanao.

On July 1st Eighth Army assumed control of the entire Philippines when it was directed to take over the Luzon operation. Although organized Japanese resistance had been declared broken on Luzon, the remaining armed enemy troops had to be hunted down, dug out of holes, and destroyed in order to complete the liberation of this island. The XIV Corps, commanded by Lieutenant General Oscar W. Griswold, assumed the tactical control of the operation with the 6th, 32nd, 37th, and 38th Divisions plus elements of three divisions and one regimental combat team under his command. The mopping up was handled aggressively by all units and by the 15th of August the enemy force had become so reduced as to become tactically impotent. The actual strength of the Japanese, as indicated by casualties and surrender reports was well over 50,000.

Upon the close of the Visayan and Mindanao operations in June 1945, the Eighth Army faced its greatest task. General Eichelberger's veteran army was to strike the main blow in the invasion of Japan. Sixth Army was to start the show with Operation Olympic aimed at the southern island of Kyushu late in October. Then early in 1946, the Eighth and the First Armies were to apply the crusher, Operation Coronet, an assault on Tokyo Plain—the heart of Japan. Preliminary invasion planning was started while mop-up operations were still underway on Luzon.

Suddenly the schedule changed! On August 6th the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Two days later the Russians plunged into the war. By August 10th the Japanese had had more than enough and publicly sued for peace. Eighth Army was assigned the mission of taking over the occupation of northern Honshu and was not caught unprepared. As far back as June, General



THE SUPREME COMMANDER SIGNS THE INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

Eichelberger had directed his staff to begin planning for this eventuality.

Two complete plans for the initial landing were evolved, the first an amphibious one, the second a combination of airborne and amphibious landings. The latter was subsequently adopted. The Japanese capitulated on August 15th, and four days later an advance echelon of the Eighth Army was flown to Okinawa, prepared for any emergency. By this time conferences between Japanese emissaries and members of General MacArthur's staff had indicated that the landings and the occupation would be peaceful. Plans were predicated upon the full cooperation of the Japanese. The enemy forces would be disarmed under their own supervision and the Allied occupation would be progressive following demobilization in specified areas. The plan was designed to avoid possible incidents which might renew the conflict.

A small reconnaissance party landed at Atsugi Airfield, 20 miles southwest of Tokyo, on the morning of August 28th. The primary mission of this group was to determine the condition of the airfield and to establish operational facilities.

In what has been termed the most daring landing in history, General Eichelberger arrived in Japan with the first echelon of the 11th Airborne Division shortly after daybreak on August 30th. This small group of men were landing in a hostile country where they were outnumbered thousands to one by nearly 4,000,000 men still under arms in Japan. Other units of Eighth Army arrived in rapid succession. On September 2nd, the surrender terms were signed in an impressive ceremony on the **Missouri** in Tokyo Bay. Three days later the flag of the United States was raised over the American Embassy in Tokyo. It was then that General MacArthur gave the Eighth Army's Commander the memorable order :

EIGHTH ARMY



I CORPS

24 DIV



25 DIV



IX CORPS

I CAV



BCOF



General Eichelberger, have our country's flag unfurled and in Tokyo's sun let it wave in its full glory as a symbol of hope for the oppressed and as a harbinger of victory for the right.

By mid-October Eighth Army had completed its primary mission of occupying northern Honshu and Hokkaido. Smoothly, rapidly, and efficiently the troops of three corps, consisting of seven divisions and three regimental combat teams, took up their occupation posts in Japan. During this time General Eichelberger visited the men of his command impressing them with the thought that they were the representatives of the United States of America. Sixth Army, which had been assigned Southern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, completed its part of the occupation mission by the end of October. On January 1st, 1946, with the inactivation of the Sixth Army, Eighth Army took over the occupation of Japan with its 75,000,000 population. At peak strength, late in 1945, the two Armies had a total strength of nearly half a million men. Six months later there remained only one army with a strength well under 200,000. Nevertheless the occupation was running smoothly and quietly—a situation many had thought impossible at the beginning.

The most bitter war in Pacific history had left Japan prostrate. Small groups of dazed, weary-eyed Japanese stared silently and impassively at the first Americans to land. The drab ruins of Yokohama were almost deserted, particularly by the women who had fled to the country in terror of the invaders. At first the American veterans were wary—a few days before they had been waging a bloody war against these people—yet firmness to duty was combined with an admirable restraint from cruelty. They came not as arrogant conquerors in a defeated land but to uphold the traditions for which they fought. The natural friendliness of the GI and the cooperative attitude of the Japanese quickly overcame fears and prejudices. The lesson these soldiers taught has had a tremendous impact on Japanese thought. After a year of occupation, General MacArthur could say:



## THE ZONES OF RESPONSIBILITY

I wish to pay tribute to the magnificent conduct of the troops. With few exceptions they could be taken as a model for all time as a conquering army . . . Nothing has so tended to impress Japanese thought—not even the catastrophic fact of military defeat itself. They have for the first time seen the free man's way of life in actual operation and it has stunned them to new thoughts and new ideas.

Whereas bands of demobilized soldiers and underground organizations might have been expected to wage guerrilla warfare or offer resistance in other ways, neither of these potentialities developed. Occupational personnel travel casually and unarmed throughout Japan and mingle freely with a cooperative populace which almost universally shows great respect for, but little fear or resentment toward, the American. Arms have not been carried except when on duty since the first weeks of the occupation. The number of overt acts against occupational personnel have been so limited and so minor in nature as to be almost negligible.

The Japanese who had fearfully speculated concerning their fate as they first watched our troops from the shadows of their ruined cities now have new hope and faith in the future. With civil rights which heretofore they have never enjoyed, with the rebuilding of their cities, and with the restoring of their peacetime economy all eyes are hopefully turned toward the eventual peace.

Eighth Army had accomplished its initial mission—to bring in troops and occupy the strategic areas and governmental centers of Japan—but that was only part of the job. "Mercy teams" had been organized to expedite the release of the thousands of Allied prisoners in Japanese stockades. These teams arrived in Yokohama on August 30th along with the advance echelon of Eighth Army. They were aided by United States planes which swooped over the prison camps to drop food and supplies.



YOKOHAMA 1945



YOKOHAMA 1947

Allied prisoners were released and processed for evacuation at the rate of 1,000 a day so that the liberation of all prisoners in the camps in Honshu, Hokkaido, and Shikoku was accomplished in only 18 days. Eighth Army was weeks ahead of the most optimistic pre-occupation estimates and, in all, recovered and evacuated 23,985 persons!

Sixteen divisions and hundreds of smaller units participated in the occupation, but the majority were either inactivated or returned to the United States within the first few months. By the middle of 1946, except for various headquarters and service units, the only American forces remaining were the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions under I Corps and the 1st Cavalry and the 11th Airborne Divisions under IX Corps. I Corps occupied Kyushu, Shikoku, and most of the southern half of Honshu, IX Corps the northern half of Honshu, including the Tokyo area, and Hokkaido.

Non-tactical units in Japan under General Eichelberger's Command include the 138th AAA Group, Kobe Base, the 3rd Transportation Military Railway Service, the 2nd Transportation Major Port, the 4th Replacement Depot, the 49th General Hospital and eleven station hospitals, and more than 200 other units such as depots, school, signal units and military government teams.

The occupation took on a truly international aspect with the arrival of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces under Lieutenant General Northcott in the spring of 1946. This force is under the operational control of Eighth Army. One British Indian Division and two independent brigades—one from Australia and one from New Zealand—took up posts on southern Honshu. Units of these troops share honor guard responsibilities with picked American units in Tokyo.

The primary mission of Eighth Army, apart from the physical occupation of Japan, is to insure "that Japan comply with the terms agreed on in the instrument of surrender and contained in all direc-



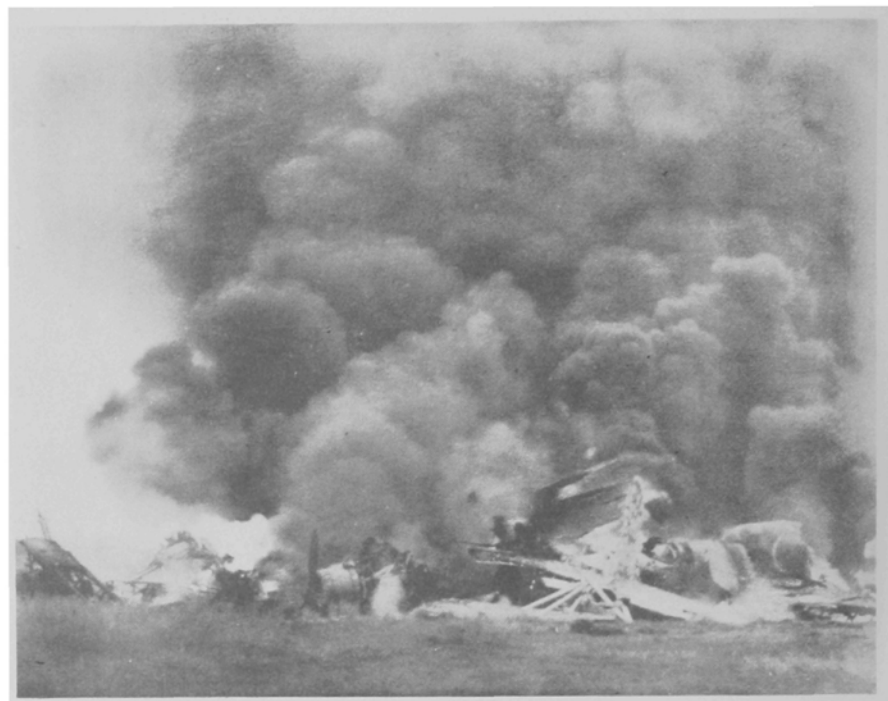
DOKO DES'KA ?

tives issued to the Japanese by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers."

Basic instructions for the conduct of the occupation were delivered to General MacArthur in the form of a document known as the "Initial Post-Surrender Policy for Japan." Though it was written at the close of a bitter and costly war, the document is remarkable for its lack of vindictiveness and its concern for the welfare of the common people of a nation which had so recently been a treacherous and unscrupulous foe. The policy was ruthless, however, in so far as it dictated that the militarist and the influence of militarism which led Japan into war be totally eliminated from her political, economic, and social life. Japan was to be completely disarmed and demilitarized and her war making potential destroyed in order "to insure that Japan will not again become a menace to the United States or the peace and security of the world." Our second objective was "to bring about the eventual establishment of a peaceful and responsible government" which would "conform as closely as may be to the principles of democratic self-government . . ."

Subsequent instructions, which have implemented rather than changed the general policies outlined above, are approved by an eleven-nation Far Eastern Commission and transmitted to General MacArthur who is responsible for putting them into practice. He is assisted by a four-power Allied Council an advisory body only, seated in Tokyo. The Japanese Government receives orders in the form of directives from General MacArthur, and Eighth Army is responsible for the enforcement of these directives throughout Japan.

The first of the objectives, that of demilitarizing Japan, was accomplished with startling speed. The Japanese War and Navy Ministries were converted into demobilization ministries which disarmed and demobilized more than 2,500,000 Japanese soldiers and 1,300,000 sailors, then in Japan, in less

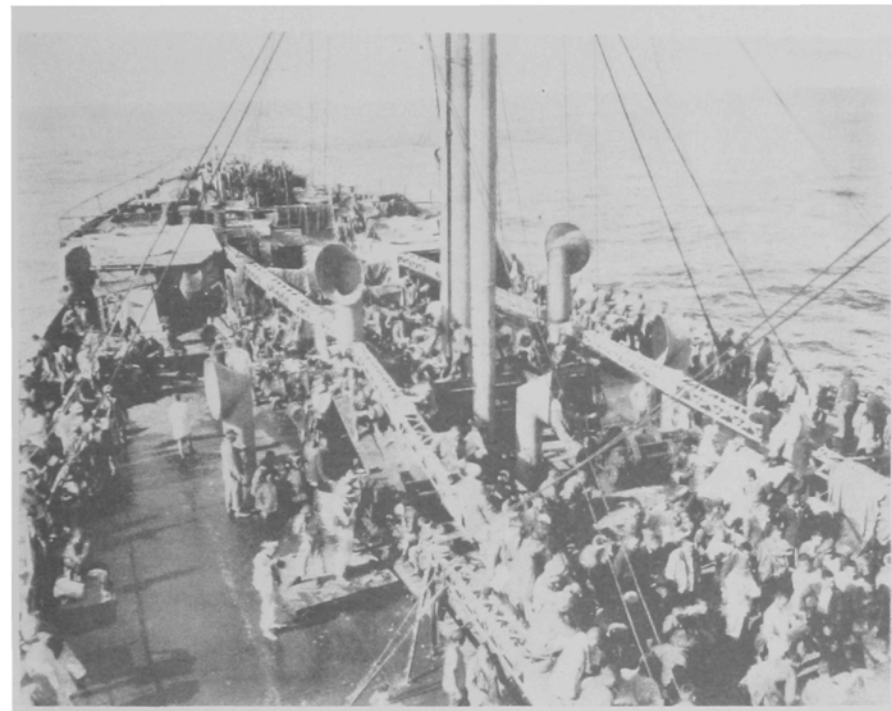


DESTRUCTION OF WAR MATERIEL

than four months. The occupational troops seized all military installations and huge amounts of munitions, arms, and other material. Military installations, except for those needed by the occupational forces, have been gradually returned to the Japanese—many a former airfield is now covered with growing crops. Army stockpiles of food and clothing were returned to the people for domestic use. Hundreds of tanks, thousands of airplanes, and millions of weapons were scrapped and their metals recast into implements of peaceful pursuits. Nearly one million tons of explosives have been destroyed by demolition, burning, or dumping at sea—a tricky and dangerous job accomplished by Eighth Army Ordnance experts. Underwater clearance teams have swept all important harbors. Small caches of unreported arms and munitions are still being discovered, but no organized plan to circumvent the directives has come to light.

In order to shatter Japan's war-making potential, Eighth Army, on orders from the Supreme Commander, has seized and held for reparations more than 900 industrial plants which had been used to manufacture the materials for Japan's war machine.

The end of the war found over 6,500,000 Japanese overseas, scattered from Manchuria to Singapore and throughout the islands of the Pacific. Nearly 1,165,000 non-Japanese Asiatics living in Japan wished to return to their native lands. Making use of both American and Japanese shipping, a repatriation program was instituted in the autumn of 1945. The responsibility for repatriation was placed on the Japanese Government under Eighth Army supervision. By mid-1947, Military Government repatriation officers could proudly announce that more than 5,500,000 persons had been returned to their homes, both to and from Japan, through nine repatriation centers. The slightly less than a million Japanese still remaining overseas were practically all in Russian-controlled areas from which



REPATRIATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS



DEMobilIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

repatriation was slowly taking place through the three centers still in operation.

In December 1945, the Eighth Army tribunals began the arduous task of bringing Japanese war criminals to trial. 175 cases involving 368 defendants were completed in the first 20 months. Ten commissions worked steadily to bring speedy justice to the more than 500 suspects still awaiting trial. The responsibility for the conduct of these trials, except for the prosecution, rests with Eighth Army which must try all such cases save those of the top-ranking suspects held before the International Tribunal in Tokyo. Penalties given by the courts have been severe, but both the Japanese and the world press have attested to the fairness and justice with which the trials have been conducted.

War criminal suspects and those already convicted, numbering well over one thousand Japanese, are held by Eighth Army in Sugamo Prison, a modern penitentiary on the outskirts of Tokyo. This institution has received much praise, both for the efficiency with which it is operated and for the humane yet strict treatment accorded the prisoners.

The secret police, Japan's Gestapo, was dissolved. The treacherous Black Dragon Society and other ultra-nationalistic organizations were outlawed. Military exercises were prohibited in schools and text books revised to eliminate militaristic teaching. The Shinto religion, which had been twisted to support the militaristic clique and to glorify Japan's "divine destiny," was denied state support and its influence eliminated from the schools.

The Zaibatsu, giant family monopolies, had lowered the living standards of the majority of the Japanese people and stifled free economy. These corporations have been broken up and their holdings turned over to a government agency for resale to the public. Anti-monopolistic legislation has been written into the law books.