

Guide to the Microfilm Edition

RG-20: PAPERS OF GENERAL ARTHUR MACARTHUR 1845-1912

*Filmed from the holdings of the
MacArthur Memorial Archives
Norfolk, Virginia*

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Biographical Essay—Douglas MacArthur

Douglas MacArthur was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on January 26, 1880, to Captain (later Lieutenant General) Arthur MacArthur and Mary Pinkney Hardy MacArthur of Norfolk, Virginia. Douglas was the youngest of three sons. The eldest, Arthur, went to the U.S. Naval Academy and died in 1923, a captain in the Navy; Malcolm died in childhood in 1883 and is buried in Norfolk.

Douglas and his family lived on various military posts from New Mexico to Fort Leavenworth to Washington, DC. In 1899 he was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating first in his class from West Point, where he held the highest rank in the Corps of Cadets, MacArthur was commissioned second lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, on June 11, 1903. (For a complete list of MacArthur's military promotions see page vi.) Ironically, his first duty assignment was to the Philippines, where only recently his father had served as military governor. Filipino insurrectionists provided Douglas with his first experience in military violence.

Until 1914, MacArthur served in Army engineering positions in the United States and abroad. The single exception was the one year that he spent as aide to his father (1905-06) on an extensive tour of the Far East, including Japan and recent battlefields of the Russo-Japanese War. Douglas also played a notable role in the 1914 military expedition to Vera Cruz, Mexico. Returning to Washington, he served on the General Staff until joining the 42d Infantry Division in 1917.

Responsible for much of the organization and training of the 42d Division, MacArthur was credited with naming it the Rainbow Division because it was made up of National Guard units from all over the United States. He served as divisional Chief of Staff; commander of the 84th Infantry Brigade; and, briefly, as division commander. His activities with the division in France and Germany earned him two Distinguished Service Crosses, a Distinguished Service Medal, and six Silver Stars, not to mention two wound stripes (later honored by Purple Heart Medals) and promotion to brigadier general in the National Army.

After returning to the States in 1919, MacArthur became superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy. From 1922 to 1930 he served two tours of duty in the Philippines, as well as in various cities in the United States. In 1928 he led the U.S. Olympic team to Amsterdam. Also, during the 1920s, MacArthur was married to and divorced from Louise Cromwell Brooks.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover appointed Douglas MacArthur Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. President Franklin D. Roosevelt retained him in this post until the fall of 1935, when MacArthur returned to the Philippines as military advisor to the newly established Philippine Commonwealth. MacArthur's principal task was to organize and train a Philippine army. Although he retired from the U.S. Army at the end of 1937, General MacArthur remained military advisor to the Philippine Commonwealth and was named field marshal of its army.

Meanwhile, in April 1937, the General married Tennessee-born Jean Faircloth. Arthur MacArthur IV, the couple's only child, was born in Manila on February 21, 1938.

Due to the spread of the war in Europe and the accelerating Japanese expansion in the Far East, the U.S. Army Forces, Far East were created, and President Roosevelt recalled General MacArthur to active duty to command these forces. The president also

directed that the Philippine army be called up to serve with U.S. troops. Mobilization, planning, organization, training, re-equipping, and supplying his command occupied the General's attention until December 8, 1941. Although built up considerably prior to the outbreak of war, especially in their air strength, the U.S.-Philippine units were no match for the combined naval-air-ground assault by the Japanese. Having fallen back on the Bataan Peninsula and the fortress islands blocking Manila Bay, most notably Corregidor Island, the Americans and Filipinos, under General MacArthur, brought the Japanese to a standstill.

Since no significant reinforcement could reach Bataan and Corregidor—and the disease-ravaged, ammunition-short Filipinos and Americans could not be expected to hold out much longer—on February 23, 1942, President Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to leave the Philippines and to proceed to Australia. The General, his family, and a nucleus staff left Corregidor in a torpedo boat for Mindanao; from there they flew to Australia. For his dogged, brave defense of the Philippines, MacArthur was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, almost eighty years after his father had won the medal for his bravery on Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga.

From April 1942 to October 1944, General MacArthur trained, organized, planned, and led his Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) Command through New Guinea, New Britain, the Bismarcks, and Morotai to an enormously successful landing in Leyte in the central Philippines. In January 1945 he landed with his forces at Lingayen Gulf and marched on Manila and Bataan.

With the surrender of the Japanese on the USS *Missouri* on September 2, 1945, General MacArthur assumed his authority as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP). Unlike historical occupation commanders, MacArthur took a benevolent approach toward the Japanese and personally oversaw the rebuilding and democratization of Japan. An early equitable peace treaty with Japan was a major goal. A new constitution, a radical departure from Japan's prewar constitution, was readied in months. New laws resulted in the first universal suffrage election in early 1946. And, even today, the reforms in land holding are still in effect. Trade and manufacture were fostered, education and local government reforms were instituted, and freedom of the press and the right to form and belong to trade unions were established.

In June 1950, with the North Korean invasion of the Republic of Korea, General MacArthur was directed to assist the South Koreans with his resources, including ground forces. Named commander in chief, United Nations Command, in July, MacArthur directed the naval, air, and ground forces of the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations in stopping and turning back the Communist invaders. On September 15, 1950, the General personally directed U.N. forces in a daring amphibious attack at Inchön. This assault on the North Korean rear so neutralized the Communist positions in South Korea that U.N. forces were able to move quickly into North Korea and to the Manchurian border.

Although some Chinese Communists had been located in North Korea as early as late October, it was not until almost the end of November that massed Chinese "volunteers" openly intervened in the Korean War. MacArthur retained control of sea and air, but the massive Chinese ground forces could not be held back by the United Nations. A withdrawal commenced that gave up all of North Korea and a portion of the Republic

of Korea. By late March 1951, U.N. troops again pushed across the 38th parallel north of Seoul, South Korea's capital.

On April 11, 1951, President Truman, because of policy differences with General MacArthur, relieved him of his commands. MacArthur returned to the United States to a hero's welcome. In a famous speech, he addressed a joint session of Congress, outlining his views concerning world conditions. Although the General never again held a military command, he remained in public view until his death. He toured the United States after his congressional address, appeared before a congressional investigative committee, and gave the keynote address to the 1952 Republican National Convention. He became chairman of the board of Remington-Rand (later Sperry-Rand). In 1961 he took a sentimental tour of the Philippines and in 1962 gave his final address to the cadets at West Point. From 1962 to 1964 he wrote and published his *Reminiscences*.

On April 5, 1964, Douglas MacArthur died at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. After lying in state in New York and Washington, the General was interred in the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.

MacArthur's Military Promotions

Second Lieutenant (Corps of Engineers)	July 11, 2003
First Lieutenant	April 23, 1904
Captain	February 27, 1911
Major	December 11, 1915
Colonel (National Army)	August 5, 1917
Brigadier General (National Army)	June 26, 1918
Brigadier General (Regular Army)	January 20, 1920
Major General (Regular Army)	January 17, 1925
General (temporary)	November 21, 1930
Major General	October 1, 1935
Lieutenant General (temporary)	July 27, 1941
General (temporary)	December 18, 1941
General of the Army	December 18, 1944

Introduction to the Collection

Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur (1845-1912), father of Douglas MacArthur, was a hero of the American Civil War, Spanish American War, and the Philippine Insurrection. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions on Missionary Ridge during the Battle of Chattanooga in November 1863. Known as the “boy colonel” of the 24th Wisconsin Volunteers, he was a teenager for most of the Civil War. Following the war, he served on the frontier for nearly twenty years in desolate army posts. His efficiency was legendary and, upon the start of the Spanish American War, he was chosen as a commander of Volunteer Forces. He was also commander of the 8th Army Corps in the Philippines during the Spanish American War and subsequent Philippine Insurrection. He served as Military Governor of the Philippines from 1900 to 1901 and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general in 1909.

Most of the papers and memorabilia of Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur were destroyed in the penthouse of the Manila Hotel during the Battle of Manila in 1945. This collection is a creation of the MacArthur Memorial Archives and Library, which has sought to acquire all materials about Douglas MacArthur’s father. Much of the collection contains fragile newspaper and magazine clippings from the turn of the century. Some correspondence, reports, and other pertinent materials are also included, as well as Arthur MacArthur’s 1900 letterbook.

**RG-20: PAPERS OF
GENERAL ARTHUR MACARTHUR
1845-1912**

Reel 934

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
934	1		Documents (photocopies of documents in Box 2)
	2	1	Original documents from Army and Navy Journal
		2	Original documents from various newspaper clippings, 1898-1912
	3	1	1899 biography of Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur
		2	Report of Major General E. S. Otis, U.S. Volunteers, on Military Operations and Civil Affairs in the Philippines, 1899
		3	"Information on Chicopee, Massachusetts: Birthplace of Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur" by T. M. Szetela
		4	Orders assigning Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur to Military Governor of the Philippines
		5	Documents on Arthur MacArthur's career during the Civil War
		6	"Report on the Death of Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur" by Bason N. Timmons of the Milwaukee Sentinel, September 6, 1912
		7	Copy of the marriage license of Arthur MacArthur and Mary Pinkney Hardy MacArthur
		8	"The Battle of the Block-Houses: The War with the Insurgents at Manila" by Percy G. McDonnell, 1899
		9	General correspondence of Arthur MacArthur, 1864-1912
		10	Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur's testimony before the U.S. Senate concerning the Philippines, 1903[?]
		11	Action taken against Arthur MacArthur by Asceola Social Club, San Francisco, California, October 1906
		12	Copy of Arthur MacArthur's last will and testament (written at Headquarters of the Department of Texas)
		13	<i>Review of Review, "White Man and Brown Man in the Philippines," December 1899 (date, writer, and exact name of magazine are unknown)</i>
		14	Article on Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur's old headquarters (date and title of newspaper or magazine are unknown)
		15	<i>Army and Navy Journal, 1898-1903</i>
		16	Newspaper reports on Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1902
		17	Newspaper reports on Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1902
		18	Newspaper reports on Emilio Aquinaldo (leader of Philippine Forces during the Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1902)

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
934 contd.		19	<i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , "How the Boy Won: General MacArthur's First Victory" by Major J. A. Watrous, USA, February 24, 1900
		20	General correspondence concerning attempts by MacArthur Memorial staff to locate and acquire papers of Arthur MacArthur
	4	1-5	Original documents of duplicate materials located in Box 3, Folders 15-18