

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MEMORANDUM

Date 10 October 1962

To: General Taylor

Subject: Biographical Sketch

Attached is a draft copy of your biographical sketch. It has been brought up to date - see page 3. The foreign decorations on pages 4 and 5 have been corrected by your aide, as directed.

Request approval of draft so that it can be forwarded to DOD Public Affairs for reproduction.

T. C. Mataxis
T. C. MATAXIS

APPROVED *mm*

SEE ME _____

GENERAL MAXWELL DAVENPORT TAYLOR, USA

Maxwell D. Taylor was born in Keytesville, Missouri, August 26, 1901. He attended Northeast High School and Kansas City Junior College, Missouri, was graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, No. 4 in the class of 1922, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

He was first assigned to Fort Humphreys, Virginia, where he was a student officer in the Engineer School. Upon completion of this course in March 1923, he was transferred to the 17th Engineers at Camp Meade, Maryland. In May 1923, he went to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, for duty with the 3rd Engineers. During his tour in Hawaii, he was, for a time, Aide to Major General William R. Smith, Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department and of Schofield Barracks in July 1925.

In June 1926, he returned to the United States and was stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington, with the 6th Engineers. He transferred to the Field Artillery in July 1926, and served with the 10th Field Artillery until June 1927, when he sailed for Paris, France, to study the French language in preparation for service at the United States Military Academy.

Returning to the United States the following September, he was ordered to the US Military Academy at West Point, New York, as an instructor of French and subsequently was Assistant Professor of Spanish. In August 1932, he entered the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In August 1933, he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to attend the Command and General Staff School.

Upon his graduation from the two-year course in June 1935, he sailed for Japan and the following November was stationed with the American Embassy [at] Tokyo as a student of the Japanese language. In September 1937, he was detached for duty at Peking, China, as Assistant Military Attache, and in December of that same year returned to this post in Tokyo.

In June 1939, he sailed for the United States to enter the Army War College, Washington, D. C. At the completion of this course, in June 1940, he went on a special mission to nine Latin American countries in connection with Hemisphere defense.

In December 1940, he assumed command of the 12th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In July 1941, he returned to Washington, D. C., for duty in the Office of the Secretary of the General Staff, where he remained until July 1942, when he was transferred to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, as Chief of Staff of the 82nd Infantry Division. In this capacity, he personally assisted in the development of the first Airborne Divisions of the Army, becoming Artillery Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division on December 4, 1942.

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He went overseas with his division in March 1943 and took part in the Sicilian and Italian Campaigns. In "Crusade in Europe", General Eisenhower records General Taylor's mission to Rome on September 7, 1943, when he was sent by British PT boat and Italian corvette through enemy lines, to Rome 24 hours ahead of the planned airborne operation and scheduled invasion of Italy, to confer with leading Italian authorities in order to inform the Allied commander whether or not an air drop on the airfields about Rome should be attempted in view of possible violent German reaction. General Eisenhower wrote on page 184: "The risks he (General Taylor) ran were greater than I asked any other agent or emissary to undertake during the war--he carried weighty responsibilities and discharged them with unerring judgment, and every minute was in imminent danger of discovery and death." During the Italian Campaign, he was initially the senior US member of the Allied Control Commission in contact with the Italian Government. A year later, in March 1944, he became Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division, the airborne invasion of Holland on September 17, 1944, and the campaigns of the Ardennes and Central Europe.

In September 1945, he returned to the United States for duty as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In January 1949, he was assigned to European Command headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany, as Chief of Staff, and the following September became the first US Commander, Berlin. He was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3, in the Department of the Army, February 13, 1951.

On August 1, 1951, he became Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Administration of the Army. He was appointed to succeed General James A. Van Fleet as Commanding General Eighth US Army in Korea, and assumed command on February 11, 1953.

Under him, the Eighth Army engaged in some of the bitterest fighting of the Korean War, and when the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, United Nations troops stood well above the 38th parallel. Following the armistice he instituted a vigorous training program for all troops under his command including the Republic of Korea Army.

Four historic post-armistice operations were carried out during his Korean service: LITTLE SWITCH in April 1953, a prisoner exchange in which 684 sick and wounded were returned to the UN; BIG SWITCH in August-September 1953, a POW exchange that returned 12,773 UN troops; OPERATION COMEBACK, the repatriation in January 1954 of 21,797 Chinese and North Koreans who renounced Communism; and OPERATION GLORY, the exchange in September 1954, of 4,176 UN and 13,543 Chinese Communist and North Korean bodies of personnel killed in combat.

Under his supervision, the Republic of Korea Army was built into a 20-division force, and plans were laid for a ROKA reserve force of 10 divisions. The First ROK Field Army and the Second ROK Army (Zone of the Interior) were activated, together with the III, V and VI ROK Corps and the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th ROK Divisions.

In November 1953, he initiated the Armed Forces Assistance to Korea program, under which the Armed Forces in Korea extended material assistance to the Korean people in rebuilding their nation. Army supplies totaling \$20,000,000 supported the program which became, second only to combat readiness, a major mission of Eighth Army. By the time he left Korea, more than 1200 separate projects were completed and another 750 begun.

To improve the welfare of own troops, in December 1953, he initiated a large-scale educational program to give all non-commissioned officers at least an eighth grade education and all other soldiers at least a fourth grade education. By November 1954, nearly 18,000 had raised their educational level to minimum standards.

Effective November 20, 1954, he was placed in command of all ground forces in Japan, Okinawa, and Korea when he took command of the combined staffs of the United States Army Forces, Far East, and Eighth United States Army, with headquarters at Camp Zama, Japan.

Effective April 1, 1955, he was named Commander-in-Chief of both the Far East Command and the United Nations Command.

On June 30, 1955, he was sworn in as Chief of Staff, United States Army.

On 1 July 1959, he retired as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

In September 1959, he became Chairman of the Board, Mexican Light and Power Company, Melchor Ocampo #171, Mexico 17, D.F.

In January 1961, he became President of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19, New York.

On 1 July 1961, General Taylor was appointed Military Representative of the President, Office, Secretary of Defense, Washington, D. C.

President Kennedy nominated General Taylor as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was confirmed by the Senate on the 9th of August and was sworn in as Chairman on October 1, 1962.

He and his wife, the former Miss Lydia Happer of El Paso, Texas, and Washington, D.C., have two sons, John and Thomas.

DECORATIONS

In July 1944, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during airborne operations in France.

In May 1945, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for leading his 101st Airborne Division in a successful counter-attack in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium. He won an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal for service as Commanding General, Eighth United States Army in Korea. Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal was awarded for service as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

He was awarded the Silver Star in September 1943, for entering Rome in advance of the armistice to contact the Badoglio Government "with complete disregard of the imminent danger involved and without thought of personal safety." He won an Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star during the airborne invasion of Holland.

Other United States decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

UNITED STATES SERVICE AWARDS

World War I Victory Medal
American Defense Service Medal (with "Foreign Service" clasp)
American Campaign Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Arrowhead, one Silver Service Star, and one Bronze Service Star
World War II Victory Medal
Army of Occupation Medal (with "Germany" clasp)
National Defense Service Medal
Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars

FOREIGN DECORATIONS (Acceptance Approved)

British Honorary Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath
(Military Division)
British Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Military Division)
British Distinguished Service Order
French Legion of Honor, grade of Commander
French Croix de Guerre with Palm
Belgian Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold
Belgian Order of the Crown with Palm, Grand Officer
Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm
Mexican Order of Military Merit, First Class
Netherlands Militaire Willems-Orde, IV Class
Military Order of Italy, degree of Commander
Italian Order to the Merit of the Italian Republic, degree of Grand Officer
Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of Chief Commander
Colombian Order of Boyaca, Grand Officer
Korean Taeguk Distinguished Military Service Medal with Gold Star (First and Second Awards)
Greek Higher Commanders' Cross of Our Order of George the First
Thai Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand, First Class
Ethiopian Cordon of Trinity Medal with the Plaque

SERVICE MEDALS OTHER THAN UNITED STATES

United Nations Service Medal

PERSONNEL BADGES

Parachutist Badge

UNIT AWARDS (United States)

Distinguished Unit Emblem with one Oak-Leaf Cluster

UNIT AWARDS (Foreign)

Belgian Fourragere 1940

Netherlands Orange Lanyard

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge

FOREIGN DECORATIONS (Acceptance Not approved. Being Held in Department of State Pending Congressional Approval.)

Brazilian Order of Military Merit, degree of Grand Officer

Peruvian Military Order of Ayacucho, grade of Grand Officer

Chinese Cloud and Banner Medal with Grand Cordon

Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, First Class

Guatemalan Cross of Military Merit, First Class

Korean Order of Service Merit, First Class

Spanish Grand Cross of the Order of Military Merit |

The following honorary degrees have been conferred upon General Taylor: Doctor of Engineering, New York University, 1946; Doctor of Laws, Bowdoin College, 1948; Doctor of Laws, University of Missouri, 1951; Doctor of Laws, Williams College, 1952; Doctor of Laws, Pennsylvania Military College, 1956; Doctor of Laws, Trinity College, 1956; Doctor of Laws, Yale University, 1956; and Doctor of Military Science, 6 June 1959; Doctor of Laws, Phillips University, Lafayette College, Seoul National University; the Citadel, 1959 (21 Jan); University of Pittsburgh, 1962 (11 June).

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PROMOTIONS

On July 7, 1926, he transferred to Field Artillery, and on February 2, 1927, was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant; to captain on August 1, 1935; to major on July 1, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on December 24, 1941; to colonel (temporary) on February 1, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) on December 4, 1942; to major general (temporary) on May 31, 1944; to lieutenant general (temporary) on August 1, 1951, with date of rank from July 29, 1951; to major general (permanent) on August 3, 1951; to General (temporary) June 23, 1953.

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