



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER
AND PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY
PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, CA 93944-5006

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

March 24, 1998

Office of the Garrison Commander

Dr. James McNaughton
ATZP-MH
Presidio of Monterey, CA 93944-5006

Dear Dr. James McNaughton:

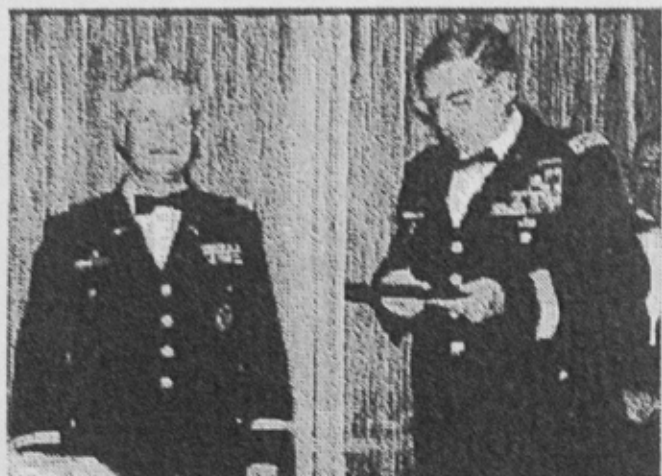
On behalf of the Presidio of Monterey Garrison, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your support of the General Stilwell Community Center Dedication Ceremony. As a result of your efforts, the event was very successful. We could not have accomplished the mission without your assistance. It is my hope that the General Stilwell Community Center will be an integral part of the Presidio of Monterey for a very long time.

Again, I would like to thank you for the time and effort spent on behalf of the Presidio community. Your support enables us to provide the best service possible to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. F. Gross", is written over a horizontal line.

David F. Gross
Colonel, U.S. Army
Garrison Commander



Page 5



Page 7



Page 9



Page 14

GLOBE

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—CONTENTS—

Command News

Commander's Notes

AUSA Sixth Region holds annual conference

4

5

Language Learning

Iranians celebrate No Rooz

Music: Universal language reflects our culture

7

8

Features

Family, military leaders hold dedication ceremony for community center

Federal Women's Program Committee honors award winners

Saturday Scholars: Education, opportunity, advancement

DLI memories: Russian graduate revisits Presidio after 26-year absence

9

13

14

16

Sports

Sixth Region, AUSA chapter sponsors golf tournament

18

Presidio Pulse

What improvements have you noticed at the dining facilities?

20

Dean's List, Graduations

Dean's Honor Roll

Graduations

21

22

About the cover:

Gen. William Hartzog, the commanding general, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Presidio of Monterey during the Association of the United States Army Sixth Region annual conference March 13-15 in Monterey. The general also assisted in the official dedication of the General Stilwell Community Center, the former Fort Ord NCO Club, March 14. For more on the events, see stories and photos, pages 5, 9 and 18. (Photo by Bob Britton)

Commander's Notes

Dedication of Stilwell Community Center honors outstanding military commander

When I spoke at the dedication of the Stilwell Community Center in March, I paid homage to one of our country's most able and energetic military commanders, and an outstanding Army trainer, Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell.

History has accorded Gen. Stilwell his rightful place among the military leaders of World War II, crediting him for his straightforward and realistic assessments of the military situation within the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations which he commanded.

General Stilwell was a soldier's soldier who shouldered the weight of responsibility for the troops he commanded. He was also a soldier-scholar, whose assessment of America's role in Asia holds up remarkably well in retrospect. His successes in training soldiers are well documented.

Historians such as Barbara Tuchman, in her widely read biography, "Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-1945," published in 1971, note that General Stilwell first glimpsed China and Japan as a young officer in 1911 after serving in the Philippines. He was to return to the Philippines and then to the United States, where as a lieutenant he was stationed at the Presidio of Monterey with an element of the 12th Infantry Regiment in 1912-13.

It was during this assignment that he formed his life-long attachment to the Monterey Peninsula, which later led to his decision to build a home for his family in Carmel.

General Stilwell's interest in China led to his assignment there as a military attaché starting in 1920, soon after he had been promoted to the rank of major. It was the type of assignment that today might well be filled by a Foreign Area Officer trained in Chinese at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. In those pre-DLIFLC times, the Army enrolled Stilwell in a university program in Chinese (which Stilwell reportedly found inadequate and frustrating, because there was no provision for practicing



**Col. Daniel Devlin
Commandant of DLIFLC,
Commander of DLIFLC and the Presidio of Monterey**

Chinese conversation outside the classroom).

In China, Stilwell proved to be an apt student of Chinese history and culture as well as language. Careers such as Gen. Stilwell's proved to the American military establishment the value of training officers and soldiers in foreign languages and area studies.

General Stilwell died in 1946, the year the Army Language School, the forerunner of DLIFLC, was moved to the Presidio of Monterey. At the time of his death, General Stilwell was commander of the Sixth Army, headquartered at the Presidio of San Francisco. He did not live to fulfill his dreams of leisurely retirement at his home in Carmel and he did not witness DLIFLC's coming of age. He is very much with us in spirit and I think of him as an important role model for our Institute, as a soldier-scholar, foreign area specialist, leader and trainer.



Family, military leaders hold dedication ceremony for General Stilwell Community Center March 14

Story and photos by Bob Britton

The spirit of Gen. Joe "Uncle Joe" Stilwell watches over the former Fort Ord. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's grandson and the Training and Doctrine Command's commanding general officially dedicated the General Stilwell Community Center, the former Fort Ord NCO Club, during a March 14 ceremony.

Guest speakers included Col. Daniel Devlin, the DLIFLC commandant and DLIFLC and Presidio of Monterey commander; retired Col. John Easterbrook, Gen. Stilwell's grandson; and Gen. William Hartzog, the TRADOC commander since 1994.

"It is my honor to pay respect to General Joe Stilwell — one of the makers of our modern Army," said Hartzog. "As is true of many of the generals of that era, General Stilwell had a wide-ranging career. He spent long years waiting promotions in a very thin, very spread out, very com-

mitted Army. The end result was a seasoned, well educated and well trained officer.

"Joe Stilwell played a major role in the development of this community," Hartzog continued. "As commander of the 7th Infantry Division, and later commander of III Corps, he oversaw the construction of much of Fort Ord. Known for his candor and his moral courage, Joe Stilwell was a 'soldier's soldier' — deeply committed to his people, his Army, his nation. I have to think he would approve of this dedication today. We are fortunate his grandchildren could attend today's ceremony."

Hartzog also mentioned that Stilwell's legacy and experience live on at Fort Ord, the Presidio and the Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Ga. Both Hartzog and Stilwell were infantry officers and leaders throughout much of their careers.

Easterbrook described his grandfather as a man of many talents: an athlete, a poet, lecturer, fluent linguist, military tactician, and a "soldier's soldier."

"General Stilwell visited the Monterey area the first time in 1904 and returned to the Presidio of Monterey in 1912 with the 12th Infantry Regiment when it returned from duty in the Philip-



Members of the DLIFLC Joint Service Color Guard march between rows of people who attended the dedication ceremony. The color guard opened and closed the ceremony.



Gen. William Hartzog, commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

pines," Easterbrook said. "In 1920 he bought five lots on Carmel Point for his future home. General Stilwell was happiest commanding Fort Ord and the 7th Infantry Division and always wanted to return to his Carmel Point home. While in command at Fort Ord, he habitually walked all over the hills and dunes of the post to observe training, and many times he walked half the 12 miles from his Carmel home to Fort Ord. Soldiers at Fort Ord

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

gave him two nicknames: 'Galloping Joe,' for his walking ability and 'Uncle Joe,' for his unique leadership style and interaction with those under his command."

After the general died, a member of the 7th Division Artillery battery during those formative years published a story which typified Stilwell's style of caring for soldiers, mentioned Easterbrook.

"This artilleryman related that one day Stilwell was out observing training, attired in his usual unassuming way," said Easterbrook. "He came upon a noon meal being served by this artillery battery and observed soldiers were only taking coffee, bread and butter, but leaving the meat and vegetables untouched. The

men chuckled as this unidentified 'old soldier' entered the mess line, took something of everything and sat down to sample it. A few grumbles were heard coming from this 'old soldier,' and very shortly, he got up and deposited what he had taken in a garbage can. Then in pop-eyed amazement, he took note that the officers were having lunch in a roped off area with benches and tables, complete with tablecloths and a variety of canned goods to include a large ham.

"He then made a beeline for the officers' area, eliciting even more attention and astonishment from the soldiers," continued Easterbrook. "They knew this 'old seldier' was bucking for a court martial! As the troops stared in open-mouthed awe, unbelievably all the battery officers came to attention and saluted this 'old

soldier.' They heard him say, 'Gentlemen, will you accompany me?' and they all went into the woods together. At this point the kitchen police passed around the word that this 'old soldier' was none other than the division commander.

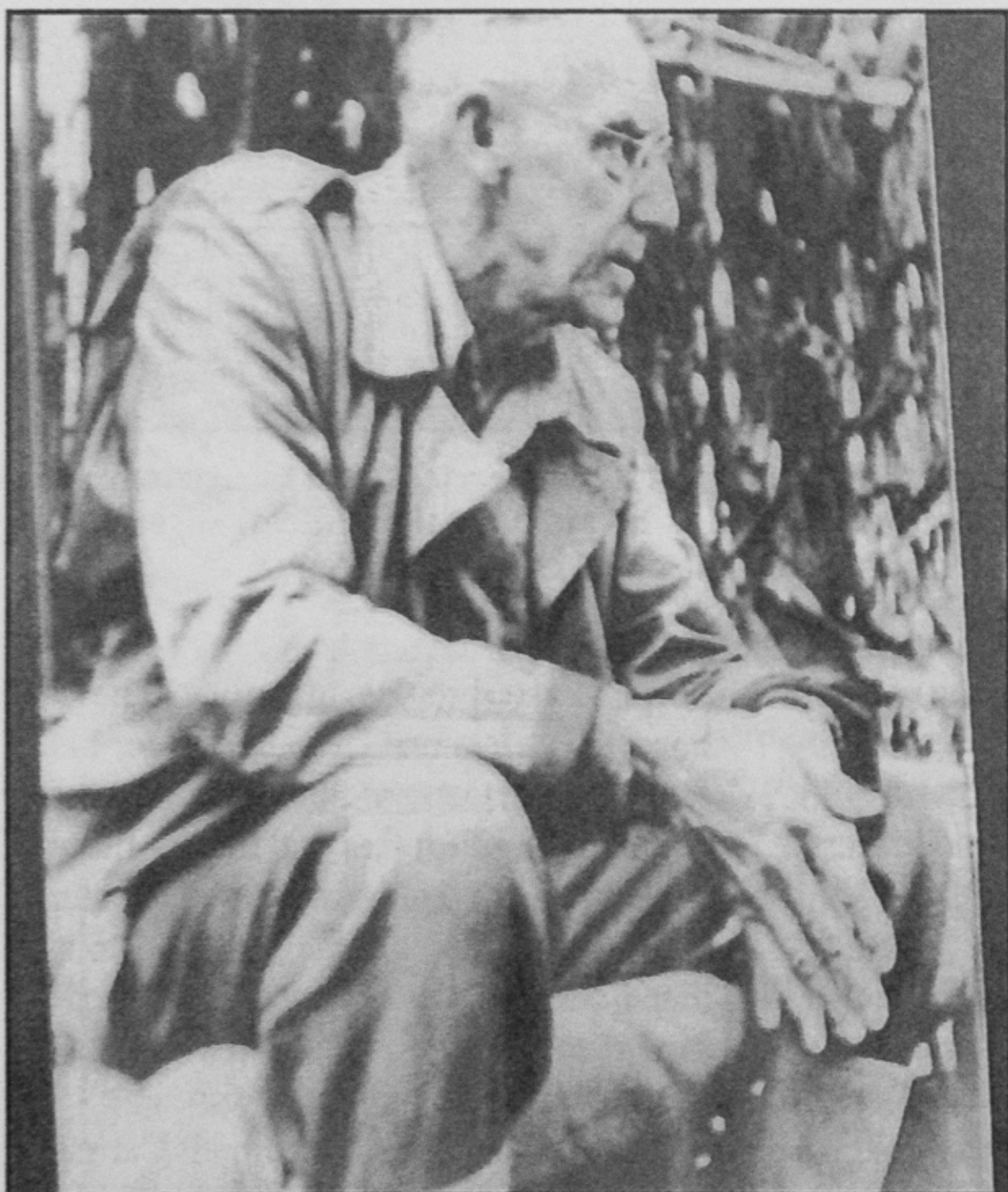
"When all the officers returned, the food from the officers' area was put in the mess line for the troops, and the next day a new mess sergeant and staff of cooks appeared," continued Easterbrook. "The author reports officers immediately became more human, and the climax of the incident was that in one week the battery developed into a close knit, fiercely proud unit that performed extremely well throughout the war."

Much construction work took place in 1940 to build up Fort Ord when Stilwell became the commanding general of Fort Ord and the reactivated 7th Infantry Division. He also noticed officers had clubs and other recreational facilities, but the soldiers had none. That's when he came up with the idea of soldiers' recreational facilities, including clubs, overlooking the Monterey Bay along the beach range area. The Soldiers Club, dubbed the "million-dollar club" was the finest enlisted club for its time in the Army. It was completed and opened in September 1943. During its construction, soldiers stationed at Fort Ord contributed 25 cents, noncommissioned officers paid 50 cents, and officers chipped in with \$1 per month, mentioned Easterbrook.

The Soldiers Club at Fort Ord later became an NCO Club, a recreational center and the Stilwell Hall community center, which closed down in 1994 with the closure of Fort Ord. Originally, Stilwell envisioned separate soldiers, NCO and officers clubs in the area, along with a chapel and outdoor athletic fields. However, only the Soldiers Club was built because the Army stopped funding the complex project, and money was diverted elsewhere during World War II.

Retired Master Sgt. Edwin Larson remembers Stilwell from a personal view. While Stilwell commanded the reactivated Sixth Army at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1946, Larson was on duty at the station dispensary when he was detailed to be Stilwell's medical orderly and enlisted escort for medical tests at Letterman Army Hospital. He served as Stilwell's medical orderly until the general died in October 1946.

"It was a wonderful dedication ceremony to General Stilwell," Larson said. "Three of us here today served with him either during the war years or afterward. I was surprised when Colonel Easterbrook mentioned my name in his speech. I didn't



Photos, such as the one above, showing the general's Army career hang as a pictorial tribute in the memorial hall of the community center.

expect it.”

Stilwell's name is no stranger to the Army on the Monterey Peninsula. It is memorialized and appears all around the former Fort Ord and on the Presidio of Monterey. The Presidio has a Stilwell Road, while the former Fort Ord features Stilwell Hall, the Joseph W. Stilwell Elementary School, Stilwell housing area and now the General Stilwell Community Center.

Months before the ceremony started, Laura Gross, the wife of Col. David Gross, the garrison commander, and Kevin Moore, director of Army Community Service and the dedication ceremony coordinator, came up with the idea for the formal dedication and pictorial display. They contacted the Stilwell family and historical sources for possible photos. The family and other sources responded with several pictures about the general's family and Army career, including several front page photos on World War II-era magazines such as "Life," "Time," "The Saturday Review" and "Colliers." Then, about two weeks before the event, Mrs. Gross created the lasting pictorial tribute to the general in the memorial hall of the building. Pictures cover his West Point cadet days, different promotions, meeting world leaders and other general officers, and personal glimpses of his family.

Master Sgt. David Bartlett, garrison sergeant major, likewise made significant contributions to coordinating the logistical requirements of the ceremony.

After the dedication, Easterbrook mentioned some personal and family anecdotes about his grandfather. He said Stilwell was an outstanding cadet athlete



Winifred Cox, one of Gen. Stilwell's daughters, and her husband, retired Col. W. Ellis Cox, listen to speakers during the dedication ceremony.

at West Point, who quarterbacked the football team, captained the cross country team, and started the basketball program there. "Once in a track meet against two Ivy League opponents, the Army team scored 18 points, and my grandfather scored 16 of them," Easterbrook said.

After West Point graduation in 1904, 2nd Lt. Stilwell was stationed in the Philippines for his first duty assignment with the 12th Infantry Regiment. While on a jungle patrol with his unit, his company commander asked him to check the rear of the column for stragglers. At the rear of the column, Stilwell who was also leading

a prisoner, came upon the unit first sergeant, who had fallen down from heat exhaustion. Before the column could be stopped, it disappeared into the dense jungle. The future general and the prisoner carried the first sergeant, trying to follow and catch up with the column, all the time expecting to be ambushed and killed by the insurgents. They finally caught up with the rest of the company in a bivouac area that evening, mentioned Easterbrook.

"When they joined up with the unit, the company commander said 'Oh, there you are,' without asking about what happened to them," Easterbrook said. "My grandfather remembered that non-caring commander for the rest of his Army career. From that experience, he learned to always look out for and take care of his soldiers first."

After Stilwell became commanding general of the Army Ground Forces in World War II, he personally presented a Distinguished Service Cross to Mary Masuda, the sister of a Japanese-American soldier. Her brother was cited for his heroism in Europe as a soldier with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Easterbrook mentioned.

"Mary Matsuda had recently returned from the Gila Relocation Camp, and some neighbors had made disparaging remarks about Japanese-Americans," said Easterbrook. "My grandfather heard about them and said that Japanese-Americans had endured much hardship and racism during World War II, and they were Americans. Then he said he was a charter member of the 'pick ax club,' pledged to come to the aid of any Japanese-American not fully accepted in our

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

society as an American.”

Stilwell's career before World War I took him back to West Point as a military instructor and twice to the Philippines. In World War I, he served as a staff intelligence officer with the 80th Division detached to the French XVII Corps near Verdun. In a similar capacity, he was the intelligence officer for the American IV Corps who helped plan the St. Mihiel offensive. Between the wars, he spent several years in China as a language student and later military attaché to China and Siam, which is today's Thailand. Stilwell also headed the tactical section of the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga.

The general received his second star in 1941 and went from Fort Ord and the 7th Infantry Division to command of the III Corps stationed at the Presidio of Monterey. In this new job, he was responsible for defense of most of the West Coast. Next, President Roosevelt selected him to assist the Chinese Army against the Japanese. He later became the commander of the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. He and his combined Allied forces rebuilt the Burma Road for a logistical lifeline into China. His final assignment was commanding general of the recently reactivated Sixth Army before he died at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1946.

Grandson Easterbrook graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1962 and retired as a colonel in 1984. He earned his master's degree in Operations Research/Systems Analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School. Assignments included Brazil, Thailand and Vietnam overseas and forts Carson, Colo.; Riley, Kan.; Gordon, Ga.; and Monmouth, N.J. in the United States. He also worked in the Pentagon in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development. Easterbrook is a graduate of the Com-

mand and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.

After his Army retirement, Easterbrook joined a large communications corporation in Burlingame, Calif. Today he is the director of the Installation, Operations and Maintenance Division of the corporation's Fiber Optics Network west of the Mississippi River.

Hartzog, a native of Wilmington, N.C., graduated from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in 1963 as an infantry second lieutenant, and he holds a master's degree from Appalachian State University, N.C. He graduated from the basic and advanced Infantry Officers Courses, the U.S. Marine Corps Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Hartzog spent most of his career in infantry assignments, including two combat tours in Vietnam, and was the J-3 for the U.S. Southern Command in Panama during Operation Just Cause. He commanded the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan., U.S. Army South in Panama, the 197th Infantry Brigade and was assistant commandant of the Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

The Defense Language Institute



Army members review photos of the general and his family on the walls of the the memorial hall of the newly dedicated General Stilwell Community Center.

Foreign Language Center Joint Service Color Guard opened and closed the ceremony, while Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Angela Larson, an Arabic student, sang the National Anthem. Dr. James McNaughton, the DLIFLC command historian narrated the event. Some of the attendees included Winifred Cox, one of Gen. Stilwell's daughters; other family members, including great grandchildren; members of the Fort Ord military community; and representatives from the People's Republic of China Embassy.



BIOGRAPHY

GENERAL JOSEPH W. STILWELL

General Stilwell was born March 19, 1883, in Palatka, Florida. He spent most of his early years in Yonkers, New York, and entered the United States Military Academy in the summer of 1900. Distinguishing himself as a linguist and athlete at West Point, Stilwell was commissioned a lieutenant in the Army in 1904, and experienced early combat assignments in the Philippines and during World War I. During World War I he was assigned as a liaison officer to the French XVII Corps and later as Intelligence Officer for the US IV Corps planning the St. Mihiel offensive. Following the War he became the Army's first Chinese language student.

In the 1920's and 1930's he served nine years in China as a language student, in the US 15th Infantry, and as our attaché to China and Siam, gaining intimate knowledge of the Chinese people and actively observing and reporting on the Sino-Japanese War. In the mid-1930's he served under then COL George C. Marshall as a tactics instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia; it was here that he received his "Vinegar Joe" nickname for correctly imprinting a lesson on a young officer in training who tried to bluff his way through an exercise that in combat would have cost lives.

In the fateful years just prior to World War II, he successively held commands at the brigade level at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, at the division level with the 7th Division at Fort Ord (he activated the Division, constructed the cantonment area, filled the Division with new draftees, and in less than a year brought it to a high state of readiness through intensive training), and at the corps level with III Corps at the Presidio of Monterey. It was during these assignments that he displayed his brilliance as a tactician and commander, earning him recognition as the Army's most capable field commander.

Very shortly after the United States entered the War, General George C. Marshall called Stilwell to Washington to plan and command the first US offensive action of World War II, the invasion of North Africa. However, concurrently the need arose to keep China in the War to tie down hundreds of thousands of Japanese troops. With his China background, Stilwell was personally selected by Secretary of War Stimson and President Roosevelt to be the senior officer to go to China to accomplish that feat. Despite his desires for combat command of US troops in the first major engagement of the War, and the certainty of the China assignment being to one of the backwaters of the War, ripe with international politics and no command of US troops, he accepted with a simple "I'll go where I'm needed."

Stilwell's command of the China-Burma-India Theater, while a geographical command on the same level as the commands of Eisenhower and MacArthur, was a more complicated one due to the lower priority of the Theater for supplies and personnel and the greater need to balance political and military activities. Both the British and the Chinese were more content to let the Americans fight the Japanese in the Pacific than to actively pursue the fighting themselves. Chiang Kai-shek, in particular, was only interested in hoarding the US Lend Lease supplies for later use during the inevitable civil war, putting him directly at odds with Stilwell who wanted to use the supplies to prosecute the War. While outwardly giving Stilwell command of some Chinese troops, he continually issued countermanding directives and actively created roadblocks. General Marshall acknowledged he had given Stilwell the toughest assignment of any theater commander.

Arriving in Burma just in time to experience the collapse of the Allied defense of that country, and thus cutting China off from all land and sea supply routes, his courageous Walkout from Burma and his bluntly honest assessment of the situation captured the imagination of the American public, badly in need of candor and an American hero at that stage of the War. Recognizing the fact that US troops would not be forthcoming and

convinced that the Chinese soldier, given the proper care and leadership, was the equal of any, he established a training center for two divisions of Chinese troops in India. In late 1943, he launched a campaign with these Chinese troops to recapture northern Burma. Hampered by lack of support from our Allies, who thought he was attempting the impossible, inordinate attention from the US administration, arguments over division of Lend Lease supplies and strategy from his own subordinates who went behind his back to present their views, and meddling from Chiang Kai-shek, he nevertheless defeated the Japanese in northern Burma, shortening the air "Hump" supply route and eventually reopening the Burma Road (later renamed the Stilwell Road) as a land supply route. At the height of his success, he was recalled from the Theater by President Roosevelt. As Barbara Tuchman relates, he was sacrificed purely as a political expedience. He returned to the US in October, 1944, at times literally under armed guard because an election was close at hand and it was not desired to have him speak out about the China situation. Yet despite prompting by the news media he never complained or groused about his treatment or the China situation, recognizing the greater need of his country in a time of crisis. He later served as Commander of Army Ground Forces, Tenth Army Commander in the closing battle for Okinawa, and as Sixth Army Commander, dying on October 12, 1946, of cancer at the Presidio of San Francisco while still on active duty. Among his military decorations are the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit degree of Commander, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Throughout his life General Stilwell displayed quintessential American character traits, and his life was never tainted by scandal or questionable morals. Above all was his sense of integrity; he was an absolutely honest and straight forward man, highly respected by all who came in contact with him for this trait. Close behind was the fact that he was a decisive man of action with extraordinary drive, persistence, and energy whether it was directing the fighting with his front line leadership style or trying to resolve the insoluble division of scarce Lend Lease supplies. Concurrently he had a keen insight into what was right and stuck by his positions. Of his disagreements with Chiang Kai-shek and his recall from China he wrote: "The trouble was largely one of posture. I tried to stand on my feet instead of my knees. I did not think the knee position was a suitable one for Americans."

He was a man of candor; he did not mince words, coming directly to the point in a no nonsense manner. As with all great leaders, he had a surplus of personal courage; whether it was in the Philippines, during the Sino-Japanese War, on the Walkout from Burma, or during his frequent front line visits in Burma, he was always moving towards the action to imprint his inspirational leadership on all those around him.

General Stilwell was known throughout the Army as the true Soldiers' General, for his personal style of leadership, his belief in the worth of the individual, and for his concern for the welfare of the soldier; his soldiers nicknamed him "Uncle Joe," certainly a more suitable nickname than the "Vinegar Joe" he essentially gave himself. He was a modest man, never seeking the trappings of office, never putting himself in the limelight, and often making himself the butt of his own jokes. His trademarks were an old campaign hat, GI shoes, and no insignia of rank...he didn't need anything else for he led by example and inspiration and was admired for doing so.

Yet no matter the difficulties, no matter the obstacles, he never wavered in his absolute dedication to his country, always kept the mission in the forefront, and always accomplished it in a superb manner. He wrote: "If a man can say he did not let his country down, and if he can live with himself, there is nothing more he can reasonably ask for."

REASONS GENERAL STILWELL SHOULD BE MEMORIALIZED

General Stilwell was a contributor both to the Monterey Peninsula/Fort Ord/Presidio of Monterey and to our country. His first trip to the Peninsula was in 1904 just after he graduated from West Point; on his way to his first assignment in the Philippines he traveled to the area while waiting for his transport ship to sail from San Francisco. His first extended stay in the area was in 1912 when he returned from a second tour in the Philippines with the 12th Infantry Regiment to the Presidio of Monterey, occupying quarters there for about a year. He and his wife were so taken with the Carmel area that they purchased property on Carmel Point in 1920, and later constructed their family home there in 1933/34.

In 1940, then Brigadier General Stilwell was assigned to command the 7th Division at Fort Ord. He activated the Division there that year and at the same time oversaw the construction of the main cantonment area. Over the next year the Division filled with new recruits and Stilwell actively pushed the training agenda to rapidly bring the units to a high state of readiness. It was during this period that he developed a reputation for being a "Soldier's General" with his constant attention for the well being of the individual soldier (see newspaper article at Tab C for a flavor) and his reputation for showing up to observe training and chat with the soldiers at any time and at any place. His concern for the soldier was perhaps best manifested in his personal push to construct the Soldiers' Club on the cliffs overlooking Monterey Bay. This Club was the first ever facility of its kind in the Army and was built without funds appropriated by the US Army, but from donations over several years (the Club was completed during WWII after Stilwell had left the Division). (Excerpts from Barbara Tuchman's Stilwell and the American Experience in China at Tab D describe his activities during this period in more detail.)

General Stilwell departed the 7th Division in the summer of 1941, with his famous farewell address to the assembled Division which included his observation on his promotion that "...the higher up a monkey climbs, the more you can see of his back side." His next assignment was commanding III Corps at the Presidio of Monterey, where, several months later and following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he was tasked with defending the entire California coast during those panic stricken days.

As outlined in the Biography section of this nomination, General Stilwell is well known for both his unique character traits as well as his contributions to our country. He has the distinction of having his name well recognized both in military circles as well as in the civilian community on the Monterey Peninsula. His military contributions to the former Fort Ord and the Army are unique and most deserving of memorialization of his name by naming the current Army facilities at that location for him.