

# BRILLIANT CAREER OF GENERAL PERSHING IS UNPARALLELED IN U.S.

Honored Guest of City Spent Life in Military Service in All Campaigns His Country Embarked on Since He Left West Point



Pershing's Arrival in New York.

## General Pershing's Best Portrait.

GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING, who is to be the honored guest of Portland today, had a long and brilliant military career even before he went to France as commander of the American expeditionary forces and helped to organize the allied army that gave the final, crushing defeat to German arms, resulting in the signing of the armistice of November 11, 1918.

The record is that he made good wherever assigned since the earliest days of his remarkable career as a soldier, after the accidental reading in a newspaper, a notice of an examination to be held for entrance to West Point. This he took and, having passed, became an active, aggressive fighter virtually the next day.

General Pershing was born in Linn county, Mo., September 12, 1859, and until he chanced to read the newspaper story which changed the entire course of his life, had been studying to be a school teacher. He had been preparing himself for that line of work at the normal school in Kirksville, Mo. He continued in training until he had passed with the degree of A. B., after which he went to West Point. At the age of 25, he was graduated from there and as a second lieutenant, was assigned to an expedition commanded by General Nelson A. Miles, fighting Apache Indians, led by Chief Geronimo. This was in 1886.

**Pershing Fought Indians.**  
The young lieutenant learned, during that expedition, a great deal concerning actual warfare that stood him in excellent stead ever afterward. It made him quick in decision, accurate and daring and fitted him for the command of scouts who later were sent into the Dakotas to fight the Sioux, who had gone on the warpath and were doing much damage. At that time, he was attached to the sixth cavalry.

His next assignment was to the University of Nebraska, where he was instructor of military science, in 1889, later occupying the same post at West Point, from which place he was transferred to General Shafter's command in Cuba in 1898. While at Nebraska university, he won a promotion to first lieutenant and was given an L. L. B. degree. In the Cuban campaign, for which he volunteered, he served as a major, but upon his return to the United States reverted to his rank of first lieutenant.

**Distinction Won in Philippines.**  
Disturbances in the Philippine Islands, finally bringing American intervention, served to bring about in General Pershing's life a chapter that was to bring him into great prominence and which was to cause such a commotion in regular army circles as had never been recorded. He was sent as a captain in 1901 to the far-away islands and served with such distinction that five years later, Theodore Roosevelt, then president, promoted him to be a brigadier-general, thus boosting him over the heads of numerous officers and shaking the foundations of the army organization.

Serving with General Bates in the Philippines, General Pershing was adjutant-general and organized and conducted the first expedition to the Sulu archipelago. He also subdued the Moros and, in all, put in eight years in the islands.

While he was still a captain, he was ordered to Washington and served at the direction of President Roosevelt as a member of the army general staff. It was regular he was in Washington, 1903, that he met and later married Miss Frances Warren, daughter of United States Senator Warren of Wyoming.

From Washington he was sent to



Pershing During the Mexican Campaign.

the American embassy in Japan as military attaché and observer with General Kuroki's army in Manchuria, in the Russo-Japanese war.

In the Philippines, General Pershing served as commander of the department of Mindanao and was governor of the Moros.

Upon his return to the United States, General Pershing was given command of the eighth brigade at San Francisco. It was in 1915 that conditions on the Mexican border became so troublesome that the administration decided to take precautionary measures by sending troops to keep order and General Pershing was selected for this task.

While engaged in work on the border, General Pershing received orders to head an expedition into northern Mexico for the purpose of running down the bandit, Villa, who was then and since has been causing untold trouble there by raids, culminating with the deaths of several Americans and bringing about a virtual state of war with this country.

Hardly had General Pershing completed this work, when it was decided to dispatch American troops to France to participate in the war against Germany. Promotion to a major-generalship came to Pershing, who was then chosen to command the American expeditionary forces in Europe.

**Black Jack Sails for Europe.**  
In the early part of June, 1917, General Pershing sailed for Europe and was acclaimed everywhere he went as the representative of a people whose sons should eventually add the weight that was to end the war and strike German arms to the dust.

Later he was elevated to the rank of a full general. As commander of all the American forces in Europe, he is credited with having displayed not only the qualities of a fighter, but also demonstrated great ability along diplomatic and organization lines.

In those long, dark days, when the world waited anxiously for developments in the greatest of all military struggles, it heard little of what the man who had been sent overseas to command our forces was actually doing. That he was receiving great attention and was giving encouragement to the allies, was allowed to filter through the lines, but practically nothing was publicly known of his work in those times when civilization hung in the balance.

But when peace came—when the German war lords cried out for an armistice on that fateful November



General Pershing and Major General William H. Johnston, the Day Before Meuse Argonne Battle.

day—and it later became permissible to give to the world the facts of American accomplishment in Europe, it was found that General Pershing, immediately upon arrival in France, had determined upon a policy of preparation such as this country had never known—on a scale so huge as to stagger the mind—all in making ready to strike, or help to strike, the blow that would shatter the German military machine and render it impotent for further destruction.

General Pershing, with the assistance of the best men available for



General Pershing in France.



Pershing and Joffre

the fullest admiration of peace-loving humanity.

In the accompanying layout of photographs there is one which shows General Pershing conferring with Major-General William H. Johnston, commanding the 51st division, at the divisional headquarters in the Hesse forest, September 25, 1918, the day before the American first army "went over the top" in the Meuse-Argonne battle.

The photograph was taken at Cote 290 in the Hesse forest, about three-fifths of a mile from the German front line trenches on Yauquois hill, and under direct fire of German ar-

tillery. It shows that General Pershing visited the front line as a matter of instruction and encouragement just before the attack began. This point, Cote 290, as well as the surrounding area, was heavily shelled by Germans every night and morning for several days, the bombardment being especially heavy the day of General Pershing's visit.

The photograph was furnished by Major A. B. Richeson, of the 51st division, whose battalion was bivouacked in the Hesse forest a few hundred yards from Cote 290.

General Pershing remained in



Pershing on His Favorite Mount.



The Pershing Smile

Europe completing the work in which this country had engaged. He was a great figure in the monster celebration in Paris, following the signing of peace, on July 14, when the victorious armies of France marched through the streets, signaling the greatest achievements in modern warfare, and also in London at a later date, when the British celebrated the coming of peace.

Royal Welcome Extended.  
Sailing from Brest September 2, 1918, and landing in New York September 8, he was later lionized in what was probably the greatest parade New York has ever witnessed, sharing honors with the crack troops known as "Pershing's own," and others in the line of march.

Upon General Pershing numerous medals have been bestowed, as follows:

Victory medal, which he wears in common with all American soldiers; distinguished service medal; Star of the Legion of Honor, Belgian Order of Leopold; Italian Cross of the Order of St. Maurice and Lazarus; English Star of the Bath (Knight Commander); Legion of Honor; Grand Collar of the Third Republic; Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath; Medal of Commemoration of the Napoleonic Installation of the Legion of Honor; Cross of the Legion of Honor; Medal of Commemoration of Founding of the Legion of Honor; campaign badges representing Indian wars, war with Spain, the Philippine insurrection, the Cuban occupation and Mexican occupation.