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Stilwell Takes 'Hat Off' to G.I.; Silent on China

General at Interview Says Men Accept Discipline Better, Understand Issues

CARMEL, Calif., Nov. 16 (AP).—General Joseph W. Stilwell, recently relieved of his duties in the China-Burma-India area, refused to discuss his removal today, but was unstinting in his praise of the American soldier in his first press interview since his return. "My hat's off to this generation; I'm for them," he told more than fifty newspaper men and photographers yesterday in an interview released by his aide for publication today.

"The Army must have done an excellent job of training," he said. "The soldiers are more amenable to discipline, and I think the war picture was better presented to them. There might have been a little better preparation in years previous to the war, but the stuff is good."

General Stilwell said the Japanese are good soldiers by virtue of military training from a tender age, "but I think the way we do it is a damned sight better."

The general refused to discuss China or his removal from that area, where he was chief of staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, other than to say: "The newsmen in China are doing a wonderful job and are giving people an accurate picture of what is going on."

To oblique questions leading to the situation in China, the general repeatedly answered: "I can't answer that. It will lead back to a discussion of the Chinese situation, and I just can't say anything."

For three hours, General Stilwell, known throughout the Army as "Vinegar Joe," talked informally with the reporters, posed with his wife for the cameras, and joined his guests in a buffet luncheon.

He doffed his ribbonless dress uniform and donned an old, black sweater, sun-tan slacks and his G.I. shoes for a run on the beach with Gerry, his giant Schnauser dog, while cameras clicked.

He explained his lack of ribbons: "I only have two ribbons that mean anything (the Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished Service Medal) and I

Stilwell Back Home With His Giant Schnauser



Associated Press wirephoto
Attired in an old black sweater, slacks and his G. I. shoes, the former head of the China-Burma-India theater prepares at his home in Carmel, Calif., to go for a run with his dog, Gerry

should be left to the guys who take it day and night and get shot up."

Evidence of impatience at his enforced rest while waiting for reassignment came out in this remark: "This being at home waiting is very tough on Mrs. Stilwell, tougher even than when I was overseas." He refused to comment on where his next assignment might take him.

Asked how he rated about the house, the veteran leader of tough jungle warfare said: "Right after the dog, I have no illusions."

He declared he was "raising hell with those trees around here," pointing to trees and hedges about the quarter-acre estate.

However, Henry Spardel, the Stilwell gardener, declared: "He is a tough guy, climbs around on that hedge over there like a monkey. But he is not much help in the garden."

Plane Hit, Crew Carried On

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP).—The gallantry of a Liberator's crew

prisoners of war—in riding their hard-hit heavy bomber through furious opposition over Austria last May 24 has earned them the Silver Star award. The War Department announced today the unusual group honor for the men who kept formation and dropped their bombs on the target despite gunfire which smashed the hydraulic system and badly crippled their ship. Staff Sergeant Harold E. Brown, of Terry Place, Canandaigua, N. Y., was killed manning his gun.

Submarine Tang Cited

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP).—Award of a Presidential unit citation to the submarine Tang was announced today by the Navy. It is in recognition of the rescue of twenty-two naval aviators from treacherous reefs within close range of enemy shore batteries and the sinking of thousands of tons of enemy shipping during three patrols.

Back the attack and aid the invasion. . . . Buy more war bonds.

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