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LIEUT-GENERAL J.W. STILLWELL

Lieut-General Joseph W. Stilwell, United States military representative in China and commander of the Chinese forces in Burma, is trebly qualified in a quite exceptional measure for the key position which he now holds. He has seen 15 years military service in the Far East; he is fluent in several Chinese dialects; he believes in infantry as still the "queen of battles" and has made the study of that arm and its employment under modern conditions the central interest of his career. The last point is important for, above all, the Chinese soldier is an infantryman and the Chinese army is an infantry army.

Born in March 1883, Joseph Stilwell passed out of West Point Military Academy at the age of 21 and at once went overseas to join the 12th Infantry in the Philippines. He quickly made such a reputation as a keen and scientific soldier that he was recalled in 1906 to become an instructor at the Military Academy, where he remained for four years.

Since those days his life has been divided between training American infantry for battle and himself to command them, studying the Chinese language and Chinese conditions and serving in China, and fighting on the western front during the last war.

His war service brought General Stilwell great credit; with the British 58th Division, the French 17th Corps, the American 2nd and 4th Corps and at United States General Headquarters he earned golden opinions, especially by the energy and enterprise he showed in securing every possible scrap of information about enemy activities. For his part in the chief attacks made by the American army, against the St. Mihiel salient and later in the Meuse, he was awarded the United States Distinguished Service Medal. The official citation commended him for "securing invaluable information which assisted in a marked degree in the planning of the operations" and added "He contributed by the excellent performance of his task to the success of these operations". These have always been the characteristics of his work, ingenuity, exactitude and persistence.

In peace time General Stilwell passed through the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and for two periods was an instructor at Fort Benning. When the present war broke out he had just been appointed to command the 3rd Infantry Brigade in Texas. In the immense labour of building up an army of millions he has had a distinguished share, rising in the process first to the leadership of the 7th Division and then to that of the 3rd Corps. Today, thanks to General Stilwell and other devoted officers, the new American soldier is rapidly mastering the new methods.

Even more relevant to the problems of the moment is General Stilwell's Far Eastern experience. During two early periods of service in the Philippines and three later and longer periods in Peking and Tientsin, where he studied Chinese, commanded troops and practised diplomacy, he applied a keen, critical, soldierly intelligence to the life around him, learning to understand the Chinese military mind as few Western officers have done and winning the confidence and affection of the Chinese leaders. He himself has long held his Oriental friends in warm and high regard. Typical of his generous admiration was his recent remark to an interviewer: "Don't bother about me. Write about the Chinese. They are the story of the war."

WAR OFFICE

Note to Art Editors: Picture No. OCM 1048 available from BIPPA.