

Q: After Pick's appointment, then you decided to retire. Did General MacArthur try to convince you to stay on?

A: No. He did try to convince me on one thing. Just prior to our departure, he had Mrs. Casey and me over to luncheon. Just about that same time I received a cable from the Indian government making a very, very fine offer for me to head up their Damodar Valley Project. It was very similar in size and scope to our TVA program—construction of dams for power and irrigation and so on. They offered me a very fine retainer, living quarters and staff, car, pension, and so on. They wanted me to proceed at their expense down to India for a conference on it.

But here we were, all packed up. Our household goods were on the transport. We were getting ready to leave the next day. He said, 'Pat, go down there and talk to them. You can't lose anything.' Then he said, 'Though you won't get on the transport, I'll send you on the *Bataan* (his plane) over to Hawaii and you can catch the transport there. You have nothing to lose.' But I'd been out in the Pacific for 11 years, so I felt that it was time to get back to US terra firma and see my family. My mother was ailing; so I declined and did not go.

Shortly after my return I was sent over as the American delegate to the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses [PIANC] to their session in Portugal. As representative there, I attended those sessions and then made a tour through North Africa and Europe, observing various engineer activities there prior to my return to the States for duty as division engineer of the Ohio River Division. It was not what I thought then was the ideal appointment, but I was ready to accept it and proceeded there.

I was there only a short time when I received several enticing offers for outside employment, so I decided to retire from the service and get into civilian activity.

Observations on Douglas MacArthur

Q: When you were in Japan during the early postwar years in the occupation, you got to see at first hand the impact of General MacArthur on the people

in government. How significant was his personal role in reshaping Japan and Japanese society?

A: I think it was material. You have to visualize that here is the head of a conquering army that has just conquered Japan's military forces. We had stopped the movement of Japan into China and Korea and their Far East expansion program. Here was General MacArthur over their emperor. Their emperor, keep in mind, was not just the Pope, not just the bishop of England, but in their minds he descended from the deity and yet, here he had a mortal, an enemy mortal, placed over him directing his government.

The situation was extremely difficult. But in a very short time MacArthur was recognized as a great friend and, I'd say, a savior of Japan. They were prepared for a conquering army possibly to go in the way the Japanese did in Nanking in China where there had been rape, looting, and whatnot. But our forces went in relatively disciplined. We did not requisition food from the people, but instead brought supplies in, medical supplies and food to assist them. We worked on major reconstruction programs for Japan which were very helpful to them. We brought in critical supplies and so on to assist them.

You must keep in mind, too, that Japan was half women and half men, let's say. And here MacArthur put through a program whereby a woman, instead of being a chattel walking behind the husband, attained equality and even the right to vote. So that raised the level of womanhood, affecting half the population in Japan. And the women did not resent that.

Japan also had a large agricultural population, with many very small farms. A little plot of an acre, an acre-and-a-half, or two acres was considered a farm, instead of hundreds or thousands of acres as we had. But those little agricultural properties were largely operated by families who had been operating them maybe for some generations, but owned by others. They had to pay relatively high rentals on their holdings. Well, we put through a program whereby these small landholders could acquire ownership, with title to these lands, under a controlled purchase program. This large group of small Japanese farmers did not resent that, and I think felt very favorable toward General MacArthur for it.

Also, in the large labor force in Japan, striking was impossible. They did not have the type of labor organizations that we have. And I think to put a

similar handicap on industry in Japan, we authorized the organization of labor unions and in fact encouraged them. And the vast ranks of labor appreciated that.

So when you win the support of women, agriculture, and labor, you've got the support of the great majority of the people. I think MacArthur's conduct of the occupation was a sample of his outstanding statesmanship. He commanded great respect.

Q: Do you have any additional comments to make about General MacArthur as you knew him and served under him?

A: Many of the general public sort of regard General MacArthur as one who had certain personal vanities and that he held himself above the rest of the crowd. It is true that he had certain little personal frailties. For instance, Ike Eisenhower was bald. Ike recognized it and went around bald. General MacArthur, realizing that the hair on either side grows long even while you're bald on top, would have his hair parted way over on one side and then sweep it across his bald pate. At his age, of course, it would have been normally gray, and I'm sure he had it dyed.

He was also very, very careful to assume a commanding pose under all situations. He had a wonderfully fine and masterful knowledge of the English language, and in using sometimes the precisely accurate though unusual word to describe something, people seeing or hearing these words of unusual usage sensed that he was talking above them rather than actually expressing in accurate words whatever the thought [or] action commanded.

But these were relatively tiny, petty, or personal frailties. He did have an outstanding intellect, a wonderful brain. He could react almost instinctively to any given situation. It was just as though his brain were a computer. A thought would come; it would go through in a matter of seconds-the same processes that are performed on a fast computer. He could analyze issues very, very quickly.

He also had a marvelous memory. He could read a telegram of several paragraphs and put it down. With his photographic mind, he apparently had a photographic imprint of that particular communication, and he'd walk up and down, discuss it by word and paragraph.

I think the way he conducted his campaigns in the Pacific is a great tribute to him as a military leader. When you compare the casualties of the various operations in which our forces were involved, as contrasted to the casualties in the Central Pacific and in Europe and the way they conducted the long and costly campaign up through Italy, as compared to the outstanding victory we attained in Korea by reason of the Inchon landing, cutting off all the North Korean forces and causing their withdrawal at no sacrifice of life as compared to the heavy losses we would have sustained if we had just tried to pursue and push them back up that peninsula. All of these are measures of what a real leader he was, both as a military leader in war and an outstanding statesman in his conduct of the occupation in Japan.

Q: I don't think I have any more questions for you. If you want to make any additional comments, I'll leave it up to you.

A: I think that's probably enough. If and when you have this done and you want any corrections or any other information, there may be more opportunity at that time. Thank you.

