

GENERAL COURTNEY HICKS HODGES

Dedication

General Courtney Hicks Hodges

ARMORY



**DETACHMENT 1, COMPANY B
 1st BATTALION, 121st INFANTRY
 GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
 PERRY, GEORGIA**

AUGUST 2, 1980

TOUR OF ARMY AND REPRESENTATIVE

Ill Douglas Bradley, Jr.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

From a Senate Speech by Senator Strom Thurmond, March 9, 1961

A veterans' organization to which I belong is celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy in which their unit took first place. I am proud to have been a member of this organization—the famous 1st U.S. Army of World War II. Too long the exploits of this great Army, the most powerful military machine our country has ever forged, and of its quiet, reserved, but eminently able and successful commander, Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, have gone unheralded. My purpose now is to remind you of some of the accomplishments of this tremendous military machine, and perhaps, in part, to make up for the lack of recognition—due, in large part, to modesty—which has characterized its past.

Even the shoulder insignia of the 1st Army was modest, a simple black, block letter "A." There has been so little shouting from the housetop about it that I seriously doubt if very many people in the United States, except the military historians, know that this Army, at times during its dash from the beaches of France to the Elbe River in Germany, had under its command more divisions than have ever been under the immediate command of a single army commander before or since. For instance, shortly before the breakthrough at St. Lô there were 18 divisions assigned or attached to the 1st Army. Few, if any, know that there were more tanks in this 1st Army than in any other army in World War II, and that these tanks were employed equally as well as those of any other army.

The 1st Army was the first army in Europe in more than name. The 1st Army was the first to arrive on the beaches of Normandy; it was the first to break out of Normandy; it was the first to get to Paris; it was the first to arrive in Germany; it was the first to cross the Rhine; and it was the first to meet up with the Russians.

STROM THURMOND,
U.S. Senator, South Carolina.

NOTE.—With Maj. Eberhard P. Deutsch, of New Orleans, and Capt. John J. Knecht, of Philadelphia, Senator Thurmond went into France by combat air with the parachute and glider troops of the 82d Airborne Division.

GENERAL COURTNEY HICKS HODGES
1887 - 1966

DISTINGUISHED SOLDIER - DISTINGUISHED GEORGIAN
DISTINGUISHED GUARDSMAN

General Hodges was born in Perry, Georgia, on January 5, 1887. He was graduated from Perry Public School in June 1903 and attended North Georgia College in Dahlonega for one year before attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, for one year. He left the Military Academy and spent three months back in Perry before enlisting in the Army as a Private in 1905. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1909 after successfully completing a competitive examination.

He served with the 17th Infantry at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, until 1911 when he was assigned to the Phillipines. From 1915-1917 he was a member of the 6th Infantry on the Punitive Expedition into Mexico under the command of General Pershing. He then saw combat in Europe during World War I and then served with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

In September 1938 he was promoted to Brigadier General and was assigned as Commandant of the Infantry School at Fort Benning. He was Chief of Infantry in Washington from 1940-42. In 1944 he became the first soldier in the history of the Army to have risen from private to four-star General. He then assumed command of First US Army. He was on the Battleship Missouri at the time of the formal Japanese Surrender. He retired from the Army in 1949 after more than 44 years of Service.

His service to country was best described by General Omar Bradley in his memoirs when he wrote, "No other leader and no other armed forces unit in World War II is entitled to greater credit than that which belongs to the quiet, modest General Courtney H. Hodges and his First Army.

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



















PROGRAM


SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1980 at 11 a.m.









- MUSICAL SELECTIONS . . . 530th Air Force Band
Georgia Air National Guard,
Commanded by
Lt. Col. Gordon R. Moore
- THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. . . 530th Air Force Band
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
2LT Douglas Brantley, Jr.
Commander, Detachment 1,
Company B, 1st Battalion,
121st Infantry
- INVOCATION The Reverend Thomas H. Johnson,
Pastor
Perry United Methodist Church
- WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS. LTC Billy M. Phillips, Commander,
1st Battalion, 121st Infantry,
and The Honorable Larry Walker (D),
Representative, 115th District
- WELCOME TO PERRY The Honorable Barbara Calhoun,
Mayor of Perry
- WELCOME TO HOUSTON COUNTY
The Honorable Charles Carter,
Chairman
Houston County Commission
- INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR NUNN
Representative Larry Walker
- ADDRESS & DEDICATION . . Senator Sam Nunn
- UNVEILING OF PLAQUE AND RESPONSE FROM GENERAL HODGES'
FAMILY Mr. Thomas D. Mason, Jr.
- BENEDICTION The Reverend J. B. Smith,
Associate Pastor
Perry United Methodist Church
- TOUR OF ARMORY AND REFRESHMENTS
2LT Douglas Brantley, Jr.

I am the Guard

 **C**ivilian in Peace, Soldier in War . . . of security and honor, for three centuries I have been the custodian, I am the Guard. 

I was with Washington in the dim forests, fought the wily warrior, and watched the dark night bow to the morning.  At Concord's bridge, I fired the fateful shot heard 'round the world.  I bled on Bunker Hill.  My footprints marked the snows at Valley Forge.  I pulled a muffled oar on the barge that bridged the icy Delaware.  I stood with Washington on the sun-drenched heights of Yorktown.  I saw the sword surrendered . . . I am the Guard.  I pulled the trigger that loosed the long rifle's havoc at New Orleans.  These things I knew—I was there!  I saw both sides of the War between the States—I was there!  The hill at San Juan felt the fury of my charge.  The far plains and mountains of the Philippines echoed to my shout . . . On the Mexican border I stood . . . I am the Guard.  The dark forest of the Argonne blazed with my barrage.  Chateau Thierry crumbled to my cannonade.  Under the arches of victory I marched in legion—I was there!  I am the Guard.  I bowed briefly on the grim Corregidor, then saw the light of liberation shine on the faces of my comrades.  Through the jungle and on the beaches, I fought the enemy, beat, battered and broke him.  I raised our banner to the serene air on Okinawa—I scrambled over Normandy's beaches—I was there! . . . I am the Guard.  Across the 38th Parallel I made my stand.  I flew MIG Alley—I was there! . . . I am the Guard. 

Soldier in war, civilian in peace . . . I am the Guard. 

I was at Johnstown, where the raging waters boomed down the valley.  I cradled the crying child in my arms and saw the terror leave her eyes.  I moved through smoke and flame at Texas City.  The stricken knew the comfort of my skill.  I dropped the food that fed the starving beast on the frozen fields of the west and through the towering drifts I ploughed to rescue the marooned.  I have faced forward to the tornado, the typhoon, and the horror of the hurricane and flood—these things I know—I was there! . . . I am the Guard.  I have brought a more abundant, a fuller, a finer life to our youth.  Wherever a strong arm and valiant spirit must defend the Nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries, or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand . . . I am the Guard.  For three centuries a soldier in war, a civilian in peace—of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever. . . I am the Guard. 