

VMI General Officers and Admirals

Each rank listed below was that held by the alumnus during World War II. Many of the 97 alumni on this list were promoted to higher ranks after the war. Please send additions or corrections to the Alumni Review.

General of the Army

George C. Marshall '01
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

General

Thomas T. Handy '14, USA
Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

George S. Patton '07, USA
Commander, Seventh Army and Third Army

Lieutenant General

Simon B. Buckner '06, USA
Commander, Tenth U.S. Army

Buckner was in command of the Alaskan Defense Force from 1940 until the summer of 1944, when he took command of the Tenth U.S. Army and moved with it to stage the Okinawan invasion. He was killed in action on June 18, 1945, on the front lines when he was hit by a Japanese shell while observing an attack of the Marine 8th Regimental Combat Team. Buckner was the first U.S. Army commander in chief to be killed in World War II.

Ying-hsing Wen '07, Chinese Army

Wen was the founder and commander of the elite Revenue Guard which

fought against the Japanese in 1932 and 1937 and which became the nucleus of the American-equipped New First Army. When the Communists took over the Chinese mainland, Wen joined the National First Army under Gen. Chiang Kai-shek.

George H. Brett '09, USAAC

Brett was named chief of the Air Corps in May 1941. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor he was named deputy supreme commander under Sir Archibald Wavell of allied forces in the Southwest Pacific and in April 1942 he was named commander in chief, U.S. Army Forces, Australia. In late 1942 he was named commanding general, Caribbean Defense Command and Panama Canal Department.

Walton H. Walker '09, USA

Walker became commanding general of the Fourth Armored Corps, Camp Young, California, in August 1942. In October 1943 his command was redesignated the 20th Corps and became famous as the "Ghost Corps" of Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army in a swift nine-month drive from the Normandy beachhead across France and Germany and into Austria. It penetrated the Siegfried Line at Thorn in February 1945, took Trier, crossed the Rhine and captured Kassel. Walker's corps then liberated the prisoners at Buchenwald, reached the outskirts of Chemnitz and drove south across the Danube to Austria.

Leonard T. Gerow '11, USA

At the outbreak of the war Gerow was chief of the War Plans Division of the General Staff of the U.S. Army under Gen. George C. Marshall '01, Chief of Staff. In February 1942 he was assigned to command the 29th Division at Fort Meade, Maryland; in October 1942 he accompanied the division to England. In July 1943 he was selected to command V Corps, making him one of the youngest general officers appointed to a major command with the American ground forces. He commanded V Corps in all of its operations, from the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, until Jan. 15, 1945, including the liberation of Paris. His troops were the first to land on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day, and he was the first corps commander ashore. He was also the first American officer of his rank to enter Paris following its liberation by two of his divisions. On Jan. 15, 1945, he assumed command of the 15th U.S. Army.

Samuel L. Howard '12, USMC

In 1941 Howard was given command of the Fourth Marine Regiment, which was on duty in China. He commanded the regiment on Bataan and was commander of all beach defenses on Corregidor when it was surrendered on May 6, 1942. He was a prisoner of the Japanese from 1942-45, and was named inspector general of the Marine Corps when he returned to Washington after his liberation.

Sun Li-jen '27, Chinese Army

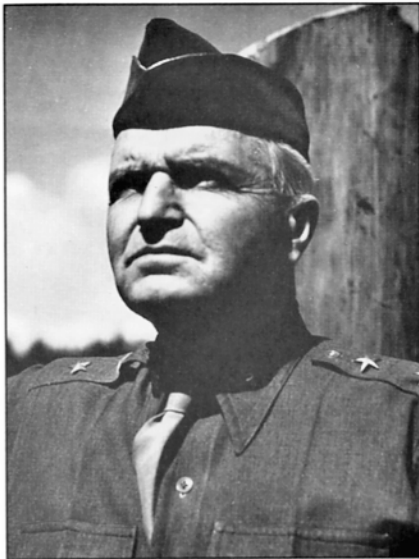
Sun was the commander of the Chinese First Army in Burma. During 1943-45 he and Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell led the counterattack of the Japanese armies in Burma, and Sun became known as "the ever-victorious general" for his efforts there.

Li Jen-Tao '28, Chinese Army

During World War II Li was the commander of the Nationalist Army Chemical Warfare Service. He died in 1944 in a plane crash over the Hump in Burma.



Maj. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow '11, USA. In December 1944 at Eupeu during the Battle of the Bulge. Gerow received his third star effective Jan. 1, 1945.



Maj. Gen. (later Lt. Gen.)
Simon B. Buckner '06, USA



Lt. Gen. George H. Brett '09, USAAC



Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker '09, USA

Major General

Philip B. Peyton '01, USA

Peyton was the commander of the War College, Washington, D.C., and of the 1st Army Corps, Columbia, South Carolina.

William P. Upshur '02, USMC

Upshur was commanding general, U.S. Marines, Pacific, from 1942 until his death on July 21, 1943, in an airplane crash near Sitka, Alaska.

Walter R. Weaver '04, USAAC

Weaver was head of the Air Forces Technical Training Command, the largest division in the Army Air Corps. He built a force of more than 500,000 ground and air crew technicians to service America's rapidly mushrooming Air Forces shortly after Pearl Harbor. There had been less than 15,000 trained men to service combat planes before 1941. His command was inactivated in July 1943 and he retired in August 1943.

William H. Gill '07, USA

Gill was the commander of the newly activated 89th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, in 1942 when he was selected by Gen. Douglas MacArthur to come to the Pacific and take over the command of the 32nd (Red Arrow) Infantry Division, Wisconsin National Guard, which was then recuperating in Australia from extended combat against Japanese forces in New Guinea. He rebuilt and rejuvenated the division and led it in campaigns in New Guinea, Leyte and Luzon, where he defeated and forced the surrender of the last organized Japanese troops under Yamashita.

Spencer B. Akin '10, USA

Akin was chief signal officer on the staff of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in The Philippines and Southwest Pacific Area campaigns. MacArthur requested Akin's assignment in 1941; Akins arrived just 20 days before World War II broke out there. His "Voice of Freedom" radio station broadcast three times a day to rally civilians and troops and let the world know Corregidor and Bataan were holding. Akin was evacuated with MacArthur from Corregidor to Australia, and returned with him to Bataan. He served with MacArthur in Tokyo during the occupation of Japan, and in 1947 he was named chief signal officer of the U.S. Army.

Joseph N. Dalton '12, USA

When the war began Dalton was adjutant general of the Puerto Rico



Gen. George S. Patton '07, USA, left, and Lt. Gen. Sun Li-jen '27, commander of the Chinese First Army in Burma.

Department. Gen. Brehon Somervell, chief of army service forces, recalled him to Washington where he was director of the administrative division and assistant chief of staff for Personnel, Headquarters, Services of Supply, from 1941-42, and director of personnel, Army Service Forces, from 1942-46. He directed the Army's Specialized Training Program during the war.

William M. Goodman '12, USA

Goodman was the commander, 37th Coast Artillery Brigade (antiaircraft), and the deputy commander of the Army's New York Port of Embarkation.

Withers A. Burress '14, USA

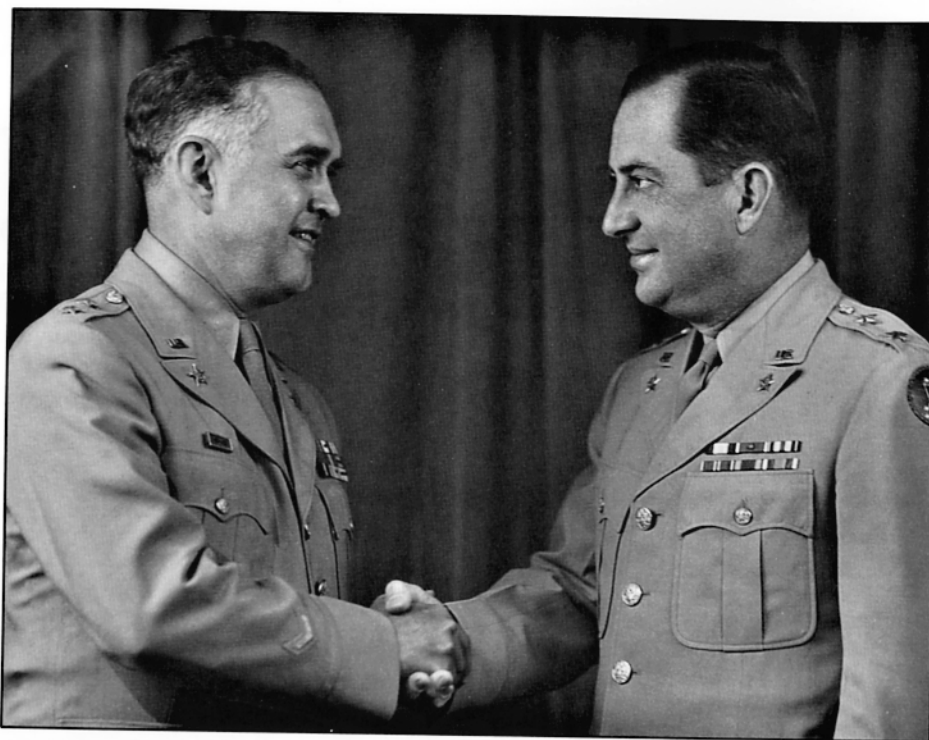
Burress was the commanding general, 100th Infantry Division, VII Corps, First Army. (VMI commandant, 1935-40.)

Edward M. Almond '15, USA

Almond was chief of staff, VI Corps; commanding general, Task Force 92; and commanding general, 92nd Buffalo Division.

Richard J. Marshall '15, USA

Marshall evacuated with Gen. Douglas MacArthur from Bataan to



Maj. Gen. Richard J. Marshall '15, USA, left, and Maj. Gen. Clark L. Ruffner '24, USA, had a reunion at Fort Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii, in April 1946 when Marshall stopped there on his way back to the mainland from China. Both men were chiefs of staff: Marshall, with Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the Army headquarters of the Pacific, and Ruffner, with the Middle Pacific command. Also present for the reunion were Gen. George C. Marshall '01 and Maj. Gen. Spencer B. Akin '10. (Marshall '15 became VMI's seventh superintendent later in 1946.)



Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond '15, USA, in Genoa, Italy, in 1945. Almond was commanding general of the 92nd Infantry Division.

Australia in 1942. He served as MacArthur's deputy chief of staff during the war and became his chief of staff in Dec. 1945. (VMI superintendent, 1946-52.)

Clarence A. Martin '17, USA

Martin, the commander of the 31st (Dixie) Division on Morotai, led the 31st Division onto the beaches of Mindanao.

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. '17, USMC

Shepherd was the commander, 6th Marine Division, during the Okinawa campaign. (Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1952-56.)

De Senn Chung '20, Chinese Army

From 1933-42, Chung, a major general in the Chinese Army, was adjutant general, chief of staff and commanding officer of the Air Observation School. From 1943-46, as a colonel in the Chinese Air Force, he was the Air Force liaison officer to the American Army and Air Force Headquarters in Chungking and Shanghai.

Clark L. Ruffner '24, USA

In May 1943 Ruffner was assigned to the Hawaiian Department, where he became deputy chief of staff and later chief of staff of the U.S. Army Forces in the Pacific under Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. He participated in the amphibious assault on the Gilbert Islands and was with the initial wave of troops that went ashore on Leyte, The Philippines.

Rear Admiral

Adolphus Staton, 1899, USN

Staton was recalled from retirement the day after Pearl Harbor to head a special board set up to remove subversive radio operators from the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Jules James '06, USN

James was acting director of Naval Intelligence from 1939-41, when he was named commander of the U.S. Naval Operating Base and the island defense forces at Bermuda. He remained there until 1943 when he assumed command of the Sixth Naval District, Charleston, South Carolina. While there he was also commander of the Navy Yard and of Task Group 2.6.

Richard E. Byrd, Jr. '08, USN

Byrd was in command of several special Navy missions to the Pacific during which he completed studies preparatory to the strategic counterattack launched from the Southwest Pacific area against the Japanese at Guadalcanal and pre-invasion studies of Okinawa.

William K. Harrill '12, USN

No information available; graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1914.

Brigadier General

Ralph G. DeVoe '05, USA

DeVoe, a doctor, was commanding officer of the Army's 83-building Halloran General Hospital at Willowbrook, Staten Island, New York, from 1942-46. He supervised activities involving more than 150,000 soldier-patients.

Arthur G. Campbell '06, USA

Campbell was assigned as commander of Camp Pendleton, Virginia, on Dec. 2, 1940. In late 1941 he was named commander of the Second Coast Artillery District, Fort Hamilton, New York, after which he was named commander of the Newport Frontier Defense Sub-Sector and the Narragansett Harbor Defense. Both headquarters were at Fort Adams.

W. Robert Nichols '06, USA

Nichols was chief of staff of the Fourth Corps Area and Headquarters Fourth Service Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia, from 1940-44. He was previously the commanding officer of Harbor Defenses of Balboa, Panama Canal Zone, with headquarters at Fort Amador.

R. Tucker Pendleton '08, USA

In July 1941 Pendleton became chief of staff of anti-aircraft defenses in the Panama Canal Zone; when World War II began he was promoted to brigadier general and assigned as commander of anti-aircraft defenses in the Atlantic Sector.

G. Murrell Alexander '09, AUS

Alexander served as a deputy provost marshal in the European Theatre.

Thomas J. J. Christian '09, USA

Christian, who was the grandson of Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, was commanding officer of Camp Roberts, California.

John Magruder '09, USA

Magruder was the chief of the intelligence branch of the War Department General Staff, 1938-41; artillery commander, 1st Infantry Division; head, United States Military Mission to China; deputy director, 1943-45, and director, 1945-46, Office of Strategic Services. (VMI commandant, 1932-35.)

Charles C. Brown '10, USA

Brown commanded the 16th Corps Artillery of the Ninth Army. When the Ninth crossed the Rhine River at Wessel he directed the largest mass of artillery ever fired under one command.

Philip G. Blackmore '11, USA

At the outbreak of World War II Blackmore was ordnance officer at Ninth Corps Area Headquarters at the Presidio, San Francisco. He then became ordnance officer for the Third Army at San Antonio and went to Australia with the Sixth Army. In August 1947 he assumed command of White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico.

Paul X. English '11, USA

English was chief of the industrial division, Office of the Chief, Chemical Warfare Service, from February 1942-February 1944.

A. Franklin Kibler '12, USA

Kibler was a member in 1939 of the joint planning committee of the general staff, War Department, Washington, D.C., headed by then Maj. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. During World War II, Kibler served with the plans and training division of the 12th Army Group in Europe under Gen. Omar Bradley. He organized the 78th Division's artillery and commanded the 13th Corps artillery, and in 1945 served as director of operations for the European Theatre.

Lee S. Gerow '13, USA

Gerow held the temporary rank of brigadier general from 1943-45 and was with the 338th Infantry Regiment, 85th Infantry Division, at Mt. Altuzzo, Italy, from Sept. 13-18, 1944.

Matthew H. Kingman '13, USMC

Kingman was recalled to active duty in February 1942 and promoted to brigadier general in August 1942. He was the commanding officer of the Marine Corps Training Center at San Diego. Prior to his October 1944 retirement he was with the Office of Strategic Services in Washington.



When Gen. George C. Marshall '01, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, visited Headquarters, 5th Infantry Division, in France, he studied a model of surrounding terrain with several general officers. From left to right they were Lt. Gen. Thomas T. Handy '14, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; Lt. Gen. George S. Patton '07, commanding general of the Third Army; then Maj. Gen. Walton H. Walker '09, commanding general of the 20th Corps; Maj. Gen. S. Leroy Irwin, commanding general of the 5th Infantry Division; and Gen. Marshall. This U.S. Army photo is dated Nov. 10, 1944.

William T. Clement '14, USMC

Clement was an assistant division commander, 6th Marine Division, Okinawa.

Sumter L. Lowry, Jr. '14, USA

Lowry was the artillery commander of the Army's 31st Infantry Division in the Pacific Theatre.

Thomas S. Arms '15, USA

In 1942 Arms was called to India by Gen. Joseph Stilwell to aid in instructing tactics to two Chinese divisions that had withdrawn there after the 1942 Burma Campaign. One of the Chinese division commanding generals was Lt. Gen. Sun Li-jen '27. Arms then went to Kuming, China, in the spring of 1943 to set up an infantry training school to train officers for 30 Chinese divisions to conduct a drive into Burma. Assigned to him there as his advisor and interpreter was Brig. Gen. Tseng Hsi-Kwei '25. Nine months later Arms went to Kwelin to train officers for operations in eastern China which were subsequently cancelled. At that time Gen. Frank Merrill, chief of "Merrill's Marauders," became ill and Arms took over the unit, the name of which was changed to the "Mars Task Force." Under Arms' command the task force pene-

trated Japanese lines in Burma, marched northward 150 miles and seized and held a major communications center of the Japanese forces in Burma. Arms marched the entire distance with his men.

Richard C. Coupland '15, USAF

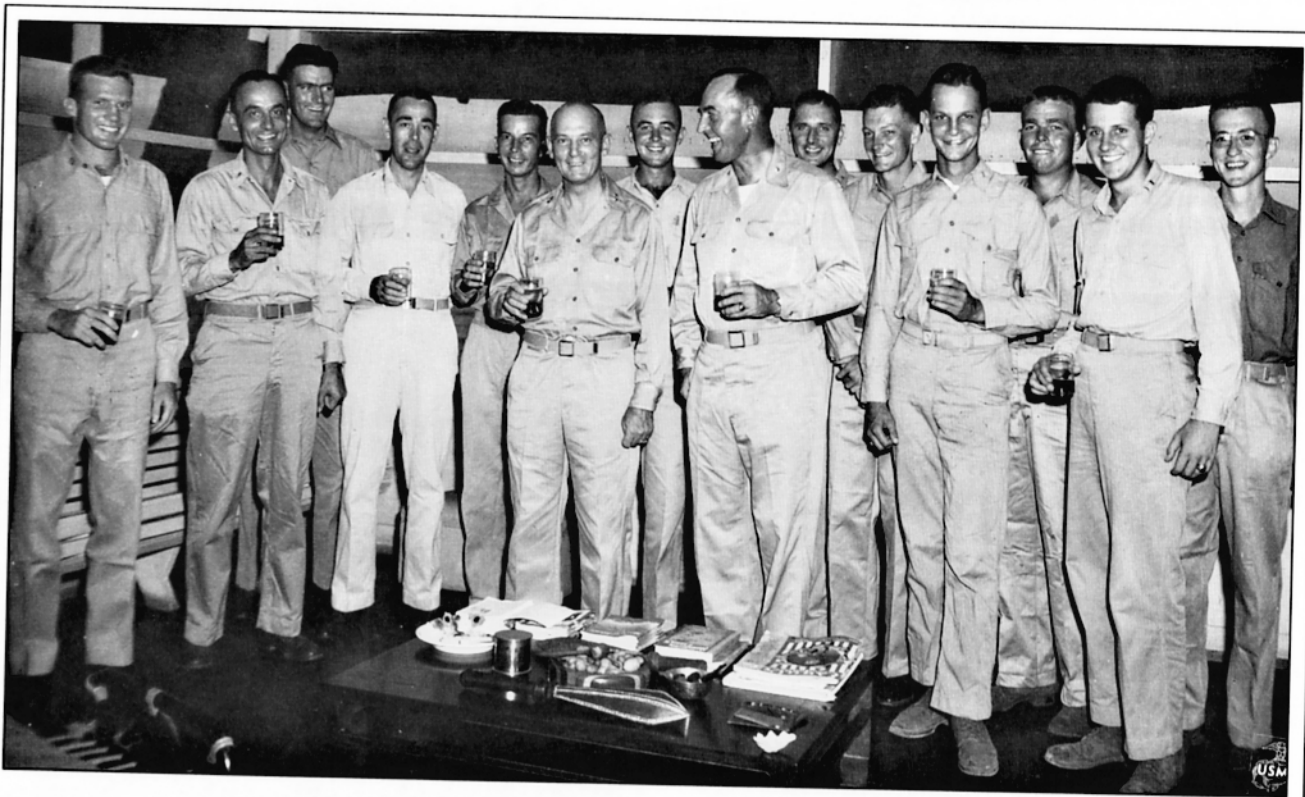
Coupland was the chief, Small Arms Division, Office of the Chief of Ordnance; and Air Ordnance Officer at Air Corps Headquarters, 1943-46.

John L. McKee '15, USA

McKee was appointed a brigadier general in 1942 and was assigned in 1943 as assistant division commander of the 87th Infantry Division. McKee remained with the 87th Infantry throughout the war as it participated in the reduction of the Bulge, cracked the Siegfried Line north and Prum and captured Koblenz. In the absence of the division commander McKee commanded the division during the Rhine crossing. McKee reverted to the rank of colonel in 1948 but was promoted to the permanent grade of brigadier general in 1948.

William B. Bradford '16, USA

Bradford was, successively, chief of staff of the 2nd Cavalry Division and assistant division commander of the 25th and 27th Infantry Divisions.



The 1945 Meeting of the Southwest Pacific Chapter

U.S. Marines turned out for a one-of-a-kind meeting of the Southwest Pacific Chapter on Guadalcanal on Feb. 16, 1945, at the headquarters of Maj. Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. '17, commanding general, Sixth Marine Division. Shepherd, the guest speaker, spoke to the alumni and said, in part, "Virginia Military Institute will be heard from today" — Those words are inscribed on the statue of Gen. 'Stonewall' Jackson at VMI and were spoken by him on the eve of the battle of Chancellorsville. They have been true in every war since and certainly are true in this one.

"This meeting is, I believe, the first of its kind in the Pacific. I propose that we hold the next one in Tokyo."

The alumni in attendance participated in nearly every Marine campaign in the Pacific from Bataan onward. They were, left to right, Capt. E. F. Carney, Jr. '41, Lt. Col. J. H. Brower '31, 2Lt. B. G. Cass '43, Army Lt. Col. J. McCall, Jr. '27, Lt. Col. H. C. Woodhouse, Jr. '36, Gen. Shepherd, 1Lt. T. J. Johnston, Jr. '44, Brig. Gen. W. T. Clement '14, Lt. Col. J. B. Baker '31, 2Lt. W. T. Galliford, Jr. '43, 2Lt. R. M. Youell, Jr. '43, 1Lt. L. L. Holmes, Jr. '44, 2Lt. A. S. Bolling, Jr. '44 and 2Lt. B. Price III '38.

Clement, a veteran of Bataan, was assistant commander of the Sixth Marine Division; Cass was his aide. Clement escaped from The Philippines the night before Corregidor fell. Woodhouse served in China, fought on Guam and was killed in action on Okinawa on May 30, 1945, shortly after this picture was taken.

While with the 27th Division he led the troops in the storming of Kakazu Ridge in the battle for Okinawa. After the Japanese surrender, Bradford, in an airborne operation, established the initial bridgehead in the Yokohama-Atsugi area. He remained with the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan until 1949. (Bradford, a member of the U.S. Army Equestrian Team, participated in the Olympics in 1928 in Amsterdam, in 1932 in Los Angeles and in 1936 in Berlin, where he was captain of the team.)

William H. Colbern, Jr. '16, USA
Colbern was the artillery commander of the 92nd Infantry Division.

Guy H. Drewry '16, USA
Drewry, the commander of the Springfield Ordnance District, worked with inventor John C. Garand in perfecting the M-1 Garand rifle.

Henry B. Holmes, Jr. '16, USA
Holmes was commanding general, 46th C.A. Brigade (A.A.) at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was with the Boston Defense Command. He also initiated a special report on the new M-1 Garand rifle (see Drewry '16, above). Later in the war Holmes was the chief of staff, U.S. Army Forces, Pacific Area (later Middle Pacific). (VMI commandant, 1940-41.)

Oliver B. Bucher '17, USA
Bucher was the commanding general, Trinidad Base Command, U.S. Army, 1944-46. (VMI commandant, 1946-51.)

Samuel C. Cumming '17, USMC
Cumming was the assistant division commander, 4th Marine Division, during the Saipan and Tinian campaigns.

David L. Ruffner '17, USA
Ruffner was artillery commander of the Fifth Army's 10th Mountain Division, which was sent to Italy early in 1945.

Albert E. Colburn '18, USA
Colburn was in the South Pacific; no other information is available.

G. Bryan Conrad '18, USA
Conrad was sent in 1939 to London where he became assistant military attaché at the American Embassy. After America entered the war he was assigned as an intelligence officer to the American Headquarters in the European Theatre. Later in the war he was assistant chief of staff for intelligence at ETO HQ in Paris. His last assignment before retiring in 1946 was assistant chief of staff for intelligence in Berlin.

Stuart Cutler '18, USA
Cutler's assignments included assistant division commander, 13th Airborne Division, chief of staff, First Allied Airborne Army, commanding general, HQ Command, U.S. Potsdam Conference area and U.S. Berlin District, commanding general 101st Airborne Division, and commanding general, Chanor Base Section.

James Taylor '18, USA
No information available.



Alumni gathered in Stuttgart, Germany, in the fall of 1945 with Maj. Gen. Withers A. Burress '14, USA, who was the commanding general of the 100th Infantry Division, VII Corps, First Army. Most of the alumni present were in the 100th Infantry Division. Front row, left to right: unknown, J. A. Minton, Jr. '43. Row 2: C. M. Young, Jr. '42, S. T. Hockaday '42, B. Vandeventer '43, A. G. Williams '42, A. J. Trzeclak '39, L. H. Meem '39. Row 3: W. H. Zimmerman '37, unknown, unknown, W. V. Rawlings '35, Maj. Gen. Burress, unknown, R. B. Allport, Jr. '34, C. E. Moore, Jr. '41. Please send the names of the unknown alumni, and any corrections, to the *Alumni Review*. (Photo courtesy Braden Vandeventer '43.)

Blackshear M. Bryan '20, USA
Bryan was chief of the policy sections of the War Department General Staff and later chief of a division of the Provost Marshal General's office. He was named Provost Marshal General in December 1945.

Charles L. Keerans, Jr. '20, USA
Keerans, an assistant division commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, was declared missing in action in the airborne phase of the invasion of Sicily on July 11, 1943. He was killed during the firing on our own planes by the Navy when the 504th Infantry was being flown to its drop zone. Keerans was declared killed in action on July 12, 1944.

Robert H. Wylie '20, USA
Wylie was the first assistant chief of the newly organized Transportation Corps.

William E. Waters '21, USA
Waters served until 1947 with the First Infantry Division as assistant commander and commander of division artillery, and finally as assistant division commander. He participated in the First Infantry Division's landings at Oran, Sicily and Omaha Beach.

Charles T. Myers, Jr. '22, USAAF
Myers was the chief of the Plans and Training Section of the Army Air Forces Central Flying Training Command from 1941-44, when he was appointed commanding general of the new 77th Flying Training Wing of the Central Flying Training Command, Foster Field, Victoria, Texas.

Tseng Hsi-Kwei '25, Chinese Army
Tseng was named commanding general of the guerilla forces north of the Yang Tze Kiang River at Haichow in 1937. He was concurrently the garrison commander of the Lien Yun Kang Harbor. In 1941 he was named chief Chinese liaison officer to the American Military Mission in China, working with Brig. Gen. John Magruder '09, head of the mission. In 1942 Tseng assisted Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell in the Burma Campaign and retreated with Stilwell from Burma to India; in 1943 he served as advisor and interpreter to Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Arms '15.