

Major John Kirk Singlaub
Charter Member of Shenyang Rotary Club 1948
By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)
10 October 2022



Major John Kirk Singlaub (1921-2022) was the Chief of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission stationed in Mukden (Shenyang) of the Republic of China (中華民國瀋陽) in 1946-1948. He served as a military liaison and intelligence officer under the Strategic Services Unit (SSU), the successor to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), reporting on the ground during the Chinese Civil War (國共內戰). He finally retired as a highly decorated Major General.

During his service years in Shenyang, Singlaub was invited by Kwo Keh-Ti (郭克悌) to join the organization of a Rotary Club. Railway engineer Kwo was formerly active member of various Rotary clubs in Shanghai (上海), Kunming (昆明), Peiping (北平), and Mukden (奉天), respectively. The Rotary Club of Shenyang (瀋陽扶輪社) was admitted to Rotary International on 31 March 1948 with Charter No. 3116.

Singlaub was one of the 20 multi-national charter members and served as the first Sergeant-at-Arms. The regular weekly meetings were held on every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the Railway Hotel, Mukden (鐵路賓館).

After being forced to evacuate Manchuria by the Chinese Communists (中國共產黨) in late 1948, Singlaub served as an instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia, U.S.A.

However, the Rotary Club of Shenyang enjoyed a very brief Rotary life. With the Korean War began on 25 June 1950, the People's Republic of China (中華人民共和國) was in hostility with the United States. Communication between China and the United States was disconnected. Hence, the Rotary Club of Shenyang was terminated on 21 December 1950.

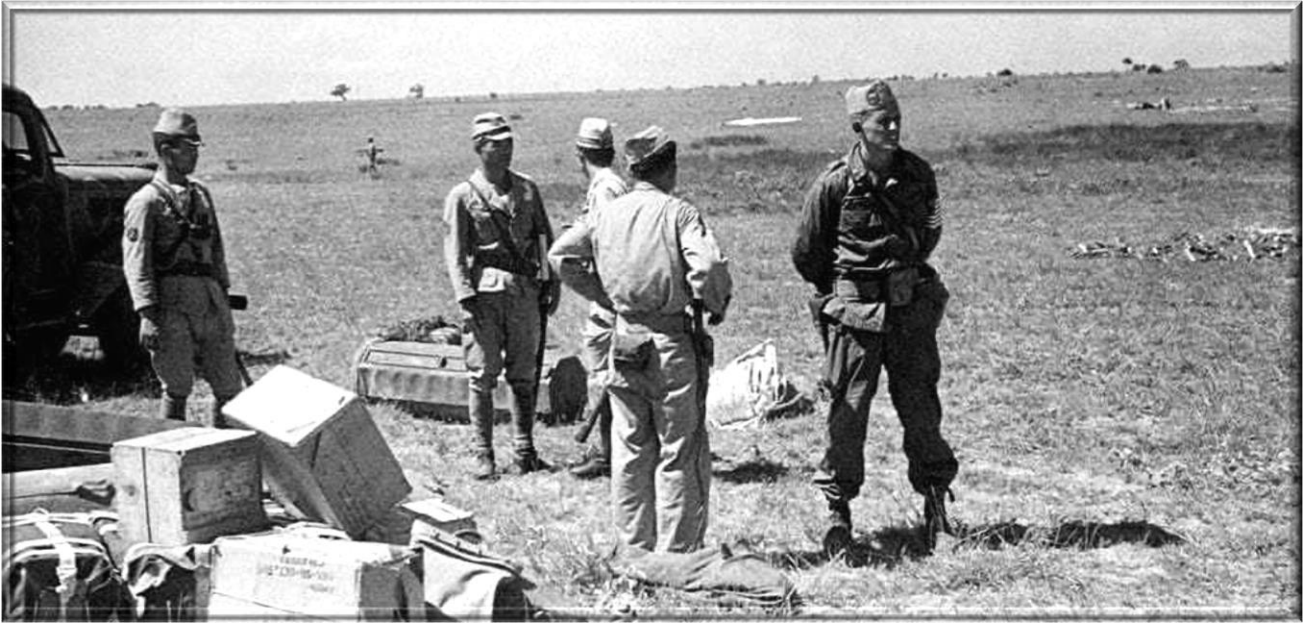




11 August 1944 -- 1st Lieutenant John K. Singlaub after being dropped behind German lines in France as part of Operation Jedburgh



1944 -- Singlaub was decorated by Col. Hepner with Bronze Star and Purple Heart for actions in France.



27 August 1945 -- Captain Singlaub (right) led a daring nine-man "Mercy Mission" (codenamed Mission PIGEON) to rescue Allied prisoners of war on Hainan Island. To demand proper treatment and immediate cooperation from the 10,000 heavily armed Japanese troops stationed on the island, an OSS military specialist advised Singlaub to pose as a Major (one rank above his actual rank) to successfully command respect from the enemy forces. This photo shows "Major" turning his back on a Japanese lieutenant with whom he refused to negotiate, demanding to see the colonel in charge of 10,000 Japanese marines.



1966-August 1968 -- Colonel (Infantry) John K. Singlaub



1978 -- Major General John Kirk Singlaub



Major General (ret.) John Kirk Singlaub with wife and daughter

The Life of John Kirk Singlaub

John Kirk Singlaub (July 10, 1921 – January 29, 2022) was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services in November 1943. As part of JEDBURGH Team JAMES, he jumped into France on 11 August 1944 to arm and direct the French resistance.

Sent to the Republic of China, as the commander of the PIGEON Mission, he jumped onto Hainan Island (海南島) on 27 August 1945 to rescue Dutch and Australian Prisoners of War.

As one of a handful of Special Operations Branch personnel retained the Strategic Services Unit (successor to the OSS), Singlaub stayed in China to report on the Civil War.

Singlaub was again involved in special operations when he was an instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia, and helped to establish the Ranger Training Center in 1950. He then had two tours in Korea, including one with the Central Intelligence Agency's Joint Advisory Commission, Korea (JACK).

Singlaub was a founding member of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He returned to special operations in 1966-1968, when he commanded a joint unconventional warfare command, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group (MACV-SOG). Retiring in 1978, Major General Singlaub has remained active in the Special Operations community and was recognized with the United States Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) Bull Simons award in 2011.

Biography

Singlaub was born in Independence, California, on 10 July 1921. After graduating from Van Nuys High School in 1939, he attended the University of California, Los Angeles, but abandoned his studies in 1943 to begin military service. In 1958, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science at UCLA. With the United States entering World War II, Singlaub joined the U.S. Army and commissioned as a second lieutenant on 14 January 1943. Deployed to Europe for special operations, Singlaub was dropped behind German lines in France in August 1944, as part of Operation Jedburgh. As a member of a three-member team (codenamed "JAMES"), he worked with Maquis groups that swelled the ranks of the French Resistance after D-Day.

In 1945, Singlaub was redeployed to the Pacific. On August 27, before the formal Japanese surrender, he parachuted onto Hainan Island, China, commanding an eight-member team, to arrange the evacuation of US, Australian and Dutch prisoners of war being held there. Singlaub demanded proper food and medical care for the POWs, who the Japanese were still treating as prisoners.

From 1946 Singlaub stationed in Mukden (Shenyang) of the Republic of China. He served as a military liaison and intelligence officer under the Strategic Services Unit (SSU),

the successor to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), reporting on the ground during the Chinese Civil War.

After being forced to leave Manchuria by Chinese Communists in late 1948, Singlaub served as an instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia. In 1950, he was instrumental in helping establish the Ranger Training Center.

With the outbreak of the Korean War, Singlaub transitioned back into combat and covert intelligence operations. He served in Seoul as the CIA deputy chief of station for the Joint Advisory Commission, Korea (JACK), leading unconventional warfare and pioneering high-altitude covert parachute tactics.

In 1951, during the Korean War, Singlaub was CIA deputy chief of station in Seoul where he was the first to demonstrate high-altitude military parachuting. As a master parachutist he wanted to use bomber aircraft for agent drops in CIA covert-action operations. Singlaub used the Air Force B-26 out of a FOB on Yeongheungdo Island and re-rigged the bomb bay as a jump platform. After he conducted a series of proof of concept test jumps, Singlaub borrowed an Air Force L-19 Bird Dog and made a series of high altitude low-opening test jumps over the Han River.

After his time in Korea, Singlaub headed CIA operations in postwar Manchuria during the Chinese Communist revolution, managed the secret war along the Ho Chi Minh trail in the Kingdom of Laos and Vietnam, worked with the Contras in Nicaragua, and Afghan resistance during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College in 1954 and the Air War College in 1960. Because of the increasing use of helicopters in Special Forces operations, he decided to attend flight school at Fort Rucker as a fifty-year-old brigadier general in 1971.

In 1977, while Singlaub was chief of staff of U.S. forces in South Korea, he publicly criticized President Jimmy Carter's proposal to withdraw U.S. troops from the Korean peninsula. On 21 May 1977, Carter relieved him of duty for overstepping his bounds and failing to respect the President's authority as Commander-in-Chief. Less than a year later, Singlaub again publicly questioned President Carter's national security policies, this time during a lecture at Georgia Tech, and was forced to retire on June 1, 1978. The U.S. Army Special Operations Command presented its first [John Singlaub Award] in 2016 for "courageous actions ... off the battlefield".

After retiring from the army, Singlaub, with John Rees and Democratic Congressman from Georgia, Larry McDonald founded the Western Goals Foundation. According to The *Associated Press*, it was intended to "blunt subversion, terrorism, and communism" by filling the gap "created by the disbanding of the House Un-American Activities Committee". Prior to the collapse of the Berlin Wall and Marxism–Leninism in the Soviet Union in 1991, Singlaub was founder in 1981 of the United States Council for World Freedom, the U.S. chapter of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL). The chapter became involved with

the Iran–Contra affair, with 《Associated Press》 reporting that, “Singlaub’s private group became the public cover for the White House operation”. The WACL was described by former member Geoffrey Stewart-Smith as allegedly a “largely a collection of Nazis, Fascists, anti-Semites, sellers of forgeries, vicious racialists, and corrupt self-seekers”. Singlaub is credited with purging the organization of these types and making it respectable.

U.S. Army General William Westmoreland described Singlaub as a “true military professional” and “a man of honest, patriotic conviction and courage”. Congressman Henry J. Hyde (Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence Committees), described Singlaub as “a brave man, a thorough patriot, and a keen observer”; someone who had been “in the center of almost every controversial military action since World War II”. Active for 40 years in overt and covert operations, he had private and secret interviews with many military and government leaders worldwide. He personally knew William Casey, Director of Central Intelligence during the Reagan Administration, as well as Oliver North, and was involved in the Iran–Contra affair. Singlaub was President Reagan’s administrative chief liaison in the Contra supply effort to oppose Moscow’s and Fidel Castro’s advances in El Salvador and Nicaragua during the Cold War and their support for armed Marxist revolutionary guerrilla movements. Through his chairmanship of the world Anti-Communist League (WACL) and its U.S. chapter, the U.S. Council for World Freedom (USCWF), he enlisted Members of the U.S. Congress from both political parties, Washington, D.C. policymakers, retired U.S. military officials, paramilitary groups, foreign governments, and American think tanks and conservatives in the Contra cause. He often met on Capitol Hill with members of the U.S. Congress, including Congressman Charlie Wilson (D-TX) about U.S. support and funding for the Contras and anti-communist resistance forces in Afghanistan opposed to the Red Army invasion of Kabul in 1979.

As of 2014, Singlaub lived in Franklin, Tennessee. He was a member of the Advisory Council of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. Singlaub was the Honorary Vice President of London’s Special Forces Club. He was the Chairman of The Jedburgh Group and president of the non-profit organization America’s Future, Inc. In January 2020 Singlaub used the “America’s Future” of Phyllis Schlafly to plead with Attorney General William Barr to “free Mike Flynn, drop the charges”.

Major General John Kirk Singlaub was inducted into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame in 2006. He was made a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment in 2007. He turned 100 in July 2021, and died on 29 January 2022, and is now buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington County, Virginia, U.S.A.

[Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes](#)

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, which was founded by Roger Chapin, named Singlaub to its Board of Directors in 2008. Singlaub was paid US\$180,000 by the charity

from 2009 to 2011. 《The New York Times》critiqued the organization as a money-maker for its founders rather than for veterans, described it as an “intolerable fraud” and “among a dozen military-related charities given a grade of F in a study last December by the American Institute of Philanthropy, a nonprofit watchdog group. These and other charities have collected hundreds of millions of dollars from kind-hearted Americans and squandered an unconscionable amount of it on overhead and expenses – 70 percent or 80 percent, or more.” The Attorney General of California sued the charity in August 2012 for “more than \$4.3 million regarding allegations of fraudulent fundraising, self-dealing and excessive executive compensation”. The lawsuit was settled in September 2013. According to the charity’s 2013 federal tax return, Singlaub resigned from its Board of Directors in January 2013.

Published works

《Hazardous Duty》Summit Books, 1991. ISBN 0-671-70516-4 (Autobiography with Malcolm McConnell).

Unit awards

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Gallantry Cross Unit Award (Vietnam)

Personal awards

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Ranger Tab
- Master Parachutist Badge
- Army Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Silver Star
- Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters
- Soldier’s Medal
- Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster
- Air Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Army Commendation Medal
- Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster
- American Campaign Medal
- European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with arrowhead and campaign star
- Asiatic–Pacific Campaign Medal with two campaign stars
- World War II Victory Medal
- National Defense Service Medal with star
- Korean Service Medal with four campaign stars
- Vietnam Service Medal

- Croix de Guerre with palm and bronze star (French Republic)
- Mentioned in Dispatches (United Kingdom)
- Order of the Resplendent Banner (Republic of China) (中華民國雲麾勳章)
- Order of Orange-Nassau (The Netherlands)
- National Order of Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam)
- Air Service Medal (Republic of Vietnam)
- Navy Service Medal (Republic of Vietnam)
- United Nations Korea Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Korean War Service Medal (Republic of Korea)

John Singlaub:
Special Operations Legend and Anti-Communist Crusader
Clare Fitzgerald / 5 February 2022



There are few US military generals who have as storied and controversial a career as Major General John Singlaub. He fought in three wars before being forced to retire due to a difference of opinion with President Jimmy Carter. This prompted him to delve headfirst into anti-Communist activities, which caught the attention of the Federal Government.

Joining the US Army during WWII

John Singlaub joined the US Army in 1943 and was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant. In August 1944, he was among the special operations members who were parachuted behind German lines in France as part of Operation Jedburgh. The aim: facilitate the Allied invasion of the country's Mediterranean coast.

To accomplish this, Singlaub and other commandos worked with the Maquis, rural guerrillas within the French Resistance. During this time, he was struck in the face by

German sniper fire. In response, he emptied two Bren light machine gun magazines into the enemy hideout, silencing his attackers.

Following the Allied victory in Europe, Singlaub volunteered to be sent to the Pacific, where he was parachuted onto China's Hainan Island to negotiate the release of American, Dutch and Australian prisoners of war. It came following the American bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and there were fears the Allied prisoners would be executed in retaliation.

Singlaub and his eight-member team ensured the POWs were given proper medical care and food. It's estimated he helped liberate some 400 Allied prisoners.

Founding of the CIA and service during the Korean War

Following the conclusion of World War II, Singlaub was stationed in Mukden, where he conducted intelligence operations for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), of which he was a founding member. He'd previously served with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and its successor, the Strategic Services Unit (SSU).

The American forces were allowed to remain in the Manchurian city until 1948, at which time it fell to the Chinese Communist forces.

Singlaub served two combat tours during the Korean War. Along with commanding an infantry battalion, he served with the Joint Advisory Commission, Korea (JACK) and conducted secret operations against China and North Korea.

Vietnam and the MACV-SOG

During the Vietnam War, Singlaub served with the Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). Established in 1964 and made up of Navy SEALs, air commandos and Special Forces members, it was given the authorization to conduct covert cross-border operations in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. It's primary target was the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

In 1966, Singlaub was appointed the Chief SOG and held the role until August 1968, when he was replaced by Colonel Stephen Cavanaugh. He is best known during this time for fighting the US State Department to better arm those forces stationed in Cambodia.

Disagreements with President Carter and retirement

In 1977, Singlaub was serving as the Chief of Staff of US forces in South Korea, the third-ranking Army official on the Korean peninsula. It was during this posting that he caught the ire of President Jimmy Carter, after he spoke out in opposition to the president's pledge to recall 32,000 troops from the region.

Carter's comments went against the opinions of military officials, who'd called for more US troops to be sent to South Korea to reinforce its border with the North. Carter relieved him of his post for overstepping his bounds and failing to respect the president's authority, and he was reassigned as the Chief of Staff at the Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

In a twist of irony, Carter eventually reversed his plan to have the troops returned to the US.

Issues between Singlaub and Carter continued, when, during a lecture before ROTC cadets at Georgia Tech, he called Carter's choice to not produce a neutron bomb "military unsound" and "ridiculous." He also criticized the president for his decision to forfeit control of the Panama Canal.

The Army immediately ordered he report to the Pentagon, where on June 1, 1978 he retired.

Anti-Communist activities during the Cold War

Following his retirement from the Army, Singlaub delved into anti-Communist activities. In 1979, he co-founded the Western Goals Foundation alongside Larry McDonald and John Rees, and in 1981 founded the US chapter of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL), the United States Council for World Freedom.

Working as a private citizen, he helped fund the movement of weapons, money and supplies to rebel forces fighting against the Communist regimes of the Soviet Union and Cuba. In May 1987, he testified before Congress during its inquiry into the Iran-Contra Affair, the government's secret sale of arms to Iran during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

Singlaub was not accused of any wrongdoing following the official investigation.

Later life and death

Throughout his retirement, Singlaub contributed to various books and even wrote a memoir. In 2006, he was inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame, and the next year was named a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment.

On January 29, 2022, Singlaub died at his home in Franklin, Tennessee at the age of 100. During his military service, he was awarded numerous commendations, including the Purple Heart with oak cluster, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with oak cluster, and the Army Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster.



Singlaub, 1981. (Photo Credit: The Denver Post / Getty Images)



THE O.S.S. SOCIETY, INC.

Spring 2005



Gen. John K. Singlaub New Society Chairman; Other Noted Veterans Named to Executive Posts

Gen. John K. Singlaub has been selected to be the new chairman of The OSS Society to succeed the late John Waller. Alger (Ace) Ellis will be the vice chairman of the Society. General Bryan "Doug" Brown, commander of the United States Special Operations Command, has been named honorary chairman of the board of directors. In addition, five new nominees to the board of directors were announced. They are Paul Colby, Walter Mess, Chester L. Cooper, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., and Amb. Hugh Montgomery.



John K. Singlaub

General Singlaub has had an important military career starting in World War II. His OSS duties included a parachute mission into occupied France to organize, train, and lead a French resistance unit which provided assistance to the Allied invasion forces. He then went to China to train Chinese guerrillas. Just before the Japanese surrender, he led a parachute rescue mission into an enemy prisoner of war camp on Hainan Island, which resulted in the release of 400 Allied prisoners of war. General Singlaub was assigned as chief of the U.S. military liaison mission to Mukden, Manchuria for three years immediately following World War II. He served two tours during the Korean War; one with the CIA in Korea and the other as an infantry battalion commander with the Third Infantry Division.

General Singlaub was also Commander of the Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force (MAC SOG) in Vietnam, and later, assistant division commander of the Eighth Infantry Division in Germany. He was chief of staff, United Nations Command, United States Forces, Korea, and the Eighth U.S. Army in Seoul, Korea. Concomitantly, he served as the U.N. Command senior military member of the Military Armistice Committee at Panmunjon.

Interspersed with his wartime command positions were numerous training assignments both at home and abroad. General Singlaub was instrumental in the establishment of the Rangers training center at Fort Benning in Georgia. He helped establish the modern army select systems of tests, evaluation and review activity at Portland, Texas, and was responsible for training Army reserve and Army National Guard units. General Singlaub was appointed deputy assistant secretary of defense for drug and alcohol abuse.

The general's 35-year career reflected military action. He was awarded 33 military decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Born July 10, 1921 in Independence, Cal., General Singlaub is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles where he was an ROTC cadet colonel. He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and subsequently served as an instructor on its faculty. He is a graduate of the Air War College.

Following retirement from the U.S. Army, General Singlaub has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad lecturing on national security issues. The General's career was chronicled in his autobiography *Hazardous Duty - An American Soldier in the Twentieth Century*.



1st Lieut. John K. Singlaub
at Milton Hall

General John Singlaub, RIP

Marek Jan Chodakiewicz
Washington, DC, 1 September 2022

John K. Singlaub (1921-2022) was a legend among us anti-Communist kids when I was in college: The Reagan/Wolverines Generation.

Some of us heard about the General's exploits in the U.S. Special Forces and the CIA. It started in the Second World War (in both European and Pacific theaters). Then came Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and plenty of other conflicts. His combat ribbons are almost too numerous to list.

His active military career ended because he quit on principle after criticizing President Jimmy Carter's decision to scale down the American presence in Korea.

With the advent of President Ronald Reagan, General Singlaub did not return to active duty. Instead, he acted as a troubleshooter and hell-raiser everywhere around the world where Communism threatened freedom. By that, I mean not only propagandizing for liberty but also preaching and practicing active, armed resistance: from the Philippines through Angola and Afghanistan to Nicaragua, among others.

I finally got to meet him in person after I successfully lobbied to invite him as a keynote speaker to our annual Pearl Harbor dinner at The Institute of World Politics some fifteen years ago. We bonded instantaneously on several levels, in particular our shared anti-Nazism, anti-Communism, conservatism, patriotism, and Californian affinities.

The General was born and reared in California. Upon hearing that I lived and became Americanized there, including in Westwood and sat on some lectures at UCLA, while finishing my Ph.D. thesis, he shared a story:

Gen. Singlaub: "The Second World War started for me right after September 17, 1939."

Marek: "Really? Were you in the Polish army because that is when Stalin followed Hitler in invading Poland?" I quipped.

Gen. S: "No, it was not in Poland. It was at UCLA. The Communists set up an anti-Polish picket. They chanted anti-Polish slogans and praised their 'Great Stalin' and the 'heroic Red Army' for invading Poland. So, I kicked the bejesus out of them."

Thus, the General started the Second World War on the anti-Communist front.

Then he continued with another Polish anecdote, especially for me. "While preparing for a jump into German-occupied France, I was trained by the Poles. They were all from the *Wehrmacht*." And he laughed.

The Third Reich drafted at least 250,000 Polish citizens into its armies. Some of them were ethnic Germans who usually went willingly. Most, however, were contrived "*Volksdeutsche*," persons with "German blood," or German ancestors, real and imagined. The

Nazis called these recruits "*Wasserpolacken*" (watered-down Poles). They were compelled to accept German citizenship and serve Berlin. Otherwise, they and their families were threatened with concentration camps.

When those *Wasserpolacken* found themselves at the front, many of the *Wasserpolacken* promptly deserted and joined the Free Polish Army in Exile, fighting on the Allied side. These soldiers had intimate knowledge of the German military culture. Thus, they trained Allied commandoes, including Jack Singlaub.

Once he landed in France behind the enemy lines in August 1944, his team was attached to the Maquis, who happened to be monarchists and Gaullists. Together they endeavored to cripple the German retreat.

One time, Jack and his unit blew up a German train. Unexpectedly, they found themselves under fire from a hostile guerrilla group. His right-wing Maquis explained to him that the attackers were Communists. There was a French civil war within the anti-German war. Stalin's boys attacked not only French collaborators of the Nazis but also assaulted the Free French who supported the Western Allies.

As the U.S. commandos and their Maquis retreated under enemy fire, Singlaub called in an American air strike against the pursuing Communists. To make sure that the Army Air Corps took him seriously, Jack radioed that their unit was being chased by the Germans. U.S. planes showed up promptly and released their bombs. The Communists were a threat no more.

A few other Polonica nuggets like that one percolated in the General's stories for me. Also, other fantastic tales abounded. Some of them made their way into his memoirs: *Hazardous Duty: An American Soldier in the Twentieth Century*.

The last time I heard from the General was late last January, when he sent an effusive letter of recommendation in support of a candidate who wanted to attend IWP. Naturally, I gave my thumbs up to admitting that person as a student.

Little did I know that the General had died probably a few days before I read the file. Always selfless and ready to help others, General John K. Singlaub fought a Good Fight for God and Country. Let him rest in peace.



Hazardous Duty

**AN AMERICAN SOLDIER
IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

MAJOR GENERAL John K. Singlaub, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

WITH MALCOLM McCONNELL



"SINGLAUB'S CAREER FRAMED NEARLY A HALF-CENTURY OF COLD WAR,
AND WHEREVER IT WAS HAPPENING, IT SEEMS, SINGLAUB WAS THERE....
A REMARKABLY INTERESTING LIFE AND A REMARKABLY INTERESTING NARRATIVE."

—THE WASHINGTON POST

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