

Army Loses 'Elder Statesman' As Gen. Palmer, 76, Retires

statesman" yesterday when Brig. C. Marshall, former Chief of Staff, War Department as adviser on post-Gen. John McAuley Palmer, 76, recalled him to active duty in 1942 He holds the Distinguish. veteran campaigner, biographer and because he wanted the advice of Medal from both World Wars, in Famous Throughout after both World Wars, went on the man he termed the Army's addition to an Oak Leaf Cluster. terminal leave in Washington be- "military elder statesman." Gen. Other honors of World War include fore going on the retired list.

after long years of retirement, Gen. Palmer is the oldest active officer when the vital question of establishing postwar policies arose

for the formation of a citizen army the Senate Military Affairs Comin time of peace."

Biographies Widely Read. Gen. Palmer had retired from the Army in 1926, and since then has much of the mobilization machinery written a number of widely read of World War II. The Army still

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At the Library of Congress, where That role was nothing new to he is engaged in military research, Gen. Palmer. After the 1918 arhe is preparing memoirs based on 58 years of Army experience. He mistice Gen. John J. Pershing, unis a strong advocate of a citizen der whom he had served in France, selected him to make plans for the "We had a citizen army in World War II and it was the greatest in the world," Gen. Palmer said. "My tional military organization. Gen. military policy is very simple. It is Palmer was assigned as adviser to

mittee in framing the National Defense Act of 1920, which governed operates under this act. As an instructor at West Point

Gen. Palmer influenced many cadets who later became national heroes, including Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Gen. Palmer dates his own military career from 1888 when he entered the Academy. He took part in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion. As a gen-eral staff officer, in 1911, he prepared a plan for the organization of the land forces under the then Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, and Chief of Staff Gen. Leonard Wood. Known as Keen Student.

A keen student of military operations, Gen. Palmer attended the war maneuvers of the French and German armies in 1912 and was in the Far East at the outbreak of the World War in 1914. In 1916, he published his first book, "An Army of the People," and next year was named to head a committee assigned to study the problems conperned in the dispatch of the first American expeditionary force to France. He joined Gen. Pershing's staff and later commanded an infantry brigade in the final days of With the clouds of World War II forming, Gen. Palmer acted as ad-

viser to the Military Training Camps the medal of the French Legion of Association and assisted in the preparation of the Selective Service Act. After publishing his fifth book, "America in Arms," Gen. Palmer was and the Spanish-American War called back to duty and attached to Medal also are listed in his service The Army lost its "military elder military biographies. Gen. George the Special Planning Division of the record.

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