Our Twenty-one Generals of Forty Years and Under: Youthful Brigadiers...

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Our Twenty-one Generals of Forty Years and Under: Youthful Brigadiers Whom We Brought Rapid Promotion in Different Branches of the Army


By C. B. HOWARD, Major of Infantry, U.S.A. In November it was feared of America's record in the war was the achievement of the young men in the United States. There were 252 Brigadier Generals promoted from the regular staff. Their average age was 45 years. One hundred and three had not reached their fifty-first birthday. Twenty-one were under 41 years of age.

Those who had not reached their forty-first year when promoted to General rank were:

34 Years: Hodges, John N.
36 Years: Glassford, Pelham D.; McNear, Lesly J.
37 Years: Johnson, Hugh S.; Roux, William H.
38 Years: Allen, George R.; Browne, Beverly F.; Blakely, Charles B.; Bry- des, William; Fussell, Benjamin D.; MacArthur, Douglas.
39 Years: Danford, Robert M.; Drum, LeRoy; Franklin, Frank A.; Richard C. S.; Mitchell, William; Wood, Robert E.;
40 Years: Briggs, Raymond W.; Churchill, Marlborough; de Armond, Edward H.; Eells, William P.

The records of these twenty-one officers show that Napoleon's statement that "every soldier of France carried a Field Marshal's baton in his knapsack" might well be paraphrased for our service, and that a General's star awaits the American soldier who demonstrates his right to wear it. Men who went through West Point, men commissioned from civilian life, and soldiers who began as privates are among the "youngest twenty-one.

General Hodges is a native of Mary- land. He was graduate of West Point. He entered the Academy in 1901 and in June, 1905, was appointed a Second Lieutenant of Engineers. His ability was demonstrated on some of the biggest work of the Engineer Corps in the Philip- pines Islands and the United States. Though his duties were exacting, he was not too busy to attend the Engineer School, from which he was graduated in 1909. In May, 1917, he held the rank of Major and one year later was a Brigadier General with the Army.

General Glassford was born in New Mexico and entered the Military Acad- icy at West Point in 1900. For years later he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Artillery Corps. In less than three years he won his initial promotion and was transferred to the Field Artillery as a First Lieutenant in June, 1907. In the same year he at- tended the Artillery School at Fort Bliss. After being graduated, served with the field guns until October, 1916, when he was detailed to the Quartermaster Corps as a Captain. When we entered the war with Germany he was a Major of Field Artillery. In August, 1917, he was made a Colonel, and in June, 1916—four years after his gradu- ation from West Point—was a Colonel. His work as an artillery commander in the operations against the Germans won him the star of a Brigadier General, his promotion coming from October, 1918.

General McNair was born in Minne- sota and was a classmate of General Glassford at West Point. He was com- missioned a "shaveling" in the Artillery Corps and promoted to be a First Lieutenant in 1907. In the same year he was detailed as Captain for duty with the Ordnance Department, with which he served for two years, when he was trans- ferred to the Field Artillery. In May, 1917, he got his Majorcy and was assigned to the Artillery Training School of General Staff. In August of the same year he was made a Lieutenant Colonel, and in the following June a Colonel of Field Artillery. His General's star came in October, 1918, shortly before the armistice. The award of the Distingui- shed Service Medal attests the character of his work in building up the efficiency of our field-gun fighters.

General Johnson also is a West Point graduate. He was born in Kansas, en- tered the Corps of Artillery in 1897 and was graduated in February, 1901, as a Second Lieutenant of the Artillery Corps. Four years later he was a First Lieutenant. In 1907 he was sent over to the Field Artillery, and after four years was made Captain in that arm. He was serving a detail in the Philippine Islands and was returned to the States, and was recalled to duty with his regular arm and promoted to a Ma- jorcy in March, 1917. In the same year he was second in command of an artillery regiment at Monterey in May, 1918, and the star of a General the following August.

General George Blakely, a native of Penn- sylvania, was graduated from West Point in 1901 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps, and a year or two later he was made First Lieutenant. In 1911 he was promoted to a Captain's rank, his Majorcy following in five years. He was a member of the Cuban pacification commission, also saw service in the Philippines as well as in the United States. He was graduated from the Engineer School in 1907 and retained for a tour of duty as an instructor. In August, 1917, he was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and in four months promoted to a Colonelcy. His work with the A. E. F. in that rank was of such quality that he was awarded the D. S. M. and, shortly before the armistice was signed was pro- moted to the rank of Brigadier General. General Allin was born in Iowa and was graduated from the Military Acad- emy at West Point in 1904 in the class with Generals Glassford and McNair. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of the Artillery Corps. In 1907 he was promoted to a First Lieu- tenant and then transferred to the service of the United States Signal Corps, in the course of the Mounted Service School in the same year. His rank was that of Captain when we entered the war with Germany. Enormous expansion of our forces re- quired the services of Signal Corps officers as Signal Officers, in which capacity, in 1916, George Allin had been three times promoted, his rank at the Armistice being a Majorcy in the field army in the capacity of a field artillery regiment with the A. E. F. Shortly before the armistice was signed, he was advanced to the grade of Brigadier General.

General Browne is a native of Vir- ginia. He entered the Military Academy in 1897 and was graduated in February, 1901, as a Second Lieutenant of the Artillery Corps. Four years later he was a First Lieutenant. In 1907 he was sent over to the Field Artillery, and after four years was made Captain in that arm. He was serving a detail in the Philippine Islands and was returned to the States, and was recalled to duty with his regular arm and promoted to a Ma- jorcy in March, 1917. In the same year he was second in command of an artillery regiment at Monterey in May, 1918, and the star of a General the following August.

General Hines is a native of Connecti- cut and a product of the army. He enlisted as a private in Company G of the 10th Infantry in June, 1899. In eighteen years he rose through every interme- diate commission - and commissioned to the rank of the grade of Brigadier General. During the two years' interme- diate between his enlistment in 1899 and July, 1901, he served successively as a private, corporal, sergeant, corporal in- fant, and First Sergeant of his company; studied for the officers' examina- tion at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and, in February, 1901, though he did not accept it until July of the same year, he was an officer. He was on foreign service and continued to serve four months as an enlisted man after he won his "shaveling" rank. When he accepted his commission, he was advanced to the grade of Captain, his regiment being less than one year old.

In October, 1906, he was promoted to a First Lieutenant, and transferred to the 45th Infantry. A year later he returned to the Signal Corps, at which time he was a First Lieutenant and the arm he was then serving was the Signal Corps, where he served for two years, and then returned to duty with infantry troops. He assisted in the reduction of the Netherlands Indies, and, with the passage of the overseas army, and continued with the A. E. F. until the armistice was signed. The record of General MacArthur is so well known that it need be mentioned only briefly here. He is a native of Arkansas, was graduated from West Point in 1903, and commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Engineers, in less than a year he was a First Lieutenant. In 1911 his rank was Captain. As a First Lieutenant he attended the Engineer School. As Captain, he served on the General Staff. His brilliant work in France as Chief of Staff of the 4th Divi- sion, (Rainbow), and as commanding officer of the 1st Infantry Brigade, won for him the D. E. S. C., Oak Leaf Cluster from our own service, the Croix de Guerre with palms from France, and the War...
Cross for merit from the Italian Government.

General Danford of Illinois was a member of the 1904 class at West Point with Generals Glassford, McNair, Allin, Blakely and Bryden. With them, he was commissioned in the Field Artillery and with them, went to the Field Artillery. As a First Lieutenant, he attended the advanced course in the Artillery School and in 1913, was a little ahead of his classmates in wearing a General's Star. His rank as a captain was much in demand in 1917, that of his classmates from Oct. 1, 1918.

General Drane, born in Michigan, entered military service in the regular army directly from civil life. He passed the required examination in 1896 and on January 17, 1898 was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of infantry. In sixteen months he won his first promotion while in the Philippine Islands and was advanced to the 25th Infantry as a First Lieutenant. The next year (1900) he went to the West Coast with which he served from May to September, when he was assigned to the 27th Infantry and saw hard service with it in the Philippine campaign. His conduct in the battle of Bayan on the island of Mindanao in May, 1902, was such that he was officially commended for bravery. He was one of the first officers to go to France with the A. E. F., and as Chief of Staff of the First Army was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

General Hinne was born in Utah and entered military service as an enlisted man, being a Sergeant of Battery Field Utah Light Artillery, when the organization was called to the colors in the war with Spain in May, 1898, and went to the Philippine Islands. The following year he was a Second Lieutenant of artillery in his Utah regiment and served in that rank until the muster out of his regiment in August, 1899. In 1901, he passed the recruiting examination and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Artillery Corps of the regular army. In 1904 he was made a First Lieutenant and four years later a Captain in the Coast Artillery Corps. He was graduated at the head of his class from the Coast Artillery School and took the advanced course of the same school, a course given to specially qualified officers. In 1912, he was detailed to the Quartermaster Corps, serving in that branch until June 30, 1914. Shortly after America entered the war, he was made a Major and detailed to the General Staff. In February, 1918, he was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, and the next month he was commissioned as a Colonel. In April he wore the insignia of a general officer. He was in charge of the embarkation service during the war. His efficiency in handling this stupendous task is attested by the decoration he wears indicating the award of the Distinguished Service Medal.

General Marshall was a Virginian. He entered the military service as a Captain in the 4th U. S. (Volunteer) Infantry in the war with Spain and saw service in the Cuban campaign. He was mustered out of the service in June, 1899, but in 1901 his name again appeared among the officers of the regular army. He was graduated in 1905 and was made a Second Lieutenant in the Artillery Corps. In 1906, he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant and appointed as Artillery School, where he was graduated at the head of his class. Four years later he was made Captain in the Big Gun "C" Corps, and shortly afterward detailed for duty with the Quartermaster Corps, a detail he held for four years. His rank was that of Major in 1917. On June 30, 1918, he was a Brigadier.

General Mitchell was born in France. The State of Wisconsin is credited with his appointment in the army. He, like General Tousain, is a product of the army and has served in any other known military establishment. He was a private in Company M, 1st Wisconsin Infantry, when that regiment became part of the American Army in our war with Spain. In less than a week, however, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Volunteer Zineral Forces.

In January, 1899, he was promoted to be First Lieutenant in the same branch. In February, 1901, he had passed the required examination and was commissioned as First Lieutenant in the regular service and given the signal in the Signal System. Two years later he was made a Captain, and while holding that rank attended and won distinction in the Army School and the Line of the Army Staff College.

He saw service in the Cuban and Philippine campaigns and held the rank of Major when we went to war with Germany. He was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel in May, 1917, and that of Colonel in August of the same year.

He was Air Service Commander in the zone of advance, and after the formation of the First and Second Armies served in that capacity for both. While Chief of Air Service of the First Army he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre with palm for having made personal reconnaissance by airplane over a wide area of strongly held German positions, obtaining data of vital worth to our forces. Further recognition has been accorded to him by the award in June last of the Distinguished Service Medal, the citation from General Pershing's headquarters stating that the medal was bestowed on General Mitchell:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished acts as Air Service Commander in the zone of advance and later as Commander of the First and Second Armies, while fighting in the zone occupied by the American Forces, near the Front for the purpose of obtaining vital information of the operations of the German armies."

General Wood was born in Missouri and entered the Military Academy at West Point in 1898. He was promoted in June, 1906, and commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Cavalry and assigned to the 3rd Regiment of the mounted troops. He was promoted to be First Lieutenant of Cavalry the following year and in March, 1911, rose to the grade of Captain. He was retired with the rank of Major on July 1, 1914, under an act of Congress, 1913, which provides that officers who had served five years or more on the Isthmus of Panama during the war of 1912-1913 and were advanced in their retirement election, be advanced one grade and retired. At the outbreak of the war he was called back to the service and joined the Quartermaster Department.

General Briggs was born in Pennsylvania in 1880. He entered the regular army from the ranks of the army. He enrolled originally in the Hospital Corps in 1916, and the Military Examinations Board, after a successful examination for a commission, he was a dragoon in the 4th Infantry. August 21, 1909, saw his status changed from enlisted man to First Lieutenant of the 4th Infantry, and he served with the 25th Regiment until 1908, when he was transferred to the 6th Infantry. He was promoted to the grade of Captain in 1908, with which he served in the Philippine campaign in 1910 and in his return to the United States entered the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley. He was a Major of Field Artillery in 1917, and fifteen months later a brigade commander.

General Churchill was born in Massachusetts. Like General Drum, he was commissioned directly from civil life. He was graduated from Harvard in 1906, and in 1901 passed the required examination and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Artillery Corps, and six years later he was made First Lieutenant. He was transferred to the Field Artillery in June, 1907, and five years later advanced to the grade of Captain. He was Major when we went to war in 1917. His advancement to the high rank of Brigadier General through the intervening grades was accomplished. He was one of our early arrivals in France. His work there is epitomized in the citation which accompanied the award of the Distinguished Service Medal; it is only decoration was bestowed:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished acts as Chief of Staff, First and Second Armies, of the American Expeditionary Forces, for his brilliant performance in building up the Military Intelligence Division of the General Staff and directing the activities of great efficiency with ability, tact and determination, and for his intelligence Service to its present high state of efficiency."

General De Armond is a native of Missouri and entered the Military Academy at West Point in 1907 as, in his graduation in February, 1911, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of the Artillery Corps and assigned to the Philippine Islands. He was advanced to the grade of First Lieutenant in 1906 and the following year was detailed to the field gun regiment. His Captaincy was achieved in 1911 after he was graduated from the Mounted Service School and his year course. He is a noted rifle shot and one of the best horsemen in the army. He was a Major in 1917. He was detailed to the General Staff in June, 1917. His commission as a general officer dates from Aug. 6, 1918. He saw hard service in the Philippines in 1903-04, and won official commendation for his dash and zeal in the campaign against the Moro.

General Ennis was born in California and was a classmate of General De Armond's at West Point. With his class, he graduated early in 1904 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Artillery. These two officers, who entered the service together, have taken each successive step together, and General Ennis received his commission as Brigadier General in the same day as did General De Armond.

The sketches which make up this record reprint the fact that about one-fifth of the officers listed rose from the ranks. Four entered the military service in enlisted grades, were commissioned from civil life, fourteen are graduates of the Military Academy.