

Gordon McClellan Mercer.

Gordon enlisted at Pittsburg Pa. and consequently did not have an opportunity to be in the service associated with his friends and acquaintances of the Southland. This must have been the source of considerable loneliness to him as well as a loss to his family, in that they could not obtain personal information concerning incidents of his service that would have been very interesting indeed to them. Gordon however was of a very friendly and companionable disposition and friends made during his service days have been very kind and sympathetic about writing to his family and giving them what little scraps of information about him they had.

Either Gordon's military school training or his natural respect for just discipline made him very careful about speaking or writing about his soldier life, so that his letters though very frequent and long were seldom marked by the censor, he never complained of food or discipline nor hardships. He was once wounded and in a hospital for over a week but never mentioned it at all in his letters home. He was a home lover, away from home for the first time, barely of age and separated from old friends, but his only remark was usually "I'm glad to be here because it's my place and I want to stay and see it through but I'll be mighty glad when it is over".

His was a generous, lovable, happy disposition, very thoughtful of others, grateful and responsive. His personal appearance was attractive, being slightly over medium build, finely developed physically and of an upright carriage, complexion was slightly dark (brunette), his hair brown and eyes large and dark brown in color, teeth white, regular and very beautiful.

His preference for a profession was ~~an~~ an inclination to study medicine. He was literary in his tastes and preferred the best classical and standard modern literature both poetry and prose.

Louis T. Timmerman 1st. Lieutenant 83rd. Co. 6th. Marines said of him in a letter to a comrade "We were in the same platoon from Quantico's training days onward. In the trench sector we occupied near Verdun before going down to the Marne, he was always one of the most courageous men in the platoon. After his death I missed both his soldierly qualities and his friendship very much indeed. On that day (June 6th.) the platoon had ~~several~~ casualties, nine of whom were killed, out of forty men in their platoon. This platoon took two machine guns and twenty one prisoners and was the only platoon of the battalion to take and hold their objective in that attack".

Report of Gordon Mercer's death did not reach his family until long after his death and was then variously placed at from the 6th. to the 9th. of June 1918. The accurate date, June 6th. was finally settled by the Red-Cross cooperating with the War Department.

Rumors of his death reached his family from time to time through letters of his comrades to their families over here and it was the persistency of these rumors that caused his family and friends to ask Senators Bankhead and Underwood to make inquiries through the Adjutant Generals' office as to the authenticity of these rumors. which finally confirmed the facts of his death in action.