

# War's Toll of American Officers in First Year

Twenty-seven Killed in France or Lost in Naval Fighting Zone Since Last April, While Many Others Have Died in Training at Home

AMERICA'S Roll of Honor, with the end of the first year of war less than two weeks off, contains the names of twenty-seven officers killed in action or lost in the naval war zone. A twenty-eighth was reported either killed or captured last Tuesday, when this record was compiled.

The first American officer, in any branch of the service, killed in our war was Lieutenant Clarence C. Thomas, who was in command of the naval armed guard of the S. S. Vacuum, and who died in an open boat from exposure April 28, 1917, when that ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. Lieutenant Thomas was a Californian, born at Grass Valley. He entered the United States Naval Academy thirteen years ago, and was graduated as an honor man. After leaving Annapolis he took a postgraduate course at Columbia, where, as at the Naval Academy, he had a distinguished record. After that he passed through the various grades of naval honor as ensign, junior grade Lieutenant, and Lieutenant.

The first commissioned member of the United States Army forces to be killed by the enemy in France was not a soldier fighting the Germans, but a physician. On Sept. 1, Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimmons of the United States Army Medical Corps, Adjutant of the Harvard Unit in France, was killed in the German air raid on the Harvard Unit hospital. Lieutenant Fitzsimmons was 28 years old, born in Kansas, and a graduate of the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas, holding degrees as B. A. and M. D. In the university's Graduate Magazine, Dr. Mervin T. Sudler, Associate Dean of the School of Medicine, writes a brief summary of his work:

The year following his graduation was spent in St. Mary's Hospital of Kansas City, and in June of 1913 he went to Roosevelt Hospital, New York City, where he remained fourteen months, leaving on Sept. 13, 1914, for Europe. He then spent six months in England under the direction of Sir William Osler and seven months in Belgium, returning to America Dec. 10, 1915. In general, he described his experiences abroad as largely hard work, a great deal of it routine in character, which he was glad to do; and yet, the professional knowledge gained had not been in proportion to the amount of energy and time expended. By this time he was closely acquainted with the horrors of war, and this experience greatly strengthened his sympathies with the Allies. Upon his return he started the practice of medicine and received several hospital appointments and marked recognition among his professional associates. He was assistant in surgery in the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas and had charge of the surgical work in the out-patient department two mornings a week, and also assisted in a lecture course. When the United States felt that in the name of liberty and justice she must declare war, he resigned all of his appointments and entered the Medical

Reserve Corps. He sailed for France on July 24, 1917, where he joined the Harvard Unit, becoming Adjutant under the direction of Colonel Patterson, a position which he held until his death.

Two other Americans holding commissions in the United States Army Medical Corps were killed during the early months of the war. They were First Lieutenant G. P. Howe of Boston, killed in action Sept. 28, and First Lieutenant Orlando Gochnaur of Freeport, Ill., killed in action Nov. 5, while attached to the British forces. Lieutenant Gochnaur was acting as regimental surgeon in the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps on the Flanders front, attached to the 73d Field Ambulance Division of the British expeditionary force, and was the first Illinois man killed in action.

The first West Point graduate killed was First Lieutenant Stewart W. Hoover of the United States Infantry. Lieutenant Hoover was a member of the class of 1917 at the Military Academy—the class that was graduated six months

he enrolled in the Law Department of the University of Florida, but left his year's work unfinished to enter the officers' training camp at Fort McPherson, Georgia, when the United States entered the war. Upon being commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery he was sent to France about the first of September. He was the first artillery officer reported killed in action. His older brother, Lieutenant Robert A. Burford, Jr., Annapolis, 1907, is serving on the U. S. S. De Kalb.

Four American Army officers were lost when the Tuscania went down, Feb. 5. Captain Philip Vincent Sherman, Engineers' Reserve Corps, casual, had made a reputation in this country as a railway construction engineer. He was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and had been a member of the engineering department of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. His home at the time of his death was North-

engineer of twenty years' experience, who felt that there was work that he could do for his country. He was trained at Fort Leavenworth and then joined the 311th Engineers at Fort Grant, Rockford, whence he was ordered to France on the Tuscania. Captain Le Bron came of a line of soldiers. His grandfather was a Brigadier General, one uncle was a Colonel, and another a Captain. Captain Le Bron, Captain Lighthall, and Captain Sherman are buried on the coast of Scotland. Of First Lieutenant William Binnie, Field Artillery, unassigned, nothing is officially reported except that he has been "missing" since the Tuscania went down. His body was either unrecovered or unidentified. He was from Fallon, Mon.

In an unsuccessful German raid on the American trenches in the sector north of Toul, on March 1, Second Lieutenant Harold F. Eadie of Tilton, N. H., a famous quarterback, first of Phillips Andover and then of Dartmouth, was killed. He was 24 years old, and was the only member of the junior class at Dartmouth who was chosen for the Plattsburg Camp last Summer. He is thought to have been Acting Captain at the time of his death.

The death in action of First Lieutenant Edward McClure Peters, Jr., was reported March 12. He was the son of Captain Edward McClure Peters, U. S. N., retired, of 520 East Twenty-first Street, Flatbush, Brooklyn, and was graduated from Harvard in 1916. He had recently passed the examination for the examination for

a commission as Captain. When he met his death he was Acting Captain of a machine-gun company. Second Lieutenant John Flenniken of Lynn, Mass., was killed in action Feb. 27. Captain John Dilworth von Holtzendorff, first reported "severely wounded" by shellfire near Toul on March 1, died of his wounds on March 5. He was born in Brunswick, Ga., was appointed a midshipman at the Naval Academy in 1908, but resigned in 1910 to enter the army. He served in the Philippines, was with General Pershing in Mexico in 1916, and was commissioned last year. First Lieutenant David K. Sumner of Jonesboro, Ga., was killed in action March 1. Recent reports, giving merely the names in the casualty lists, state that Captain Harry C. McHenry, First Lieutenant Louis J. Jordan, Lieutenant John Norman, and Lieutenant John H. David have been killed in action this month.



## Finishing His Education Abroad

Captain James E. Miller is either dead or a prisoner.

Two American naval officers were killed when the U. S. S. Jacob Jones was torpedoed, Dec. 6, 1917. Lieutenant Stanton F. Kalk of Nebraska, who died of exposure, was the only son of Mrs. Frank G. Kalk, the widow of an army officer. He was the officer in charge of the deck when the Jacob Jones was torpedoed, and the official report of the disaster praised his prompt measures to avoid the enemy's weapon, as well as his general ability as an officer. Temporary Gunner Harry R. Hood, who was killed in the explosion, enlisted in the navy twelve years ago and received his commission only a few months before his death. He was from Asheville, N. C. When the U. S. S. Chauncey went down after a collision with a British vessel in the war zone, Nov. 19, the commander of the boat.

Lieut. Commander Walter E. Reno, Ensign Harry George Skinner, Jr., U. S. N. R. F., and Lieutenant Charles F. Wedderburn, j. g., lost their lives. Lieut. Commander Reno was from Philadelphia, Lieutenant Wedderburn from Washington, and Ensign Skinner from Baltimore. Ensign Skinner, who was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1913, was out of the service for about four years, being recalled in 1917; he was making his second conveying trip when he was killed.

Lieutenant John T. Melvin, j. g., of the

Fleet Naval Reserve, U. S. N. R. F., was lost at sea when the U. S. S. Alcedo was sunk Nov. 5. He was the son of Bishop Stewart Melvin of Selma, Ala., was born in 1887, was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1911, and served in the navy for four years. He resigned from the service and at the time of the declaration of war was working with the Lake Torpedo Boat Company at Bridgeport. He at once re-enlisted, and was assigned to duty on the Alcedo.

Word has recently reached this country

of the death, in action, of Lieutenant Wallace C. Winter, Jr., of the Aviation Service, U. S. A. He had enlisted in the United States Naval Aviation Corps in March, 1917, but two months later received his honorable discharge to join the Lafayette Escadrille of the French Army. In February he was commissioned First Lieutenant, United States Army, and was to be transferred to the American service, but the transfer had not yet taken place when he was killed, on March 9, in combat with four enemy biplanes. He was the oldest son of Wallace C. Winter of Chicago, a member of the class of 1918, Sheffield, Yale University. He received citation and the Croix de Guerre, with star, in January for valor in aerial combat. On March 1 the death was reported of Ensign Curtis Seaman Read, United States Naval Aviation Service, "killed while on duty in France." He was the son of Mrs. William A. Read, widow of the New York banker, and was a member of the class of 1918 at Yale; he was 22 years old.



First Lieut. Stewart W. Hoover, U.S.A. The first West Point graduate killed in action.

First Lieut. Orlando Gochnaur, M. O. R. C., U. S. A.

First Lieut. William T. Fitzsimmons, M. R. C., U. S. A. The first American Army officer killed in France.



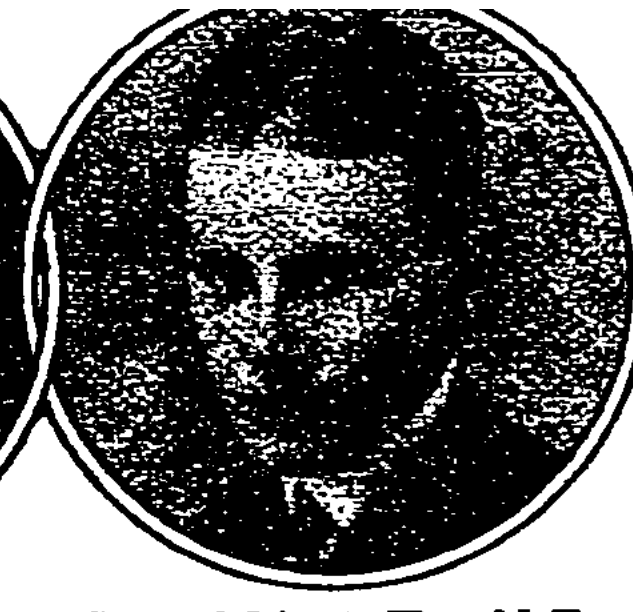
Second Lieut. Wiley H. Burford, Field Artillery, U. S. A.



Gunner Harry R. Hood, (temporary), U. S. N.



First Lieut. Edward McClure Peters, Jr., U. S. A.



Second Lieut. Harold F. Eadie, U. S. R.

On the Honor Roll of American Officers Who Have Died Fighting "Over There."