

BARNHARDT, George Columbus, army officer, was born at Gold Hill, N. C., Dec. 28, 1868, son of Marshall L. and Sarah Pines (Dunlap) Barnhardt, grandson of Col. George and _____ (_____) Barnhardt, great-grandson of Mathias and _____ (_____) Barnhardt and great-great-grandson of Mathias Barnhardt, native of Baden, Germany who came to the United States about the middle of the 18th century and settled first in Philadelphia county, Pa., and, about 1770, in Mecklenberg county, N. C. Mathias Barnhardt, Jr., served in the Northumberland county militia with the "Rangers" on the frontier, 1778-83; and Capt. Marshall L. Barnhardt was an officer in the Confederate army through the civil war. George Columbus Barnhardt was educated at Davidson College, N. C., and entered the service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, June 16, 1888; graduated and was appointed second lieutenant of Cavalry, June 11, 1892; promoted first lieutenant, November 7, 1898; captain, February 2, 1901; major, June 12, 1916; lieutenant colonel, May 15, 1917; colonel, July 1, 1920; and appointed brigadier general, June 23, 1927.

He served as Assistant Quartermaster of Volunteers with the rank of captain from August 9, 1900, to March 21, 1901; as colonel in the National Army from August 16, 1917, to October 16, 1918; and as brigadier general (emergency) from October 17, 1918, to June 1, 1919.

Upon his graduation from the Military Academy, General Barnhardt was assigned to the Cavalry arm and served at various stations in the United States; in China; in the Philippine Islands; in Cuba; in France; in Germany; and in the Territory of Hawaii. In addition to duty with troops he was assigned to many widely diversified activities. He was assistant to the Chief Quartermaster on the relief expedition to Tientsin, China, in 1900; Depot Quartermaster and Chief Quartermaster, Department of Southern Luzon, with Lake Lanao Expedition, and engaged in reconnaissance and road building in Mindanao, Philippine Islands; in Cuba with the American Army of Occupation as regimental quartermaster, 15th Cavalry, and supervisor of the Supply Department, and assistant adviser to the Major General commanding the armed forces of Cuba during the existence of the Provisional Government; assistant to the Depot Quartermaster, Washington, D.C., in charge of Finance Division.

After the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, General Barnhardt accompanied his regiment to Cuba and participated in the siege and bombardment of Santiago. During the World War, he organized and commanded the 329th Infantry at Camp Sherman, Ohio, and sailed with his regiment for France in June 1918. Upon joining the American Expeditionary Forces, he was assigned to command the 28th Infantry, and later the 2nd Infantry Brigade, participating in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. After the cessation of hostilities, he commanded the 178th Infantry Brigade in Germany.

Upon his return to the United States he was a student at the General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and at the Army War College, Washington, D.C., graduating from the former in 1920, and from the latter in 1921. He served as Chief of the Operations Branch, General Staff; in command of the District of Washington, Washington, D.C., of the 22nd Infantry Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii, and of the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

General Barnhardt was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal "For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services. As commander of the 28th Infantry, he handled his regiment so brilliantly under severe conditions during the St. Mihiel offensive, September 12 and 13, 1918, and during the battle of the Meuse-Argonne, October 1, to 11, 1918, that the regiment demonstrated an unusually high degree of efficiency and morale. He repeatedly displayed superior tactical judgment and by his exceptional ability, leadership, and devotion to duty, he effectively executed the most difficult missions assigned to his regiment. Later in command of the 2nd Infantry Brigade and then the 178th Infantry Brigade, he again displayed high efficiency and military attainments, thereby rendering with all his commands important services to the American Expeditionary Forces".

He was awarded the Silver Star Citation for gallantry in action against Spanish forces at Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898.

The French Government awarded him the Legion of Honor and Croix-de-Guerre with palm.

The records show that General Barnhardt was a conscientious, loyal, hardworking officer of high character and personal standards. While his great interest centered about anything pertaining to his profession, he found pleasure in golf and showed unusual ability in woodcarving. By creed he was a Presbyterian. He was married Dec.19,1895, to Floy Rice, daughter of Col. John B. Rodman,U.S. Army. They had one daughter,Floy Barnhardt, who married Wilson Gordon Saville, of Houston, Texas. His military career extended over a period of more than forty-two years, during which time he was assigned to many important duties, all of which were invariably performed with characteristic zeal, energy, and efficiency. Quiet and unassuming in demeanor, he possessed the invaluable military attribute of leadership and the ability to achieve results. General Barnhardt died at Ft. Bliss, Dec.10,1930.