

A Good Soldier

When Glenn C. Haynes assumed his duties as warden of the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison in 1933, he was performing a new experiment. Trained and experienced as a soldier, he had often observed men in their extremities as they met opposition and restraint. He was known, too, as an aggressive, forthright executive. But, without experience in prison control, he was accepting a new challenge, facing a new career. He was, however, equal to the occasion. Nine years' experience as a warden made him a leader and eminent authority in that field. It may be that he became a good warden because in earlier years he had been a good soldier.

Warden Haynes was not the first of his line to seek military service. His forefathers were soldiers in the American Revolution. His father, Eugene C. Haynes, was a member of the Sixth Iowa Infantry in the Civil War. Though he lost an arm at the battle of Atlanta, he refused to be mustered out and remained in service until the end of the war. In later years he was familiarly known as Colonel Haynes. The warden's older brother, Henry C. Haynes, was also a soldier,

having served as captain of Company E, Fiftieth Iowa Infantry, in the Spanish-American War. Another brother and a sister served overseas in the first World War.

Glenn C. Haynes entered the service of the Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard, at Centerville on July 26, 1892, and by 1896 had become a sergeant. When the Spanish-American War began he was only twenty-two years of age, but he enlisted as first sergeant in the company of which his brother, Henry, was captain, and on May 17, 1898, he was mustered into federal service at Camp McKinley, Des Moines. The Fiftieth Iowa was sent to Jacksonville, Florida, for training and to be in readiness for service in Cuba.

When the rainy season began, Camp "Cuba Libre" proved to be very unhealthy, and a new site had to be prepared on higher ground. In the meanwhile, hundreds of soldiers, many of them from Iowa, were sick in the hospital. By the time health conditions had been somewhat improved and hostilities had ceased in September, the Fiftieth Iowa was sent back to Des Moines. There the men were given a furlough of thirty days, which was later extended ten days, and finally, on November 30th, they were mustered out of service. As a parting message to his men, Colonel E. E. Lambert said: "I can assure you that no regiment

ever entered the service that was more loyal, energetic, enthusiastic, or more anxious to demonstrate to the world that they would fight unto death for the honor of the flag and their country." As a member of this regiment, Sergeant Haynes had acquired his first military experience. He had not been placed in combat service, but he had proven himself to be a good soldier.

After the Spanish-American War, Glenn C. Haynes continued to serve in the National Guard. In February, 1899, he was made a second lieutenant, in July a first lieutenant, and in the following year, he was advanced to the rank of captain. In 1904 he withdrew from the Guard, but five years later he reënlisted and in the following year, 1910, he was made a major. In 1914 he again withdrew from military service. When the trouble developed on the Mexican border in 1916, he served as a recruiting officer at Fort Des Moines. On August 8, 1916, he was mustered out.

His relief from military duty, however, was of brief duration. When the United States declared war upon Germany in 1917, he returned to Centerville and, with members of his old National Guard company, volunteered for active duty. He was then forty-one years of age, had a family, and was a man of wide experience in both civil and military service, but he was content to enlist as a

private. By order of the Adjutant General, however, he was made a captain, and when the Iowa National Guard forces were united to form the 168th United States Infantry and were inducted into service as a part of the 42nd or Rainbow Division, he became captain of Company D.

Soldiers in their "tented city" at the State Fair Grounds constituted the greatest attraction at the fair in 1917. Members of the 168th Infantry remained there until August 29th, when they departed for Camp Albert A. Mills in New York. One of the first organizing officers whom the Iowa men met at Camp Mills was Douglas MacArthur, under whose brilliant leadership they were destined to make history on the battlefields of France.

On October 18th the Iowa troops were marched on board the *President Grant* for transportation across the Atlantic. Five days out at sea, however, one of the boilers of the big transport gave out, and the troops were returned to New York. Some of the men were sent to Governor's Island, but the First Battalion, in which Captain Haynes with Company D had been placed, returned to Camp Mills. On November 14th, these troops again undertook the ocean voyage — this time on the *R. M. S. Aurania*. Seventeen days later they landed safely at Liverpool. From there they went to Winchester, thence to Southampton, and across

the Channel to Le Havre, France. Finally they came to the Haute-Marne country near Chaumont, and were assigned to the little village of Rimaucourt.

On the second of January, the three majors, eight captains, thirty-six lieutenants, and twenty-seven sergeants were sent to the American First Army Corps School at Gondrecourt. For five weeks the officers were trained by an English drill sergeant in all the tactics of trench warfare. The weather was terrible. All but the majors were housed in uncomfortable barracks. It is recorded that the most important events outside the daily routine of study were "the breaking of Captain Yates' cot, Lieutenant Gault's soliloquies while building the fire, Captain Haynes' charley horse, and the arrival of mail."

Early in February the First Battalion went into billets at Beauchemin. A few days later they marched to Rolampont where the men were loaded into cars marked *Hommes 40 — Chevaux 8*, "the famous side-door Pullmans" used by the enlisted men in those days. After a cold eighteen-hour ride and a march of fifteen kilometers the troops arrived at Deneuvre, an ancient suburb of the industrial town of Baccarat. Soon they were on their way to battle, and their introduction to service was a severe one. "There was snow in the air as the

First Battalion hurried out to breakfast in the cold streets of Deneuvre at half past three in the morning of February 21st, and as the column wound down the hill before sunrise and on through Baccarat on the first lap of its march to the front, a heavy snowstorm half obscured the softened outlines of houses and trees."

By the first of March, Captain Haynes with Company D was experiencing the vicissitudes of life in the trenches on the Chamois sector in Lorraine. During a heavy bombardment on March 2nd, Private Charles Gerdon of Company D was the first man of the regiment to be wounded. The injury was slight, but the remedy — the injection of anti-tetanus — was annoying. He considered a subsequent bestowal of the Croix de Guerre more of a reward for the treatment than for the injury.

On the fifth of March the Germans made a determined assault to demoralize the Americans and capture prisoners. Company D was in the thick of the fight. In the course of the raid the Machine Gun Company received orders to "fight to the end." Accordingly, Lieutenant Charles J. Riley of that company sent a runner to Captain Haynes to inquire if he were going to hold, or withdraw and leave the outpost to its fate. Captain Haynes sent the following brief note: "The line is intact, and

Company D will hold." The reply was characteristic of the man. It was the mark of a good soldier.

The First Battalion was placed in many difficult situations, and was frequently subjected to gas attacks. At the Battle of the Champagne, Company D had no dugouts, but "was stationed in open trenches in the vicinity of the Old Roman Road. The fire here was so severe that time after time men had to be dug out of the trench where they had been completely covered. Inexplicably, but three of them were killed and only nine wounded."

At La Croix Rouge Farm the First Battalion became disorganized due in part to the fact that its commander could not be located. "No one knew just what the orders were, or whether the Boches were 500 or 5000 yards away." After the main body of troops had swerved too far to the right, Captain Haynes recognized the error and "worked back into the proper sector." The First Battalion, however, "had been badly hit". Company D alone lost about sixty men.

In the advance to the Ourcq, casualties continued to increase. At one time an airplane bearing the allied insignia, but believed to have been piloted by a German, swooped low over the Iowa troops, and in a minute shells of large calibre were

falling in their midst. The first one hit about fifty feet ahead of Company D, and the second exploded squarely in the First Platoon. Captain Haynes shuddered as he saw Lieutenant Henry C. Peyton blown high into the air, and could not bring himself to look that way again. Peyton survived, however, and months later he had recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital.

On the "Tragic Thirtieth" of July, 1918, the 168th Infantry was fighting against difficult odds. Informed that Company C was moving out, Captain Haynes gave the word for Company D to "go forward". He shrank at giving the order that he knew meant certain death for many of his men, but it was "no time for sentiment". Already he had lost his runners by a shell that had fallen nearby. One of the men had lost an arm in addition to receiving other wounds, and the other had been killed outright. As the troops advanced slowly over the field they were subjected to a murderous and unopposed machine gun fire from the flank and front. The time for rushing was past.

"We had to crawl from the start", said Captain Haynes. "The bullets were just skipping over the top of the ground, in a seemingly solid wave. Shells were falling thick and fast all around us, and they had the range to a foot. We crawled along as best we could. Ahead of us in a draw

was a small stream lined with a few trees. To this bit of shelter — all that was offered — 300 yards away, we determined to go." The losses were heavy in gaining this objective, and having reached the limited shelter the men were not able to hold it without the aid of artillery. Accordingly, they started for the rear, following the course of a stream behind a hill, where they were protected from the fire of machine guns. There were no further casualties in the company. Already the losses had been very great, but they might have been even greater if the company had not been captained by a good soldier.

Early in October, 1918, Major Claude M. Stanley, who had been commanding the Second Battalion, was advanced to the position of lieutenant colonel, and Captain Haynes succeeded Stanley as commander of the Second Battalion. It was in this position, on October 16th, that Captain Haynes "distinguished himself by his coolness and leadership" in the attack on Bois de Châtillon and Côte de Châtillon.

"When the commanders of his two front-line companies were put out of action after having obtained a footing upon the slopes, Captain Haynes personally took command of the two companies, and in utter disregard for his own safety, successfully led them through heavy artillery, machine-

gun, and rifle fire to their objective." For this exploit, Captain Haynes was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was also later awarded the Croix de Guerre, with a second citation from the French Government, for his acts of bravery.

Sometimes there is a touch of humor among the tragedies of war. In a tour of the Third Battalion, which was closely associated with the Second, a man from Company K, returning from an outpost on the night of October 8th, was thrown flat in the mud by the force of an explosion. When he staggered to his feet, stunned and bruised, his hand, straying involuntarily to his face, touched a gob of mud, which in the bewilderment of the moment he took to be the battered remains of his eye. "I'm shot into a hamburg", he yelled as he sprinted for the dressing station. He was there found to be entirely uninjured; and upon return to his company, his Captain remarked, "Burch, you weren't shot into a hamburg, you were shot into a humbug."

Sometimes there were great explosions without disastrous results. Just outside the Tuilerie Farm a delayed action bomb exploded. "The tremendous concussion shook the countryside and the roar echoed and re-echoed in the hills like a succession of giant salvos. From the huge cloud of

dust and débris that rose high into the heavens, the men on the hill thought that the entire group of buildings had been destroyed and all the men in them blown to atoms." But fortunately no one was near enough at the time to be injured, although many were flattened by the explosion. Captain Haynes and the men with him were occupying a cellar of the farm house at the time of the explosion. "The blast, which sounded to them as if the world had come to an end, burst open the door of the room where they were sitting and brought down the shelves on the wall with a clatter, but the walls and floor above them stood firm." Perhaps the lives of the men were saved by the sturdy construction of the old French house.

A war incident which showed the attitude and character of Captain Haynes, and one which is of interest to Iowa soldiers and civilians on the home front today, occurred on the march to the Rhine. "While at Putzborn Captain Haynes was visited by a committee from D Company, his former command. Some time previous he had received a donation of \$600 from the P. E. O. Society to be used as he saw fit to make the coming Christmas a happier one for the men in that company from Appanoose County. As he was no longer with them, he turned over the money to the eighteen or twenty men who remained of the original ninety

that had set out from Appanoose County with him. This committee, representing those survivors, had come to return the money with the request that it be used to erect a memorial to their dead comrades who could not share in it. These same men, scarcely recovered from the strain of a long campaign, undernourished, marching for days in worn-out shoes, many of them even without underclothes, and none of them with a cent to his name — for two months' pay was still owing them — in spite of the thousand and one uses to which they could have put the money to their own benefit and comfort, preferred that it should go to perpetuate the memory of their buddies. As the Captain looked at them standing there in the rain — cold, wet, and hungry — he could not suppress a bulge that would rise in his throat; for to him, as to every one who knew of their condition, it was the most beautiful example of pure unselfishness. The memorial for which this cheerfully given fund formed a nucleus has since been erected at Centerville; but who can appreciate the measure of self-sacrifice that gave it being?"

Throughout his sojourn in France, Captain Haynes was in active service. He fought at Champagne, Chateau-Thierry, St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne, and in the drive to Sedan, and was in the Army of Occupation in Germany. Al-

though he was in the trenches four months, led his men time and again in fierce battles, and won the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary bravery, he escaped unscathed. He was one of the few men in his company who was not injured.

During his service in Germany he was made a major. After the armistice he served as a regimental operations officer. In the reorganization of the National Guard in 1921, he was made lieutenant colonel of the 168th Infantry, and was later promoted to the rank of colonel. In 1929-1930 he served as Commander of the Iowa Department of the American Legion.

Always and everywhere, as private, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel, he was faithful to his charge. In private life he was a good citizen. Perhaps it was because, in military life, he had always been a good soldier.

J. A. SWISHER