

LT Fred S. Byerly

Location - East-A: R9, C29

Fred Byerly, January '13, has recently been home on a furlough. After graduating from O. H. S., he entered the local Normal school, where he remained for one and one-half years, leaving school to take a position as superintendent for the Schmidt Trunk and Bag Company, in whose employ he remained until June, 1916, when he went to Texas with the National Guards. He returned from Texas in February, 1917, and completed his Normal course the following spring. In May, 1917, he entered the officers' training camp at Fort Sheridan, where he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in August. In September he was assigned to the 85th division of the 338th infantry in Camp Custer. In January he was transferred to the 310th Supply Train in the same division and was soon promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. For a time he was engaged in taking trains of motor trucks from Detroit overland to Baltimore. July 30 he sailed for France. He had just reached

the front when the armistice was signed. Just before leaving France he passed a perfect physical examination. He took a preliminary examination and was immediately signed over to attend a school for regular army officers in the U. S. During his recent furlough, April 30-May 9, which was spent in this city at 173 Wright Street, he and Mrs. Byerly (Mattie James, Jan. '13) entertained the choir of the First M. E. Church, of which Mrs. Byerly has been a member for the last six years.

Fred S. Byerly, Former Butte Official, Succumbs

Fred Stevens Byerly, 64, former Butte county official, died early today in a Memphis, Tenn., hospital following an illness of more than two years.

Mr. Byerly was, at various times since 1936, Butte county probation officer, supervisor, and auditor, having left the latter office at the expiration of his term in January.

Wife Died in March

He and his wife, the late Mattie Lois Byerly, had gone to Memphis in January to visit a daughter, Mrs. Edward L. Lewis. Mrs. Byerly became ill and died there on March 28. Mr. Byerly then decided to remain there and make his home with his daughter. However, late in April he contracted pneumonia, which, together with his chronic illness, seriously weakened him. He left the hospital for a weekend on May 3, but was forced to return for further treatment.

He was born in Mullensville, Kans., on Oct. 28, 1890, the son of William S. and Medora Stevens Byerly. Later the family moved to Oshkosh, Wis., where Mr. Byerly was graduated from high school and Oshkosh State Teachers' College.

He was associated with a luggage manufacturing firm for a short time, but left his position there to go to the Mexican border in 1916 with a national guard company. That year, while home on leave, he married Mattie Lois James.

Mr. Byerly attended the first officers' training school just prior to World War I and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the regular Army. He served during the war and was in France at the time of the Armistice. After the war, he decided to remain in the Army and made it his career. During the next 18 years, he saw service in several Army posts as well as in the Philippine Islands and Hawaii. In 1936, he was retired because of a disability suffered while in the service.



FRED S. BYERLY

... former official dies

Learn of Death Of Maj. Fred Byerly

Friends in Oshkosh learned today of the death of Maj. Fred S. Byerly, former Oshkosh man, in the naval hospital in Memphis Tenn.

Maj. Byerly, who was 64, moved to Oshkosh in 1910 from his native Mullinville, Kan., and attended Oshkosh Normal School. Upon graduation, he became superintendent of the old Schmidt Trunk and Box Company of Oshkosh.

While in this city, he married the former Mattie Lois James of Oshkosh. His wife died March 27.

Maj. Byerly left his position with the Oshkosh firm when he enlisted in the Army in 1914 for service on the Mexican border. Later he was with the first American detachment to go to France in World War I, and after that served in the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands. Illness forced his retirement from active duty in 1936.

In recent years the former Oshkosh man had lived in Chico, Calif., where he served terms as county supervisor and county auditor. The two were visiting a daughter and son-in-law in Memphis at the time of their deaths.

Major Byerly was born Oct. 28, 1890 in Mullinville, Kan. He moved to Oshkosh, Wisc., in 1910 and attended normal school there. After his college graduation, he became superintendent of the Schmidt Trunk and Box Company in Oshkosh, and he and Mrs. Byerly, a native of Oshkosh, were married.

Byerly left his manufacturing position in 1914 to enlist in the Army and start his military career with service on the Mexican border. He later entered officers training and was subsequently commissioned an officer.

Byerly was with the first American detachment to go to France during World War I. After the war, he served in many stations in the world, with long periods of duty in the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands. He and Mrs. Byerly traveled widely during his military service, gaining a rich geographical and cultural background.

Upon his retirement from active duty in 1930, Major and Mrs. Byerly wrote Mr. and Mrs. Thomas James, of Chico, and informed them that they wished to make their permanent home in Chico. James was Mrs. Byerly's brother.

Major Byerly performed in many civic and governmental capacities during his post-military years in Butte County. He served as county probation officer for two years during the early 1940's. In 1946 he was elected to the board of supervisors from Chico's Second District, completing his term in 1950. Later he was appointed county auditor and served until January of this year.