

Harold Norman Denny

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NOTABLE DEATHS

HAROLD NORMAN DENNY, soldier and journalist, died at Des Moines, Iowa, July 2, 1945; born in Des Moines, March 11, 1889, the son of the late Prof. Charles O. Denny of Drake university and Lily Wisner Denny; educated in Des Moines public schools and Drake university, receiving a bachelor of arts degree from the latter; in World War I was an enlisted man in the 168th Infantry, Iowa's regiment in the Rainbow division, fighting on five fronts and wounded in 1918 in the Argonne forest campaign. As a newspaper man and correspondent Mr. Denny was on the staffs of many leading newspapers; had long served the *New York Times* as their special representative in various capitals of Europe, and was considered a most talented journalist. He began his newspaper career on the *Des Moines Register* in 1911 and following World War I did noteworthy magazine writing; married in 1936 at Moscow, Russia, where he was then stationed, to Jean Bullitt Lowry, an archaeologist, of Lexington, Kentucky, who died in 1943; joined the *Times* staff in 1922, doing such brilliant work that he was sent abroad; his contemporary service as their war correspondent covered the period from the Italian invasion of Ethiopia ten years ago through the meeting of the German and Russian troops in Germany; had seen war as a soldier, a prisoner of war, and as a correspondent; attached to the British 8th Army in 1941, to cover its engagements with Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps, he was taken prisoner at Tobruk in November of that year, spending five months as a prisoner of war in Germany and Italy, undergoing seven weeks of questioning by the Gestapo in Berlin reaching home when exchanged in a shattered physical condition, never since recovering from the effects of exposure and malnutrition experienced during his prison confinement. Mr. Denny spent the first winter of World War II with the British and French armies on the Maginot line and covered the attack of Russia upon Finland; likewise with the British army in its retreat from Dunkerque and covered the French surrender at Bordeaux. In 1927, he was sent to Nicaragua when American marines and war vessels were ordered there to protect American interests; also covered the Moroccan campaign in 1926; and in 1930 accompanied to Haiti the Forbes investigating committee appointed by President Hoover. Besides this assignment, he was in Cuba the following year during several months of a social and political crisis; accompanied Count Byron de Prorak on a French-American archaeological mission to the Haggar region in the heart of the Sahara desert, and while in Moscow in 1936-38 covered the Russian treason trials and Soviet

purges of officials and high army men. He wrote several books, the first being "Dollars for Bullets," in which he reviewed the history of the United States intervention in Latin America and followed his experience with the marines in the Sandino rebellion; and the story of his prison camp experiences and of warfare in North Africa is told in "Behind Both Lines." He was a Phi Beta Kappa honor student at Drake university, and a member of the University Church of Christ forty-five years. A sister, Mrs. Gladys Denny Shultz, of Des Moines, also a writer of note, survives him.

EDWARD C. FINKBINE, lumberman and capitalist, died at his winter home in Pasadena, California, May 23, 1943; born at Iowa City, Iowa, in 1856, one of the four sons of Robert Spencer Finkbine and Rebecca Finch Finkbine; attended the schools of Iowa City and the State University of Iowa and starred as a catcher upon the university baseball team, of which the late Supreme Justice Horace E. Deemer of Red Oak, Iowa, and the late Senator Cady Chase of Webster City, Iowa, were pitchers; moved with his parents to Des Moines, his father becoming chairman of the board of commissioners in charge of the building of the Iowa state capitol at Des Moines; with the late James G. Berryhill, of Des Moines, he founded the Green Bay Lumber company in 1879 at Odebolt, Iowa, the offices of which were later moved to Carroll, Iowa, and in 1894 established in Des Moines, many branch yards being operated in Iowa; served for many years as a director of the Warfield-Pratt-Howell company, and at time of death was a director of the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank & Trust Company, the Great Western Railway, the Tolerton-Warfield company of Sioux City, Iowa, and president of the Brown-Camp Hardware company of Des Moines, as well as president of the Green Bay Lumber company.

A number of years ago, Mr. Finkbine and his brother, William O. Finkbine, gave the State University of Iowa a 180-acre golf course, near the university campus, now known as Finkbine golf field, the brothers finding their greatest outdoor diversion in golfing. For a number of years Mr. Finkbine and wife spent their winters in California, retaining their home in Des Moines, but since 1943 has resided continuously in Pasadena. They observed their sixty-first wedding anniversary last September, the wife, Adelaide H., and a son, Robert H., with grand children, surviving; one son, Bruce, and a grandson, Lieut. Edward C. Finkbine, II, preceded him in death, Lieutenant Finkbine killed in action in Germany March 13 last.

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