

Claude R. Porter

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NOTABLE DEATHS

ROBERT J. SHAW, lawyer, soldier and instructor, died in an army hospital in Munich, Germany, August 2, 1946, from an illness first experienced June 30 this year; born in Chicago, Illinois, May 13, 1891; removed to Iowa and graduated from the Sigourney high school in 1909, from the State University of Iowa in 1916, and received his law degree from Northwestern University in Chicago in 1921; served as Keokuk county attorney from 1923 to 1927; continued in the practice of law there and operated a stock farm near Sigourney until 1940 when he came to Des Moines to serve upon the state selective service board; in World War I was a first lieutenant in France, and returning taught military science and tactics at Coe College, at Cedar Rapids for a year; for eleven consecutive years was either chairman or secretary of the national defense section of the national American Legion convention; was state commander of the American Legion in 1940, and a former president of the Reserve Officers association for the seventh service command; entered the service in World War II and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel; after Pearl Harbor requested transfer to the ground forces; got it in February, 1942; and went overseas Feb. 5, 1943; crossed four enemy defense lines in combat—the Gustav, Hitler and Gothic in Italy, and the Siegfried in Germany; went uninjured through fighting in Tunisia, Algeria, Italy and France, and was at the front before Cassino, Italy, for 93 days; there received the combat infantry man's badge he wore at the top of three rows of World War I and II service ribbons; also had the French Croix de Guerre, and the Brazilian Order of Military Merit; had been assigned to duty in Germany in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, where he had expected to remain for two years, when illness overtook him in June last.

Mrs. Shaw and Robert, jr., a son, who have resided in Des Moines, were flown to Germany by Atlantic air transport when the colonel was stricken with a coronary thrombosis and were with him when he died. Also with him was his brother, Dr. William J. Shaw, of Missouri, a medical corps colonel who had been on duty in the Pacific theater, in charge of surgery with the 11th army corps, and who flew to Germany about 10 days ago. Colonel Shaw was exceedingly proud of his surgeon brother, and of him said some months ago: "Bill was the son-of-a-gun who administered blood to and saved old Tojo." A daughter, Mrs. Gordon L. Jones, resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CLAUDE R. PORTER, legislator, soldier and public official, died at Washington, D. C., August 17, 1946; born at Moulton, Iowa, July

8, 1872, a son of lawyer George Porter and Hannah Porter and grandson of a Presbyterian minister; graduated from Centerville, Iowa, high school and attended Parsons college at Fairfield, Iowa, one year, and St. Louis law school one year; began practice of law at Centerville in 1893; served as sergeant-major of the 50th Iowa infantry in the Spanish-American war; a member of the Iowa house of representatives from 1896 to 1900, and of the Iowa senate from 1900 to 1904, being the youngest member of each house at the time of his service, only 23 when he was named to the house; a member of the investigating committee that recommended the board of control system for management of state institutions; from 1914 to 1918 served as United States attorney for southern district of Iowa; became special assistant U. S. attorney general and later assistant attorney general in charge of criminal prosecutions; next was chief counsel of the federal trade commission, and later special counsel of that commission; unsuccessful Democratic candidate for secretary of state of Iowa in 1898, three times, a Democratic candidate for governor and five times for United States senator, in none which was he successful; first appointed member of the interstate commerce commission by President Coolidge in 1923, to fill a vacancy, and reappointed by Coolidge in December following for term expiring in 1935; served as chairman of the commission and reappointed by President Roosevelt for term expiring in 1949.

Senator Porter's death was occasioned by a cerebral hemorrhage two days previous, and subsequent to receiving word of the death of his 45-year-old son, George B. Porter, a Washington, D. C. attorney, the Sunday night previous at a hotel in San Francisco, who choked on a piece of food found lodged in his windpipe. He is survived by his wife, the former Maude Boutin of Cape Girardeau, Mo., whom he married in 1899, by four married daughters and ten grand children; was active in the Centerville and Des Moines Presbyterian churches; thirty-two years ago organized at Centerville the Porter bible class which is still active; an aggressive foe of the liquor industry in Iowa; always a man of great zeal in the causes he advocated and held the confidence of those who knew him through a long and creditable public service.

WALTER A. SHAEFFER, manufacturer, died at his home, "High Point," at Fort Madison, Iowa, June 19, 1946; born at Bloomfield, Iowa, July 27, 1867, son of Jacob Royer and Anna Eliza Walton Sheaffer, educated in the Bloomfield public schools. After employment in jewelry stores at Centerville, Iowa, and Unionville, Missouri, returned to Bloomfield to become a partner in his father's jewelry and music store; opened his own store in 1906 and

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