

Lawrence Tyson
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Lawrence Tyson

Essential Question: What role did Lawrence Tyson play in World War I?

Lawrence Tyson was born in North Carolina on July, 4, 1861. Tyson graduated from West Point in 1883 and served in various western territories while fighting Geronimo. Tyson married Bettie McGhee of Knoxville, TN and took a position as a professor of military science at the University of Tennessee. In 1895, Tyson resigned his position and became an attorney in Knoxville.

During the Spanish-American war, Tyson served as colonel of the Sixth Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry. Tyson recruited men from Tennessee and Kentucky to serve in Puerto Rico. Tyson was mustered out of service in 1899 with the rank of brigadier general.

In 1917, at the age of fifty, Tyson once again volunteered for service in World War I. Tyson was given command of the 59th Brigade of the 13th National Guard Division at Calais. They were the first American troops to enter Belgium in July 1918. In September, the 13th Division was at the Somme and with help from British troops attacked the Hindenburg line of defenses. The Americans managed to move across three trench lines despite a heavy fog. They captured 1500 enemy soldiers. The Nashville Banner claimed that the 59th Brigade, commanded by Tyson, were the first to cross and therefore the first to break the Hindenburg line. The brigade suffered 1,879 casualties. Nine men from the brigade received Medals of Honor and Tyson received the Distinguished Service Medal. However, Tyson also lost his son, Charles McGhee Tyson in air combat over the English Channel.

Following the war, Tyson returned to Knoxville to pursue various business interests. Tyson was president of the Knoxville Cotton Mills and the Knoxville Spinning Company. He was also president of the Poplar Creek Coal and Iron Company and vice-president of the Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company. After his return from World War I, Tyson purchased the Knoxville News Sentinel to further his political career.

Before World War I, Tyson had served as a Democratic Representative in the Tennessee General Assembly and as Speaker of the House. In 1924, Tyson ran for the United States Senate and won. He served in the Senate until his death in 1929. As a senator, Tyson is best remembered for co-sponsoring a bill to give full pay to temporary officers disabled in World War I. Knowing the horrors of war firsthand, Tyson also advocated for peace by urging U.S. involvement in the World Court. Tyson never regained his full health after serving in World War I and died on August 4, 1929.

Source: "Lawrence Tyson." *Tennessee Encyclopedia and History and Culture*. 1st edition. 1998. Print.

“Lawrence D. Tyson: Philanthropist.” *Utk.edu*. University of Tennessee, n.d. Web. 30 July, 2014. < <http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/tyson1.html> >

Lawrence Tyson

Use the text to answer the following questions.

1. True or False? Lawrence Tyson was born in Tennessee. _____
2. What conflict did Tyson fight in prior to World War I?

3. How old was Lawrence Tyson when he volunteered for World War I?
 - A. 18
 - B. 25
 - C. 37
 - D. 50
4. What medal did Lawrence Tyson receive for his service in World War I?

5. Which one of these companies was Lawrence Tyson not president of?
 - A. Knoxville Cotton Mills
 - B. Knoxville Spinning Company
 - C. Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company
 - D. Poplar Creek Coal and Iron
6. True or False? Lawrence Tyson died on August 4, 1929. _____

Lawrence Tyson Key

Use the text to answer the following questions.

1. True or False? Lawrence Tyson was born in Tennessee. False

2. What conflict did Tyson fight in prior to World War I?

Spanish American War

3. How old was Lawrence Tyson when he volunteered for World War I?

18

25

37

50

4. What medal did Lawrence Tyson receive for his service in World War I?

Distinguished Service Medal

5. Which one of these companies was Lawrence Tyson not president of?

Knoxville Cotton Mills

Knoxville Spinning Company

Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company

Poplar Creek Coal and Iron

6. True or False? Lawrence Tyson died on August 4, 1929. True