

Jesse Farley Dyer

Born

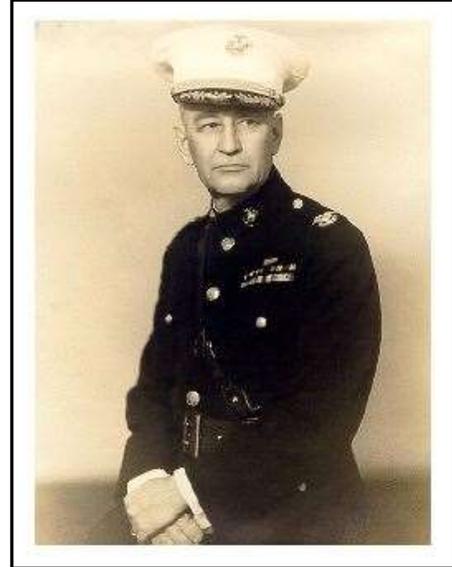
2 December 1877, Ramsey County, St. Paul, Minnesota

Conflict and Branch

Mexican Campaign (Vera Cruz) - U.S. Marine Corps

Entered Service

Minnesota - 1903
8th Co. 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment



Death

31 March 1955, Riverside County, Corona, California

Early Years

Jesse Farley Dyer, son of Frank W. Dyer and Rachel D. (Gibson), was born 2 December, 1877. Siblings in the Dyer family consisted of one brother, John. Frank and Rachel were married 21 September 1871, in Osage, Iowaⁱ and moved to Minnesota prior to their children's birthsⁱⁱ. Jesse's very early years are not clearly documented.

In 1910 came the announcement, "Lieutenant Jesse Farley Dyer, U. S. Marine Corps, will be married this summer to Miss Nellie M. Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira F. Murphy, of Grand Rapids, Mich. Lieutenant Dyer is now stationed in Washington. Both of the young people were formerly residents of Minneapolis. Lieutenant Dyer, who is on duty in the office of the judge advocate general of the navy, will be maintained in Washington. After his marriage, he and his wife will reside there"ⁱⁱⁱ.

War Years

On April 9, 1914, U.S. sailors from the USS Dolphin, stationed off Mexican waters near the port of Tampico, landed at the port. They were arrested and later released. According to the Mexican version of events, the soldiers had entered a restricted area, but were found to have done so accidentally. Elements in the U.S., however, considered it to be Mexican harassment of the U.S. Military.

The local Mexican military commander apologized verbally to Admiral Henry Mayo, in charge of the American naval squadron in question; however, Mayo, with the backing of President Wilson, declined the apology. He instead insisted that those responsible for the arrests be punished, and that the Mexican military on shore issue a twenty-one gun salute

to the U.S. flag. The commander responded with a written apology, and General Huerta himself expressed his regret, but the U.S. demand for a salute to the flag was turned down.

On April 22, 1914, President Wilson received the backing of Congress for the use of military force to resolve the issue. He ordered the U.S. Navy to seize the port of Veracruz, which was preparing to receive a German ship loaded with ammunition intended for Huerta's troops. In response, Mexican congressmen criticized the U.S., and mobs burned the American flag and looted American businesses in Mexico. The U.S. occupation of Veracruz lasted until November 1914, and was a primary cause of Huerta's resignation in August of that year as his southern armies' supplies ran out.^{iv}

The above description tells of the events that led to the Vera Cruz incident where Jesse Dyer was recognized for his service that led to the Medal of Honor recognition.

Citation: The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain Jesse Farley Dyer, United States Marine Corps, for distinguished conduct in battle, engagements of Vera Cruz, 21 and 22 April 1914, while Commanding of a Company of Marines. Captain Dyer was in both days fighting at the head of his company, and was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage.^v

Post War Years

After the Vera Cruz conflict, Jesse and his family, consisting of Nellie, daughter, Julia and mother in law, Julia Murphy, are located in the Virgin Island.^{vi} The appointment had been made, to now Major Jesse F. Dyer, United States Marine Corps, to be an aid to Rear Admiral James H. Oliver, United States Navy, who will become the first governor appointed by the President to administer government to the islands. Major Dyer held this position for two years^{vii}.

Upon returning to the United States, Major Jesse F. Dyer was living for some time in New York City, then in 1930 the Dyer family is living in Washington, DC. The household consists of Jesse F. Dyer and wife Nellie, daughters, Louise C. and Marcia A. Dyer and Jesse's father, Frank^{viii}.

By late June of 1937, Jesse and his wife were moving to their home in Redondo Beach, California, looking forward to retirement^{ix}.

By the year 1940, Jesse and his wife and youngest daughter, Marcia, are living in Inglewood, California. At this time Jesse has risen to the ranking of Colonel of the USMC.^x

At the time of his passing, Brigadier General Jesse F Dyer had been honored with this official rank. He is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego County, San Diego, CA., Section P, Site 1606. His years of service were 1903-1942

Photo of Brigadier General Jesse Farley Dyer from:
<http://navylog.navy Memorial.org/dyer-jesse>

Grave Marker photo courtesy of ssgrove, "Find A Grave" contributor

Compiles by Dianne Lawson
Northfield Chapter, DAR



References

- ⁱ Family Search website
- ⁱⁱ Minnesota Census, 1895
- ⁱⁱⁱ Oakland Tribune, Oakland California, 20 March 1910, page 6
- ^{iv} <http://everything2.com/title/Tampico+incident>
- ^v <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=1675>
- ^{vi} Census of the Virgin Islands of the United States 1920
- ^{vii} Virgin Islands. Report of Joint commission appointed under authority of the concurrent resolution passed by the Congress of the United States. January, 1920 Government Printing Office
- ^{viii} Census of the United States, 1930
- ^{ix} <https://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/1937/08/parris-island>
- ^x Census of the United State, 1940