In Memoriam

EDWARD MARTIN
THE PATHS OF GLORY

Rare is the man who at life’s end is convinced that he has accomplished all that he had planned in his early years. Difficulties have arisen that have blocked his way; plans have gone astray; illness has intervened; rivals have opposed or interfered with his plans for the future. Accordingly, when an individual has achieved his ultimate purpose he must be a satisfied person. One who had accomplished to a very large degree his aims and desires was the late Edward Martin. Few other men have won as many honors as he.

Born in a log cabin in Greene County, Pennsylvania, in 1879, his early education was obtained in the old Monongahela College and Waynesburg College but was interrupted by his enlistment, at the age of eighteen, in Company K., the Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, in which he served in the Philippines, followed by service in the National Guard on the Mexican border in 1916. In 1917 he went to France with the Pennsylvania Twenty-eighth Division as a Major, and after leading his battalion in five major offensives, in one of which he was wounded and gassed, advanced to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and given the Distinguished Service Cross. The Official Army Biography of the First Army called Colonel Martin “Pennsylvania’s most famous soldier.” In 1922 he was advanced to a full Colonel and later was named Commander of the 55th Infantry Brigade as a Brigadier General. When the 28th Division was made part of the Federal forces he was put in command as a Major General, but on account of his age he was relieved of active duty when his division left for Europe in the Second World War.

However, military service did not prevent General Martin’s activity in political and public life. Beside occupancy in local and county offices he was made Adjutant General of the Commonwealth in 1939 by Governor James, and as such he persuaded the War Department to build the Military Reservation at Indiantown Gap. In 1942 he won the election for governor and as such was given credit for turning a seventy-one million dollar deficit into a two hundred million dollar surplus. In 1946 he was elected United States Senator, and as
a Conservative he was re-elected in 1952. During his political career he served in various other capacities, and was awarded honorary degrees from fifteen colleges and universities.

As an individual General Martin was courtly in demeanor, admired and beloved by his family and friends. In politics he never lost an election. On March 19, 1967, he died at Washington, Pennsylvania, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, Charity Scott Martin, his son Edward Scott Martin, and a daughter Mrs. Mary Martin Murphy.

Thousands of his fellow-citizens who perhaps never met him or even heard his voice will be likely to remember him with gratitude. He served the American public during nearly seventy years as a maker of history and an exponent of historic principles and methods in action.

C. W. W. ELKIN