

MAJ. GARDNER DIES AT CAMP WHEELER

Author of the Famous "Wake Up, America!" Speech a Victim of Pneumonia at 52.

15 YEARS IN CONGRESS

Ex-Massachusetts Representative Was the First Member to Leave for Military Service.

Special to The New York Times.

MACON, Ga., Jan. 14.—Major Augustus P. Gardner, former Representative from Massachusetts, died late today at the Camp Wheeler base hospital after a short illness from pneumonia. Major Gardner's condition grew worse yesterday, and he sank steadily, until death occurred this afternoon. Major Gardner contracted pneumonia, it was said, while at the rifle range of the 31st Division.

He resigned from Congress to take up service in the army as a reserve officer on May 15. He had been one of the most active figures in the movement for military preparedness, and was the first member of either House to leave Congress for military service in the present war. He received the rank of Colonel in the Officers' Reserve Corps, Adjutant General's Department. He was taken from the old Officers' Reserve Corps, which enabled him to enter active service, though over the military age requirements.

Major Gardner was assigned as Division Adjutant at Camp Wheeler, but at his own request he was recently transferred to the 121st Infantry so that he could be assigned as a line officer and go to France. To make this change possible he submitted to a reduction in rank. He was a son-in-law of Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, and made his home in Hamilton, Mass.

A Graduate of Harvard.

Augustus Peabody Gardner was born Nov. 5, 1865, a son of Joseph Peabody Gardner and Harriet Amory Gardner. He was graduated from Harvard in 1886 and afterward attended Harvard Law School. His great-grandfather had been graduated from Harvard in 1786, just one century earlier. For some time after his graduation he was interested in the breeding of blooded animals, horses and cattle, and became distinguished as a polo player. On June 14, 1892, he married Miss Constance Lodge, daughter of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts.

During the Spanish-American war, after he had served as a member of the National Guard of Massachusetts for several years, he was appointed Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of General James H. Wilson serving in this capacity throughout the war. After one of the actions in Porto Rico in 1898 General Wheeler incorporated in his formal report the following:

"Captain Gardner, Assistant Adjutant General, has been with me from the time of my arrival at Fort Thomas and has shown from the first unusual aptitude for the duties of Adjutant General; but, in addition, he has lost no opportunity to serve with the troops in the field. In the turning movement

against Coamo he accompanied Lieut. Col. Biddle with the 16th Pennsylvania and displayed the highest courage and coolness under the close fire of the enemy."

A Champion of Labor.

When he returned home after the war he was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate, serving from 1899 until 1901, and while in the Legislature upheld the labor end of several strikes, and was known as a labor Senator. He also became a member of the Republican State Central Committee. He was elected to the Fifty-seventh Congress for the unexpired term of William H. Moody, who resigned. Congressman Gardner was re-elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress, serving until the Sixty-fourth Congress, or from 1902 until 1917. When he resigned there were only thirty-four members of Congress who exceeded him in length of service, and he was the second ranking Republican member of the Ways and Means Committee. In 1913 he was the Republican nominee for Governor of Massachusetts, but was defeated by David I. Walsh, the Democratic nominee. The other candidate was Charles S. Bird.

On Oct. 16, 1914, Congressman Gardner made his famous "Wake up, America!" speech, in which he espoused the cause of military defense in this country.

"I am a former militiaman and am a Spanish-American War veteran," he said on this occasion, after he had introduced a resolution calling for an investigation to ascertain whether the United States was prepared for war. "For a dozen years I have sat here like a coward in silence and listened while men have told us how the United States can safely depend on the State militia and the naval reserve. All this time I knew it was not true. The belief in this country that we can create an army and navy when the need arises is wrong from beginning to end. You can't improvise a battleship or a submarine or a torpedo or a sailor after a war breaks out. You can't make a fighting regiment out of a militia organization until you have eliminated a lot of men from its ranks."

Then he went on to show what the United States lacked in the way of adequate defenses.

During all the fifteen years he was a member of the House Major Gardner fought for liberalizing of the rules, restrictive immigration to uphold American standards, and preparedness for war. He was an expert parliamentarian and a fearless fighter. His first big fight was for the upbuilding of the American merchant marine. Then he took a leading part in the fight for restrictive immigration legislation, with a literacy test, which finally was passed over President Wilson's second veto.

In March, 1910, Mr. Gardner was a leader in the dramatic struggle against so-called "Cannonism," which resulted in making the Rules Committee elective by the House instead of appointive by the Speaker. He was in England when the European war began in 1914, and volunteered his services to the embassy at London to look after Americans.

His Tribute to France.

His friends said that it was characteristic of the man who had fought so hard for the doctrine of preparedness that he should take the first opportunity to personally serve the country when the war commenced. The former Representative was popular with both officers and men. While at Camp Wheeler he urged the fullest support for the President and the Government.

In one of his speeches after he had donned the uniform of an officer of the United States Army he answered an attack on the people of France which appeared in a Georgia newspaper by the statement that "The French have spilled as much blood as Americans have spilled ink. The French have fought more and talked less than any nation of which history tells us. Let us quit this business of criticizing our allies."

Mrs. Gardner arrived yesterday from her home in Hamilton, Mass., and had been almost continuously at her husband's bedside until late today, when she collapsed after the Major became unconscious. Her condition was such that she was removed to her hotel, where she received the news of the death. She is tonight under the care of her physician.

Mayor Hoole of Macon tonight issued a proclamation ordering all flags on public buildings placed at half-mast and requesting all business houses to lower their flags at half-mast out of respect for the dead officer.

Major Gardner was the second officer to die at the Camp Wheeler Base Hospital. The other was Major Richard Weil of New York, head of the Hospital Medical Department.