

Generals Who Were Held in Soviet Armenia

Edward Chysostom David Scherrer

Claude Monroe McQuarrie Jr.

Maj. Gen. Edward C. D. Scherrer is known as Pony to close Army associates, and to at least one member of his family, his younger brother, George, as "the most bow-legged general in the Army."

Not surprisingly, then, General Scherrer is an accomplished horseman and a nationally known judge of equestrian events. He was called Pony at West Point, where he played polo. He has continued to play polo and ride throughout his career, winning numerous honors in jumping contests.

Born Jan. 28, 1913, in Shawneetown, Ill., Edward Chysostom David Scherrer was the second child in a farm family of six sons and a daughter. "He was the most brilliant of us," said George Scherrer, who lives in Shawneetown. "He skipped several years of elementary school and had two years of college and was teaching school by the time he was 17 years old."

After those first two years, at the Normal School at Carbondale, Ill., now Southern Illinois University, and two years of teaching in a country school, the future general accepted an appointment to West Point in 1933.

He went into the old horse cavalry and later attended

three Army war and staff colleges. At one point he attempted to become an Army flier but was washed out.

General Scherrer first saw combat in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, where he was wounded several times and decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for heroism while stationed in New Zealand in 1943, he met and married the former Joyce Kearsley, a native of Suva, Fiji.

A mechanized cavalry unit he commanded later in World War II was one of the first American groups to enter Berlin in 1945. He also served in Korea and Japan and headed the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Cambodia from 1961 to 1963.

After two years with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, General Scherrer was made commander of the Fourth Armored Division in Germany. In 1968 he was named chief of the United States military-aid program for Turkey.

General and Mrs. Scherrer live in Ankara. One son, Edward, 20, is a junior in the University of Maryland's extension program in Munich. The other, David, 19, attends a junior college in New York.

The Army is his life, but Brig. Gen. Claude M. McQuarrie Jr. does not talk much about it. Quiet but not shy, the tall serious career officer is likely to change the subject if questioned about his experiences in Korea or Vietnam—perhaps out of professional reticence, perhaps out of modesty.

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That, at least, is the appraisal of Tom McQuarrie, a younger brother of the general, who was held in Soviet Armenia after his plane strayed there from Turkey last month.

General McQuarrie, who is 45 years old, holds two dozen decorations for heroism, including the Silver Star, but his brother has no idea what they are for. If you ask the general why he got this medal or that, his brother related, he just says, "Oh, some little thing that happened."

When General McQuarrie is not on assignment elsewhere, he and his family live in Crystal River, Fla., where Tom teaches scuba diving.

Claude Monroe McQuarrie Jr. was born June 30, 1925 at Fort Benning, Ga., where his father, now a retired brigadier general, was serving. He and his two brothers attended military high school, but

only Claude Jr. went on to make the military his career.

After attending Georgia Military Academy, he went to West Point during World War II, graduating in 1945.

He served in Japan and Germany as well as Washington, where he was a Congressional liaison officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army and a military-assistance specialist in the office of the Secretary of Defense.

Later General McQuarrie saw combat in Korea and Vietnam. He had been back from a second assignment to Korea for just a month when he was posted to Ankara, Turkey, last September. There he served as aide for ground forces to the other general detained by the Russians, Maj. Gen. Edward C.D. Scherrer, head of the United States military-aid mission in Turkey.

General McQuarrie is married to the former Rosanne Sprinkle, whose late father, Col. Lester A. Sprinkle, was a career cavalry officer. They have two daughters, Leslie, 14, and Sandi, 23, a teacher in West Germany who is visiting the family in Ankara, and a son, Claude M. 3d, 19, who is in his junior year at West Point.