

Major General Randolph Berkeley Bio

Major Randolph Berkeley, U.S. Marine Corps (Highest Rank Major General). Citation for Service in Mexican War: For distinguished conduct in battle, engagements of Vera Cruz, 21, 22 April 1914. Maj. Berkeley was eminent and conspicuous in command of his battalion, was in the fighting of both days, and exhibited courage and skill in leading his men through action. His cool judgment and courage, and his skill in handling his men in encountering and overcoming the machine-gun and rifle fire down Cinco de Mayo and parallel streets account for the small percentage of the losses of marines under his command.

Biography: Randolph C. Berkeley was born on January 9, 1875 in Staunton, Virginia, where he attended grade and high school. He graduated from Potomac Academy in Alexandria, Virginia in 1891.

Berkeley was appointed a Marine second lieutenant on August 8, 1898 for service during the Spanish-American War. He was stationed at the Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., until he was honorably discharged on January 9, 1899. He returned to the Corps in April 1899, when he was appointed a first lieutenant. His subsequent promotions included: captain, July 1900; major, October 1910; lieutenant colonel, August 1916; colonel, July 1918; brigadier general, July 1930; and major general on retirement, February 1939.

In addition to his service at posts in the U.S., he served on a variety of assignments at sea and abroad before the action at Vera Cruz. He served aboard the U.S.S. *Oregon* (BB-3) from October 1899 to March 1901; in the Philippines from April to June 1901; aboard the U.S.S. *Helena* (PG-9) from July 1901 to August 1902; on expeditionary duty in Panama from December 1904 to August 1906; on expeditionary duty in Cuba in September and October 1906; aboard the U.S.S. *Kentucky* (BB-6) as commander of its Marine Detachment from December 1907 to November 1908, and in the Philippines and China from December 1908 to October 1910.

Major Berkeley took command of the 1st Battalion, 2d Advanced Base Regiment in December 1913, in Pensacola, FL, and sailed with it for Vera Cruz in March 1914. He returned to the United States in December 1914, and was stationed in Philadelphia, PA, until June 1915, when he sailed for Guam to command the Marine Barracks on that island. Returning from Guam in November 1917, he served at the Marine Barracks, New York, NY, and Charleston, SC, during the next two years.

Colonel Berkeley was again ordered to expeditionary duty in October 1919, serving for two years with the 1st Provisional Brigade in Haiti. After he returned from that country in November 1921, he served at New York, NY, and Norfolk and Quantico, VA. He completed the Field Officers Course at Quantico in August 1925, and a year of study at the Army War College, Washington, D.C., in June 1926, returning from there to Quantico as commander of the 1st Regiment. He served in that capacity for the next two years, except for the period from May to August 1927, when he was commanding the 11th Regiment in Nicaragua.

He was ordered to Nicaragua again in May 1928, serving there for a year as Chief of Staff of the 2d Marine Brigade. After his return to the United States in April 1929, he commanded the Marine Barracks at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia. He served in that capacity until August 1930, when he was ordered to Quantico, VA. There he commanded

the Marine Corps Schools until November 1931, when he was again ordered to Nicaragua—this time as commander of the 2d Marine Brigade.

He returned to the U.S. in January 1933, and from then until May 1936, commanded the Marine Barracks in Parris Island, SC. He was then ordered to Marine Corps Headquarters, Washington, D.C., where he was President of the Marine Corps Examining and Retiring Boards until December 1938. He reached the statutory retirement age in January 1939 and was placed on the retired list the following month as a major general.

Following his retirement, Berkeley lived in Beaufort and Port Royal, South Carolina, until his death at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Beaufort, South Carolina on January 31, 1960. Major General Berkeley was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on February 4, 1960.

Military Awards: Medal of Honor, Spanish Campaign Medal; Philippines Campaign Medal; Mexican Campaign Medal; Haitian Campaign Medal; World War I Victory Medal; the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal; the Presidential Medal of Merit.

Masonic History: Member of John A. LeJeune Lodge #350, Quantico, VA and National Sojourners.