



The 1908 Belgian Olympic water polo team which lost in the final to the United Kingdom. Victor Boin can be seen standing on the left hand side and Herman Donners standing on the right hand side.

athlete in to take the Olympic Oath at the opening of the Antwerp Olympics in 1920.

Both men volunteered for active service in 1914. Donners fought as a soldier 2<sup>nd</sup> class in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Grenadiers 2/3, 7<sup>th</sup> company. The Grenadiers were an elite force in which men were required to be at least 1.72 m tall. He was severely wounded on 11 May 1915 and moved to Ambulance Depage in Calais, France, founded by the Belgian Red Cross, where he died three days later at 1 o'clock.

Donners, who was unmarried and was first buried at the Belgian Military Cemetery in Calais (Section 1, Row 6, Grave No. 28). His remains were seven years later moved to the Antwerp City Cemetery, where he was reinterred on August 30, 1922.



Contradictory memorials in the Olympic city of Sarajevo: at a street corner opposite the Lateiner Bridge two stone footprints remind us that Gavrilo Princip fired two shots at this spot, which changed the world. As a model the slippers were used that were worn by the assassin during his detention in Theresienstadt. The memorial plaque behind it was changed in 1992.

Photo: Wikipedia

## Five days after his death the war was over

By Bill Mallon

The USA entered in the war in April 1917. That changed the balance of power in Europe decisively in favor of the Entente. But this victory had a high price. Of approximately two million U.S. soldiers, who fought on the Western Front in the summer of 1918, 126,000 were killed. Among them was the bronze medallist of 1904, Arthur Yancey Wear.

At Yale, Wear was a member of the freshman, college, and university baseball teams, but was not noted as a lawn tennis player. But for the doubles event at the 1904 Olympics he teamed up with Clarence Gamble and they lost to the winners, Beals Wright and Edgar Leonard, in the semi-finals. His older brother, Joseph, also won a bronze medal at the 1904 Olympics. After graduating from Yale, Wear joined the family dry goods business in St. Louis in 1903 and remained with the firm until the outbreak of World War I.

Arthur Wear commanded an infantry company in the battle of St. Michiel and, although not actually wounded, his health suffered badly; as a result of refusing to obtain proper treatment for a probable perforated duodenal ulcer, he died, still commanding his battalion, during the Meuse-Argonne fighting on 6 November 1918. Five days later the war was over. ■



The American Arthur Wear. At St. Louis in 1904, he had won a bronze medal in tennis doubles. He died five days before the end of the war in France as the commander of a battalion.

Photo: Hilary Evans Archive

- 1 Jean Bouin, André Glarner, *Comment on devient champion de course à pied*, P. Lafitte, Paris 1912.
- 2 *The Fifth Olympiad, The Official Report of Stockholm 1912*, issued by the Swedish Olympic Committee, Wahlström & Widstrand, Stockholm 1913, p. 368.
- 3 Nurmi reached on the 7 October 1928 at the Meeting of the SC Charlottenburg in Berlin 19,210 metres.
- 4 Mont Sec is a 377 metre high hill. As you can overlook from the summit the valley of the Meuse, it had a decisive strategic significance. On the hill is the American Monument (Butte de Montsec), which is a reminder of the American offensive of the 12-16 September 1918.
- 5 Another Australian, Frederick Septimus Kelly, a talented musician and a student at Oxford University, was a member of the Leander crew which won a gold medal for Great Britain in the rowing eights in the 1908 London Olympics; he was decorated for bravery at Gallipoli, and killed in action in France in 1916. A New Zealand member of the 1912 Australasian team in Stockholm, the tennis bronze medallist Anthony Wilding, was killed in action in France in 1915
- 6 Colin Shields; Arnold Black, *The Past is a Foreign County*, in: *A History of Scottish Athletics*, Scottish Association of Track Statisticians, ISBN: 978-0-9502476-8-7.
- 7 Correspondence of the author with the nephew of Hanns Braun, the Munich portrait painter Richard Braun, 10 November 1983.
- 8 The widow married Braun's squad captain Robert Ritter von Greim, who was awarded the distinction of the Bavarian Military Max-Josef Order shortly before the end of the war, which was connected to his being raised to the personal rank of nobility. Their son Hubert Greim was a fighter pilot in the Second World War and was shot down over Tunisia in 1942. After Hitler, on 23 April 1945, had removed Hermann Göring from all his offices, he named Greim, who had already been involved on 9 November 1923 in Munich in the Hitler putsch, as his successor as Supreme Commander of the Luftwaffe and General Field Marshall. Three days later Greim appeared along with the pilot Hanna Reitsch in Hitler's bunker to fly him out, which Hitler however declined. Griem then became an American prisoner of war and took his own life on 24 May 1945 in Salzburg.
- 9 German Military Cemetery Dixmuide-Vladslo, Houtlandstraat, Block 3, Grave 2170.