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7-A

# Gen. W. O. Brice Dies



**GEN. WILLIAM O. BRICE**  
Retired in Winnsboro

WINNSBORO — Retired Marine Gen. William Oscar Brice, a World War II veteran who "made the air safe over the Solomons," died Sunday night in Ft. Jackson Hospital after a lingering illness. He was 73.

One of the first Marine aviators when he completed training in 1924, Gen. Brice was promoted to brigadier general at the age of 46, becoming then the youngest general in the Marine Corps.

Prior to his retirement in 1956, the highly-decorated general was commanding general of the Pacific Fleet Marine Force.

Services will be Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Zion Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Rebekah Jennings Brice; a daughter, Mrs. C. B. Devan of Lakewood, Ohio; a brother, Palmer M. Brice of Winnsboro; a sister, Miss Margaret Brice of Winnsboro; and five grandchildren.

Born in Columbia, Gen. Brice attended Mt. Zion Institute and was a 1921 graduate of The Citadel, which awarded him an honorary degree in the mid-1960's.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1921, he was a veteran of the 1927 expeditionary force assigned to protect Americans in China.

In World War II, when the Marines launched at Guadalcanal the nation's first offensive against Japan, Gen. Brice commanded all U. S. Army, Navy,

Marine and Royal New Zealand Air Force search, bombing and torpedo planes.

Mentioned frequently in news accounts of Pacific air campaigns, and later the subject of a "Saturday Evening Post" feature story, Gen. Brice was credited with making the air safe over the Solomon Islands during World War II.

He also served as assistant director of Marine Aviation, commander of Marine Air Reserve Training, Deputy Commander of the Pacific Fleet Marine Force and Director of Marine Aviation.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal and Order of the British Empire Medal.

After his retirement Gen. Brice moved to Winnsboro, where he spent his leisure time golfing and taking a daily "constitutional" down the town's main street. He was active in civic affairs, serving a term as president of the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce.

An inveterate reader, he also was a member of the Fairfield County Library Board.

Pope Funeral Home is in charge.

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