

COMPANY B

119TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION

PRICE COUNTY'S WWI HEROES



NOVEMBER 11, 2011

COMPILED BY GLENN BRAZELTON

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - PRICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Soldiers of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion training on a Lewis Gun machine gun at Camp MacArthur near Waco, Texas in the fall of 1917.

Laying in front operating the machine gun is Private Irwin Morrow.

Standing from left: Pvt. Elmer Martin, Pfc. Oscar Olson, Pvt. Frank Wallner, Pvt. Lorence Barnett, Howard Seeburger, Pvt. Reuben Olson, Pvt. Art Bro, & Pvt. John England.

Kneeling in front: Pvt. Ray Burton, Pfc. Alec Kazan, Pvt. Lyle Neilson, Pvt. John Placowith & Pvt. Harold Olson.

Photograph courtesy of the Price County Historical Society & reprinted from "The Military..." by David Foster in the album Centennial Phillips Wisconsin 1876 - 1976, (Phillips, WI: 1976), p. 162.

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Background & Acknowledgements

This effort was originally inspired by two artifacts of Price County history, both provided by Elmer “Nappy” Martin. The first was a 1920 photograph of the 18th Separate Company, the successor unit of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion, at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. The photograph led me to a second item, a university research paper on Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion. Nappy Martin and his brother George are the proud sons of Elmer “Slats” Martin who was a Private in Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion during World War I. The research paper entitled “Hometown Heroes: The Legacy of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion” was written by Barney Slowey while he was a student at Wisconsin State University - Stevens Point in July 1972.

I also humbly credit Eric Lent, curator, and Leo Clark, volunteer, at the Wisconsin National Guard Museum at Volk Field on Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, as well as Jennifer Kirmer and Russell Horton, reference and outreach archivists at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, Wisconsin. Their advice and research help proved invaluable in documenting the detailed history of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion.

The core of this work is derived from Barney Slowey’s original research paper. Beginning with his outline and background, substantial information has been incorporated from additional sources provided by the Wisconsin Veterans Museums, including the “History of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion” authored by Colonel Leo M. Jackson, 119th Machine Gun Battalion adjutant, and The 32nd Division in the World War, 1917-1919, published by the Joint War History Commission of Michigan and Wisconsin. Other sources included information and pictures provided by Elmer “Nappy” Martin, the Price County Historical Society, Bev Brayton, Karen Baumgartner, and other Price County citizens whose relatives served in Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion.



Trenches on the Western Front

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This work details the story of one group of patriotic volunteers primarily from one Wisconsin county that joined up to fight the war together. This is the chronicle of a group of young men from the woods and farms of Price County who trained together for war, sailed across the Atlantic thousands of miles from home to join their French, British and Belgian Allies in repelling the German invasion of France and Belgium, and distinguished themselves in several key battles which ultimately ended the “war to end all wars” on November 11, 1918. ...93 years ago this month.

I give you the story of a group of amazing and unique young men and heroes from Price County, Wisconsin during World War I — Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion, of the 32nd “Red Arrow” Division.

Glenn Brazelton
Yorktown, Virginia
11 November 2011



Prologue

In his research paper on the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, Barney Slowey provides the following prologue:

"The paper presented here hardly does justice to the 119th Machine Gun Battalion. I have but touched on just a few of the events and very few of the people.

Left untouched are many intimate memories which only a member of the unit has.

The report is a short chronology of events which occurred in the short life of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion. There is much undone, that needs to be done and perhaps at another time a much fairer report could be given.

I am indebted to many people instrumental in this paper. First of all my dad (James Slowey), who when alive worked in his own way to keep the 119th together. Certainly my interest would not have occurred without the interest

shown by my dad. I only wish he could have read it.

A great deal of gratitude goes to one of my dad's finest friends, David G. "Shrimp" Foster for the use of the necessary documents needed for the report. Throughout the documents one continuously finds the names "Slowey" or "Shrimp," affectionately linked. I think it significant that my father's interest motivated the paper and his best friend supplied the information

Finally, I owe so much to my wife, Francine, son and daughter who have sacrificed so much these past few years so that I may achieve a goal which I never before thought obtainable.

To these people I dedicate this paper."



Veterans of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion during their annual reunion in 1975 at the Westwood Golf Course.

In front in wheelchair: Dwight Kenyon. Sitting in front on ground left to right: Harold Olson & E. Preston (guest).
Sitting on benches left to right: Wilfred Wood, Victor Curran, Howard Berquist, William Moquin, Roy Anderson, Louis Woodie, Martin Loftis, Archie Gran & Walter Raymond.
Standing in rear left to right: Neal Shorey, Charles Baumgartner, Elmer Martin, Otto Neumann (guest), Ralph Baumgartner, Mr. Reichert (guest), E. S. Reynolds, H. A. Olson, Orin Dahl, Fred Grant, David Foster & Russell Moquin (guest).

Reprinted from "The Military..." by David Foster in the Centennial Phillips Wisconsin 1876 - 1976, 1976, Phillips, WI, p. 161.



The Nation & Price County Mobilize - April to July 1917

With the advent of World War I, the United States initially followed a policy of neutrality. Yet as the first years of the war passed, our country became more closely associated with the Allied Forces. When Germany pursued a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, President Woodrow Wilson was forced to abandon the policy of neutrality and the United States broke diplomatic relations with Germany in February 1917. Within a few months President Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war and the United States declared war on Germany and the Axis Powers on April 6, 1917.

When war was declared, most of the country reacted positively and patriotically, however the U.S. Army was extremely small when compared to the armies of European nations. By 1916 the war in Europe demonstrated to the United States military that they needed to prepare for potentially entering the war by raising a larger army than the existing 100,000 in the federal army and the approximately 120,000 soldiers in the National Guard. The National Defense Act of June 1916 initiated a five-year expansion of the U.S. Army.

Three weeks after the war was declared, it was clear that the U.S. Army needed more than just volunteer troops as only 97,000 men had volunteered for service.¹

On May 18, 1917, the United States Congress passed the Selective Service Act that authorized the federal government to raise a national army. The first of three draft registrations during World War I be-

gan on June 5, 1917, and was intended for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.²

Wisconsin was particularly unique in that 30% of its population was born in Germany or Austria. Yet Wisconsin was the first state to complete registration of its military aged population after the Selective Service Act of 1917.

Wisconsin registered 218,000 men in a single day, and 584,550 by 1918. Of these registered men, many enlisted and others were drafted. Some chose the Marines, Navy or regular Army, while others joined the Wisconsin National Guard.³



The 119th Machine Gun Battalion was not initially formed in Wisconsin but was activated when troops from Wisconsin eventually reached Camp MacArthur, Texas in September 1917. The 119th Machine Gun Battalion unit heritage is directly tied to the formation of the 32nd Division which was organized from National Guard troops from Wisconsin and Michigan under War Department orders dated July 18, 1917. Wisconsin was required to furnish approximately 15,000 troops, and Michigan 8,000 troops for the 32nd Division.

The bulk of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion was formed from the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.⁴ The mobilization of Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, was ordered in early July 1917, and a majority of volunteers responded quickly. While some Company A members were away





from home or on leave of absences, new recruits were reporting in every day. On Friday, July 13, 1917, Captain Edward Witt, Company A, Commander received a telegram from Madison:

By direction of the Governor, you are informed that the proclamation of the President of the United States, dated July third and made effective by official War Department telegram, calls your organization into federal service on July fifteenth. Organizations will be assembled at their several Armories in accordance with previous circulars and instructions on Mobilization, the provisions of special regulations number fifth-five War department will govern.

Orlando Holway - Adjutant General, Wis.

By Monday, July 16th, 140 men had reported for duty. By Wednesday, July 18th the number has grown to 170 and few days later the number was almost 200 men.⁵ In the first phase the draft regis-

tration, Price County's quota was on 91 men, which it far exceeded. On July 25, 1917, Governor Philipp exempted that Price County, along with Forest, Lincoln, Oneida, and Washburn Counties, from the first call for soldiers, as they already significantly exceeded their quotas through voluntary enlistments. These were the only counties in Wisconsin that were exempt.⁶

As mobilization proceeded, it was discovered within the volunteers joining Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment that there were an unusually large number of brothers, cousins and other relatives. Within Company A, there were three sets of three brothers, and fourteen sets of two brothers from an initial enrollment of 172 volunteers, purportedly more than any other company in the Wisconsin National Guard. Company A also asserted that they had three sets of uncles and nephews, and were the only Company where three enlisted men saluted their brothers who were commissioned officers.⁷





Camp Moose, Price County Fairgrounds - July to August 1917

As the mobilization of Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment began to take place in Price County in July 1917, several members of the local community were very influential and helpful in the mobilization efforts. One such individual was Ira A. Kenyon who was one of the first to promote and recruit volunteers for Company A. In fact, the name of the unit mobilization camp, known locally as "Camp Moose," was derived from Kenyon's nickname of Moose.⁸ Many of the initial volunteers from the Phillips area also came from "The Times Office Gang" where Kenyon worked at The Phillips Times.

Besides Captain Edward O. Witt, from Marshfield, WI, who commanded Company A, key leadership within the included: First Lieutenant Ira A. Kenyon, from Phillips, Second Lieutenant Owen A. Muck, from Park Falls, First Sergeant Walter C. Raymond, Supply Sergeant David Rabenowich, Mess Sergeant Frank Bruchert, and -

Duty Sergeants Fred E. Avery, Matthew Byrne, Charles Drake, Emil Gehrman, Lyle Lane, Gregory McCauley, Hjalmer Olson and Carl Raymond. interestingly, Ira Kenyon and Owen Much from were initially privates when they enlisted in Company A, but on July 25, 1917 they were promoted to first lieutenant and second lieutenant, respectively.

One of the first challenges for Company A was finding a place to assemble and train. What proved an ideal solution was the county fairgrounds and associated building which were offered by the Price County Agricultural Society. The offer was immediately accepted and efforts begun to put the camp in shape.¹⁰ The fairgrounds proved to be a very practical location for a military mobilization and training camp. There was adequate space on the fields to erect tents and existing fairgrounds buildings could also be used. The nearby Big Elk River and Lake Duroy also provided excellent bathing and swimming facilities.¹¹



Price County volunteers report for mobilization with Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment at Camp Moose (county fairgrounds) in Phillips, Wisconsin. Photo date probably August 1917. Photo courtesy of the Price County Historical Society.



Even before Camp Moose was organized at the fairgrounds, groups of volunteers began to organize locally in communities across Price County. Of all towns and villages, Kennan contributed the largest number of volunteers as a percentage of their population.¹² Groups of volunteers also marched in from Ogema, Prentice and other communities. For example, an engineer on the Pixley Dam on the North Fork of the Flambeau River, named D.G. Moon began to organize a platoon of men at Park Falls. As Camp Moose was being organized, the men were given a rousing send off in Park Falls as they marched off for Phillips.¹³

Given an Army travels on its stomach, food was an important topic as Camp Moose was organized. On Monday, July 16, 1917, the first meal was served at Camp Moose to 140 men. Karl Mess, from the local telephone office in Phillips, trained a cooking crew and which proved to be a valuable as-

set to the initial success of Company A. All the men certainly appreciated the help he rendered in the "Mess" room.¹⁴ Much of the food provided in the camp came from the local community. Both local newspapers reported regularly on camp activities, and in The Phillips Times front page column titled "Notes from Camp Moose," there were regular reports about repeated deliveries of donuts provided by Mrs. G.W. Frost and other ladies, 20 cakes from local young ladies, 60 pies from the Scandinavian ladies, ice cream from Nathan Lane and C. Tobey, and other gifts of food. Tobacco, a Victrola, and monetary donations to the Company from various Price County communities.¹⁵

Another early challenge for the unit was the long grass on the fields at the fairgrounds. Initially, the men marched into Phillips to the athletic fields for drills in the morning, and in the afternoon they would hike up Big Elk Road. Once the grass on the fields was mowed for hay and burned off, a good area for drills and exercise was available at the fairgrounds.¹⁶ While at the fairgrounds the men drilled and exercised in civilian clothes as uniforms were not issued until they reached their next training site at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.¹⁷

On several Saturdays, large rallies were held at Camp Moose, full of speeches patriotic songs, and prayers by local ministers, followed by Company A drills and exercises. The rally on Saturday afternoon, August 4, 1917 reportedly included over 1000 attendees from across Price County. Then on Sundays, Camp Moose was open to visits by families and friends.¹⁸

Camp Moose was also visited and inspected by Wisconsin National Guard and Regular Army personnel, and Company A leaders also visited Camp Douglas, WI. Lieutenant Colonel Rossiter from the 6th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment reported that Camp Moose was the largest and best company-level military camp he had visited. During this period the Wisconsin National Guard Adjutant General notified the leadership at Camp Moose, that the



Sergeant Lyle Lane. Date & location unknown.
Photo courtesy of the Price County Historical Society.



large Price County Company would be divided into two different companies.

- Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment with a design strength of 150 men.

- The second company was designated the Supply Company of the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, commanded by Captain Charles E. Butters. It has a design strength of 35 men, and was filled by volunteers from Company A.

- When the two companies departed Phillips, they consisted of a combined total of five officers and 202 men.¹⁹

On August 17, 1917, the War Department announced in the press that the Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard units would combine to form the 32nd Division with training for the division to be conducted at Camp MacArthur, Texas. With this guidance and five weeks of training at Camp Moose under their belt, in mid-August 1917 the men

of Company A, 6th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment prepared for their move to Camp Douglas.

On Thursday morning, August 23, 1917, at 7:50 a special Soo Line train departed the Phillips depot carrying Company A and the Supply Company of Phillips, and Company C from Mellen. That morning, a large group of about two thousand Price County citizens assembled hastily for a farewell rally for the men. The rally included the typical patriotic addresses by Michael Barry, Chairman of Price County Council of Defense, and Fred H. Struble, Phillips Mayor, and comments Captain Witt and Captain Butters. Seventy years later, one veteran reminisced about that day saying "*We all went together and stayed together. Boys I had known all my life.*" Another company joined the train in Marshfield and they all arrived at Camp Douglas late afternoon on Thursday.²⁰





Camp Douglas, Wisconsin - August to September 1917

Nestled in a little valley between rugged bluffs, the Wisconsin Military Reservation at Camp Douglas was purported to be one of the largest and best state military reservations in the country by 1917. By the time the volunteers of the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment completed their movement to Camp Douglas on August 22, 1917, several other regiments of the Wisconsin National Guard had already arrived. On August 6, 1917, over a week before the Price County units arrived, Camp Douglas was already hosting over 10,000 soldiers with three more regiments scheduled to arrive in the next 10 days. At this point, Camp Douglas was proving to be inadequate to accommodate the thousands of men who were arriving weekly.²¹

The soldier's day was a very busy one. Reveille was at 5:30 in the morning. The unit assembly was at 5:45, following by breakfast mess at 6:15 after the cots had been made up and tents arranged for the day. Sick call was at 6:45. Then at 7:30, except on Sunday, they fell out for a hike from between four to six miles which on Saturday was extended to twelve miles.

At 9:30 the Company assembled for drill practice which lasted two and a half hours after

which they were dismissed for dinner mess at 12:00. From 1:30 until 4:30 drill practice was lively and after drill the men had about two hours for recreation and

supper. Guard mount began at 4:45 with Adjutants Call at 4:55. At 5:45 they fell in for retreat which lasted about half an hour. Supper mess began at 6:00. From 5:00 until 10:00 the men were free to go to town provided they had a pass to leave the grounds. Taps was sounded at 10:30.²²

Also during their off duty time, the men had to keep their guns and other equipment ready for inspection. There were two washings a week for their clothes and they patronized the company bath houses at least twice a week. The boys apparently didn't enjoy doing their own washing and they appreciated the "housewives" that the ladies at home had made for them.²³



Collar Disc for Wisconsin National Guard WWI Enlisted Men's Uniform

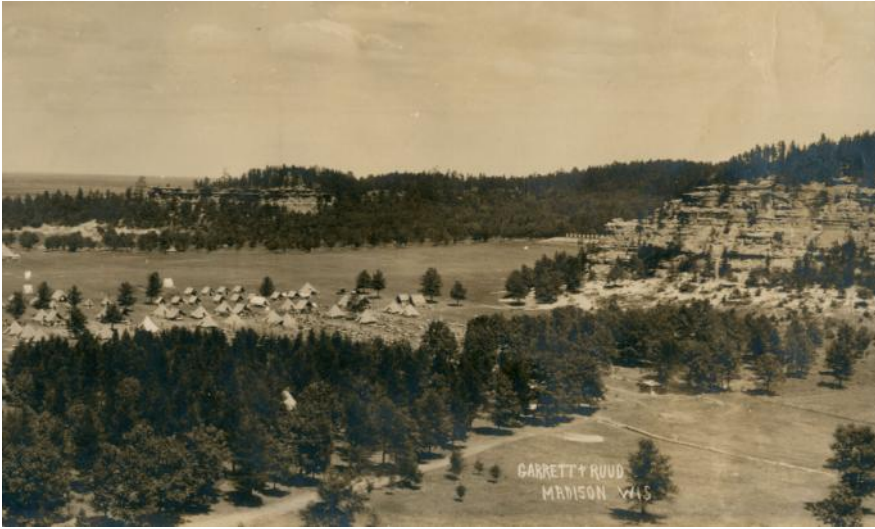
The YMCA maintained four large tents each divided into departments: a large assembly room with stage, a circulating library, and a correspondence room with free stationary, etc. All types of entertainment were provided, such as boxing and wrestling exhibitions, musical and library programs, moving pictures, and theatrical entertainment on Sunday. There was also nondenominational church service. The Knights of Columbus also had a similar headquarters with the same services.



Soldiers at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin September 12, 1917. Tents are folded in the rear of the photo and cots are arrayed outside, possibly for inspection.

Also note the mascot dog in the center of the picture.

All rights reserved. Image courtesy of Bob Swanson.



Camp Douglas, Wisconsin 1917.

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Veterans Museum. All rights reserved.

discharged from the Wisconsin National Guard and Company A along with other Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard regiments were reorganized into the 32nd Division. This was directed by the War Department in accordance with the "Tables of Organization, 1917," issued on September 22, 1917 just a few days prior to their departure from Camp Douglas. The boys in Company A were happy for this meant among other things, regular pay, as the State of Wisconsin had failed to come across with a pay day. As far as soldier's pay, Congress has approved the following monthly pay scales, along

Both of these institutions followed the men to Waco, Texas.²⁴

with 75 cents a day for subsistence, as of July 20, 1917²⁶:

On the whole the men enjoyed their time at Camp Douglas. They did find the small neighboring community of 500 people quite crowded, and prices in the town were exorbitant. Some evenings in camp proved chilly and those that did not have enough straw for their ticks were able to fill them with dry oak leaves from trees which were located nearby.

As the men initially arrived at Camp Douglas, they were issued regulation Army gear, including uniform hats, shoes, shirts, towels, toothbrush, comb, a rain coat, and water-proof sleeping bag combined, and also a half a puppy tent. Immunizations were also given and apparently many men had bad reactions to them, especially typhoid and small pox shots.²⁵

On August 5, 1917, President Wilson issued an order that discharged all National Guard members from their state militias and immediately drafted them into the U.S. Army. This was required due to a constitutional prohibition on the use of the National Guard outside the United States. During their stay at Camp Douglas, Company A was

- Private: \$30
- First Class Private: \$33
- Corporal: \$36
- Sergeant: \$38
- First Sergeant: \$51
- 2nd Lieutenant: \$150
- 1st Lieutenant: \$167
- Captain: \$200



Tents at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin 1917.

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Veterans Museum. All rights reserved.



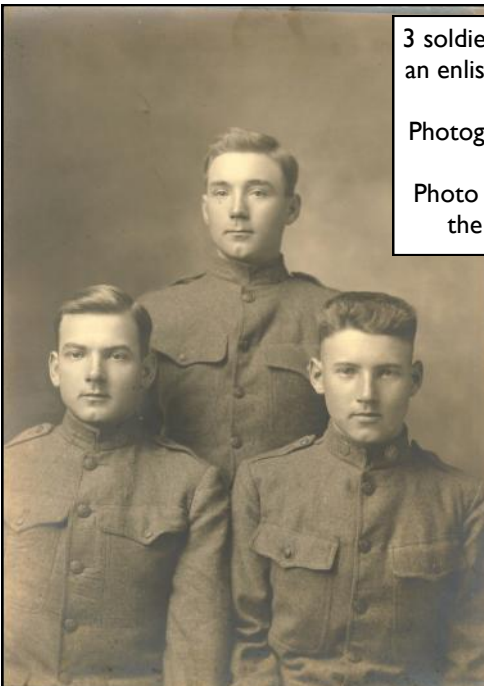
Sixth Regiment of Infantry

COL Marshall Cousins, Eau Claire
 LTC Emanuel Rossiter, Superior
 MAJ Walter Able, Manitowoc
 MAJ Percy C. Atkinson, Eau Claire
 MAJ Emil F. Kraning, Oshkosh
 1LT Philip Henry Linley, Eau Claire, Chaplain



				Officer.	Enlisted
HQ Co.	Superior	CPT A. W. Fluegel		1	57
MG Co.	Durand	CPT John P. Ingles	1LT Harley Lea Vasseur	2LT Geo. F. Harrington	3 51
Supply Co.	Viroqua	CPT Charles E. Butters	2LT Frank V. Johnson	2	30
Co. A	Phillips	CPT Edward O. Witt	1LT Ira A. Kenyon	2LT Owen A. Muck	3 126
Co. B	Superior	CPT Carl Hanton	1LT Raphael B. Ebert	2LT Frank E. Dundon	3 135
Co. C	Mellen	CPT Angus A. McDonald	1LT Andrew H. Yorton	2LT Louis Seif	3 101
Co. D	Washburn	CPT H. H. Peavey	1LT Randall W. Smith	2LT Ralph A. Harvey	3 109
Co. E	Spooner	CPT John H. Holtz	1LT Clarence O. Stout	2LT Paul E. Dejung	3 111
Co. F	Rice Lake	CPT Ray C. Peck	1LT Lee M. Boyden	2LT Roy A. Aune	3 102
Co. G	Ashland	CPT Lyman W. Pool	1LT William E. Otis	2	100
Co. H	Hayward	CPT Wm. W. Wismer	1LT Robt. W. Harness	2	102
Co. I	Baraboo	CPT Carl Swinson	1LT Paul S. Stewart	2LT Ernest A. Isenberg	3 105
Co. K	Marshfield	CPT Wm. Mittelstad	1LT Fred Braen	2LT John Kohl	3 101
Co. L	Galesville	CPT Wm. F. Rowles	2LT Thorwald Thorsen	1	97
Co. M	New London	CPT Frederick W. Hoffman	1LT Henry J. Pettigrew	2	91
Sanitary Detachment	MAJ Robert H. Gray, La Crosse	1LT Jas. A. Ballard, Hayward	1LT Parker T. Trowbridge, Washburn; 1LT William R. Doctor, Cazenovia	4	28
Total Strength: 47					1446

Table of Organization for the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment as on August 31, 1917
 Reprinted from Organization of the Wisconsin National Guard at www.b-1-105.us/history/ww1wng1917.html



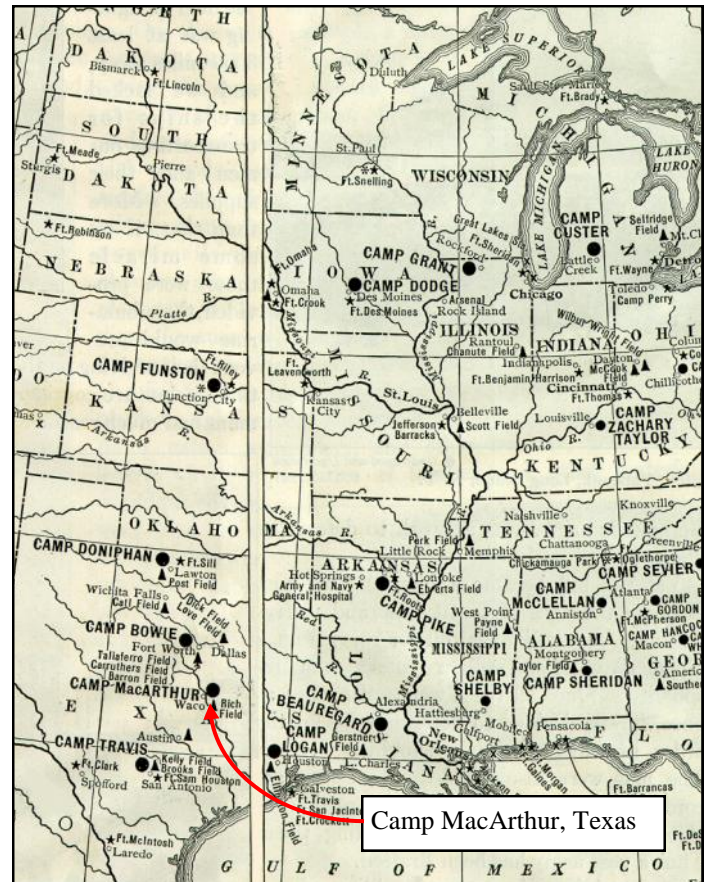
3 soldiers, probably related, posing for an enlistment photograph, probably at Camp Douglas in 1917.
 Photographer was Harry Lyman from Oshkosh, WI
 Photo courtesy of Bev Brayton from the Peterson family collection.



Camp MacArthur, Texas - September 1917 to February 1918

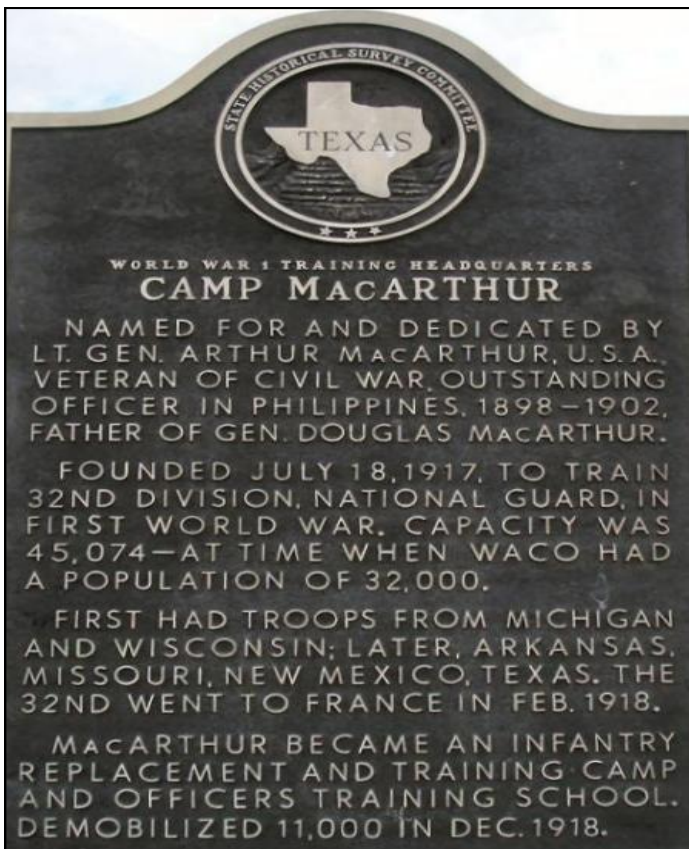
On July 17, 1917 the War Department announced that after Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard units were mobilized, they would be relocated and trained at a newly constructed Camp MacArthur, Texas. The camp was named in honor of Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur. He entered the Army in Milwaukee and while serving in the 24th Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He also served with distinction during the Spanish-American War in the Philippines.

Company A shouldered their rifles and packs and left Camp Douglas at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, 27 September 1917 for a three day train ride to Waco, Texas and Camp MacArthur. The train with 21 cars transported the First Battalion of the former Sixth Wisconsin Infantry, along with Companies A (later redesignated Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion), C, and D, the Supply Company (which was also largely from Price County), Headquarters



Company, and the Medical and Sanitary Detachments. The last Wisconsin units departed Camp Douglas on September 28, 1917, and their departure left the camp completely deserted.²⁷

Company A was grouped into six chair cars as Pullman cars were not available for the three day journey to Texas. The train was met in the middle of the afternoon by a cheering crowd in Madison on their way south. After switching through the Chicago rail yards, they stopped in St. Louis for exercise and dinner. The kitchen car was in the middle of the train and consisted of two big camp stoves. Meals were carried up and down the train by men detailed as kitchen police so that all were served hot coffee, potatoes, beans, tomato stew, bread and butter. Company A also had considerable other food on the trip that was brought to Camp Douglas by Reverend Zimmerman the day before their departure.





Leaving St. Louis their train crossed back into Illinois and moved south crossing the Mississippi River near Cairo, IL. Travelling via Little Rock, Arkansas and Texarkana, the train pulled into Waco, Texas at 2:30 Sunday afternoon. They then marched a half mile to their campgrounds at Camp MacArthur.²⁸

Camp MacArthur was located on the northwest side of Waco, Texas on a high plain covered with cedars and live oaks. The Bosque River ran through the camp site. The troops from Michigan and Wisconsin appreciated the gulf breeze in the evening which made sleep possible after the hot fall days.²⁹ Construction on the training camp, named for Lieutenant General MacArthur, began on July 20, 1917 and construction costs were estimated



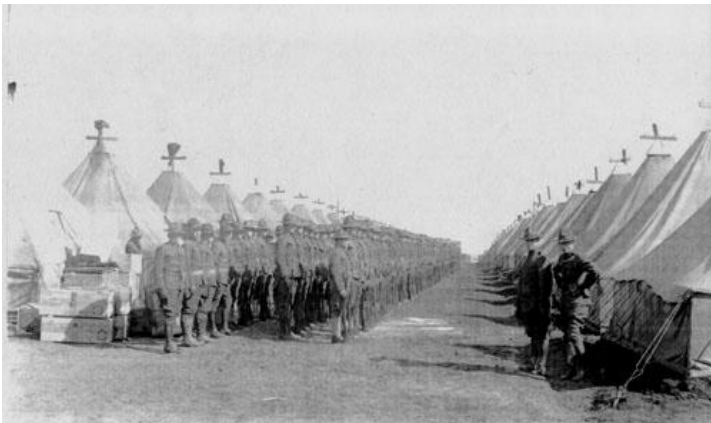
Camp MacArthur, Texas, still under construction September 12, 1917.

to be \$5 million. The water for the camp came from artesian wells. The sewer system carried the sewage five miles away and it was disposed of in modern methods. Malaria was unknown and so were mosquitos. The camp had two hundred acres for living purposes and 10,000 acres for maneuvering.³⁰

As the soldiers from Wisconsin arrived in Texas, the temperatures in Waco were over 90 degrees with blowing dust everywhere. The heat during the day was unbearable and prompted the remark by Private James “Black Scotty” Watson that he wouldn’t trade ten acres of Price County for all of Texas.³¹

As Company A arrived at Camp MacArthur it was again announced that old National Guard organizations would be amalgamated to form the larger units required for warfare in Europe. On October 14, 1917 the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry, along with other Wisconsin Infantry Regiments, were absorbed by several new units, the 127th and 128th Infantry Regiments, and the 121st Machine Gun Battalion during a ceremony at Camp MacArthur.

Under the old tables of organization there were no provisions for heavy machine gun battalions in the U.S. Army. However given experiences from three years of warfare in Europe, the Army appreciated the fact that automatic weapons such as machine guns enabled belligerents to engage each other on a scale of firepower never seen before. As a re-



Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas. Photo from National Archives.



Postcard of Camp MacArthur and Waco, TX from Pvt. Raymond Burton to Anna Ehmke in Phillips, WI
Photos courtesy of the Price County Historical Society.



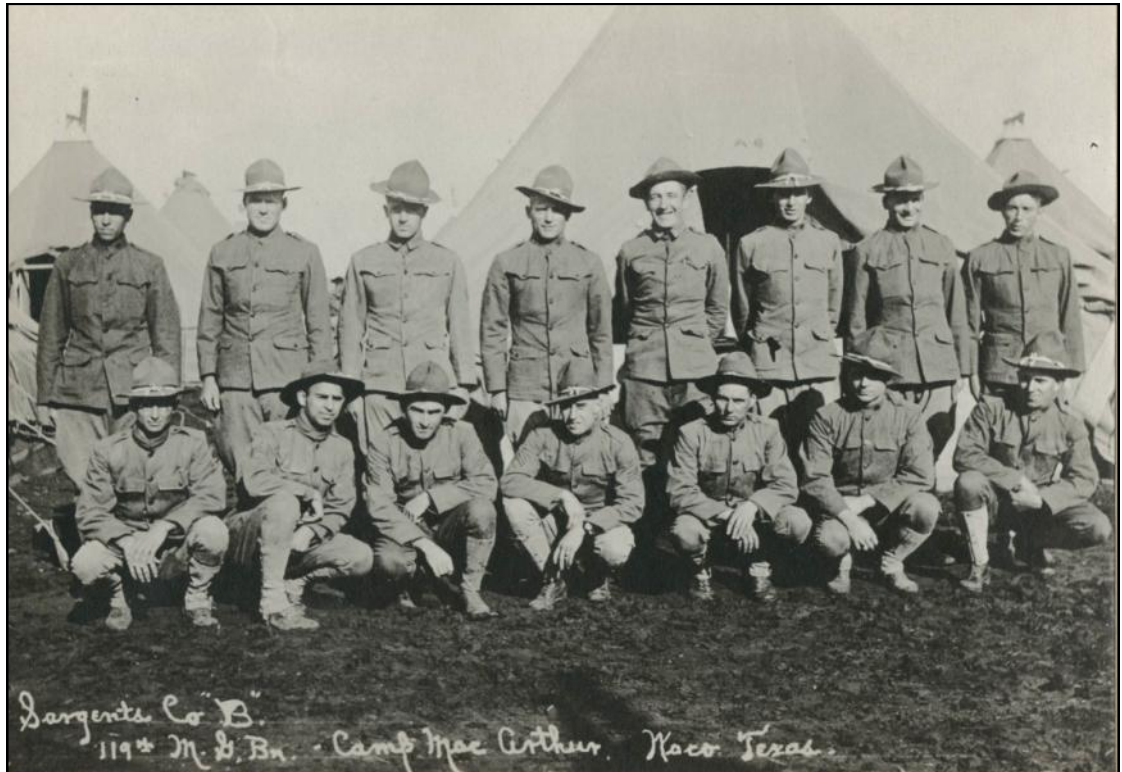
sult, on October 15, 1917 the 119th Machine Gun Battalion was created at Camp MacArthur by General Order #5, 57th Depot Brigade, 32nd Division.³²

The men were keenly disappointed with ongoing reorganizations that divided up the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry, as they felt they were losing the regional character of their units that had been developed from July through September 1917. Yet they took it like good soldiers and even though the men of "Fighting Sixth" disliked being broken up, they soon were bent on making the 119th Machine Gun Battalion a strong unit within their new parent organization, the 32nd Division.

From Wisconsin's Sixth Infantry Regiment several complete company units were made up in the following fashion:

- One Machine Gun Battalion Headquarters Company
- One Machine Gun Company
- One Ammunition Motor Truck Company
- Three Supply Motor Truck Companies
- One Headquarters Supply Motor Train Company
- One Military Police Company
- One Headquarters Troop Company³³

Major Percy C. Atkinson of the former Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment took command of the new 119th Machine Gun Battalion³⁴ The battalion was initially organized into two companies, then quickly expanded to four companies. The second



Sergeants in Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion at Camp MacArthur, TX Fall 1917
Standing left to right: Loyal C. Prentice, James P. Barnett, Lyle N. Lane, First Sergeant Walter O. Raymond, Captain Edward Witt, Hjalmer A. Olson, Carl A. Raymond, & Matt Byrne
Kneeling left to right: Clyde D. Sullivan, Dave Rabenowich, Gregory McCauley, Frank Bruchert, Emil O. Gehrman, Charles Drake, & Fred E. Avery.

Photo Courtesy of the Price County Historical Society.

company, Company B was formed almost entirely from Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. Virtually all of the unit members came from Price County, especially Phillips, Park Falls, Kenan and surrounding areas, though a few enlisted men were from Taylor County and the Butternut area. Officers in Company B included Captain Edward O. Witt, 1st Lieutenant Ira A. Kenyon, 2nd Lieutenant Owen A. Muck, and 2nd Lieutenant Ernest A. Isenberg, a bank clerk from Baraboo). When Company B was formed at Camp MacArthur it was under strength, and there were vacancies for one 1st Lt and one 2nd Lt.

Company A, 119th Machine Gun Battalion was made up of men from Tomahawk, Thorp, Stanley and nearby areas. Company A was led by Captain John B. Fosnot, 1st Lieutenant Jens Munthe, 1st Lieutenant F.H. Phillips, 2nd Lieutenant Roy T. Ly-



ons, 2nd Lieutenant Eugene L. Meunier, and 2nd Lieutenant John N. Galbraith. Company A was at full strength in officers and the enlisted men came primarily from Company B, Fourth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

Company C, 119th Machine Gun Battalion was led by Captain Alfred E. Gaartz, 1st Thomas T.

Sweetnam, 2nd Lieutenant Claude C. Manly, 2nd Lieutenant William J. Shiells, and 2nd Lieutenant Lawrence W. Murphy. Officers and enlisted men in this company came primarily from the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

Company D, 119th Machine Gun Battalion was also formed from the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and officers included Captain Thomas A. Watson, 1st Lieutenant John P. Hume, 1st Lieutenant John G. Brunkhorst, 2nd Lieutenant Frank A. Inda, 2nd Lieutenant Leo J. Longdin, and 2nd Lieu-



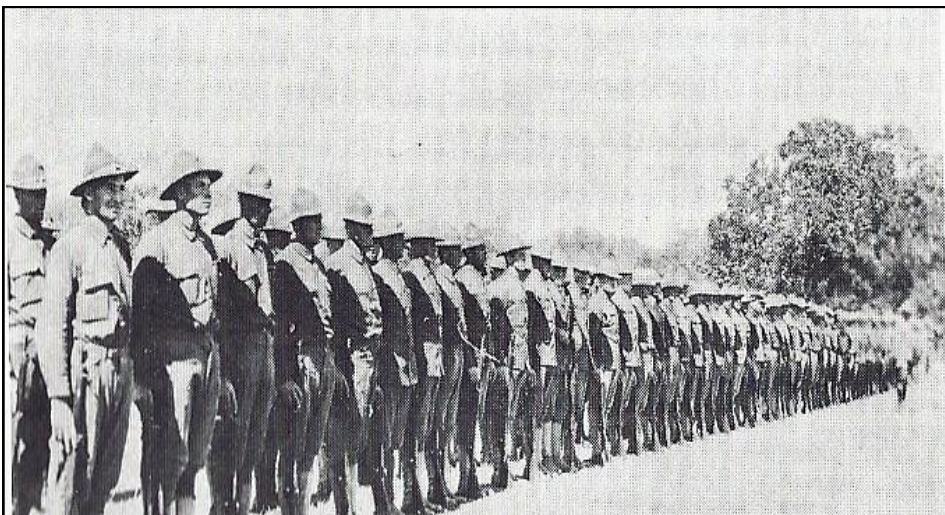
View of 127th Infantry Regiment area at Camp MacArthur, Texas, looking toward their attached machine gun battalion. Photo courtesy of The Oshkosh Public Museum © 2005 All Rights Reserved.

tenant Edward J. Lambrecht.³⁵

Fairly soon after arriving at Camp MacArthur and immediately after the four machine gun companies were organized, the 119th Machine Gun Battalion moved to a new encampment area and began their training in earnest. A War Department pamphlet entitled "Infantry

Training" prescribed a 16-week course of training for all units within the 32nd Division. Officers and non-commissioned officers attended training courses in various infantry specialties, including gas warfare, bayonet drill, field fortifications, automatic rifles, and heavy machine guns. Then after about 4-8 weeks they returned to their units as instructors to train the companies, platoons, and squads in the use of new infantry weapons such as the heavy machine gun. During this time, the training of the bulk of the company was left to one officer, typically the junior officer, who conducted training in close-order drill.³⁶

To complicate matters, 32nd Division units were equipped primarily for operations along the Mexican border which they had conducted until 1916. Units lacked the heavy weapons needed for warfare in Europe. Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion was not equipped with any machine guns and later constructed wooden models to conduct simulated machine gun drills.³⁷ Eventually the unit did receive machine gun training initially on the Lewis Gun (see cover pho-



Members of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion in formation at Camp MacArthur near Waco Texas in the fall of 1917.

Reprinted from "The Military..." by David Foster in the album Centennial Phillips Wisconsin 1876 - 1976, (Phillips, WI: 1976), p. 161



to). In early January 1918, Colt machine guns, probably the M1895/14 version, were issued to each company, however they only had less than one month of training left prior to their deployment to France. The M1895/14, also called the “Marlin Gun” was procured by the Army as a training weapons and was not used operational by machine gun units in France.³⁸

As training intensified before their deployment to France, five French and four British officers and several non-commissioned officers joined the 32nd Division as instructors. At Camp MacArthur, a trench system was built to provide units techniques of trench warfare. Infantry, machine gun and artillery target ranges were created, and all units in the division received instruction in combat fires.

On December 4, 1917, First Sergeant Walter G. Raymond was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, and 2nd Lieutenant A. C. Karnshaw was assigned to Company B to address the shortfall in officers in the company. Then on December 20, 1917, Special Order #81 transferred Major Atkinson and placed Major Stanley E. Piasecki in command of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion. The same order transferred Captain Witt and placed Captain Edward S. Reynolds in charge of Company B.³⁹ Under these new officers, Company B was trained and prepared for an early departure for overseas by the end of January 1918.



Colt-Browning M1895/14 Machine Gun, made by Marlin Corp.
Image courtesy of James D. Julia Auction House.

The War Department training programs also mandated certain hours of the week be devoted to athletics. So even during periods of intense training, one of the things which helped morale was sports and Company B soon had one of the finest company football teams. They beat the Tomahawk Company eighteen to zero on one occasion. The team was made up of: center, Kenyon, Jackson; guards, Boyle, Hoffman; tackles, Neilson, Neumann; ends, Yokoun, Fields, Dahl; quarterback, Bruchart; halves, Murray, Olson; fullback, “Monk” Raymond.⁴⁰

One of the first tragedies to the unit occurred when Percival Rishel died at Waco of pneumonia. This was probably not related to the outbreak of the Spanish Flu that hit Camp MacArthur later in 1918,

but was first detected at Camp Fuston, Kansas in March 1918.⁴¹ Yet there were other happenings that brought joy. Some residents of Phillips shipped several hundred pounds of venison to Waco before their movement to France and it was enjoyed by the troops there. Other festivities



Trench system at Camp MacArthur constructed by the 107th Engineer Regiment.
Photo courtesy of the 107th Engineer website.



such as the wedding of Frank Bruchart and Miss Mae Lambert of Waco took place to liven up the camp.⁴²



Pvt. Jesse V Winter, Company B, 119th MG BN
Photo courtesy of Agnes Wudel



Boys "horsing around" at Camp MacArthur in 1917.
Center: Slat's Martin.
Left top/bottom: Jesse Winter & Slim Harris.
Right top/bottom: Louis Woody & Alex Peterson.



Price County Boys of Co. "B" 119th Machine Gun Battalion 32nd Division, U. S. Army. Formerly Co. "A" 6th Wis. Inf.

BACK ROW
(Reading Left to Right)
Edw. O. Witt, Captain
Ira A. Kenyon, 1st Lieut.
Owen A. Muck, 2nd Lieut.
E. Isenberg, 2nd Lieut.
Ray A. Teeters
Dave Bruce
Frank I ong
Nick Seemel
Ewald Nelson
Tony Koenig
George Odegard
Charles Sansam
William Jonett
Thomas Olson
Alex. Olson, Corporal
Dwight Keyson
Thaddeus LaRose
John I. Hoffman

Clarence Anderson
Charles Cameron
Noel C. Demars
Edward Leiti
Earl E. Curren
Frank Freeman
Clifford Frost, Corporal
Fritz L. Carlson
William Harris
William Rehagen
Albert Weber
Anton Tracha
Herman Reiser
Harold Olson
John Kronberger
Howard Juneau
Albert Brandt
Alfred Kennedy
John Larsen
Carl Lundborg, Corporal

Thomas Thompson, Cook
Roy Burhans, Cook
Erwin Everson, Bugler
Evan A. Evans, Bugler
Herman Sager
James Watson, Saddler
Peter Slowey
Frank Brostoletz
Anton Kolar, Mechanic
Ray Elliott
Wilfred Morrow
Louis Wolf
Frank Feit
William Parker
James Barnett, Sergeant

CENTER ROW
Willard Nolan
Laurence Fields

Ray Anderson, Corporal
Ray Burton
Frank Collins
Glen Pierce
James Slowey
Joe Vokonn
Harry Bleckschmidt
Herman Gieske
Howard Bergquist
Freeman D. Sackett
Robert J. Morgan
Joseph Wells, Corporal
Orrie Dahl, Corporal
Arthur Johnson
Forest Wilnot
Peter Mulvaney
Edgar Hetfield
Louis B. Collins
Sam Regert
William Dostak

Thomas Galvin
Fred F. Bader
William Stridal
Edwin Schmidt
Kent Welen
Peter Estheimer
Alphonse Heitkemper
Charles Ovens
Wilfred Wood
Victor Curran
Victor Bergquist
Herman Weyers
Carl Petrick
Archie Gran
Alex Peterson
Carl A. Peterson
John Polakovich
Joseph Gamellen
Charles Kocmonok
James Collins

Aloys Koran
Lyle Nelson
Matt Byrne, Sergeant
Lyle Lane, Sergeant
Clyde Sullivan, Sergeant
Carl Raymond, Sergeant
Loyal C. Prentice, Corp.
Hjalmar Olson.

FRONT ROW
M. R. Donoghue, Corporal
Charles Carl
Tony Novotny
Norman Isaacson
Clifford Wells, Corporal
Louis Olson
Oscar Olson
William Bruebert
William Moquin
Harry Newbury

Tennis Horrie
Joe Nichols
Norman Ek, Corporal
John Ek
Raymond Barker
Alex. Kazan
William Bell
Percy Rishel
Earl Menard
Lorence Bennett
John Rantio
Otto Keller
Claude Murray
John Donoghue
John Kushta
Morris Heathen
Frank Feely, Sergeant
Albert Minot
Harry Marten
Robert Clark, Corporal

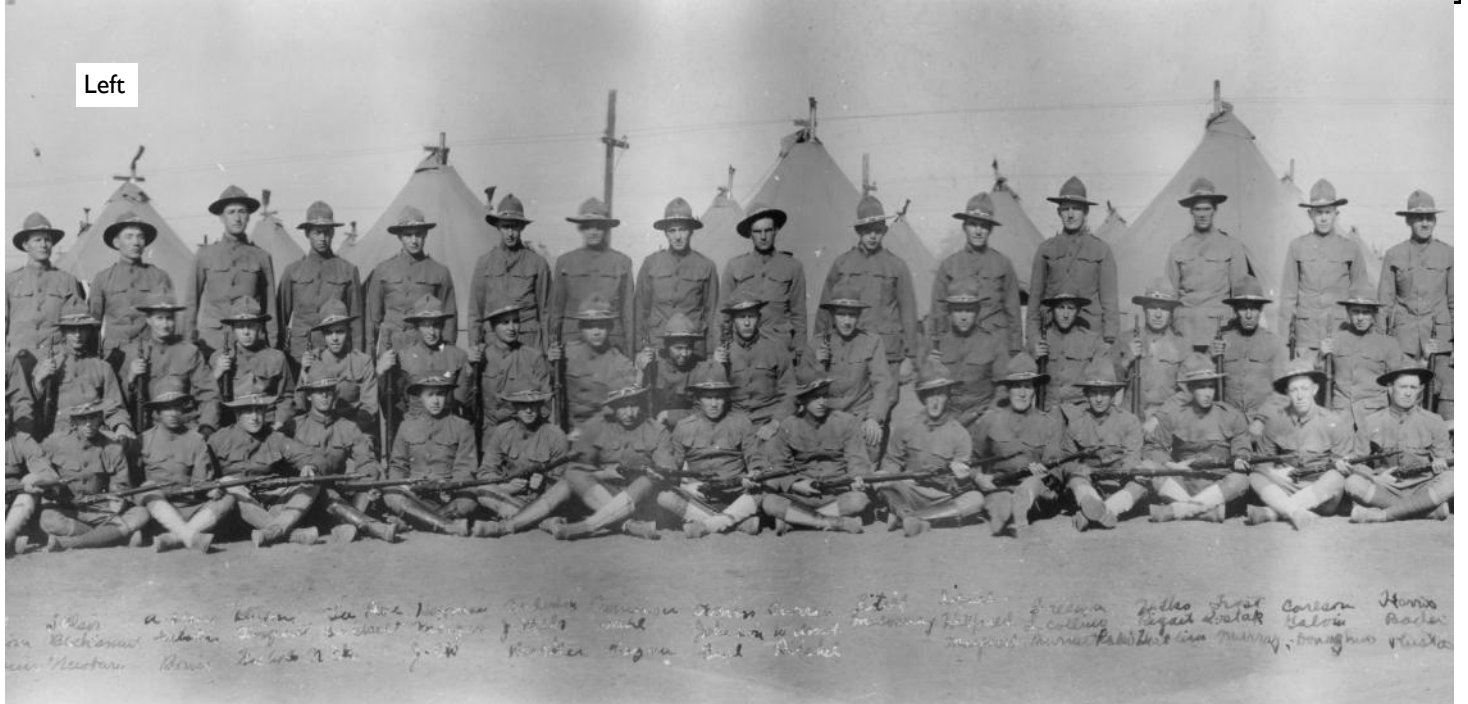
Phillip Branch, Corporal
Fred Cronk
Gustav Neumann
Irvin Helm, Corporal
Reuben Olson
John Bro
David Foster
Ray Nelson, Corporal
Irvin Morrow, Mechanic
John Boyle
Frank Tower
Bartlett Jackson, Sergeant
Louis Woode
Jessie Winter
Charles Drake, 1st Sgt.
Frank Brushert, Mess Sgt.
Fred Avery, Sergeant
D. Rabenowich, Sup. Sgt.
Emil O. Gehman, Sgt.
W. Raymond, 2nd Lieut.

County B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion at Camp MacArthur circa December 1917.
Photographer Harry Lyman from Oshkosh.

Far Left



Left





The 32nd Division - parent unit of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion



The following information is from the 'The 32nd Red Arrow Veteran Association - The 32nd Division in World War I - From the "Iron Jaw Division to Les Terribles" (see <http://www.32nd-division.org/history/www1/32-www1.html> for more information)

On 15 July 1917 the National Guards of Wisconsin and Michigan were officially ordered into Federal Service and mobilization commenced at state camps. The 32nd Division was organized under War Department orders of 18 July 1917 from National Guard troops from Wisconsin and Michigan.

While the official orders for the organization of the 32nd Division were dated 18 July, the actual organization of the Division did not start until around September, when most of the units had reached Camp MacArthur, near Waco, Texas. The 32nd Division was to be a massive "square" division, like all American divisions being created at the time.

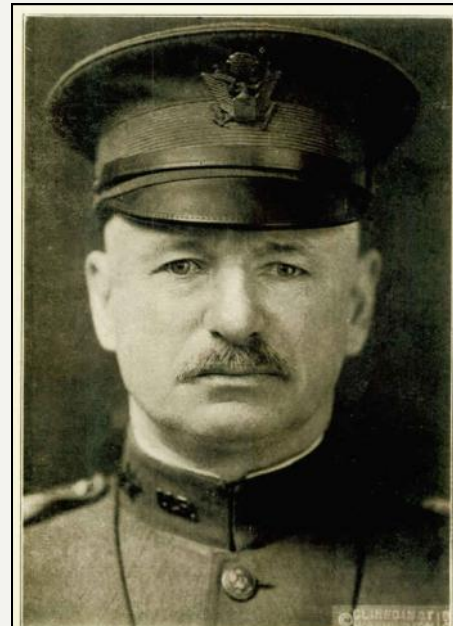
"A complete division is difficult to visualize. One must see it with all its armament, troops, and trains to begin to understand - infantry brigades, machine gun battalions, artillery, engineers, trench mortar battery, signal corps, ammunition trains, supply trains, sanitary trains, mobile repair shops, medical corps troops, field hospitals, ambulance companies, brigade staffs, division staff. In personnel 28,000, animals some 9,000, motor cars, motor trucks, tanks, balloons, airplanes, and last but not least, the military police. In a single close column - men marching in column of fours well closed up - the division is now more than 30 miles long."

In early August 1917 the movement to the Division's training camp at Camp MacArthur, Texas commenced. Battery F, 121st Field Artillery Regi-

ment was the first unit to arrive on 4 August 1917. The last unit from Wisconsin arrived on 1 October.

On 17 August 1917 Major General James 'Galloping Jim' Parker assumed command of the 32nd Division. On 18 September he left for France on special duty. He returned in early December, but was almost immediately transferred to the 85th Division at Camp Custer, Michigan.

On 18 September 1917 Brigadier General William G. 'Bunker' Haan, then commander of the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, became acting commander of the 32nd Division. BG Haan officially assumed command of the 32nd in December, when MG Parker was transferred to the 85th Division. A newspaper article from 2 October 1917 stated that the 32nd Division had been given the nickname, "The Iron Jaw Division."



Major General William G. "Bunker" Haan, Commander, 32nd Infantry Division during WWI



To Camp Merritt and Across the Atlantic - February to March 1918

Camp MacArthur was flooded with rumors almost daily about the 32nd Division's movement to Europe. The 119th Machine Gun Battalion completed its training at Camp MacArthur, Texas and left on February 4, 1918, bound for "somewhere." That somewhere turned out to be their Port of Embarkation at Camp Merritt near Hoboken, New Jersey. The movement by train encompassed a long five days and the unit arrived in Hoboken on the evening of February 9, 1918.

In the early morning of February 18, 1918, the battalion moved to the port at Hoboken and by noon soldiers were moving up the gang plank to board the USS George Washington. After stowing gear and equipment, the USS George Washington sailed into the Hudson River enroute to France shortly after midnight.

Life boat drills, submarine warfare exercises, and seasickness were the daily norms as the convoy crossed the Atlantic. Though the USS George Washington could make 18-19 knots, but smaller ships and a zigzag course to avoid submarine attack slowed the convoy and the crossing took 14 days. Relief spread through the ship when they saw the shores of sunny France on the morning of March 4, 1918.⁴³

During the crossing officers in the crew of the USS George Washington began printing "The Hatchet" newspaper (a reference to the tale about George Washington and the cherry tree) on a small hand press. The Hatchet was published weekly with news acquired from within the ship and what was received by radio. The editor was the ship's chaplain and associate editors were members of the Associated Press, United Press, and the International News Service. The edition from the USS George Washington's second crossing of the Atlantic as a troop transport, which sailed on February 18, 1918, published a list of passengers, primarily units and their leaders, including:

Company "B" 119th Machine Gun Battalion

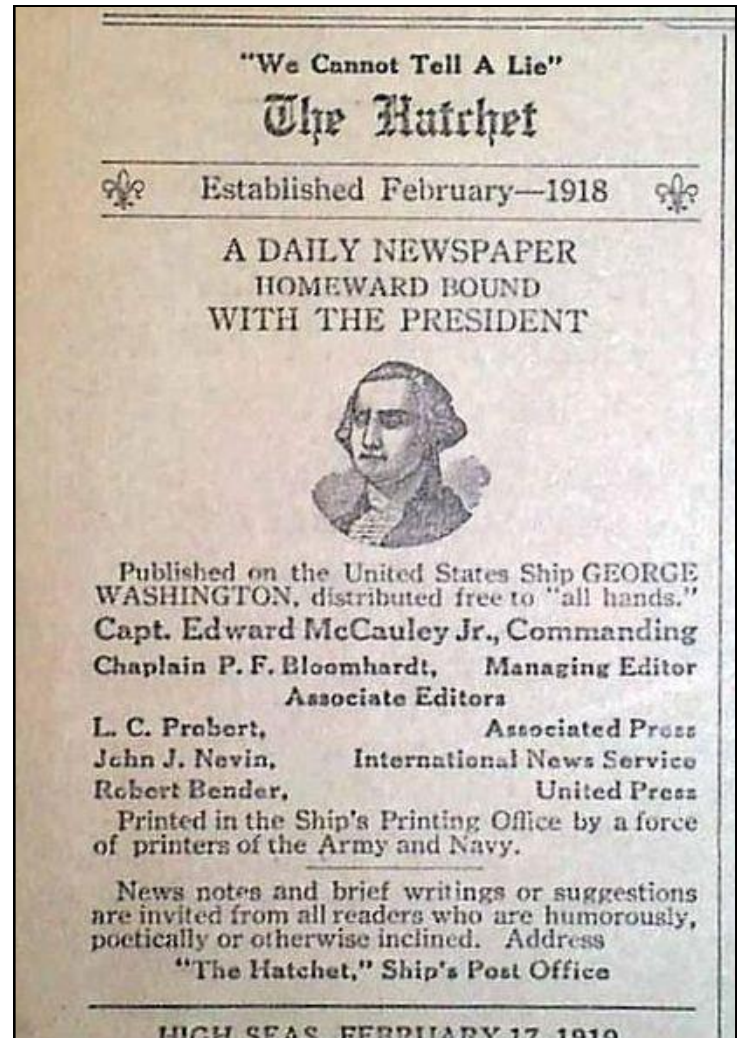
Reynolds, Edward Storrs, Captain.

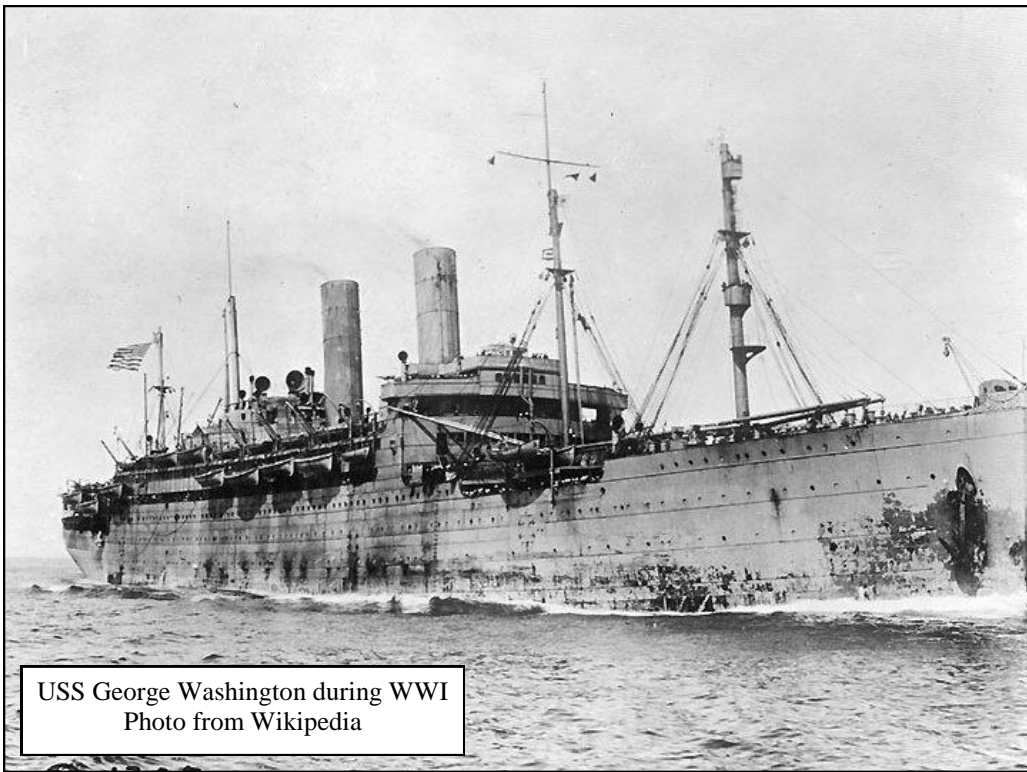
Kenyon, Ira Alexander, 1st Lieut.

Isenberg, Ernest August, 2nd Lieut.

Muck, Owen Alexander, 2nd Lieut.

Earnshaw, Arthur Chester, 2nd Lieut⁴⁴





USS George Washington during WWI
Photo from Wikipedia

The SS George Washington was launched at Stettin, Germany in 1908. At the time she was built she was the third-largest ship in the world after the Lusitania and the Mauritania. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914 the SS Washington sought refuge in New York and was interned by the then neutral United States. After the United States entered the war in April 1917, she was seized and converted to use as a troop transport. The USS George Washington sailed with her first load of American troops in December 1917. In early December 1918 she carried President Woodrow Wilson and American representatives to the Paris Peace Conference.



RED ARROW TIDBITS -

* The first troops of the 32nd Division left Camp MacArthur on January 2, 1918, bound for Camp Merritt, New Jersey and then onto the Port of Embarkation at Hoboken, New Jersey. Camp MacArthur was completely cleared by March 1, 1918.

* In making the journey from Waco to Hoboken, the 32nd Division traveled over 1,900 miles using 61 special trains, with 23,685 soldiers. Two stock trains left Waco on January 2nd for Newport News, Virginia with horses and mules for unit's wagons and caissons.

* The 32nd Division suffered its first casualties of the war when, on 5 February, the SS Tuscania was sunk by a German submarine crossing the Atlantic just off the Irish Coast. 13 soldiers from the 32nd Division lost their lives in the sinking.

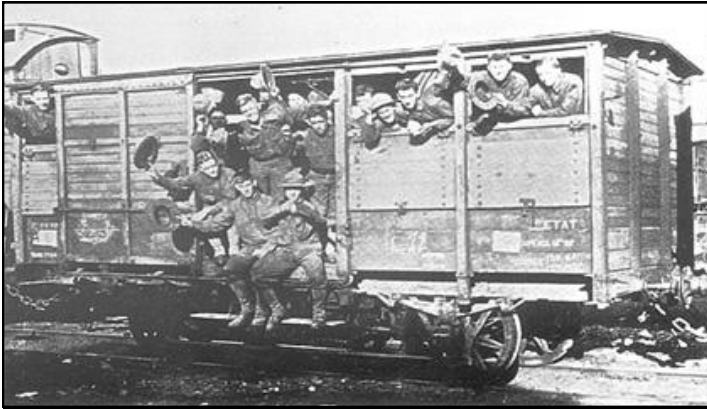
* On 24 January 1918 the advance party of the 32nd Division arrived at Brest, France.

* When the 32nd Division arrived in France in February - March 1918, they were the sixth Division to join the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF).



Arrival and Training in France - March to May 1918

The 119th Machine Gun Battalion spent the first night in harbor in Brest, France and then were landed from the ship the next day, March 5, 1918. After coming ashore, the unit marched about five



French 40 and 8 Boxcar with U.S soldiers

miles away to old barracks in Camp Pontenazen, known as Camp Napoleon by American soldiers, for some rest. The men remember the weather and accommodations vividly during their first few days in France, and their first impressions of “sunny France” were anything but good. The troops encountered rain, mud and terrible sleeping condition worse than anything they endured at the front. Mud was knee deep in the tents and everyone and everything was wet.⁴⁵ After the war Camp Pontenazen was investigated for claims that wounded and invalids were not properly cared for enroute back to the United States. The report mentions leaky roofs, two inches of mud everywhere, no heat, and rampant influenza.⁴⁶

Thankfully their stay outside Brest was brief, and within a few days individual companies of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion were shipped one at a time to different parts of France for construction duty. After three days (about March 8th or 9th), Company B moved by train to a small village of Qurches-sur-Meuse just west of the town of Toul which is in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains east of Paris.⁴⁷

The train ride to Qurches was particularly memorable as the 120-man unit was piled into railroad box cars marked “40 HOMME ET 8 CHEVAUX,” which translated to 40 men and 8 horses. The cars were half the size of American box cars, and the troops were sandwiched together with a few boxes of hardtack, beans, and some “Corned Willy.” The trip to Qurches lasted three days and three nights. On the morning of the third day, they finally reached their destination, the small village of Qurches. Here the men billeted in barns and haylofts and due to the mix up in rations, they lived for three weeks on hardtack and corned beef. While at Qurches, the unit worked on leveling an American aviation field which was under construction.⁴⁸

During early March 1918, information began to circulate that the entire 32nd Division was to be used as a source of replacements to augment other units on the front lines. During April 1918, 7,000 soldiers were transferred from the 32nd Division to other units within the 1st Division. Major General

After WWI, one 40 and 8 narrow boxcar, referred to as a Merci Train was given to each U.S. state by France in appreciation for America's effort during the war.

Wisconsin's Merci Train is located in the National Railway Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



Above picture is from the Vermont National Guard



Haan went to bat for the division and eventually convinced Allied leaders that the 32nd Division was more valuable to the war effort if kept intact.⁴⁹

During this reshuffle, Company B lost 18 soldiers that were reassigned to the 120th Machine Gun Battalion, which was part of the 63rd Brigade originally from Michigan. One of these men, was Sam Regert from Phillips, Wisconsin, who was assigned to Company A, 120th Machine Gun Battalion. He was killed in action on October 4, 1918,

Hotchkiss M1914 Machine Gun
Picture from World Guns website



and Mrs. Fred Strobel, the Phillips mayor's wife, was listed as his next of kin.⁵⁰

After one month on construction support and guard duty around Qurches, Companies A and B were relieved on April 7, 1918, and moved to Boussenois, southeast of Paris in the Tenth Training area. On arriving at Boussenois, the two companies were directed to organize as a two-company motorized machine gun battalion to be used as a divisional asset. This meant they were not subordinate to brigade, as was the case with other machine gun battalions, and would be directed by the division commander.

While at Boussenois the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, under the command of Captain Edward S. Reynolds, began an intensive course of training in preparation for combat. Soon after arriving in Boussenois, Company B was equipped with the

French Hotchkiss machine gun and other combat equipment. The Hotchkiss machine gun was used extensively by the American Expeditionary Forces. It was probably the Mle 1914 heavy machine gun with a 250-round belt feed. Ford trucks were also issued to the battalion as machine gun cars instead of the standard gun trucks. The 119th Machine Gun Battalion was able to retain these vehicles through the remainder of their time in France and Germany.

Near the latter part of their 4-6 weeks of training in the Tenth Training Area, Major Frank Fowler replaced Major Piasecki as Commander, 119th Machine Gun Battalion. Major Fowler was also assigned duties as the Division Machine Gun Officer which largely kept him absent from the battalion except at rare intervals.⁵¹



1917 Model T Ford serving as a machine gun carrier. Ford made several versions of machine gun cars and trucks and the exact version used by the 119th MG BN is unknown.

During their time at Boussenois, then Captain Leo Jackson, the 119th MG BN Adjutant crafted the following compliment about Companies A and B:

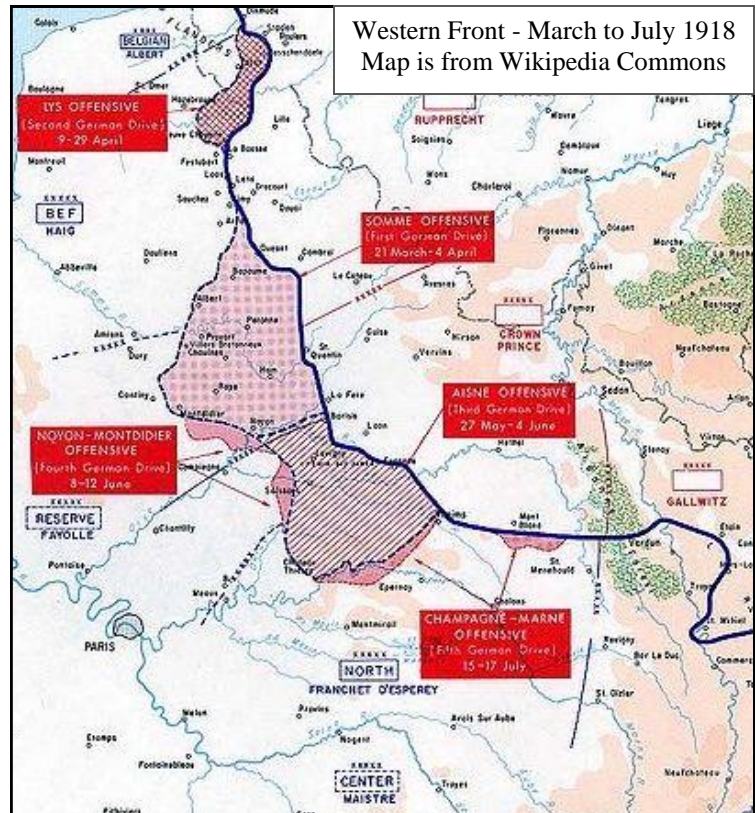
"The men of these two companies came from four cities in northern Wisconsin: Stanley, Tomahawk, Park Falls and Phillips and the country immediately surrounding these towns. They were hardy men, willing to take the hard work and long hours that was to prepare them for their part in the great war. Thrown together in this small village as



they were, there sprang up among them a Battalion spirit that has remained with the Battalion through its stay in Europe. It instilled itself into the replacements as they arrived in the organization, and held up the identity of the Battalion in the last inspection before the Commanding General of the A.E.F."⁵²

Training of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion and other units that were part of the 32nd Division was conducted with some urgency, as the Germans had begun an offensive on March 21, 1918. The Germans' Operation Michael had the objective of splitting the Allies and striking a decisive blow toward Paris before significant U.S. forces could be brought into the conflict. Initially in the Third Battle of the Somme the Germans achieved major advances against the British near Arriens, advancing 60 kilometers (37 miles) with new trench warfare tactics. The German offensive seized 1,200 square miles of France, and in moving to within 120 kilometers (75 miles) of Paris the Germans were able to bombard Paris using their heavy Krupp railway guns. Between 21 March and 30 April, the French and British armies lost just over 328,000 troops.

As mentioned earlier, in the context of these tremendous losses, there was considerable pressure from General Foch, the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces, to use arriving American troops as individual replacements. General Pershing instead sought to keep American forces intact and used as an independent force. The compromise was that some arriving American units were assigned intact to French and British commands in late March 1918, and it was in this environment that the 119th Machine Gun Battalion entered the fight in May 1918.⁵³

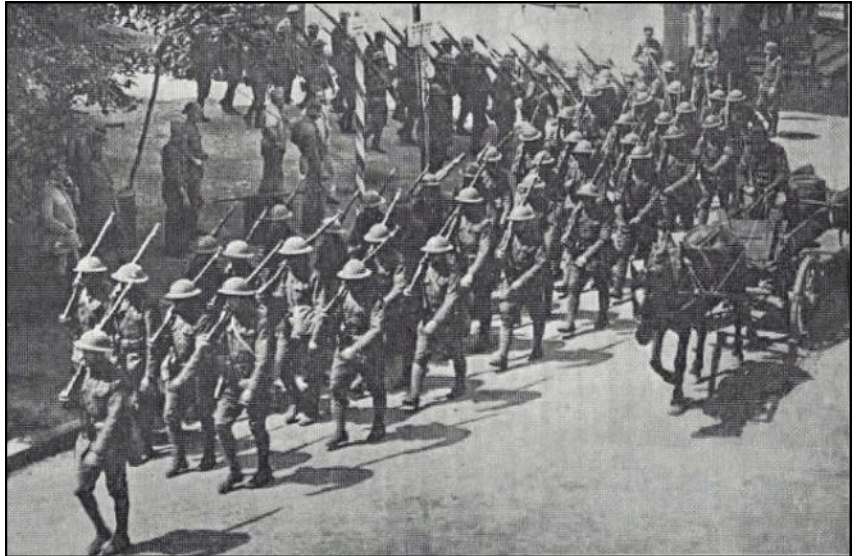




Into Battle in Alsace - May to July 1918

With new equipment and a month of training on weapons and vehicles, Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion again loaded onto trains on May 15, 1918, and initially moved southeast to a staging area near the town of Rougemont west of Belfort. This was part of the move of the entire 32nd Division to the region of Belfort in what was then Alsace, a province of Germany, in support of the 40th French Corps.⁵⁴

The move of the 32nd Division also occurred in mid-May in the midst of hustling efforts to bring companies up to strength in both men and equipment. Likewise, extra clothing was pulled from packs, rolling kitchens replaced, water carts arrived, and some garrison equipment was turned in, all to get units ready for combat.



First American Troops on German soil. Striped pole in upper center of the of the picture is the marker of the 1914 boundary between France and Germany. Picture from The 32nd Division History in the World War, 1917-1919, p. 42 All rights reserved.

MACHINE GUN COMPANY

OFFICERS:

Captain -	1
1st Lieutenant -	2
2nd Lieutenant -	3

NCO's

First Sergeant -	1
Sergeant -	7
Mess Sergeant -	1
Supply Sergeant -	1
Stable Sergeant -	1

ENLISTED

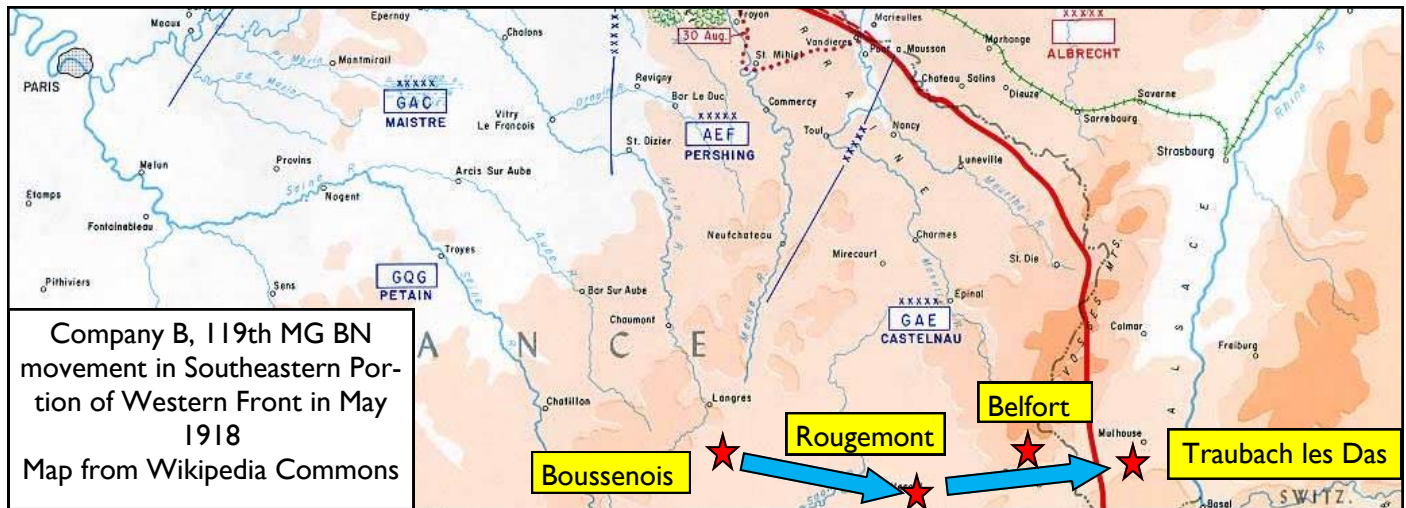
Corporal -	8
Horseshoer -	1
Mechanic -	2
Cook -	2
Bugler -	2
Private First Class -	12
Private -	75

Total 108

Most units' infantry companies were brought up to a strength of 150 enlisted soldiers plus 6 officers. However, a machine gun company was manned differently according to the Table of Organization for the U.S. Army, with modifications implemented in an August 11, 1917, Memorandum of Instruction for Preparation of Companies and Regiments of Infantry for Muster. As detailed in the table to the left, each machine gun company consisted of 102 enlisted soldiers and 6 officers, for a total of 108 troops.

While in Alsace, several additional lieutenants were added to the 119th Machine Gun and subordinate companies. 2nd Lt. Karnshaw was returned to Company B after serving temporarily as the Battalion Adjutant, and 1st Lt. Ira A. Kenyon was returned to the United States as a Machine Gun Instructor. Near the end of operations in Alsace, Major McCulloch assumed command of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, and Major Fowler was moved to Division Headquarters as the Divisional Machine Gun Officer.

On May 21, 1918, Company A left their en-training point to move east of Belfort near Traubach



Major Frank Fowler
119th MG BN Commander
& Div Machine Gun Officer.
Photo from the 32nd Divi-

les Das, just south of Mulhouse and north of the Swiss border. With the move of the 32nd Division to the area south of Mulhouse, they became the first unit to enter Germany. Shortly thereafter, Company A, 119th Machine Gun Battalion took their place on the front lines with the machine guns of the 4th French Infantry Regiment. After several

days Company B relieved Company A and received their first spell of trench warfare for 11 days. Alsace was a relatively quiet sector, and this gave Company B time to learn the art of trench warfare and many facets of the art of camouflage.⁵⁵

Private Elmer “Slats” Martin, in reminiscing about his time in France, recalled that his assignment in Alsace was as a liaison or messenger. Without radio communications available today, units required messengers to hand deliver information to each other. The liaisons literally ran across open territory, often under fire to share information and orders. Slats was given the assignment because he was raised in the north woods and they thought he would know how to “run through the woods at night



Co. “B” soldiers in Alsace. Sgt. Lyle Lane in front. Pvt. James Slowey, Cliff Frost, and unknown soldier standing from right to left. Photo Courtesy of Price Country Historical Society

without getting lost.”⁵⁶

During the time Company B was in the front lines south of Mulhouse, the 119th Machine Gun Battalion moved to Fousse-magne, about 6 miles east of Belfort. The battalion carried on advanced training, with a portion of the battalion used to guard a French observation balloon site located near Fousse-magne. After their 11 days in the trenches, Company B was pulled from the line to a training area near Tourmonge where they continued their advanced training, drills and rehearsals.

During the period mid-May to mid-June 1917, companies were rotated to the front lines for 10 to 12 days of front-line instruction, while other



companies were receiving training in reserve areas during this same period. At the recommendation of General Pershing, French forces began a thorough training of all the units in the 32nd Division in order to speed efforts to move the division to the front lines.

Thanks to the training the division received, after June 15, 1918, the 32nd Division Commander and his staff were placed in full tactical control of the division, as well as troops of the 9th French Division, who were occupying portions of the same sector. Their sector ran from Aspach le Bas to the Rhine Rhone Canal. ⁵⁷



Soldiers near Foussemagne, France. French soldier sitting in front. 3 American soldiers standing with Sergeant Lyle Lane on far right. Photo courtesy of the Price County Historical Society



Troops of the 125th Infantry Regiment near Michelbach, Alsace on June 22, 1918.

32nd Division units engaged in Operations in Alsace included the:

63rd Brigade: 125th & 126th Infantry Regiments, 120th Machine Gun Battalion

64th Brigade: 127th & 128th Infantry Regiments, 121st Machine Gun Battalion

57th Field Artillery Brigade

Division assets: 119th Machine Gun Battalion, 107th Engineer Regiment

32nd Division casualties in Alsace sectors included:

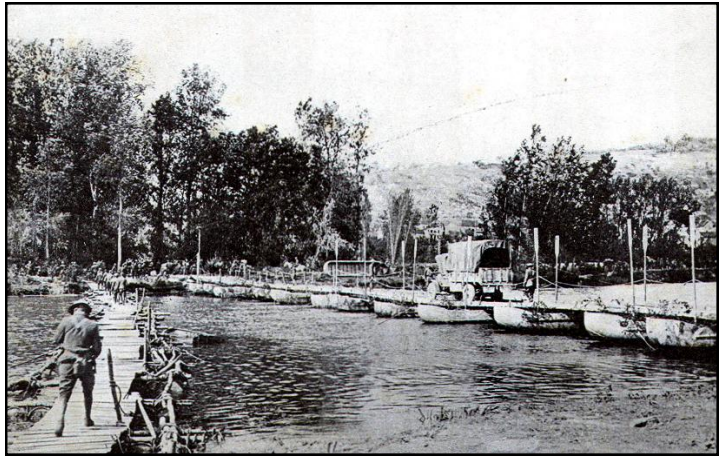
- Killed in action or died from wounds: 2 officers & 54 men
- Wounded: 12 officers & 290 men.



Aisne - Marne Offensive - July to August 1918

While the 119th Machine Gun Battalion was engaged in Alsace, the Second Battle of Aisne commenced on May 27, 1918, and the Battle for Belleau Wood began on June 1, 1918. General Pershing visited and inspected the 32nd Division in early July 1918 and subsequently rumors arose about a coming move. This was substantiated a week later when troops were removed from their trenches and relocated to entraining points. On July 15, 1918, the Germans began an offensive east and west of Reims that would come to be known as the Second Battle of the Marne. By July 19th the first elements of the 32nd Division were being loaded onto trains, and the movement north was underway by both railway and roads.⁵⁸

On July 23, 1918, the motor section of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion headed north for Bethisy St. Martin about 18 miles from Soissons.

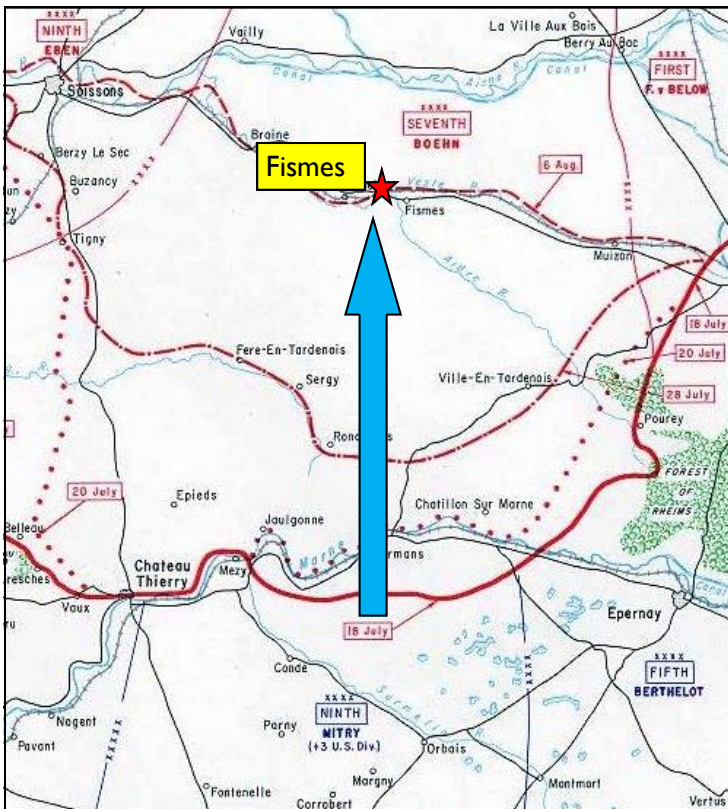


First American pontoon bridge across the Marne at Chateau Thierry. Photo courtesy of "Boy's Books of Battles," by Chelsea Fraser

Two days later dismantled members of the battalion headed north on trains. Also on the 25th of July, Company B loaded themselves into their Ford machine gun cars, or tin cars as they called them, and began driving north. Traveling for three days with some rest at night, Company B arrived at Chateau Thierry to the northeast of Paris on July 28, 1918, and spent the night there. The town had been pretty well destroyed and the Boche had raised hell with everything. All the bridges over the Marne had been destroyed, though they were replaced with very hastily constructed pontoon bridges. In addition, the advancing Americans faced a series of quickly constructed defensive lines with strongpoints around the various towns.

At 1:00 in the morning of July 29, 1918, Company B was on the move again. They passed through places that had once been villages, but now were nothing but piled up rubbish and rocks, with furniture smashed up outside. The trees and bushes were uprooted by the big shells. Fields and roads were filled with big holes; some of them big enough to hide the Fords.

On the July 30, 1918, the 32nd Division went into the line with the division post of command located at Charmel Chateau, near the village of le



Second Battle of the Marne to Fismes - 23 July to 4 August 1918. Map from Wikipedia



Charmel. The division fought for four days at Cjerges (also spelled Cierges) against the best troops Germany could muster. The place changed hands several times before the division broke through and advanced 18 kilometers without a stop. Their rapid advance brought them across several river obstacles including the Marne and Ourcq, to the town of Fismes on the Vesle River. The rivers themselves were not the challenge, but rather the heights that overlooked the crossings.

The 119th Machine Gun Battalion was used as a part of the divisional reserves in the drive to Fismes and the Vesle River. After crossing the Marne, Company B soldiers remember there were dead Germans strewn throughout the march. One of the duties of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion while in reserve was to bury many of the dead German soldiers. On 6-7 August 1918, the 32nd Division was relieved from its positions near Fismes, and the 119th Machine Gun Battalion took up a position near Cjerges and later moved to Courmont, just southwest of Cjerges where it worked on anti-aviation drills.⁵⁹

32nd Division casualties during the Aisne-Marne Offensive included:

- Killed in action or died from wounds: 777
- Severely wounded: 1153
- Slightly wounded: 2009
- Missing: 12
- Captured: 2 officers & 6 enlisted men⁶⁰



Ammunition Dump fired by Germans at Cierges, August 18, 1918.
Photo courtesy of Leigh McKinnon.



Shell Crater & Ammunition Dump at Cierges, August 18, 1918.
Photo courtesy of Leigh McKinnon.

32nd Division Unit Earns Nom-de-Guerre "Les Terribles"

During the battle north of the Ourcq, near the strong points of Bellevue Farm, Hill 230, and Jomblettes Woods, the 32nd was visited by General de Mondesir, the French 38th Corps Commander. During his inspection he observed the Americans clearing the Germans from extremely strong positions with an amazing determination. When he learned later that day that the units of the 32nd Division that had cleared or taken all the strong points to the north of the Ourcq and were solidly entrenched and holding them, he exclaimed, "*Oui, Oui, Les soldats terrible, tres bien, tres bien!*"

General Mangin, Commander of the 10th French Army heard of the nickname and specifically asked for "Les Terribles" to join his famous 10th French Army of shock troops north of Soissons. General Mangin later made the nom-de-guerre official when he incorporated it in his citation for the 32nd Division victory at Juvigny.⁶¹

Of note, the 32nd Division was the only American unit to receive a French nom-de-guerre during WWI.



Oise - Aisne Campaign - August to September 1918

After four weeks rest and some drills on August 18, 1918, the men of Company B again drove in the Ford gun cars to another war zone near Soissons. On August 24, 1918 the 119th Machine Gun Battalion arrived at Genencourt northwest of Soissons. Then two nights later on the 26th they moved to the woods at Saint-Christophe west of Tartiers. This was the hardest night move undertaken by the dismounted troops. Two nights later, on the night of August 28th, the battalion moved to a wooded area near Bieuxy, just northeast of Tartiers. Outside of gas attacks and explosions, nothing happened on the night of the 28th. After a cold night, the men of the battalion found themselves in the very front line, although they didn't know that until later. At 5:25 a.m. on the morning of August 29, 1918 the battalion moved forward to attack German positions west of Juvigny. Company A took up positions with the 126th Infantry Regiment to the south, and Company B was in support of the 125th Infantry Regiment, with the 126th to the north, and French forces on both flanks.

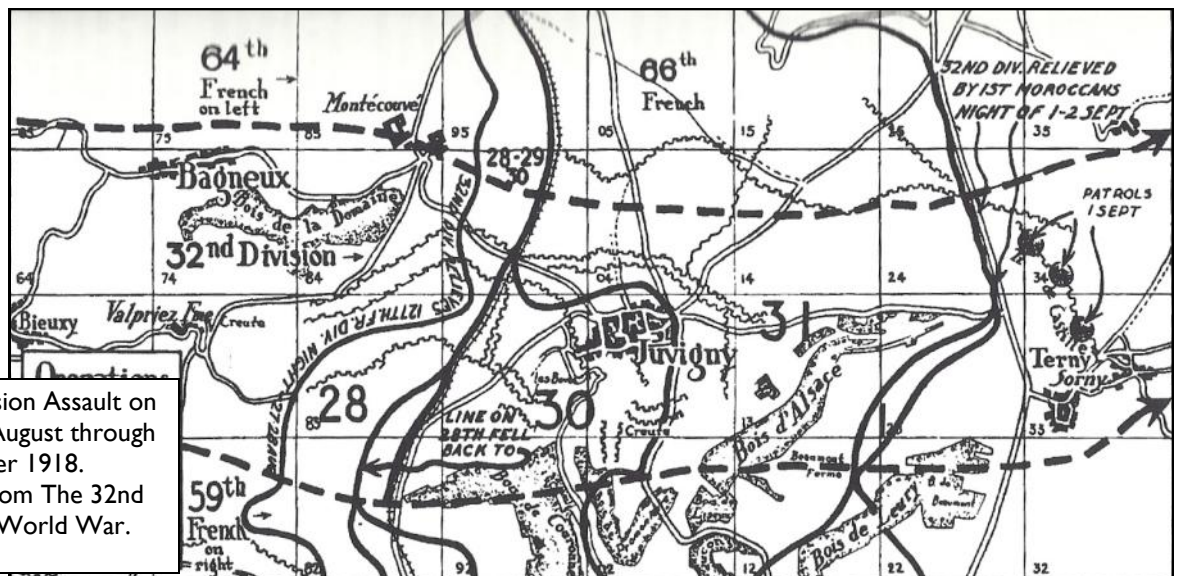
During the first day Company A, 119th Machine Gun Battalion advanced about 600 meters against heavy artillery and machine gun fire without infantry support. The 126th Infantry Regiment advance did not proceed and the day was spent in counter machine gun fire by the entire battalion. In action on August 29, 1918, Private John E. Warner⁶² of Company B was



Soldiers of the 121st Machine Gun Battalion resting in a shell vole near Valpries Farm, Juvigny, August 29, 1918. U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph, from U.S. Official Pictures of the World War and www.32nd-division.org

killed in action and 119th Machine Gun Battalion casualties included one officer and 14 enlisted men wounded.⁶³

On Friday, August 30, 1918, at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, one platoon of Company B was pulled from the left flank to take up position with and reinforce the 3rd Platoon of Company A. From that position, a heavy barrage was directed onto vital spots in the enemy lines. Two hours later at 4:00 p.m. both Companies A and B moved forward in support of the 64th Infantry Brigade that had relieved the 63rd



Map of 32nd Division Assault on Juvigny, from 27 August through 2 September 1918. Map reprinted from The 32nd Division in the World War.



Brigade on the front lines. At that same time they saw one of the fiercest artillery barrages ever put on in the front. The men in Company B couldn't see anything but dust and flying dirt. They had to talk with their hands as the noise was deafening. The machine guns of the 119th were so hot they couldn't be touched. When the barrage was finally over the doughboys went "over-the-top."

Company B, less one platoon took up a position on the crest of a hill at the railroad track which ran north to south just west of Juvigny. Two platoons of Company A and one platoon of Company B continued through the Bois de Courenne, a wooded area south of Juvigny, into a ravine south of Juvigny. They continued on the right flank to a quarry about one kilometer south of Juvigny and took up positions on the front line to assist in driving back a German counter-attack that had forced the 126th Infantry Regiment to withdraw.

Major McCulloch, the 119th Machine Gun Battalion Commander led the advance, with 1st and 3rd Platoons of Company A, commanded by Lieutenants V.A. Sebiakin-Ross and Walter Raymond respectively, and 2nd Platoon of Company B, commanded by Lieutenant Galbraith. Harassing fire by

these three platoons south of Juvigny continued using both Hotchkiss and captured German Maxim machine guns. 1st Platoon of Company A advanced as far as the Bois de Courenne, but retired to a position west of the railroad track to serve as battalion reserve.⁶⁴

Troops spent their day there ducking into holes to escape flying shrapnel and machine gun bullets. In describing these experience of going "over-the-top," Corporal Alex Olson describes his



32nd Division troops in front of Juvigny.

thoughts as "just going ahead and getting." The big shells would come tearing through the air exploding as soon as they hit and sometimes in the air. The 119th Machine Gun Battalion was advancing with the infantry and one shell dropped right beside Corporal Olson's squad knocking him flat on the ground.

At about 11:00 p.m. on August 30, 1918, Major McCulloch was severely wounded and Captain Edward S. Reynolds became Commanding Officer of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion. The 32nd Division advanced three kilometers that day and captured 980 prisoners, along with many machine guns and other equipment. However, the battalion had one officer and 32 enlisted men wounded.

On the morning of August 31, 1918, the artillery fire on 119th Machine Gun Battalion positions was extremely severe. All companies of the battalion maintained sustained fire on German positions and at about 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon advanced under heavy machine gun fire to a location in the northeast portion of the Bois de Alsace just short of Torny-Sorny. Company B, less the 2nd Platoon, ad-



Supply Train on Bethincourt Road supporting the 129th Infantry Regiment.



vanced to the north side of Juvigny to the Crecy-au-Mont road. On August 31, 1918, Private Henry Bronstad of Company A was killed and seven other soldiers from the battalion were wounded.

On September 1, 1918, a detachment led by Lieutenant Galbraith, with seven enlisted volunteers from both Company A and B, advanced to Beaumont Fme from the French position on the right flank. They were engaged in sniping on the retreating Germans until the arrival of the 127th Infantry Regiment some two hours later. The whole battalion advanced during the day, and at 11:00 p.m., the 32nd Division was relieved by the 1st Moroccan Division. At this point the 119th Machine Gun Battalion retired to a billeting area just south of Vezaponin, northwest of Soissons. Losses on September 1st included eight men wounded and three missing. During a major portion of this operation, Lieutenant Sebiakin-Ross assumed command of Company A. From Vezaponin, the battalion returned to Genencourt and then moved on to Joinville (also spelled Jolaville), north of Chaumont, for about 15 days of rest and training drills. Major McCulloch rejoined the battalion upon its arrival at Joinville.⁶⁵



MG Haan's 32nd Division Command Post in a cave near Tartiers, France.

32nd Division casualties during the Oise-Aisne Offensive and the assault on Juvigny included:

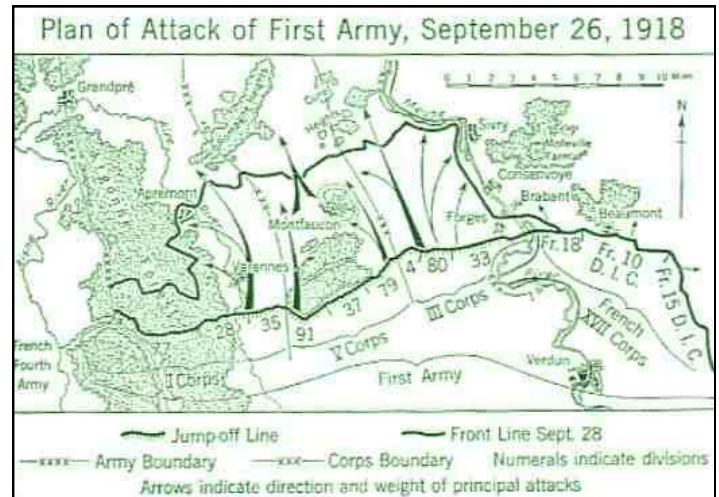
- Killed in action or died from wounds: 485
- Severely wounded: 599
- Slightly wounded: 1251
- Missing: 14
- Captured: 2 men⁶⁶



Meuse - Argonne Offensive - September to November 1918

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 23, 1918, the 119th Machine Gun Battalion moved northward from Joinville and continued moving at night for several nights until they reached Braibant. While looking for a location for the battalion's machine gun cars, Major McCulloch, Captain Boyle, and Lieutenant Lyons were severely wounded, along with two enlisted men. Captain Boyle was the only officer who was able to rejoin the unit. For the remainder of the hostilities, Captain Reynolds served as Commander of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion with great success.

While the men of Company B didn't know what was coming, the AEF under General Pershing had begun the largest operation of World War I in late September 1918. And they probably didn't realize they'd be part of the single most bloody battle in American history. For the AEF and the French



4th Army, their objective was the railway hub at Sedan, 45 miles northwest of Verdun, while British, French and Belgian forces had other coordinated objectives. The Meuse - Argonne Offensive was divided into three phases over a 20-mile wide front beginning west of Verdun moving north. Overall the offensive was designed to breach the Hindenburg Line, Germany's last major defensive line.

In the beginning of Phase 1, the 32nd Division moved forward on the evening of September 29, 1918, to provide relief to the 37th Division which spearheaded a portion of the overall attack. The 37th Division had faced a strong counter-attack early in the battle and had lost some ground. During the day on September 30th, the 32nd Division was able to link up and relieve the 37th Division after an arduous 11-mile march across a no-man's land of broken down barbed wire, shot-to-pieces woods, and shell holes.⁶⁷

General Pershing commented on this phase of the battle stating, "*We were no longer engaged in a maneuver for the pinching out of a salient, but we're necessarily committed, generally speaking, to a direct frontal attack against strong, hostile positions fully manned by a determined enemy.*"⁶⁸

As the 32nd Division assumed their position on the front lines, they immediately pressed the attack on Cierges, capturing the town on October 1st.

SECRET.

P.O., 32d Division,
France, 8 Oct., 1918, 23:00 o'clock.

FIELD ORDERS,
NO. 76.

(BUZANCY)
MAPS: (JUN.-sur-MEUSE)
(FORET d'ARGONNE) 1/20,000.
(VERDUN "A")

1. (a) On "D" day at "H" hour the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, less one platoon, will be in position on the Hill southeast of GESNES in square 51.

(b) Their first fire will be directed on slopes of hills and ravines Northwest of GESNES--ROMAGNE Road and HILLS 243 and 240 and TRENCH DANTRISE.

(c) Their next target will be the trench system from HILL 253 east.

(d) During the halt in the barrage the battalion will take position in the long, narrow woods near 235 in Square 62 and continue the action, firing a frontal barrage up to the limits set in barrage plans.

(e) The platoon held in reserve will be kept with the battalion commander ready for instant action in any emergency.

(f) The battalion is under the direct command of Brigadier General Edwin B. Winans who is authorized to use this battalion in any emergency that may arise.

2. The Advance Center of Information will move to position No. 2 at 8:00 o'clock, 9 October, 1918.

By command of Major General Haan:

R. M. BECK, JR.,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

rep
To Bn. Cmdr.

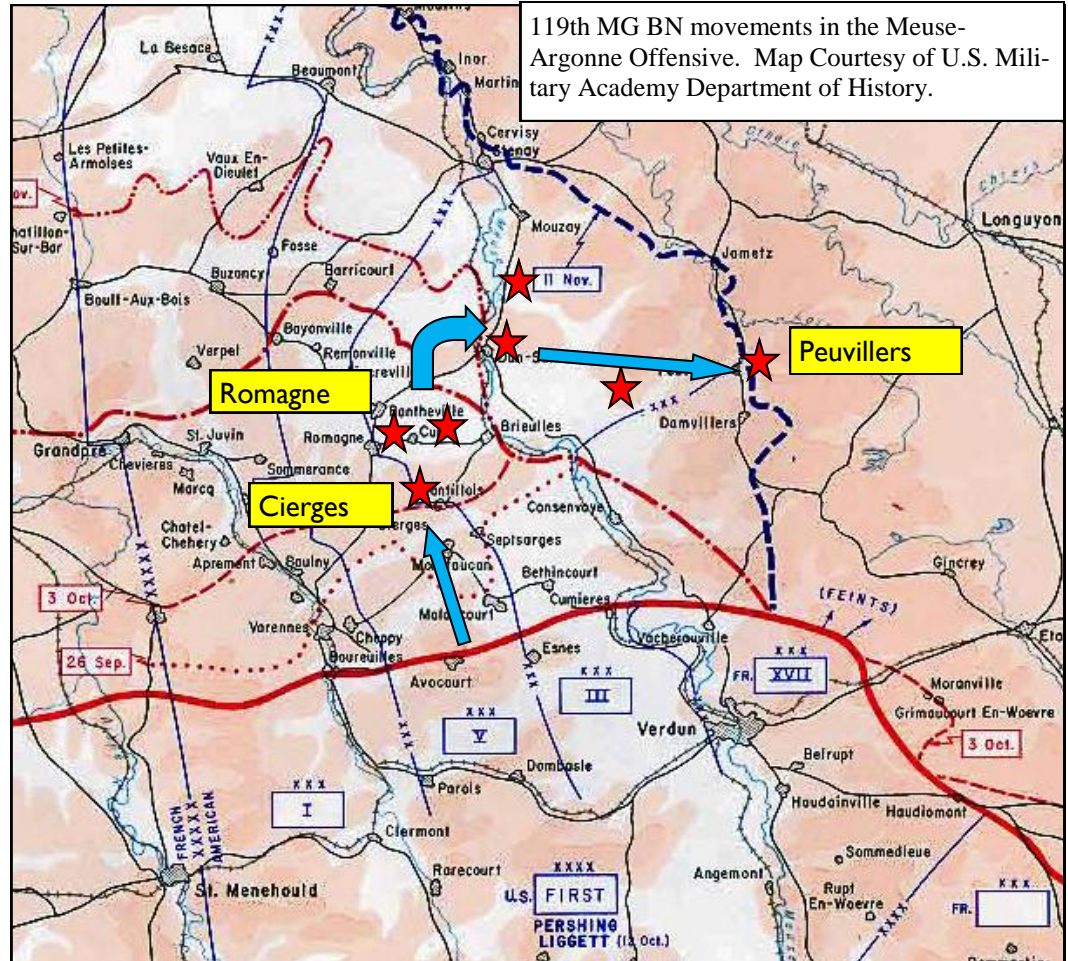
32nd Division SECRET Field Order No. 76 for the 119th MG BN issued 8 October 1918. From Colonel Leo Jackson Papers in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives.



Their next objective, the town of Gesnes, was captured over the following week.

Phase 2 of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive took place between the 4th and 28th of October. After opening a gap in the German lines, the Americans launched a series of costly frontal assaults that finally broke through German defenses at the Kriemhilde Stellung portion of the Hindenburg Line between the 14th to 17th of October. This represented the last series of major organized defensive lines along the German front in northeastern France.

On October 9, 1918, three platoons of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, including one from Company B and two from Company A, moved out from



Epinoiville, 1.5 miles south of Cierges, and advanced north through the Bois du Cierges. Harassing and barrage fire was maintained on the Dantrise Trench, Hill 240, Cote Denu Marie and the reverse slopes beyond Romagne-Sous-Montfaucon.⁶⁹ 2nd Lieutenant Charles C Buck from Dover, New Jersey, who had just joined the battalion three days prior, was killed by shell fire. Lieutenants Kelly and Raymond were also wounded at the same time.⁷⁰

Following actions north of Gesnes, two platoons of Company A were relieved by one platoon of Company B which had been in reserve at the Bois du Cierges. Fire continued from this position on vital points across enemy lines in conjunction with infantry attacks. 32nd Division artillery barrages were also thickened by sustained machine gun fire.



Aerial view of Gesnes, France October 1918.
Photo from U.S. Army Signal Corps.



Graves Registration Bureau detail reburying soldiers near Cierges, France. Public domain photo from the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

On October 14, 1918, Company A advanced to Hill 240 west of Romagne and directed machine gun fire on retreating German forces. Two soldiers from Company A, Cpl. Glenn Lamphere from Stanley, from Wisconsin and Pvt. Guy Plummer from Joliet, Montana, lost their lives on Hill 240 on October 15th.⁷¹

The 119th Machine Gun Battalion was relieved from this sector on October 20, 1918. The battalion retired to a billeting area near Avricourt. During Phase 2 of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the battalion fired 117,882 rounds of machine gun ammunition and lost five officers and nine enlisted men. By the end of October, American troops had advanced 10 miles and finally cleared the Argonne forest. However their rest period was short, and after less than two weeks the battalion was brought up to full strength with replacements. Captain Ames joined the battalion and took command of Company A from Lieutenant Sebiakin-Ross.

On November 2, 1918, the battalion moved back to the vicinity for Romagne and then to a large ravine north of Cunel which was just east of Romagne. Here 2nd Lieutenants Astroth, Springer, Hellencamp and Brown joined the battalion. On November 7th, two platoons of Company B left Cunel and proceeded to Dun-sur-Meuse about 3.5

miles to the northeast. A third platoon of Company B relocated to Sassey-sur-Meuse about 5 miles northeast of Cunel. All three platoons were assigned anti-aviation duties at pontoon bridges across the Meuse River. During operations at these locations, the men of Company A, and particularly the non-commissioned officers in each platoon, showed great aggressiveness in holding ground between the Meuse River and adjacent canal. For example, during operations around Dun-sur-Meuse, 1st Lieutenant John M. Galbraith received the Silver Star for his Victory Medal while assisting in capturing six German gunners and two machine guns.



Portion of the Kriemhilde Stellung near Cierges. Photo from The 32nd Division in the World War, 1917-1919.

Phase 3 of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive lasted from October 26th until November 10th. On November 9, 1918, the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, as a part of the advanced guard under command of Brigadier General Winans of the 64th Infantry Brigade, proceeded southeast to the vicinity of Haraumont and then onward to Ecurey. Lieutenant Isenberg in command of Company B pushed further

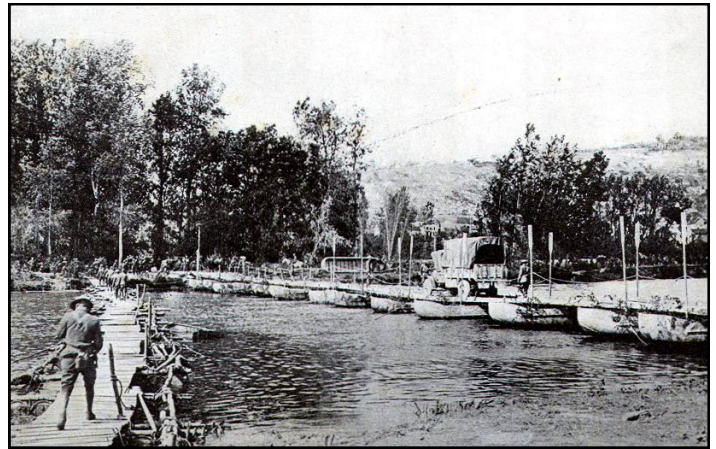


east to Hill 206 located southwest of Peuvillers where Company B was later relieved by the machine gun company of the 128th Infantry Regiment. Company B then provided support to the 128th Infantry Regiment.⁷²

In this last push, the 32nd Division totally broke through the Hindenburg Line along the Meuse River and the additional German defensive lines beyond Bantheville, to Lissey and Peuvillers. By October 31, 1918, the American forces had cleared the Argonne Forest and the French had reached the Aisne River. Americans had captured German defenses at Buzancy, which allowed French troops to cross the Aisne River. In the final days, French forces captured the immediate objective, Sedan and its critical railroad hub. Many analysts believe the Allied successes during the Meuse-Argonne offensive helped convince the Germans to accept an armistice.⁷³



Machine Gun Squad with Hotchkiss Machine Gun.



Pontoon bridges across the Marne River.



Aerial view of Romagne in October 1918.
Photo from U.S. Army Signal Corps.

32nd Division casualties during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and the assault on Juvigny included:

- Killed in action or died from wounds: 1179
- Severely wounded: 1006
- Slightly wounded: 3321⁷⁴

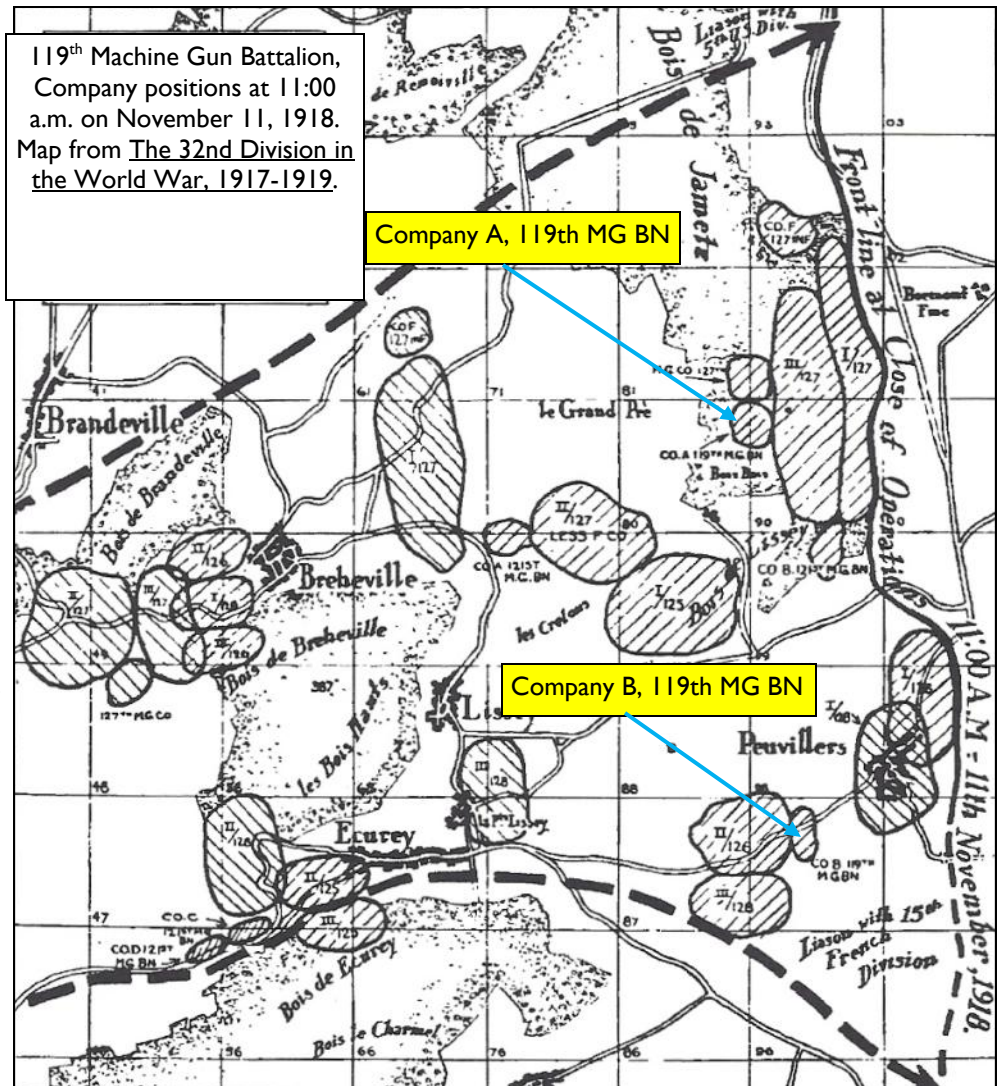


Armistice - November 11, 1918

Pursuant to orders from the 64th Brigade of the 32nd Division, on November 11, 1918, Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion moved into positions near Peuvillers and fired until orders were received stating that hostilities would cease at 11:00 a.m.

Company A was located further northward. The battalion was “shooting to beat hell” right up until 11:00 with 10,000 rounds expended that morning. At 11:00 everything went quiet and soon men could be heard laughing and shouting. The war was over!⁷⁵ First Sergeant David Rabenowich of Park Falls recalled, “At 11’ o’clock the front became quiet, a calm that will probably always be remembered by those who were there.”⁷⁶

Within a few days, the 119th Machine Gun Battalion withdrew to a nearby billeting area. Lieutenant Chester G. Lewis joined the Battalion during this rest period. While everyone was excited and hoped they would soon be going home, for some the Armistice had a downside. When it became apparent that replacements and additional commissioned officers were not going to be required, schools such as the Officer Candidate School (OTS) in France were cancelled. At least one soldier from Company B was attending OTS at the time that courses were cancelled, Sergeant Lyle Lane from Phillips.⁷⁷





A Letter from the Front - November 11, 1918

An Armistice Letter from the Front, written by Private Jesse Winter, Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion, to his parents in Kennan, Wisconsin. Provided courtesy of Agnes Wudel.

November 11, 1918

Dear Father, Mother and All:

I do not know how to start this letter though it will be the easiest letter to write that I have had or ever will have, I believe.

To begin with, I am sitting in a little room in some boche barracks, within one mile of the front line. We have a stove in here and are very comfortable. We have a light too. A light, mind you! And within one mile of the front line!

Now I'll tell you how our part of it came about.

This morning we were in Harawmont and got up at 4 o'clock. The country where we are is surrounded by hills. We marched out into a flat piece of country about two and one-half miles and set up our guns. It was very foggy so we couldn't see ahead of us. The grass was covered with frost and it was pretty cold getting out. We put over a barrage and then Lieutenant Isenburg asked for two men from Company Headquarters. Sanford Thompson and I stepped out and Lieutenant said that we would try and find Regimental Headquarters of the 128th Infantry. It was supposed to be in a town named Peuvillers, about three-fourths of a mile distant. Well, we three started out. The shells were falling over in that direction. We could hear them but could not see on account of the fog. We had gone perhaps 300 yards when they began to land right around us — big ones too — and they followed us all the way to town. They were shelling the town heavy and I suppose if you had been there to watch you would have seen some mighty quick moves. We jumped around like rabbits among those old buildings; and there were stones, mortar and pieces of shell flying around.

The town was full of gas and many of the holes we jumped over were so fresh we could see the smoke and gas rolling out of them like steam. The shells seemed to hit everywhere but just where we were.

When we got to where Headquarters had been the day before, we met an infantryman who told us it had been moved; so we started back.

Just as we were getting into the open again we met a runner who said: "The orders are to cease firing until further orders as the Armistice has been signed." I didn't know whether he was going to hug him or tear him to pieces. At first we didn't know whether to believe him or not. Just as we left him we

saw another man coming out of the fog, so we called him over and asked him what he was doing. He said he was a runner and had a message. We asked him what kind and he told us the same as the first one.

The artillery on both sides was busy, so it didn't sound much like "peace" to us. We got back to the company and the Lieutenant sent a runner back to our major. When he returned he said the messages were right and that both sides were going to stop firing at twelve o'clock. Eleven o'clock was the hour set for all firing to cease and when that hour arrived all firing stopped.

Everything was so quiet that it sounded uncanny after what we had just been through. It was only quiet for a few minutes and then from the town behind us we heard them cheering, then a band started playing the French National Anthem, then more cheering. Then the Star Spangled Banner and more wild cheering. The boys in the lines ahead of us cheered and the whole country, hills and all, seemed to be yelling.

Tonight the air is full of signal rockets. The whole front line is just a continuous flare as far as we can see either way.

I am glad that I can say I was in the front line, in a heavy barrage, on the last morning.

Well, I think I will close and go to bed. I think I will have a good night's sleep again.

Hoping this finds all well I will close.
Love to all. As ever, Jesse

Firing stopped on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918.

Nov. 13. I didn't get around to mail this before, so I'll just say that we are going to follow the Huns across the Rhine and it may be some time before we start home.

Our division is going to have an arrow for our mark. It will be worn on the left arm. It was suggested by a remark made by a Frenchman. Every time this Division went into the line we always drove an arrow into the boche lines and were ahead of our comrades on either side. Jesse.

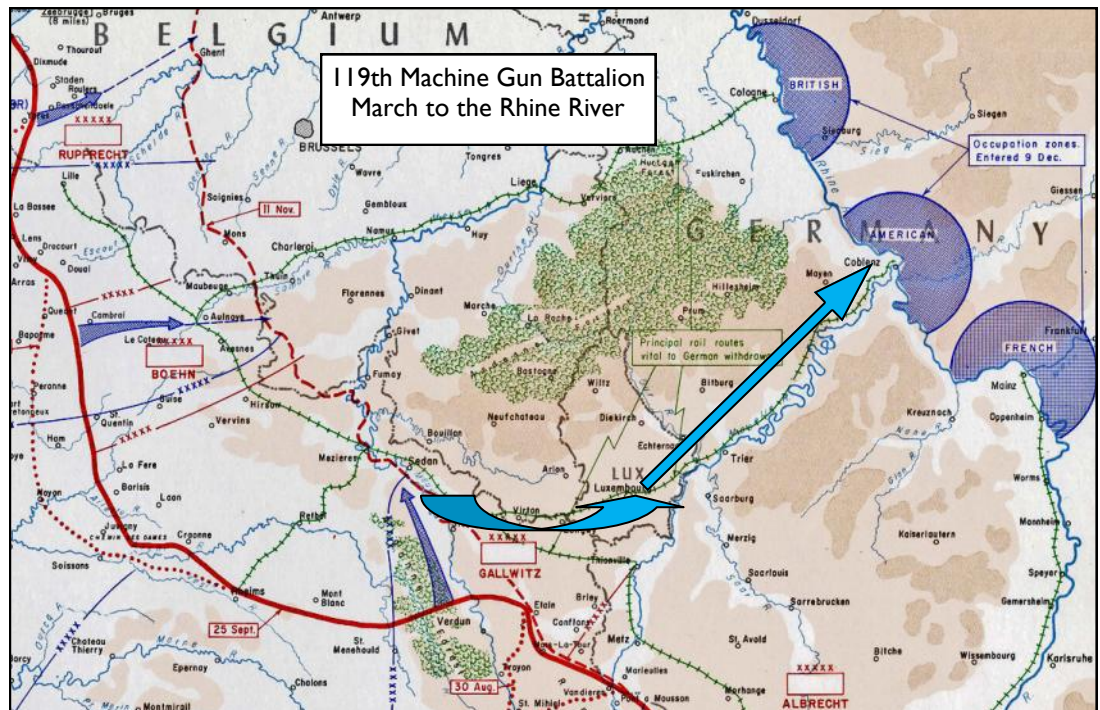


Occupation of Germany - November 1918 to April 1919

Less than a week after the Armistice on November 17, 1918, the 32nd Division, as the lead element of the U.S. Third Army, crossed what had been the front line and began a long march to the Rhine River.

The 119th Machine Gun Battalion left the battlefields of the Meuse River and brought 300 men and equipment on the march to Coblenz to serve a part of the Army of Occupation. The march was orderly, but was conducted as if war conditions still existed. Advance guards, cavalry scouting, flanking patrols, and other security measures were used. While the infantry units could cover about 20 to 40 kilometers per day, the battalion was fortunate to have trucks and machine gun cars for transportation. Though sometimes the narrow, winding, and deteriorating roads made motorized travel difficult. The first objective was the town of Longwy where the battalion rested for a day. In Longwy, a manufacturing town in Lorraine, the entire town was "en fete" in the main square throughout the day.

As the march resumed, the Americans crossed into the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on November 20, 1918, and on the 23rd the 32nd Division reached the German border on the Saar River. Per agreements in the Armistice, the 32nd Division halted until December 1st before crossing into Germany.



This break time allowed equipment maintenance to be conducted, supplies to be delivered, and new personnel to find their units.⁷⁸

On December 9, 1918, the 32nd Division entered the valley of the Rhine River, and the 128th Infantry Regiment reached the juncture of the



Company B soldiers with bus. Pvt. Alec Peterson 3rd from right. Exact location unknown, but lack of weapons and terrain suggests it was taken after the Armistice possibly Daun, Germany.

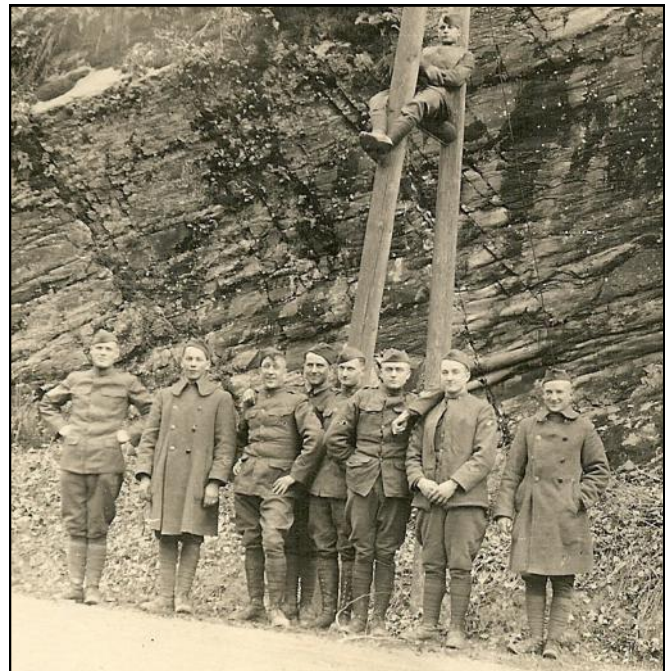
Photo courtesy of Bev Brayton.



Rhine and Moselle Rivers opposite Coblenz and established outposts on December 11th, just one month after the Armistice.⁷⁹

The 119th Machine Gun Battalion arrived at its billeting area in Isenburg, Germany about 14 kilometers north of Coblenz across the Rhine River. During the march to the Rhine, Major Pelham R. Bloom replaced Captain Reynolds in command of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion. Also after arriving in Germany, 1st Lieutenant Chester C. Lewis and 2nd Lieutenant Cyril G. Hellenkamp were assigned to Company B. 1st Lieutenant Pope, and 2nd Lieutenants Astroth, Springer and Brown were assigned to Company A.

On February 20, 1919, Captain Edward G. Reynolds left the 119th Machine Gun Battalion for the United States after serving with the unit since December 20, 1917, a period of 14 months. On March 16, 1919, Captain W. Boyle and Captain Doering were promoted to Major and 1st Lieutenants V.K. Sebiakin-Ross, Leo M. Jackson, Ernest A. Isenburg, and Howard M. Sivyver were promoted to Captain. 2nd Lieutenants John M. Galbraith and Cyril G. Hellenkamp were promoted to 1st Lieutenant.⁸⁰



Same soldiers and location as in previous photographs.
Courtesy of Bev Brayton.



Company B soldiers with bus possibly near Daun, Germany as in previous photograph.
Photographs Courtesy of Bev Brayton.

WWI Campaigns of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division


* Reprinted from The 32nd Division in the World War, 1917-1919, p. 141

32nd Division Historical Chart.

	Dates				Prisoners Captured			Material Captured														
FRONT	ENTRY	WITH ORIGNAL	SECTOR	ARTILLERY & SIGALS ATTACHED	OFFICERS	MEAN	TOTAL	Heavy Artillery	Light Artillery	Machine Guns	Rifles	Killed in Action	Died from Other Causes	Wounded & Gassed	Wounded or Gassed Undetermined	Wounded or Gassed	Taken Prisoners	Injured	LOCATION & DIVISION HEADQUARTERS	DATES		
																				From	to	
DISEMBARKED																				LIVIGNO, ITALY	16 Feb.	19 Feb.
																				LIVIGNO, ITALY	17 Feb.	19 Feb.
																				LA HAYE, FRANCE	20 Feb.	21 Feb.
																				LA HAYE, FRANCE	21 Feb.	24 Feb.
																				LA HAYE, FRANCE	24 Feb.	17 May
10th TRAINING AREA														16						LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	17 May	8 June
ALSACE	May 16	July 21	Quiet	37 EA.	1	7	8					56	2	29	88	5	213	6	39	LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	8 June	20 July
AINSE - MARNE OFFENSIVE Reserve Front-Line Reserve	July 24 July 30 Aug. 7	July 28 Aug. 7 Aug. 25	Active	3rd P.A. July 30-31 37th P.A. July 31 Aug. 7																LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	20 July	22 July
																				LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	23 July	25 July
																				LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	27 July	28 July
																				LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	30 July	3 Aug.
																				LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	3 Aug.	7 Aug.
																				LA CHAPELLE ALAISE	7 Aug.	23 Aug.
OISE - AINSE Reserve Front-Line Reserve	Aug. 24 Aug. 28 Sept. 2	Aug. 27 Sept. 2 Sept. 9	Active	37th P.A. Sept. 2-3 37th P.A. Sept. 3-4 37th P.A. Sept. 4-5 37th P.A. Sept. 5-6 37th P.A. Sept. 6-7 37th P.A. Sept. 7-8 37th P.A. Sept. 8-9 37th P.A. Sept. 9-10 37th P.A. Sept. 10-11 37th P.A. Sept. 11-12 37th P.A. Sept. 12-13 37th P.A. Sept. 13-14 37th P.A. Sept. 14-15 37th P.A. Sept. 15-16 37th P.A. Sept. 16-17 37th P.A. Sept. 17-18 37th P.A. Sept. 18-19 37th P.A. Sept. 19-20 37th P.A. Sept. 20-21 37th P.A. Sept. 21-22 37th P.A. Sept. 22-23 37th P.A. Sept. 23-24 37th P.A. Sept. 24-25 37th P.A. Sept. 25-26 37th P.A. Sept. 26-27 37th P.A. Sept. 27-28 37th P.A. Sept. 28-29 37th P.A. Sept. 29-30 37th P.A. Sept. 30-31 37th P.A. Oct. 1-2 37th P.A. Oct. 2-3 37th P.A. Oct. 3-4 37th P.A. Oct. 4-5 37th P.A. Oct. 5-6 37th P.A. Oct. 6-7 37th P.A. Oct. 7-8 37th P.A. Oct. 8-9 37th P.A. Oct. 9-10 37th P.A. Oct. 10-11 37th P.A. Oct. 11-12 37th P.A. Oct. 12-13 37th P.A. Oct. 13-14 37th P.A. 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RED ARROW TIDBITS -

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- * First American troops to set foot on German soil in Alsace in May 1917.
 - * Fought on five fronts in three major offensives vanquishing 23 German divisions, gained 38 kilometers in four attacks, and repulsed every enemy counter attack.
 - * Six months on the front lines under fire from May to November 1918, with only 10 days in a rest area.
 - * Marched 300 kilometers to the Rhine River as the front line element of the U.S. Third Army and occupied 63 towns and 400 square miles in the Coblenz bridge-head.
 - * Over 800 officers and men decorated by American, French & Belgian governments.



Awards to the 119th Machine Gun Battalion

During combat on five fronts during World War I, the 32nd Division and the 119th Machine Gun Battalion received many commendations from officers in other American units with whom the division served. Likewise, they received praise from many French officers and flags of all the units of the 32nd Division were decorated by General Mangin, Commander of the 10th French Army. On October 9, 1918, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, together with an Order of Citation and the translation of the citation was presented to the 119th Machine Gun Battalion. This decoration was placed on the unit flag which had been presented by citizens of Price County to Company B just before they deployed overseas.

When the 32nd Division was at Brest in late April 1919, Premier Clemenceau, Prime Minister of France, sent to Admiral Moreau, Commandant of the Port of Brest, a letter to be read to the 32nd Division on the occasion of presenting to General Haan and members of his immediate staff the French Legion of Honor. Clemenceau stated:

"Let me bid farewell to your division before it leaves France, and permit me to address your unit a message of gratitude.

When decorating your flags with the French War Cross, General Mangin enumerated some of your deeds and noted...had been given the glorious name of "BRIGADE LES TERRIBLES."

*...In the spring you were holding the front line in Alsace. During the summer you fought from the Marne to Vesle. In the autumn you were in the Montfaucon Woods. On the eve of the armistice you were still delivering an attack. You have met successively twenty German divisions; you have never given up to them any inch of ground."*⁸¹

The 32nd Division, and subordinate units including the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, was also the only U.S. unit for receive an honorary French Nom-de-Guerre..."Les Terribles."

The United States Army also authorized the 119th Machine Gun Battalion to receive combat clasps and ribbons for the following campaigns:

- Aisne (27 May-5 June 1918)
- Oise-Aisne (18 August-11 November 1918)
- Meuse-Argonne (26 September-11 November 1918)
- Defensive Sector (for participation in any minor battle, such as Alsace, not recognized in another specific combat clasp)

On June 27, 1919, Captain Leo M. Jackson, 119th Machine Gun Battalion Adjutant, stated, "*Colors have never been issued to the organization and so no battle ribbons presented in lieu of the silver bands were attached to the colors belonging to Company "B" this organization. These ribbons are at present in Phillips or at least were taken there when the Battalion was dissolved.*"⁸²

Members of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion were also authorized to wear the Silver World War I Victory Button. Members who participated during the post-Armistice duty in Germany were also authorized to wear the Army of Occupation of Germany ribbon.

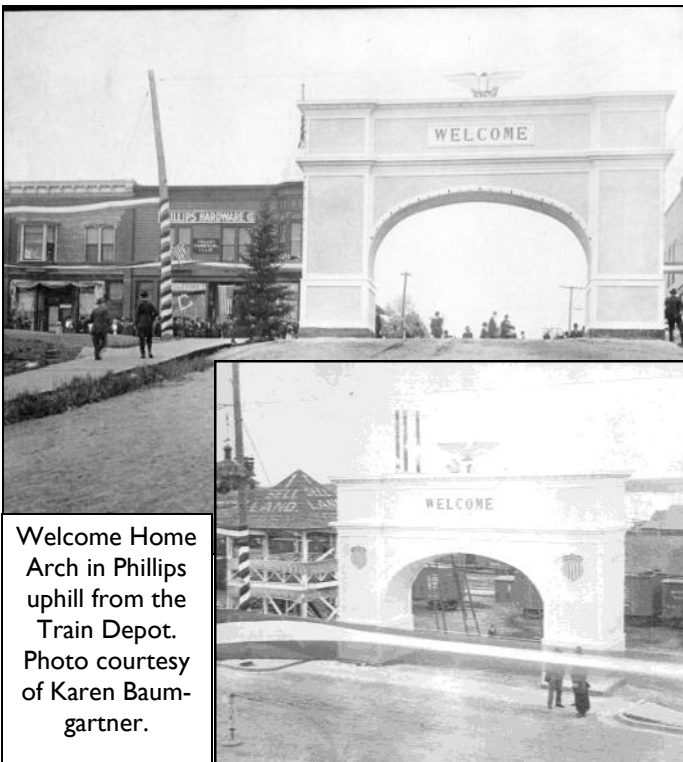




Homeward Bound & Homecoming - April to July 1919


On April 18, 1919, the 32nd Division started moving back from the Rhine, and across France to Brest, on the initial stage of their homeward journey. The 119th Machine Gun Battalion began its return from Germany in early May 1919.

Upon returning to the United States, most of the Wisconsin men in the battalion were processed and demobilized through Camp Grant at Rockford, Illinois late May 1919. Though some men were not discharged until early June 1919. Soldiers were allowed to keep a uniform, helmet, gas mask, and other equipment, and they were given a \$60 bonus.



Welcome Home Arch in Phillips uphill from the Train Depot. Photo courtesy of Karen Baumgartner.

Upon returning to Wisconsin, there were celebrations everywhere. A large parade and celebration was held for the 32nd Division in Milwaukee on June 5, 1919. In May, Price County communities began planning celebrations and decorations for the soldier's return. The men of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion arrived back in Phillips on a special train at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 1, 1919.

INSTRUMENT NO. 70367	PAGE 228
Honorable Discharge from the United States Army	
	
TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN	
This is to Certify That Elmer E. Martin, 2729071 Private	
#119 Machine Gun Bn. Co. B.	
THE UNITED STATES ARMY as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED, from the military service of the UNITED STATES by reason of Convenience of the Gov't per Cir 106	
War Dept. 1918	
Said	Elmer E. Martin was born
in Buffalo	, in the State of New York
When enlisted he was 18 years of age and by occupation a Farmer	
He had grey eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, and was 5 feet 11 1/2 inches in height.	
Given under my hand at Camp Grant, Illinois this 1 day of June, one thousand nine hundred and Nineteen	
Camp Grant, Ill Jun. 1, 1919 Paid in full \$85.60 including Bonus of \$60.00 Act of Feb. 24, 1919 S.H. Francis. Captain Quartermaster Corps.	
Frank J. Glendevin Major Infantry U.S.A. Commanding	
HONORABLE DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE FOR ELMER MARTIN AT CAMP GRANT, ILLINOIS, JUNE 1, 1919. COURTESY OF NAPPY MARTIN	

On the train were over 104 veterans, including 44 from Phillips, 40 from Park Falls, 8 from Kennan, 8 from Prentice, and 4 from Ogema. They were welcomed by hundreds at the depot and a huge Welcome Arch built by volunteers on the corner of Lake Avenue and Chestnut Street. At 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening they were honored with a "Mother's Dinner" at the Gem theater.

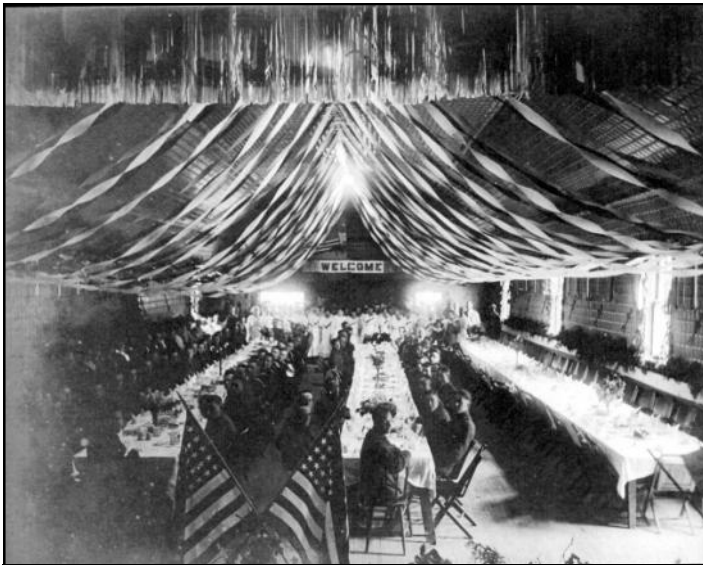
Beginning in the early afternoon of Wednesday, June 4, 1919, all soldiers, sailors and marines who served in World War I, including the men of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion and the "Lumberjack Regiment" of the Tenth Forestry Engineers Regiment, were feted in Phillips with a huge celebration. The formal welcome home and festivi-



135 Star Service Flag with one gold star above Lake Ave. during celebrations in Phillips. Courtesy of Karen Baumgartner.

ties were attended by somewhere between 4,000 to 6,000 people who poured into town.

Captain Edward Witt of Marshfield, Captain Charles E. Butters of Viroqua, and Captain Ira Kenyon of Phillips, who were the organizers of the original mobilization in July 1917 at the Price County



Dinner for all WWI veterans at the Odd Fellows Hall in Phillips. Photograph courtesy of Karen Baumgartner.

fairgrounds, were in attendance. Captain Kenyon was the honored as Marshall of the Day and the officers reviewed the troops from the balcony of the Grand View Hotel. Captain John Fosnot, who

served for a time as the commander of Company A, 119th Machine Gun Battalion, and 30 members of Company A from Tomahawk came over to Phillips to march in line with their “buddies” in Company B.



Crowds listen to speeches at the band stand near the train depot in Phillips, June 4, 1919. Photo courtesy of Karen Baumgartner.

In Phillips, events included numerous speeches and the band stand, following a large parade and all participants and citizens including many from Park Falls, Fifiel, Prentice, Tomahawk, and elsewhere were “provided with good eats at the Phillips Commercial Club rooms, Odd Fellows hall, Catholic Church basement and Presbyterian Church.” The parade reportedly included 400 uni-



Celebrations on Lake Avenue in Phillips. Photograph courtesy of Karen Baumgartner.

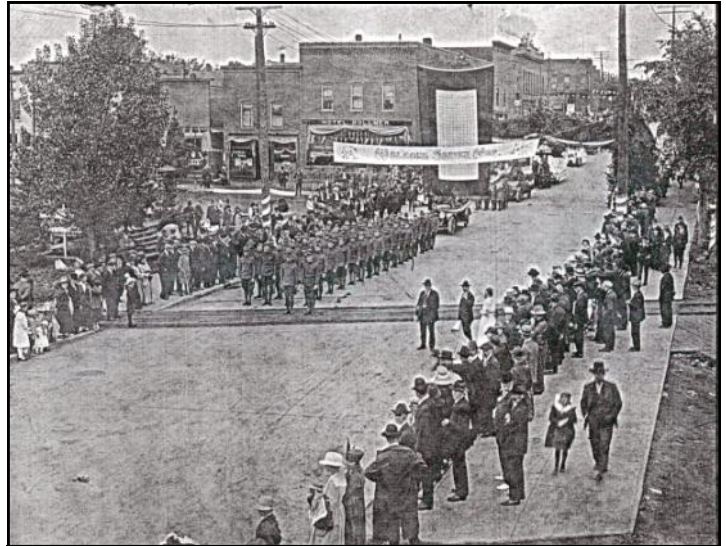


formed soldiers, sailors, and marines and they were resoundingly cheered by Price County citizens who lined Lake Avenue. Following the parade there were a number of sporting events, including a "Soldiers' Mother Hubbard" race, tug-of-war, foot race, wrestling matches, and even a water fight at the train depot. A concert was provided by the Phillips Concert Band and moving pictures were shown at the Idle Hour. Celebrations continued far into the evening and following morning, with a street carnival, comic floats, and dances at three separate halls.

The following day, on Thursday, June 5, 1919, there was another huge celebration in Park Falls that included a parade, dance, carnival and dozens of parties. Smaller celebrations and gatherings were held the first week of June 1919 in Fifield, Kennan, Ogema and elsewhere.

But for some men the war wasn't yet over. May men like Edwin Everson, Elmer Martin, and others were wounded by machine gun bullets, peppered by shrapnel, or choked by gas attacks. Other

horrendous conditions also led to deaths after soldiers returned to the United States. Sergeant Lyle Nathan Lane died at home in Phillips on June 6, 1919 due to a tubercular infection probably contracted in the stifling atmosphere of the trenches.⁸³



Park Falls welcomes home soldiers.
Photo reprinted from 100 Years on the Flambeau, p, 175.



Reenlistments & Reunions - 1919 to 1960



18th Separate Company at Camp Douglas in the summer 1920, commanded by Captain Ira Kenyon, at far left. Photograph courtesy of Elmer "Nappy" Martin and donated to the Price County Historical Society.

After demobilization in May and hometown celebrations in June 1919, some men who had enjoyed their time in the military chose to reenlist in the Wisconsin National Guard back at Camp Douglas. A number of the original members of Company A, 119th Machine Gun Battalion reenlisted and became members of the 18th Separate Company which drilled annually at Camp Douglas. Some men such as Sergeant Slat Martin even transitioned to the regular Army, but most only stayed in the military for a few years. Captain Ira "Moose" Kenyon remained in the reorganized Wisconsin National Guard for several years and while working as a printer in Phillips he was a major force behind gaining a National Guard Armory for Phillips.

Immediately after the war, a Thirty-Second Division Veteran Association was formed and annual meetings rotated between Milwaukee and Detroit. As the years passed smaller groups of veterans from 32nd units formed reunion groups. Veter-

ans of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion held regular reunions beginning after World War II including:

- July 6, 1941 - initial reunion.
- July 1, 1967 - 50th Anniversary of mobilization.
- July 1971 & 1975
- July 5, 1979 - 60th Anniversary of homecoming.
- July 3, 1980 - last major reunion.

The 119th Machine Gun Battalion veterans group disbanded in April 1988. Slat Martin and Shrimp Foster of Phillips, Clifford Wells of Park Falls, and Howard Berquist of Prentice were the last members of the reunion group alive in 1988.

Corporal Clifford "Dietz" Wells from Park Falls who died on October 11, 1995, at the age of 100 is believed to be the last veteran of Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion. The last American veteran of the "Great War" died on February 27, 2011.⁸⁴



Orin Dahl, Minneapolis; Emil Gehrman, Park Falls; Charles Baumgartner, Tomahawk; David Foster, Elmer Martin, Phillips; Ralph Baumgartner, Tomahawk; Pete Johnson, Wausau; Harvey Curran, Phillips; Clifford Wells, Park Falls; Archie Gran, Phillips; H.A. Olson,

Wausau; Walter O. Raymond, Stevens Point; Howard Bergquist, Prentice. All were members of the 119th M.G.Bn. except Harvey Curran. Two of Curran's brothers were in the 119th and are now deceased.

July 1980 Reunion at Westwood Golf Course near Phillips, WI. Photo courtesy of The Bee.



Rosters - Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion

This roster reflects a consolidated list of members of Company B, beginning at Camp Moose and ending with demobilization at Camp Grant, derived from several primary and secondary sources, including:

- Newspapers such as *The Bee* (August 23, 1917) and *The Phillips Times* (October 6, 1917)
- A May 19, 1919 "official" Roster of Company B, probably prepared for the unit's demobilization.
- An "official" photograph from Camp MacArthur circa December 1917 that includes soldier's names.
- Photographs from veterans reunions in the 1960s and 1970s.
- "The History of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion" by Colonel Leo Jackson
- Pictures of Company B in the 1976 Phillips Centennial Album.
- Those assigned to the 6th Regiment Supply Company as they left Phillips are marked with asterisk *
- Men who returned back to Company B from the Supply Company are marked with a #
- Men joining Company B at Camp MacArthur or in Europe are marked with two asterisks **
- Rank in parenthesis indicates the individual was promoted.
- They loved nicknames and where they are know they are included in quotes.

Leadership:

Cpt. Edward O. Witt
Cpt. Edward S. Reynolds
Cpt. Charles E. Butters*
Lt Frank V. Johnson
1st Lt Ira A. "Moose" Kenyon
1st Lt Cyril Hellenkamp**
1st Lt John W. Galbraith**
1st Lt Chester C. Lewis**
2nd Lt Owen A. Muck
2nd Lt Ernest A Isenberg** (Cpt)
2nd Lt A. C. Karnshaw
2nd Lt Frank V Johnson*
2nd Lt Loyal C. Prentice**

First Sergeant:

Walter O. Raymond (2nd Lt)

Supply Sergeant:

David "Doc" Rabenowich (First Sgt)

Mess Sergeant:

Frank A. "Herr" Bruchert

Duty Sergeants:

Fred E. Avery
Matthew F. "Panay" Byrne
Charles E. Drake (First Sgt)
Emil O. "Kaiser" Gehrman
Lyle N. Lane
Gregory McCauley

Hjalmer A. Olson
Carl A. "Monk" Raymond
Lester T Williams**

Corporals:

James P. Barnett (Sgt)
Robert D. "Vinegar Face" Clark
Orin E. "Carary" Dahl (Sgt)
Michael R. Donahue (Sgt)
Norman P. Ek (Supply Sgt)
Herbert B. Euper**
Frank H. Freely (Sgt)
Clifford J. Frost (Sgt)
Irvin H. "Fat" Helm (Sgt)
Bartlett S. "Butch" Jackson
Ray H. "Shorty" Nolan
Alex O. Olson
David S. "Dobbie Pete" Peterson
Loyal C. Prentice
Clyde D. "Swint" Sullivan (Sgt)
Edwin F. Wilde**

First Class Privates:

Ray D. "Pat" Anderson (Sgt)
Howard J. Berquist
Phillip C. Branch (Cpl)
William C. "Butts" Bruchert
Frederick W. Cronk
Oscar W. "Swede" Erickson
Otto W. "Doc" Hanson
Otto W. Hamachek

Edgar R. Hetfield
George V. Hetfield
Morris "Baldy" Hertlein
Alex M. Kazan
Otto A. Keller (Cpl)
John T. Kronberger
Carl A. Lundberg (Sgt)
Shirley Neef (Cook)
William E. McGinley**
Gustav O. Neumann
Louis Olson
William G. Rehagen
Herman A. J. Reisner
Freeman D. Sackett (Cpl)
Herman R. Sager (Cpl)
Edwin P. Schmidt
Israel Socular**
Henry Spleithof**
William A. Tierney**
Anton Tracha
Otto M. Trygetad**
Christopher Wassenberg**

Cooks:

Roy E. Burhans
Mike J. Dunn
Alonzo Peter Mulvaney**
Clyde G Rhoades**
John Tatroe
Thomas M. Thompson

**Mechanics:**

Anton Kolar
Irvin S. "Irv" Morrow
Clifford E. "Dietz" Wells (Cpl)
Joseph R. Wells (Cpl)
John R. Morgan (PFC)

Wagoners:

Raymond R. Barker
Joseph L. "Jo-Jo" Collins
Frank J. Feit
Herman R. Goetske
John I. "Ha-Ha" Hoffman
John J. Mullen (Cpl)
Harold L. "Harlo" Olson
Charles "Satebol" Ovans#
Alex G. Peterson
Joseph P. Schuster**
Ray A. Teeters#
Andrew Tenner**
Thomas O Wheatley**
Vollie Zink**

Saddler:

James Watson

Musician:

Samuel Willey

Buglers:

Erwin J. Everson (Bugler 1st cl)
Evan A. Evans
Willard E. "Beany" Nolan
Oscar "Ole" Olson (Pfc)

Privates:

Clarence V. Anderson*
John Andrew**
Frank J. Antoni**
Frederick Athey*
Fred F. Bader
William "Billy" Beil (Cpl)
Lorence Bernett
Victor M. "Old Man" Berquist (Cpl)
Harry Bleckschmidt
Tannis J. Borrie (Pfc)
John L. Boyle (Cpl)
Albert A. Brandt (Pfc)

John A. Bro (Pfc)
Frank J. "Whitey" Brostowitz
David Bruce*
John C. "Silent" Bruce# (Cpl)
Note/Nate Bruce*
Raymond A. Burton (Cpl)
Charles M. Cameron
Paul Cardarelli**
Charles Carl
Fritz L. Carlson (Pfc)
Charles Cehan
Francis "Francy" Choriton
Everett Clemons**
Frank/Fred L. "Cy" Collins
James Collins
Louis. B. Collins
Edward L Crabtree**
John R. "Jack" Craig
Earl E. "Boohuh" Curran
Victor A. Curran (Pfc)
Lewis H. Davis
Noel C. "Crabby" Demers (Pfc)
John Donahue
William Dostak
Joseph L. Dunn*
John A. Ek, Jr.
Ray C. "Feet" Elliot
John G. Englund
Peter Estheimer
Lawrence A. "Burly" Fields
David G. "Shrimp" Foster
Orville Fransiciso*
Frank N. Freeman (Pfc)
J. L. Galvin
Thomas E Galvin**
William Galvin** (Pfc)
Joseph Gamelin (Pfc)
Emil Garmon**
Rea Gibbs*
Samuel F. Given**
Archie F. "Fernando" Gran (Pfc)
Fred Grant# (Pfc)
Louis Gott/Gotz
Ferdinand Gutoy/Guthy
Otto W. Hamechek**
Walter E. Hammer**
William Harris
Morris Heathen**

Alphonse "High Pockets"

Heitkemper#

Guy Henderson
Albert F. Hess**
James H. Hicks
Herman S. Hinke
Steven Hojostak
Louis Hosina
Eugene F. Huber**
Norman J. Isaacson (Pfc)
Gust Janz*
Arthur E. Johnson (Pfc)
Elmer "Scoop" Johnson (Pfc)
William Jonett# (Pfc)
Howard A. Juneau
Charles Kocmonek
Alfred Kennedy
Dwight Kenyon
Aloya J. Koran
Tony Koenig#
William Koetak
Henry Koningiser**
Samuel Korn**
Maurice Kotzen
John Kushta
Joseph LaBerge
William Lambert**
Thaddeus B. LaRose
John P. Larsen
Iver D. Lavine**
Edward Leitl
Jacob Lobermeir
Frank Long
Elmer E. "Slats" Martin
Harry A. Marten (Cpl)
Joseph May
Harry C. May**
Buddie McDougal**
William Earl Menard (Cpl)
Edward Metzsig*
Frank Miller
Albert Minot
Henry A. Mintz*
Clifton A. Montgomery**
William P. Moquin (Cpl)
Wilford A. Morrow
Max Moskowitz**
Louis Moshekey**
Grover D. Mountain**



Fred C. Muller**
Joseph Muniok
Claude H. Murray
Conrad Muth
Evald N. "Red" Nelson# (Sgt)
Harry R. Nehls
Lyle W. Neilson
Ray S. Neilsen*
Harry A. Newbury# (Pfc)
Edward J. Nichols**
Joseph A. Nichols (Pfc)
Tony Novotny#
Michael Nudo**
George L. "Odie" Odegard# (Pfc)
Reuben E. Olson (Pfc)
Thor Olson (Pfc)
Martin Panshock
William E. Parker
John Paski**
Phillip Perlifoper*
David Perlman**
Adolph Peterson
Carl A. Peterson
Carl E. Peterson
Carl Pelrick
Glen Pierce
Paul Polacko
Louis Polichetti**
John F. "Johnny" Polakovich (Pfc)
Usher Polonsky**
Carlo Potolo**
Joe Rabenowitz**
Adolph Rageth**
John Rantio (Pfc)
Frank Reczenske**
Pete Regalio**
Samuel Regert
Edward H. Rhodes*
Austin Riddick**
Ambrose J. Rinaldi**
Percival M. Rishel
William J. Roberts*
George Sanford*
Charles F. "Chuck" Sansam#
Jacob Schlesky**
Harry Schmidt*

Sam Schneider**
George Scheppler**
Henry T. Scheewe**
Vinton Scal**
Nick Seemel (Pfc)
Willie E. Shoemaker**
Manuel L. Silva**
Samuel Simko**
Joe Skosecko
James E. "Sppedy" Slowey (Sgt)
Peter E. Slowey
August Speeck**
Alex L. Spengler**
William J. Sperry**
John Spitzkopf**
Edward Sprague**
Reinhold J. Stoltz**
William Stridal#
Dwight C. Strong**
Sanford A. Thompson**
Frank W. Tower (Pfc)
John J. Treacy**
Charles Turto
Victor Valiquette*
Salvatore Verga**
Percy Vocolka*
Joseph "Sheezy" Vokoun (Pfc)
Charles E. Wakelee**
Frank Wallner*
Richard Walters
Ralph S. Warner**
Albert J. Weberg
Kent E. Welen
Conrad B. Wessell**
Herman I. Weyers
John j. Williams**
Forrest F. "Rusty" Wilmont
Jesse V. "Jess" Winter (Pfc)
Percy Wocolka
Clarence Louis Wolf
Louis F. "Louie" Woodie (Pfc)
Wilfred J. "Bill" Wood
Chester M. Zachary**
Joe Zadkovich
John Zima**

Other possible members of Company B include:
Howard M. "Cap" Sevier
W. H. "Bill" Berry
Howard Seeburger



PHILLIPS TIMES

Wisconsin, Saturday, October 6th, 1917

The following roster printed in *The Phillips Times* on October 6, 1917 represent members of Company A and the Supply Company of the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment as they moved from Camp Douglas, WI to Camp MacArthur, TX. Regular Army, Navy and USMC are also listed separately. Note: Original newspaper repaired with copy from microfilm.

Price County's Roll of Honor

In proportion to our population Price County has more Volunteer Soldier Boys in service than any other county in the state of Wisconsin. We give below a complete list of those enlisted in Company A 6th Wis. Inf., the Supply company of the 6th, and also of Price county enlisted in the Regular Army, Navy, Marines and other branches of the service



COMPANY A

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

EDWARD O. WITT, Captain,
IRA A. KENYON, First Lieutenant.
OWEN A. MUCK, Second Lieutenant.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

SERGEANTS
W. O. Raymond, First Sergeant.
F. A. Brushert, Mess Sergeant.
D. Rabenowich, Supply Sergeant.
F. E. Avery,
M. Byrne,
O. E. Drake,
E. O. Gehrman,
L. N. Lane,
F. H. Feely,
C. J. Frost,
J. H. Helm,
B. S. Jackson,
J. J. Mullin,
R. H. Nolan,
A. O. Olson,
D. S. Peterson,
L. C. Prentice,
C. D. Sullivan,
C. E. Wells,

G. O. McCauley,
H. A. Olson,
C. A. Raymond.

CORPORALS.

J. P. Barnett,
R. D. Clark,
O. E. Dahl,
M. R. Donahue,
N. P. Ek,
BUGLERS—E. J. Everson, W. E. Nolan.

FIRST-CLASS PRIVATES

R. D. Anderson, C. A. Lundberg.



6th Regiment Supply Co.

[FROM PRICE COUNTY]

Capt. Charles E. Butters.
Lieut. Frank V. Johnson.
Harry A. Newbury,
Tony Novotny,
Edward Metzger,
George Sanford,
Alfonse Heitkemper,
William Jonett,
Henry A. Mintz,
Joe Skosecko,
Percy Vocelka,
Clarence V. Anderson,
Wm. Stridel,
Gust Janz,
Frederick Athey,
John C. Bruce,
Rea Gibbs,
Geo. Odegard,
Roy Teeters,
Frank Wallner,
Edward H. Rhodes,
David Bruce,
Note Bruce,
Orville Francisisco,
Charles F. Sansam,
Harry Schmidt,
Charles Ovans,
Philip Perfoper,
Wm. J. Roberts,
Tony Koenig,
Ewald N. Nelson,
Joseph L. Dunn,
Victor Valiquette,
Ray S. Nilsen,
Fred Grant,



Regular Army Enlistment

[FROM PRICE COUNTY]

Ed. McLaughlin, Regular.
Frank McLaughlin, Minn. N. G.
Harry Moquin, Regular.
Fred Cummings, Regular.
Hilmar Olson, Regular.
Eugene Laux, Marine.
Arthur Gloekler, Marine.
William Dobschuetz, Navy.
John Tracy, Navy.
Julius Schonfeldt, Navy.
Frank Eller, Cavalry, W. N. G.
Phillips Marsh, Cavalry, W. N. G.

CORPORALS.

J. P. Barnett,
R. D. Clark,
O. E. Dahl,
M. R. Donahue,
N. P. Ek,
BUGLERS—E. J. Everson, W. E. Nolan.

I. S. Morrow.

COOKS.

M. J. Dunn,
John Tatroe,
Thos. Thompson.

FIRST-CLASS PRIVATES

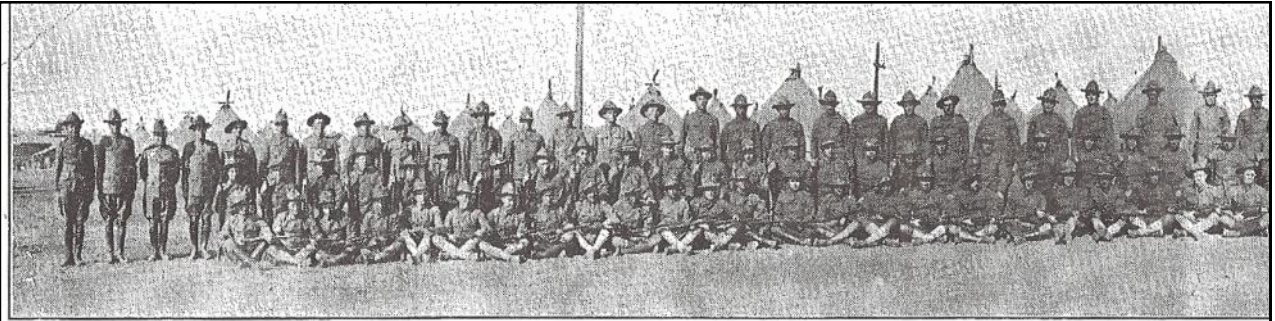
R. D. Anderson,
H. J. Berquist,
P. C. Branch,
W. C. Brushert,
R. E. Burkaus,
F. W. Cronk,
O. W. Erickson,
O. W. Hamachek,
E. R. Hedfield,
G. V. Hedfield,
M. Hertlein,
A. M. Kazan,
O. A. Keller,
J. T. Kronberger,
C. A. Lundberg,
J. R. Morgan,
A. P. Mulvaney,
Sherlie Neef,
G. O. Neumann,
Louis Olson,
Oscar Olson,
W. G. Rehagen,
H. A. J. Reisner,
F. D. Sackett,
H. R. Sayer,
E. P. Schmidt,
A. Trcka.

PRIVATES.

F. F. Bader,
R. R. Barker,
Wm. Bril,
V. M. Berquist,
L. Barnett,
H. Blackschmidt,
I. J. Borrie,
J. L. Boyle,
A. A. Brandt,
F. J. Brostowitz,
J. A. Bro,
R. A. Burton,
C. M. Cammeron,
F. L. Carlson,
C. Carl,
Joe Collins,
L. B. Collins,
Fred Collins,
E. E. Curran,
V. A. Curran,
N. C. Demars,
John Donahue,
J. A. Ek,
R. C. Elliot,
J. G. Enghard,
Peter Estheimer,
Evan A. Evans,
F. J. Feit,
D. G. Foster,
L. A. Feids,
F. N. Freeman,
H. R. Gaetsake,
J. L. Galvin,
L. Gotz,
A. F. Gran,
N. A. Harris,
J. H. Hicks,
J. I. Hoffman,
N. J. Isaacson,
A. E. Johnson,
Elmer Johnson,
H. A. Jeneau,
A. Kennedy,
J. Kuchta,
J. P. Larsen,
T. B. LaRose,
Ed. Leiti,
Frank Long,
H. A. Martin,
E. E. Martin,
W. E. Menard,
A. Minot,
W. F. Moquin,
W. A. Morrow,
C. H. Murray,
J. A. Nichols,
L. W. Neilson,
H. L. Olson,
R. E. Olson,
Thor. Olson,
W. N. Parker,
Adolph Peterson,
A. G. Peterson,
C. Petrick,
Glen Pierce,
J. F. Palachovich,
Paul Polacko,
John Rantio,
Sam Regert,
P. M. Rishel,
Nick Seemel,
J. E. Slowey,
P. E. Slowey,
F. W. Tower,
J. Vokoun,
Jas. Watson,
A. J. Weberg,
K. E. Welen,
H. J. Weyers,
F. F. Wilmont,
J. V. Winter,
L. Wolf,
W. J. Word,
L. T. Woodie,
W. Kockak,
A. J. Koran.

HARRY MOQUIN, Regular.

Fred Cummings, Regular.
Hilmar Olson, Regular.
Eugene Laux, Marine.
Arthur Gloekler, Marine.
William Dobschuetz, Navy.
John Tracy, Navy.
Julius Schonfeldt, Navy.
Frank Eller, Cavalry, W. N. G.
Phillips Marsh, Cavalry, W. N. G.
Roy Gillispie, Cavalry, W. N. G.
Ben. Flicker, Cavalry, W. N. G.
Carleton D. Sperry, Artillery, Ohio N. G.
John U. Woodhouse, 1st Minnesota Ambulance Corps.
Vilas Schultz, Co. A, 3rd Wis. Inf.
Kennith Dirimble, Regular.
Ray J. Haggerty, 2nd Officers T. School, Ft. Sheridan.
Albert King, 2nd Officers Training School, Ft. Sheridan.
George C. Collar, Marine, Paris Island, South Carolina.
Norman Kneeland, Wis. Hospital Corps.
John Elstheimer, Regular.
Peter Bach, Navy.
James A. Cloud, Marine.
Fred L. Cloud, Arizona Cavalry.
Dr. W. H. Remer, Medical Corps.
J. B. Pullen, Regular.
Dr. C. Pearson, Medical Corps.
Christian Anderson, Marine.
Ralph Vanderwall, Forest Service.
James Spencer, do
J. C. Towne, do
Joseph Bolton, do
Richard Bolton, do
Fred Lovell, do
Thomas Kring, do
Anton Yunek, do
Herman Tirpie, do
Walter Martwick, do
John B. Nelson, do
Fred Henry Nelson, do
Gust E. Erickson, do
Arthur E. Erickson, do
Dr. O. A. Nelson, Medical Corps.
Dr. A. E. Riley, do
Reuben Nelson, Regular.
Barney Kramer, Ambulance Corps.
Carl Cunningham, Navy.
H. Blackensmith, Navy.
Paul Kepersky, Navy.
Ned Knight, North Dakota N. G.
Art Lewis, " "
Clarence Hansen, Minnesota " "
Clarence Cork, Mil. Signal Corps.
John Vick, Minnesota Nat. Guard.
Ham Olson, Navy.
John Long, Co. H 6th Wis. Inf.
Edgar Johnson, Navy.
Ed. Mayer, Regular.
Andy Lundburg, Regular.
Art Hansen, " "
Sam Swanson, " "
P. M. Miekist, " "
Wesley Minnick, So. Dak. Cavalry

**Price County Boys of Co. "B" 119th Machine Gun Battalion,**

BACK ROW
(Reading Left to Right)
Edw. O. Witt, Captain
Ira A. Kenyon, 1st Lieut.
Owen A. Muck, 2nd Lieut.
E. Isenberg, 2nd Lieut.
Ray A. Teeters
Dave Bruce
Frank Long
Nick Seemel
Ewald Nelson
Tony Koenig
George Odegard
Charles Sansam
William Jonett
Thomas Olson
Alex. Olson, Corporal
Dwight Kenyon
Thaddeus LaRose
John I. Hoffman

Clarence Anderson
Charles Cameron
Noel C. Demars
Edward Leiti
Earl E. Curren
Frank Freeman
Clifford Frost, Corporal
Fritz L. Carlson
William Harris
William Rehagen
Albert Weberg
Anton Tracha
Herman Reisner
Harold Olson
John Kronberger
Howard Juneau
Albert Brandt
Alfred Kennedy
John Larsen
Carl Lundborg, Corporal

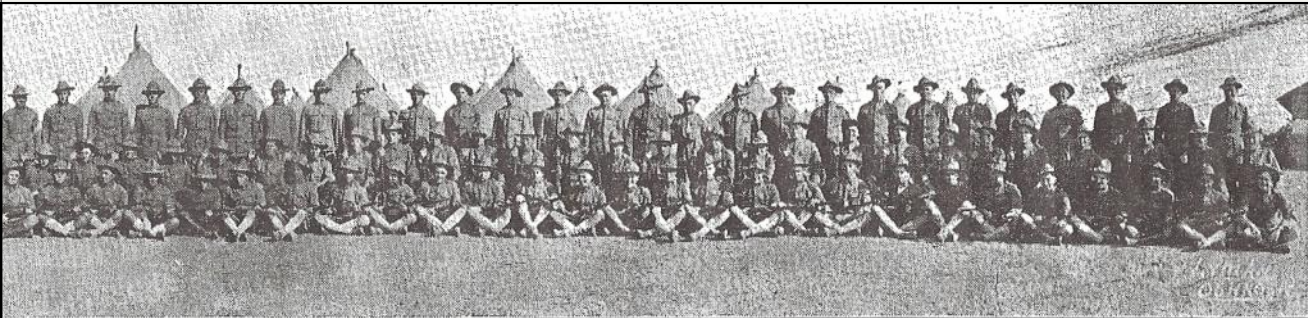
Thomas Thompson, Cook
Roy Burhans, Cook
Erwin Everson, Bugler
Evan A. Evans, Bugler
Herman Sager
James Watson, Saddler
Peter Slowey
Frank Brostioietz
Anton Kolar, Mechanic
Ray Elliott
Wilfred Morrow
Louis Wolf
Frank Feit
William Parker
James Barnett, Sergeant

Ray Anderson, Corporal
Ray Burton
Frank Collins
Glen Pierce
James Slowey
Joe Vokoun
Harry Bleckschmidt
Herman Getske
Howard Bergquist
Freeman D. Sackett
Robert J. Morgan
Joseph Wells, Corporal
Orrin Dahl, Corporal
Arthur Johnson
Forest Wilmot
Peter Mulvaney
Edgar Hetfield
Louis B. Collins
Sam Regert
William Dostak

CENTER ROW

Willard Nolan
Laurence Fields

In December 1917, just prior to leaving for Europe, a unit photo was taken at Camp MacArthur. Due to training classes, sick call, leaves, and other reasons, some members of Company B are missing. Elmer Martin is not in the photo & Walter Raymond has been promoted to 2nd Lieut. Photographer was Harry Lyman from Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**n, 32nd Division, U. S. Army. Formerly Co. "A" 6th Wis. Inf.**

Thomas Galvin
Fred F. Bader
William Stridal
Edwin Schmidt
Kent Welen
Peter Estheimer
Alphonse Heitkemper
Charles Ovans
Wilfred Wood
Victor Curran
Victor Bergquist
Herman Weyers
Carl Pelrick
Archie Gran
Alex Peterson
Carl A. Peterson
John Polakovich
Joseph Gamalien
Charles Kocmonek
James Collins

Aloys Koran
Lyle Neilson
Matt Byrne, Sergeant
Lyle Lane, Sergeant
Clyde Sullivan, Sergeant
Carl Raymond, Sergeant
Loyal C. Prentice, Corp.
Hjalmar Olson.

FRONT ROW

M. R. Donoghue, Corporal
Charles Carl
Tony Novotny
Norman Isaacson
Clifford Wells, Corporal
Louis Olson
Oscar Olson
William Bruchert
William Moquin
Harry Newbury

Tennis Borrie
Joe Nichols
Norman Ek, Corporal
John Ek
Raymond Barker
Alex. Kazan
William Beil
Percy Rishel
Earl Menard
Lorence Bennett
John Rantio
Otto Keller
Claude Murray
John Donoghue
John Kushta
Morris Heathen
Frank Feely, Sergeant
Albert Minot
Harry Marten
Robert Clark, Corporal

Philip Branch, Corporal
Fred Cronk
Gustav Neumann
Irvin Helm, Corporal
Reuben Olson
John Bro
David Foster
Ray Nolan, Corporal
Irvin Morrow, Mechanic
John Boyle
Frank Tower
Bartlet Jackson, Sergeant
Louis Woode
Jessie Winter
Charles Drake, 1st Sgt.
Frank Brushert, Mess Sgt.
Fred Avery, Sergeant
D. Rabenowich, Sup. Sgt.
Emil O. Gehrman, Sgt.
W. Raymond, 2nd Lieut.



The following roster, originally 4 pages long and dated May 19, 1919 comes from the papers of Colonel Leo Jackson, and appears to be the Company B Roster prepared in anticipation of demobilization in May 1919.

CONTINUED
ROSTER OF COMPANY "B" 119TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION
MAY 19, 1919.

WAGONERS CONT'D

Mullin John J.
Olson, Harold L.
Ovans, Charles
Peterson, Alec G.
Schuster, Joseph P.
Teeter, Ray A.
Tenner, Andrew
Wheatley, Thomas O.
Zink, Vellie
Bug. 1 cl.
Everson, Erwin J.
Rugler
Olson, Oscar
Pvt. 1 cl.
Bergquist, Howard J.
Börrie, Tannis J.
Brandt, Albert A.
Bro, John A.
Bruchet, William C.
Carlson, Fritz L.
Curran, Victor A.
Demers, Joe C.
Erickson, Oscar W.
Freeman, Frank
Galvin, William
Gamellen, Joseph
Gran, Archie F.
Grant, Fred L.
Hertlein, Morris
Isaacson, Norman J.
Johnson, Arthur E.
Johnson, Elmer
Jonett, William
McGinley, William E.
Menard, William E.
Newburg, Harry A.
Nichols, Joseph A.
Odegard, George L.
Olson, Reuben E.
Olson, Thor
Polokovich, John F.
Rautio, John
Reisner, Herman A.
Seemel, Nick
Secular, Ireal
Spleithof, Henry
Tower, Frank W.
Tierney, William A.
Trygstad, Otto M.
Vokoun, Joseph
Wassenberg, Christopher
Winter, Jesse V.
Woodie, Louis F.
Privates
Andrews John
Antoni, Frank J.
Bernett, Lorence
Burhans, Roy E.
Cardarelli, Paul
Clemong, Everett
Crattree, Edward L.
Curran, Earl E.
D'Aiello, Samuel
DiNardi, Santo
Dutcher, George L.

Park Falls, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Prentice, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
R.R. No. 2, Tecumseh, Nebr.
Park Falls, Wis.
Trencoile, Wash.
Pauline, Idaho.
Council, Idaho.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Prentice, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Ellison Bay, R 1 Box 15, W.
Prentice, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Kennon, Wis.
1301 W. ~~Phillips~~ Ave. Kenosha, Wis.
128 7th Ave. So. St. Paul, Minn.
Phillips, Wis.
Lugerville, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Waukegan, Ill.
1128 Sycamore St. Milwaukee, Wis.
602 Sub St. Gladstone, Mich.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
West Boro, Wis.
Kennon, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Detroit, Mich.
Eckley, Col.
Minoqua, Wis.
Souris East Canada.
2106 Lombard, St. Everett, Wash.
Phillips, Wis.
Marysville, Kansas
Prentice, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
115 Mansfield St. Carnegie, Pa.
717 Forest Ave., New York, N.Y.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
504 2nd St. Utica, N.Y.
Box 904 San Louis, Obispo, Cal.
Lindsay, Cal.
Phillips, Wis.
27 Prince St. New York, N.Y.
Mammoth Mine, Shasta Co. Cal.
Pepin, Wis.

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Bro, John A.
Bruchet, William C.
Carlson, Fritz L.
Curran, Victor A.
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Erickson, Oscar W.
Freeman, Frank
Galvin, William
Gamellen, Joseph
Gran, Archie F.
Grant, Fred L.
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Isaacson, Norman J.
Johnson, Arthur E.
Johnson, Elmer
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Menard, William E.
Newburg, Harry A.
Nichols, Joseph A.
Odegard, George L.
Olson, Reuben E.
Olson, Thor
Polokovich, John F.
Rautio, John
Reisner, Herman A.
Seemel, Nick
Secular, Ireal
Spleithof, Henry
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Tierney, William A.
Trygstad, Otto M.
Vokoun, Joseph
Wassenberg, Christopher
Winter, Jesse V.
Woodie, Louis F.
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Andrews John
Antoni, Frank J.
Bernett, Lorence
Burhans, Roy E.
Cardarelli, Paul
Clemong, Everett
Crattree, Edward L.
Curran, Earl E.
D'Aiello, Samuel
DiNardi, Santo
Dutcher, George L.

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Phillips, Wis.
Prentice, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
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Park Falls, Wis.
Trencoile, Wash.
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Prentice, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
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Prentice, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Kennon, Wis.
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128 7th Ave. So. St. Paul, Minn.
Phillips, Wis.
Lugerville, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
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Phillips, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
West Boro, Wis.
Kennon, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
Detroit, Mich.
Eckley, Col.
Minoqua, Wis.
Souris East Canada.
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Phillips, Wis.
Marysville, Kansas
Prentice, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
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717 Forest Ave., New York, N.Y.
Phillips, Wis.
Park Falls, Wis.
504 2nd St. Utica, N.Y.
Box 904 San Louis, Obispo, Cal.
Lindsay, Cal.
Phillips, Wis.
27 Prince St. New York, N.Y.
Mammoth Mine, Shasta Co. Cal.
Pepin, Wis.



CONTINUED
ROSTER OF COMPANY "B" 119TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION
MAY 19, 1919.

Elliott, Ray C.	409 Dixon St., Stevens Point, Wis.
Englund, John G.	Prentice, Wis.
Fields, Lawrence A.	Phillips, Wis.
Galvin, Thomas E.	1301 W. Prairie Ave. Kenosha, Wis.
Given, Samuel F.	West Point, Ark.
Hammer, Walter E.	Grand View, Iowa
Hess, Albert F.	821 W. Center, Anaheim, Cal.
Huber, Eugene F.	489 Fairview Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y.
Koenig, Tony	Far Field, Wis.
Koenigsdor, Henry	26 Clifford St., Buffalo, N.Y.
Korn, Samuel	508 1st St. Hoboken, N.Y.
Kotzen, Maurice	1018 7th St., Harrisburg, Penn.
Lambert, William	404 East N. Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
Larsen, John P.	Park Falls, Wis.
Levine, Iver D.	McKeesport, Penn.
McDougall, Buddie	R. No. 3, Mineola, Texas.
Martin, Elmer E.	Phillips, Wis.
May, Harry C.	551 15th St. New York, N.Y.
Mockowitz, Max	122 Alm St., New York, N.Y.
Meshekey, Louis	Harbor Springs, Mich.
Montgomery, Clifton A.	Frontier, Minn.
Morröw, Wilfred A.	Phillips, Wis.
Mountain, Grover D.	1614 Nebraska Ave., Kansas City, Kan.
Muller, Fred C.	408 Ridgewood Ave., Cypress Hills, Brok
Muth, Conrad	2024 Lave Ave., Baltimore, Mar.
Neumann, Gustave C.	Phillips, Wis.
Nichols, Edward J.	517 Hamson Ave., Peekskill, N.Y.
Nudo, Michael	98 Washington St., Flushing, N.Y.
Paski, John	(444) 404 Clinton Ave., Clinton, Y.J.
Perlman, David	212 East 15th St., New York, N.Y.
Peterson, Carl A.	R 2 Ogema, Wis.
Polonsky, Usher	331 Daly St., Philadelphia, Penn.
Potolo, Carlo	15 N. Bond St., Mt. Vernon, N.Y.
Polichetti, Louis	1534 Charlotte St., New York, N.Y.
Rageth, Adolph	Durand, Wis.
Reckenske, Frank	334 Russling St., Clinton, N.Y.
Regalia, Pete	San Francisco, Cal.
Riddick Austin	Maury City, Tenn.
Rinaldi, Ambrose J.	7 Main St., Schenectady, N.Y.
Sansam, Charles E.	Herbster, Wis.
Schlesky, Jacob	8 Elm St., New York, N.Y.
Schneider, Sam	100 Ave D., New York, N.Y.
Scheppler, George	408 York St., Jersey City, N.J.
Schewe, Henry T.	Fairfax, Minn.
Seal, Vinton	Viroqua, Wis.
Shoemaker, Willie E.	Picher, Oklahoma Oklahoma
Silva, Manuel L.	San Louis Obispo, Cal.
Sims, Simko, Samuel	Buck Mountain, Penn.
Slowe, Peter E.	Phillips, Wis.
Speck, August	310 E. 2nd St., Superior, Wis.
Spengler, Alex L.	409 So. 18th St., Newark, N.J.
Sperry, William J.	2FD No. 2, Rigby, Idaho.
Spitzkopf, John	108 Charles St., New York, N.Y.
Sprague, Edward	108 Charles St., New York, N.Y.
Stolz, Reinhold J.	Golden City, Mo.
Strong, Dwight C.	Humburg, Ohio.
Thompson, Sanford A.	268 Columbia Ave., Astoria, Ore.
Thompson, Thomas M.	Park Falls, Wis.
Treacy, John J.	223 23rd St., Waterbleit, N.Y.
Verga, Salvatore	215 Eldridge St., New York, N.Y.
Wakeloe, Charles E.	Engel Mine, Cal.

CONTINUED
ROSTER OF COMPANY "B" 119TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION
MAY 19, 1919.

Warner, Ralph S.	Durand, Wis.
Welin, Kent E.	Mason, Wis.
Wessell, Conrad B.	Prescott, Ariz.
Weyers, Herman J.	Kennon, Wis.
Williams, John J.	Hollis Ave., Hollis, N.Y.
Zachary, Chester M.	Hildebrand, Ore.
Zima, John	124 Pratt St., Meriden, Conn.
Isenburg, Ernest A. Capt.	Baraboo, Wis.
Prentice, Loyal G. 2nd Lt.	Prentice, Wis.
Rabencwitz, Joe	08 E. 102 St., New York, N.Y.
Hamechek, Otto W.	Phillips, Wis.
Garmen, Emil O.	Park Falls, Wis.



“The Times Office Gang” a poem by Sergeant James Slowey
Company B, 119th Machine Gun Battalion

The old gang around the Times office
 What an ornery bunch they were,
The widow Slowey’s Jimmie,
 He had always worried her.
The Bruchert boys, Frank and Willie
 And E. Everson norsky, so fat,
And Long, lank, handsome Slippery.
 And John Anderson’s boy Pat.
Young Beannie, Fields and Sub-marine Pete,
 Yes, and there is old Bob Clark,
With Sheeny, Naef and even Lane
 Were terrors after dark.

The old gang around the office Stove,
 They gathered every night.
They told some truth - - but mostly lies,
 Of travel, hunt and fight.
Then they’d perform upon the streets,
 In such a boisterous way,
Tat Uncle Al, the village cop,
 Would shoo them to the hay.
But all this now is ended,
 Our country’s call they heard,
The old gang round the print shop
 Were there and gave their word.
Now the street lights idly sputter
 Uncle Al walks down the main street
His good heart now is lonely for
 The gang he’d like to meet.

The old gang had enlisted now,
 Each loyal Mother brags,
That no other city of its size,
 Can top their service flags.
Monk’s now a second “looty”
 And so is Olson’s lad,
And better men that “Moose” and “Kro”
 No outfit ever had.
Al Wilmont’s red head grown up
 Has shown he has the stuff,
Gus Neumann’s “Dutch” and Moquin’s Bill,
 Have called the Kaiser’s bluff.
Shrimp Foster, he upon the Marne
 Shed good Price County gore
While Nolan, Butch and Jim Barnett
 Were always at the fore.
The midnight songs and wild night rides
 Are all forgiven now,
We’ll bet Uncle Al has lean forgot
 The little X’mas row,
They put aside the memories of the cream and
 cake we stole
When the church had a festival to pay for last
 year’s coal.
All that seems as yesterday, The gang is in
 Deutschland now
They are watching Fritz and Hyenas so they
 can’t start another row.



Footnotes & Endnotes

¹ Mark E. Grotelueschen, *The AEF Way of War: The American Army and Combat in World War I* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2007) 11.

² National Archives, "World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, M1509, <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/ww1/draft-registration>

³ Wisconsin Veterans Museum, World War I Storyboard (Madison, WI: 2011).

⁴ Joint War History Commission of Michigan and Wisconsin, *The 32nd Infantry Division in the World War, 1917-1919* (Milwaukee, WI: Wisconsin Printing Company 1920), 27-28.

⁵ "Call Comes to National Guard," *The Bee*, July 19, 1917, Phillips, WI.

⁶ "Price County Exempt from Fist Call," *The Phillips Times*, July 28, 1917, Phillips, WI.

⁷ Barney Slowey, "Hometown Heroes: The Legacy of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion" (WSU-Stevens Point, WI: July 28, 1972), 3.

⁸ "Notes from Camp Moose," *The Phillips Times*, July 28, 1917.

⁹ "A List of Company A Officers," *The Phillips Times*, August 4 1917.

¹⁰ *The Bee*, July 19, 1917.

¹¹ Slowey, 4.

¹² "Farewell Rally at Camp for Co. A," *The Bee*, August 2, 1917.

¹³ Michael J. Goc, *100 Years on the Flambeau: Park Falls, Eisenstein* (Friendship, WI: New Past Press: 1989), 175.

¹⁴ *The Bee*, July 19, 1917.

¹⁵ "Notes from Camp Moose," *The Phillips Times*, July 28, 1917, August 4, 1917 & August 18, 1917.

¹⁶ *The Bee*, Jul 19, 1917.

¹⁷ *The Bee*, April 21, 1988.

¹⁸ *The Phillips Times*, August 4, 1917

¹⁹ *The Phillips Times*, July 28, 1917 & August 4, 1917,

²⁰ Joint War History Commission, 27; "WWI vet reminisces," *The Bee*, April 21, 1988; "Company A Gone to Camp Douglas," *The Bee*, August 23, 1917.

²¹ Wisconsin Military History, *The Mobilization of the Wisconsin National Guard During World War I*, <http://www.b-1-105.us/history/ww1/wng1917a.html> (revised September 19, 2008), 2-3; Joint War History Commission, 27.

²² *The Phillips Times*, September 29, 1917.

²³ A "housewife," or hussif in British Army terms, was a small canvas roll containing needle, thread, buttons, etc used for the personal maintenance of a soldier's kit

²⁴ *The Phillips Times*, September 29, 1917.

²⁵ *The Bee*, September 16, 1917.

²⁶ Wisconsin Military History, 2.



Endnotes – continued

- ²⁷ Wisconsin Military History, 4; *The Phillips Times*, October 6, 1917.
- ²⁸ *The Phillips Times*, October 6, 1917.
- ²⁹ *The Bee*, September 29, 1917.
- ³⁰ *The Bee*, September 29, 1917.
- ³¹ *The Phillips Times*, November 3, 1917.
- ³² Leo M. Jackson, "History of the 119th Machine Gun Battalion," Colonel Leo M. Jackson Papers 1913-1963, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 1.
- ³³ *The Bee*, October 25, 1917.
- ³⁴ Jackson, 1; *The Bee*, September 29, 1917.
- ³⁵ Jackson, 1; *The Bee*, January 17, 1918.
- ³⁶ Jackson, 2; Joint War History Commission, 30.
- ³⁷ David, Foster, "The Military...", *Phillips Wisconsin Centennial Album* (Phillips, WI: 1976), 162; Jackson, 2.
- ³⁸ "Colt-Browning M1895 Machine Gun," Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colt-Browning_Model_1985
- ³⁹ Jackson, 2.
- ⁴⁰ *The Phillips Times*, November 3, 1917.
- ⁴¹ *The Bee*, January 17, 1918.
- ⁴² *The Bee*, February 2, 1918.
- ⁴³ *The Bee*, February 9, 1918; Jackson, 3.
- ⁴⁴ P.F. Bloomhardt, ed., *The Hatchet*, February 18, 1918: "USS George Washington," Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_George_Washington
- ⁴⁵ David, Foster, "The Military...", *Phillips Wisconsin Centennial Album* (Phillips, WI: 1976), 162.
- ⁴⁶ "Complain of Camps in this Country," *New York Times*, January 3, 1919 & March 3, 1919.
- ⁴⁷ Jackson, 3.
- ⁴⁸ Jackson, 3; Foster, 162.
- ⁴⁹ Joint War History Commissions, 34-35.
- ⁵⁰ Foster, 163.
- ⁵¹ Jackson, 3-4.
- ⁵² Jackson, 4.
- ⁵³ "World War I," Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I
- ⁵⁴ Jackson, 4; Joint War History Commissions, 41-42.
- ⁵⁵ Jackson, 4-5; Foster, 163.
- ⁵⁶ *The Bee*, April 21, 1988.
- ⁵⁷ Jackson, 5; Joint War History Commissions, 43-44



Endnotes – continued

⁵⁸ Joint War History Commissions, 49-56.

⁵⁹ Jackson, 5.

⁶⁰ Joint War History Commissions, 72.

⁶¹ Joint War History Commissions, 70.

⁶² Private John Warner is listed on the 32nd Division Roll of Honor and address is listed as Olympia, Washington. Pvt. Warner was likely a replacement, as he was not of the muster rolls of Company B at Camp Douglas or Camp MacArthur.

⁶³ Jackson, 5.

⁶⁴ Jackson, 6.

⁶⁵ Jackson, 6-7.

⁶⁶ Joint War History Commissions, 88.

⁶⁷ Joint War History Commissions, 93-96.

⁶⁸ "The Meuse-Argonne Offensive: Part II, Pershing's Report," The Doughboy Center, <http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/bigshow2.htm>

⁶⁹ Romagne-Sous-Montfaucon is now the site of the largest American cemetery in Europe. It once contained 27,000 graves, but 60% were repatriated to the U.S. in the 1920's, reducing the number to 14,000 graves.

⁷⁰ The 32nd Division Roll of Honor lists 2Lt Buck's death on October 18, 1918.

⁷¹ Jackson, 6.

⁷² Jackson, 8

⁷³ Joint War History Commissions, 110-123.

⁷⁴ Joint War History Commissions, 141.

⁷⁵ Jackson, 8; *The Bee*, December 26, 1918.

⁷⁶ Goc, 175.

⁷⁷ Jackson, 8; *The Bee*, June 7, 1919.

⁷⁸ Joint War History Commissions, 127-134.

⁷⁹ Joint War History Commissions, 135.

⁸⁰ Jackson, 9.

⁸¹ Joint War History Commissions, 158.

⁸² Colonel Leo M. Jackson Papers 1913-1963, Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

⁸³ Goc, 175; *The Bee*, May 22, 1919. June 5, 1919, June 7, 1919 & December 5, 1919; *The Phillips Times*, May 31, 1919, June 7, 1919 & June 14, 1919.

⁸⁴ *The Bee*, July 7, 1941, July 1, 1967, July 5, 1979 & April 1, 1988.



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<http://www.32nd-division.org/history/wwI/32wwI.org.html>
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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colt-Browning_Model_1985
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