

THE VERTOU POSTCARDS – COMPANY G (315th Infantry 79th DIVISION) SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT WAR

Prepared by Valerie J. Young, January 2019

My maternal grandfather, Chester Allen Bower, served in the Great War with the 79th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces. He was in Company G of the 315th Infantry. The 315th Infantry was made up of men primarily from the Philadelphia area and the unit came to be known as “Philadelphia’s Own.” Although originally from New Oxford, Pennsylvania, Chester entered the Army from Philadelphia, where he had been living and working for the Pennsylvania Railroad since 1910.

I never knew my grandfather. He died at the age of 45 in 1939, when my mother was just 12 years old. Like so many soldiers, he was gassed near the end of the war, and this exposure was thought to contribute to his health problems in the 20 years he survived after the war, and ultimately to his early death.

I began to study my grandfather’s life and Great War experience in 2016, after finding his few war service mementos among my mother’s things after she and my father passed away. Among his mementos were two picture postcards from Vertou, France, on the back of which were written in pencil some names and abbreviated addresses of men I presumed he knew from his war service. The front photo on the postcards is the same, but there is a different set of names on each postcard, and 25 names in total. One postcard was with my mother’s things and the other was with my cousin, the daughter of my mother’s older sister. My mother and my aunt had divided their father’s keepsakes after their mother died in 1985.

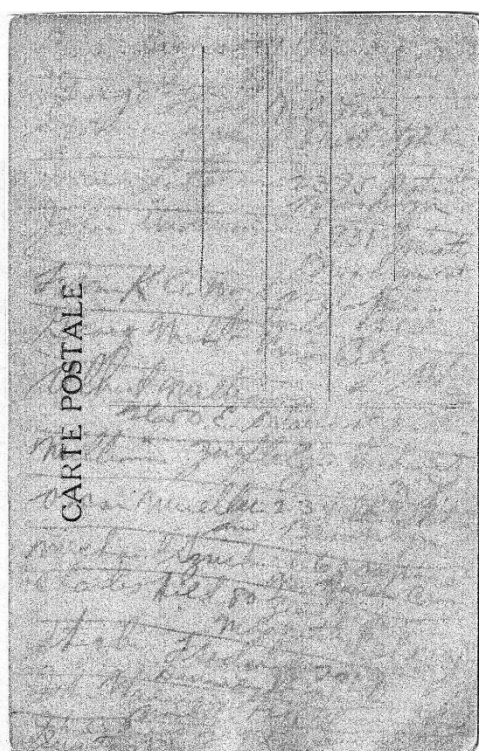
After fighting in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive from September to the Armistice in November 1918, the 315th Infantry remained in northeastern France until mid-April 1919. General Pershing reviewed the troops one last time there, and then the 315th traveled west by train to the Regimental Headquarters in Vertou, where they were stationed for a week preparing for their transport home. They departed on May 17, 1919 from St. Nazaire and arrived in Philadelphia on May 31. Chester received his honorable discharge on June 7, and the 79th Division soon went out of existence. The 315th Infantry had been in Great War service for a total of 20 months.

The names on the Vertou postcards were a mystery to me until I found an old original typed list of the surviving men of Company G tucked into one of my mother’s books: *Adams County in the World War: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918*. The book was compiled and published in 1921 by Percy S. Eichelberger and Paul L. Foulk, who were cousins from the New Oxford area and had also served in the war. Chester’s younger sister and my mother’s aunt, Mary, was married to Foulk in 1923.

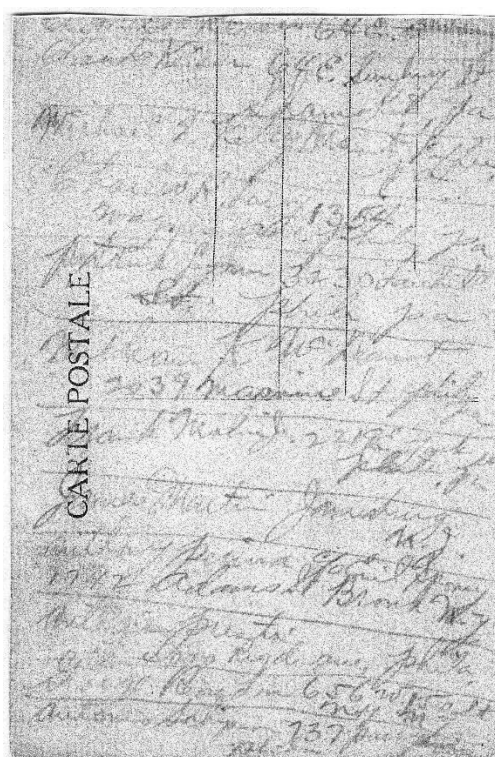
The source of the typed list of names is unknown, but it has the note “*Am. E. F., 6 May, 1919*” (Am. E. F. stands for American Expeditionary Forces) in the upper right corner. This date told me that the list was prepared shortly before Company G returned to the U.S. on 17 May 1919. The list is titled “*Roster of men Co. ‘G’, 315th Inf., carried on rolls this date with address.*” There are 158 names on the list, all at rank of sergeant and below. These men all survived the war and were mustered out of the Army at Camp Dix, New Jersey in early June 1919. The original September 1918 roster of Company G held approximately 245 men, including five Commanding Officers, 15 Sergeants, 29 Corporals, and about 195 Privates (including Privates First Class). The 79th Division had trained at Camp Meade, Maryland, and the 315th Infantry sailed to France from Hoboken on board the *America* on July 9, 1918. Twenty men joined Company G in late October 1918, as replacements for the casualties that occurred in the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in late September. The majority of Company G soldiers survived the war; only 20 soldiers were lost on the battlefield during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. They were either killed in action, or died of wounds or disease. The low number of casualties for Company G, compared with other 315th Infantry companies, may have been due to the unit being held in a reserve position during much of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.



Front side of Vertou postcards



Postcard back side #1



Postcard back side #2

There were no letters or other documents among my grandfather's mementos to indicate whether he kept in touch with these men. But because he took the time to write down the names on these small postcards, probably in Vertou or on the transport home, I wanted to know more about them. I've written this essay to share the information I have been able to find. My sources were primarily found through my Ancestry.com account and include military and ship transport records, death and burial certificates, Census records, and some newspaper articles. Photographs of soldiers and their grave markers are included if found. Several men were buried at the Long Island National Cemetery, which is an hour by train from my home in Manhattan; I visited the cemetery to find and photograph their grave markers.

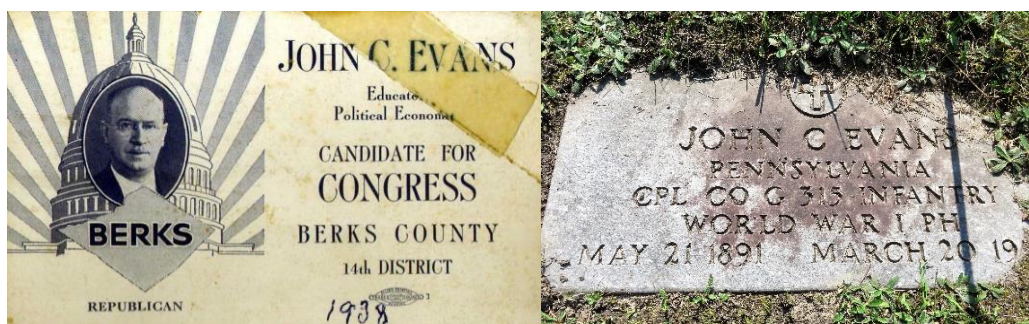
There is a great diversity of nationalities among the men, as well as burial locations. Some died not long after returning from the war, and some lived well into their 80s. Many of the men applied for Veterans Compensation Benefits in 1934, after the program began to offer enhanced benefits for World War I soldiers. And several men still living at the time of World War II registered for the draft for that war. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the U.S. approved a draft that went beyond the original younger age groups. Called the "Old Man's Draft," it registered men ages 45 to 64 in April 1942. This registration was not intended for military service, but to provide an inventory of all resources that might be used for wartime service.

Here, in alphabetical order, are brief stories of my grandfather's WWI service mates from the Vertou postcards.

JOHN CLARENCE EVANS (CORPORAL)

John Evans was not on listed the Company G roster dated May 6, 1919, because he had been wounded and did not return with the unit; but Chester did write his name on one of the Vertou postcards. Evans was born May 21, 1891 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, son of Moses D. and Rachel Long Evans. His father had emigrated from Wales in 1877, and died in 1906. Evans was inducted into the Army on April 29, 1918 at Taylor (Lackawanna County) and went to Camp Meade. He was first assigned as a Private with the 2nd Training Battalion 154th Depot Brigade until June 12, 1918 when he was transferred to Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his mother, Mrs. Rachel Evans of Park Summit, Pennsylvania as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list. He was promoted to Corporal on August 1, 1918. Evans was severely wounded on September 29, 1918 in the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was moved to various hospitals within France and returned to the U.S. in March 1919, before the rest of Company G left in May that year. Evans received the Purple Heart medal for his actions in combat.

Evans was married to Augusta Rodeman in Maryland in January 1920. He was honorably discharged from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. on March 3, 1921, and was reported as 100% disabled at the time of discharge. The 1930 Census showed him living in Ridley Park, Delaware, with his wife and two sons, and working as a University instructor. He applied for Veterans compensation benefits in February 1934, and was living in Reading at that time. Evans was a Republican candidate for the 14th Congressional District in Pennsylvania (Berks County) in 1938; he lost to the Democratic incumbent. The 1940 Census showed him still in Reading, with his wife and two sons, and working as a professor at Albright College, a private liberal arts college in central Pennsylvania. Evans registered for the WWII draft on April 27, 1942 at age 50; his registration form indicated that he was still living in Reading and employed there at Albright College. Evans died on March 20, 1959 at age 67 at the VA Hospital in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. His death certificate identified his occupation as industrial specialist and that he was living in the town of Mt. Gretna in Lebanon County. His family applied for a military grave marker, and he was buried at the Dunmore Cemetery near Scranton.



STEPHEN ALEX FREDERICK (PRIVATE)

Stephen Frederick was born December 8, 1893 in Bilgoraj, Poland which was part of Russia at the time of the Great War. His parents were Alex and Eva Perstonok Frederick. He was single, and living and working as a

laborer for Midvale Steel in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Frederick was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on May 26, 1918 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private to Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his brother, Andrew A. Frederick of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport list and also on the May 1919 return list. At the 1920 Census, Frederick was enumerated as a boarder in Elizabeth, New Jersey, working as a laborer in an ice factory; that form indicated that he had emigrated to the U.S. in 1902. By the time he applied for Veterans compensation benefits in February 1934, he was living in Philadelphia with his wife, Martha Chupeck Frederick, and three children. No further information about Frederick, or his wife and children, after 1934 was found on Ancestry.

CHARLES PETER HILD (PRIVATE)

Charles Hild was born August 10, 1888 in Brooklyn, New York, second oldest of seven surviving children of Frederick and Dorothy Suss Hild. Hild was living and working as a furrier for Howard & Company in Queens when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was inducted into the Army in New York City on May 28, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was first assigned as a Private with a Battery of the 311th Field Artillery, then was transferred to Company G 315th Infantry on July 3, 1918. He identified his mother, Mrs. Dora Hild of Queensboro, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport list and also on the May 1919 return list. Hild returned to New York after the war and married Christina Henckler of the Bronx in July 1919. Their son, Charles Jr. was born the following year. The 1940 Census showed him living in Queens with his wife and son, and working as a laborer, and he was still in Queens when he registered for the WWII draft on April 26, 1942. He was working for the New York City Transit Company in Coney Island at that time. Hild died on December 12, 1956 at age 68 and was buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Maspeth, Queens.

CLAUDE W. KEISER (CORPORAL)

Claude Keiser was born November 11, 1892 in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, youngest of five children of Henry H. and Elizabeth Gilger Keiser. He was living and working in Philadelphia for a Kresge store when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Keiser was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on November 1, 1917 and went to Camp Meade. He was assigned as a Private to Company G 315th Infantry, and promoted to Corporal on January 15, 1918. He identified his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Keiser of Shamokin, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport list and also on the May 1919 return list. Keiser reported being slightly gassed on September 29, 1918 during the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He returned to the Philadelphia area after the war; the 1920 Census showed him living in Shamokin with his family and working as a weaver in a silk mill. His father died in 1921, and his mother in 1926. He married Olive Newcomer in 1925; the 1930 Census showed them living as boarders in Philadelphia; he was a clerk in a grocery store, and she was a teacher in public school. Their daughter, Joanna, was born in 1932. His February 1934 Veterans compensation benefit application showed them living in Salisbury, Maryland. Keiser died on May 3, 1952 at age 59 and was buried at Gracelawn Memorial Park in New Castle, Delaware.

MICHAEL THOMAS KELLY (PRIVATE)

Michael Kelly was born June 11, 1894 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, third of four sons of Michael and Catherine Glenn Kelly. His father and brothers all worked in the coal mining industry near the town. His mother died between 1900 and 1910, and his father died between 1910 and 1920. Kelly was working as a laborer for the Oak Hill Coal Company in nearby Duncott when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was inducted into the Army in Schuylkill County on May 27, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was first assigned as a Private to Battery D 311th Field Artillery until June 26, 1918, when he was transferred to Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his father, Mr. Michael Kelly of Pottsville, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Kelly returned to Pottsville and worked in coal mining after the war; he married Julia Duffy in 1923 and they had seven children. He applied for Veterans compensation benefits in February 1934. Kelly registered for the WWII draft on April 27, 1942 at age 47. He was still married to Julia, and identified that he was unemployed and crippled in his right leg. Kelly died later that year at age 48 on

November 16, 1942, the victim of a hit-and-run accident. His body was found in the early morning hours by men driving on a public road between Pottsville and Seltzer City; the death certificate stated that he died instantly from severe head and body injuries. Kelly was buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in St. Clair, Pennsylvania. His wife died on January 7, 1956 and she was buried at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery #2 in Minersville.



CHARLES RAYMOND LACEY (PRIVATE)

Charles Lacey was born May 4, 1892 in Philadelphia, youngest of five children of Michael J. and Margaret McGinnis Lacey. His father died sometime before the 1900 Census, when his mother was identified as a widow. He was working as an electrotypist in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Lacey was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on May 27, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was assigned as a Mechanic with Company G 315th Infantry, then promoted to Private on April 7, 1919. He identified his sister, Miss Mary Florence Lacey of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Lacey returned to Philadelphia after the war; at the 1920 Census he was a lodger there and working again as an electrotypist. He was married later in 1920 to Florence Williams. By the 1930 Census, he was living with his wife and two sons in Colonial Manor, New Jersey, and working as an electrotypist. He applied for Veterans compensation benefits in March 1934. Lacey registered for the WWII draft in 1942; by this time he was living in Drexel Hill, a western suburb of Philadelphia. Lacey died on April 4, 1959 at age 66 from a skull fracture and cerebral hemorrhage due to a fall at the 69th Street train terminal in Upper Darby. His son, Charles Lacey, Jr., was the informant on the death certificate. Lacey was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Philadelphia. His son and wife were also buried there; she did not remarry and died in 1989 at age 92.

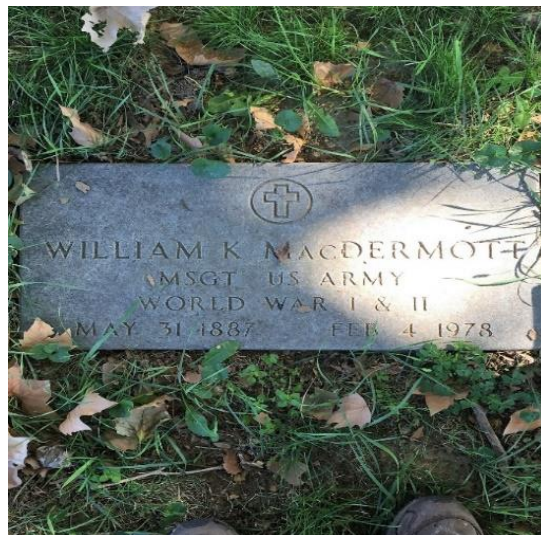
PATRICK JOSEPH LYNN (SERGEANT)

Patrick Lynn was born February 2, 1892 in Cappagh, Northern Ireland, son of Patrick and Mary Corrigan Lynn. His family had immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1913-14, and he became a naturalized citizen in 1918. He was living and working in Philadelphia as a motorman when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He identified himself as an "Alien" on his draft card, and a citizen of Great Britain. Lynn was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on October 6, 1917 and went to Camp Meade. He was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry, and promoted to Corporal on July 1, 1918. Lynn was married to Catherine (Kitty) McKernan in early 1918; she was also Irish, having immigrated in 1909. He identified his wife as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Lynn was slightly wounded on September 29, 1918 at Nantillois during the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive; he remained with his unit and continued in service through the Armistice. He was promoted to Sergeant on November 15, 1918. Lynn returned to Philadelphia after the war. Both the 1920 and 1930 Censuses showed him living there with his family and working as a motorman; they had three children. He applied for Veterans compensation benefits in March 1934. The 1940 Census showed him still in Philadelphia with his family and working as a supervisor for a

transit company. Lynn's wife died later in 1940 at age 52. He registered for the WWII draft in April 1942. Lynn died on December 3, 1963 at age 71 from pneumonia caused by malignant lymphoma. He had remarried after his wife's death to a woman named Alice; the marriage date and her previous name were not found. Lynn was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Philadelphia.

WILLIAM KELLY MACDERMOTT (PRIVATE 1ST CLASS)

William MacDermott was born May 31, 1887 in Philadelphia, oldest of seven children born to Thomas J. and Margaret Kelly MacDermott. The 1910 Census showed him as a 22-year old lodger in Philadelphia working as a publishing company salesman. He was then working as a complaints adjuster clerk in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. MacDermott was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on September 21, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He was promoted to Private 1st Class on July 1, 1918. He identified his father, Mr. Thomas J. MacDermott of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list, and also on the May 1919 return transport list. MacDermott returned to Philadelphia after the war, where the 1930 Census showed him working as a machinist. When he applied for his WWI Veterans compensation benefits in 1934, he had returned to military service and was with the 99th Aero Observation Squadron at Mitchel Field in New York. MacDermott filed a draft registration card for WWII in March 1944 while living in San Francisco, and identified himself as "retired from Army." MacDermott died at age 90 on February 4, 1978 in Philadelphia and was buried there at the Old Cathedral Cemetery. He never married.



JAMES MARTIN (CORPORAL)

James Martin was born April 27, 1895 in Jamesburg, New Jersey, one of six surviving children of George W. and Eva VanCleaf Martin. He was working as an assembler in the Ford Motor Company in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Martin was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on September 23, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He was promoted to Private 1st Class on July 1, 1918. He identified his mother, Mrs. Eva Martin of Jamesburg, New Jersey, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Martin was promoted again to Corporal on August 1, 1918. Martin returned to New Jersey after the war; the 1920 Census showed him living with his family in Jamesburg and working as a freight clerk. He was married to Pauline Firestine in 1925. The 1930 Census showed him living in Jamesburg with his wife and daughter, working as a stenographer for the State Highway Department. He filed for Veterans compensation benefits in 1934. The 1940 Census showed the same information as the 1930 Census, with the addition of a son, who was born in 1936. Martin filed a WWII draft registration form in 1941 at age 46; he was still living in Jamesburg and working for the State Highway Department in Trenton. Martin's son predeceased him in 1951,

and he died February 18, 1952 at age 56; he was buried at Fernwood Cemetery in Jamesburg. His wife did not remarry and died in 1995 at age 94; she was also buried at Fernwood Cemetery.



FRANK MOLIN, JR. (CORPORAL)

Frank (Francis) Molin was born May 16, 1896 in Philadelphia, oldest of six children born to Frank E. and Anne M. Molin. His father had emigrated from Sweden in 1885, and his mother emigrated from Ireland in 1882. He was living in Philadelphia and working as an electrician with a fire alarm manufacturing company when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Molin was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on November 1, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He was promoted to Corporal on March 18, 1919. Molin identified his mother, Mrs. Anne M. Molin of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Molin returned to Philadelphia after the war and continued his work as an electrician for the fire alarm company. He was married to Bessie Pauline Woelpper in 1921. By the 1930 Census, he was living in Camden County, New Jersey, with his wife and two daughters, and working as an electrician. He was living and working in Audubon, New Jersey (also in Camden County) when he applied for Veterans compensation benefits in 1934. He was still living and working there at the 1940 Census and also when he filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942, at age 43. Molin died in New Jersey in 1963 at age 67. He was buried at Bethel Methodist Church Cemetery in Hurffville. His wife did not remarry and died in 1992 at age 94; she was buried beside him.



OSCAR WILLIAM MUELLER (PRIVATE)

Oscar Mueller was born November 4, 1886 in Brooklyn, New York, one of three surviving children (he had a twin brother, Oswald) of August and Hedwick (Hattie) Mueller, who had both emigrated from Germany around 1850. His father died before the 1900 Census. Mueller was working as a printer in New York City when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He went to Camp Meade and was first assigned as a Private with 35th Company 152nd Depot Brigade, then transferred to Company G 315th Infantry. Mueller identified his mother, Mrs. Hattie Mueller of Brooklyn, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return passenger list. His WWI service record identifies that he was wounded in action (degree

undetermined) about November 9, 1918. Mueller returned to Brooklyn after the war; the 1920 Census showed him living with his mother and sister and her two children, working as a printer. In 1928 he married Margaret Mahoney who had emigrated from Ireland in 1917. At the 1930 Census, he was living with his wife and daughter in Brooklyn and working there as a printer. At the 1940 Census, he was living with his wife and two children in Hyattsville, Maryland and working at the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. He was still working there when he registered for the WWII draft in 1943; he was identified as an invalid on that form. Mueller died at age 82 on April 27, 1969 in Hyattsville, and was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Springs, Maryland with his wife; she preceded him in death by five years, in 1964.



ANTHONY JOSEPH PERINA (PRIVATE)

Anthony Perina was born March 8, 1894 in New York City, oldest of five children of Anthony Charles and Marie (Mary) Liska Perina. His mother died in 1903 at age 27. At the 1910 Census, he was living with his father, siblings, and grandmother in Manhattan, and he worked as an office boy in a rubber factory. Perina was working as an electrician in New York City when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was inducted into the Army on May 15, 1918 in New York and sent to Camp Meade, where he was assigned as a Private to Company G 315th Infantry. Perina identified Miss Ida M. Cheplak of New York City (Manhattan) as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list, and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Perina returned to New York after the war; the 1920 Census showed him as a roomer in a lodging house in Manhattan and working as an electrician. He married Ida Cheplak in July 1920; she had emigrated from Budapest, Hungary in 1906. The 1930 Census showed them living in Queens with a daughter, and Perina working as an electrician for the Lord Electric Company. The 1940 Census also showed them in Queens, with another daughter and Perina working as an electrical contractor. Perina registered for the WWII draft in 1942 at age 48; he was working for the U.S. Navy at the Brooklyn Navy Yard at this time. Perina's wife died in 1980 at the age of 90; she was cremated and interred at Fresh Pond Crematory and Columbarium in Middle Village (Queens). Perina died in July 1985 in the Bronx at age 91; his burial location was not found.

ANTHONY (ANTONIO) PRESTI (PRIVATE)

Anthony Presti was born May 9, 1890 in the village of Castoreale, a part of the city of Messina in Sicily, Italy, son of Antonio and Carmela Presti of Messina. Presti was not found on any U.S. Census records and it is not known when he arrived in America. He was living in Philadelphia and working there as a laborer when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917; he identified himself as an "Alien" citizen of Italy. He was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on May 26, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was assigned as a Private with the 154th Depot Brigade for one day, then transferred to Company G 315th Infantry on May 27, 1918. Presti identified his mother, Mrs. Carmela Presti of Rudi Province in Messina, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return passenger list. Presti appeared to have returned to Italy after the war. He applied for Veterans compensation benefits in 1937 from there, through the U.S. Consulate in Palermo, and was living with his mother (now a widow) in Messina. Information about his life after that, and his death, was not found.

GEORGE LEROY JOHN REARDON (PRIVATE)

George Reardon was born March 10, 1892 in Brooklyn, New York, one of six children of Mark A. and Elizabeth Lawlor Reardon. His mother died sometime between the 1905 New York State Census and the 1910 federal census. Reardon married Jeanne Leslie Jonas (who was originally from Georgia), in Manhattan in October 1916 and then moved to Texas, where he was working as a waiter at the White Star Lunch in El Paso when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was inducted into the Army in New York on May 31, 1918 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his wife, Mrs. Jeanne Reardon of Brooklyn, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return passenger list. Reardon returned to New York after the war. He was divorced sometime before the 1930 Census and his wife returned to Georgia and remarried there to a man named Spalding; she died in Atlanta in 1961 and was buried there at Oakland Cemetery. The 1930 Census identified Reardon as a lodger in Brooklyn, divorced, and working as a clerk. He was living in Brooklyn and working at the Hearn Department Store when he registered for the WWII draft in 1942. Reardon died at age 65 on September 13, 1957 in Brooklyn. He was buried at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.



ANTONIO SCHIPANI (CORPORAL)

Antonio Schipani was born November 11, 1892 in Santa Caterino dell Ionio, Italy, son of Guiseppe and Catherine Carmucci Schipani. He emigrated to the U.S. from Naples, Italy, in May 1911 on board the *Taormina*; his parents had emigrated before him and he followed them to Philadelphia. Schipani was living in Philadelphia and working at Victor Talking Machines when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on September 23, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. Schipani became a naturalized citizen on October 3, 1917 while stationed at Camp Meade. Two other Company G soldiers, George Thiel and Pantaleone Cramasta, were his witnesses on the naturalization form. Thiel survived the war (see his paragraph below) but Cramasta was killed in action on September 25, 1918 in the Meuse Argonne Offensive. Schipani identified his father, Mr. Charles Schipani of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was promoted to Private 1st Class on October 19, 1918 and again to Corporal on November 15, 1918. Schipani returned to Philadelphia after the war. The 1930 Census showed him as a boarder with his younger sister and her family and working as laborer in paving. His sister, Victoria, had emigrated with her husband to Philadelphia in 1920. Schipani filed for Veterans compensation benefits in 1934. The 1940 Census showed him again living with his sister and her family in Philadelphia, working as a saw operator for a radio company. Schipani registered for the WWII draft in 1942; he was living in Philadelphia and working for the

RCA Manufacturing Company in Camden, New Jersey at that time and identified his sister as a contact person. Schipani never married; his sister predeceased him in 1958 at age 61. Schipani died at home of natural causes on October 19, 1963 at age 70; his sister's son was the informant on the death certificate. He was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Yeadon, Pennsylvania.

CONSTANTINE SCOFES (PRIVATE)

Constantine Scofes (also spelled Scoffes) was born April 9, 1888 in Kosmas village, Kinouria, Greece, son of Catherine Scoufaki (father's name not found). The 1910 Census showed him living with his brother in Brooklyn, both working at a flower shop. This was the only census form found for Scofes, and indicated he had emigrated from Greece in 1906. Scofes was self-employed and living in Brooklyn when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. On his registration card, he identified his intention to become a U.S. citizen, and also that he had served for one year as a Private in the Greek Infantry. Scofes was inducted into the Army in Brooklyn on May 26, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was first assigned as a Private with the 152nd Depot Brigade, then transferred to Company G 315th Infantry on June 22, 1918. He identified his mother, Mrs. Catherine Scoufaki of Kimouria, Greece as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Scofes returned to Brooklyn after the war. He registered for the WWII draft in 1942 at age 54; he was self-employed and living in Brooklyn at that time. No Veterans compensation benefit application was found for him, and it appears he did not marry. Scofes died in Brooklyn on April 2, 1966 a few days before his 78th birthday. He was buried at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.



MICHAEL SZUSZKEWICZ (PRIVATE)

Michael Szuszkewicz was born March 12, 1895 in Zaleszczyki, Austria, son of Ivan and Kataryna Szuszkewicz. Zaleszczyki was originally part of Poland, but was under Austrian control at the time of the Great War. After the war, it became Polish territory again, but then fell during World War II into German and eventually Russian control. After the fall of the Soviet Union, it became part of western Ukraine. Szuszkewicz was living and working at saw tempering in West Haven, Connecticut when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He identified himself as an "Alien" with intent to become a citizen on his registration form, and that he was an Austrian citizen from Poland. He also identified that he was missing two fingers on his left hand. Szuszkewicz had immigrated to the U.S. in September 1911 at age 17, on board the *S. S. Amerika*, a ship of the Hamburg-

Amerika Line. This ship was later seized by the U.S. Army in 1917 in New York Harbor and renamed the *America*; ironically, it was this same ship on which Szuszkewicz, as part of the 315th Infantry, then sailed from Hoboken to France on July 9, 1918. He identified a friend, Mr. Joseph Wajcik of West Haven, Connecticut as his emergency contact on that transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Szuszkewicz returned to Connecticut after the war, and became a naturalized citizen there in 1929. He filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942; by then he was living in the Bronx, New York and working for the Veterans Administration there. No census forms or marriage records were found for Szuszkewicz. He died on October 10, 1966 at age 71 in Pinellas County, Florida. He was buried at Andersonville National Cemetery at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Macon County, Georgia. This cemetery was the original burial place for Civil War prisoners of war who were held at Andersonville prison at Camp Sumter. It has continued to accept veteran burials since then.

GEORGE THIEL (CORPORAL)

George Thiel was born May 12, 1891 in Philadelphia, youngest of five surviving children of John and Rose Sylvester Thiel. The 1900 Census showed him with his family in Philadelphia, with his mother identified as a widow. Thiel's father was born in Germany about 1841, and immigrated with his family to the U.S. around 1850; he died in Philadelphia at age 50 in March 1891, two months before George was born, and was a grocer at the time of his death. George's father had served with the New York Infantry in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865 and was wounded in the leg; his cause of death could not be found. His mother died at age 63 in March 1915 when George was 21 years old. The 1910 Census showed Thiel living with his family in Philadelphia and working in a furniture factory. He was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on November 1, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. Thiel was promoted to Private 1st Class on July 1, 1918. He identified his brother, Mr. William Thiel of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was promoted to Corporal on October 19, 1918. Thiel returned to Philadelphia after the war but Census records for 1920, 1930, and 1940 for him were not found. He filed for Veteran compensation benefits in 1934; he listed no dependents at that time. He filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942 at age 50; he was self-employed as a vendor at that time, and identified his older sister, Mrs. J. Wolf of Philadelphia, as a contact person. Thiel died in Philadelphia on February 1, 1948 at age 57; no marriage record was found for him. He was buried at Beverly National Cemetery in Burlington County, New Jersey.



JOHN O. TITSCHER (CORPORAL)

John Titscher was born December 5, 1888 in New York City, youngest of five children of his parents, the Titschers. Information about the parents was not found, except for his father being born in Germany and his mother in New York. The 1900 Census showed him living with his four older siblings in Brooklyn, with his oldest sister, Josephine (age 23), as the head of household. He was living in Brooklyn and working as a shipping clerk when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Titscher was inducted into the Army in New York on May 26, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was assigned as a Private to the 152nd Depot Brigade until June 22, 1918 when he was transferred to Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his brother, Mr. Fred Titscher of Brooklyn, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was promoted to Corporal on November 15, 1918. Titscher returned to New York after the war. At the 1920 Census he was living as a boarder in Queens and working again as a shipping clerk, now for a waste mill. He married Rose Davis Petchesky in 1922 and had a daughter in 1923. Rose had been previously married to Emanuel Petchesky in 1910 when she was 17 years old; they had three children, then divorced in 1921, due to his physical abuse towards her. The Titschers continued to live and work in Queens through the 1930 and 1940 Censuses. Titscher died in Queens on December 23, 1944 at age 56. He was buried at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York. His wife did not remarry and died on January 9, 1968; she was buried with him at the National Cemetery.



JOHN UNDERRINER (PRIVATE 1ST CLASS)

John Underriner was born September 19, 1887 in New York City, one of eight children of Lawrence and Elizabeth Underriner. His father died between the 1900 federal and 1905 New York State Censuses. Underriner was married to Elizabeth McGuire in April 1907, when he was 18 years old. He started working in banking by the 1910 Census and stayed in that profession for the rest of his life. The 1915 New York State Census showed him living in Queens with his wife, brother and niece, working as a bank clerk. He was working as a clerk with the National City Bank on Wall Street in New York when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Underriner was inducted into the Army in New York on June 4, 1918 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his brother, Mr. George Underriner of Brooklyn, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was promoted to Private 1st Class on October 12, 1918. Underriner returned to New York after the war and

continued working in banking and living in Queens through the 1930 and 1940 Censuses. He remained married to Elizabeth, but they had no children. He registered for the WWII draft in 1942 at age 54; he was married and still working at the National City Bank on Wall Street at that time. Underriner died in Queens on July 4, 1965 at age 77. No burial records for him or his wife were found.

JOHN JAMISON WAINWRIGHT (CORPORAL)

John Wainwright was born March 3, 1893 in Norristown, Pennsylvania, one of three surviving children of George Haff and Anna Jamison Wainwright. The family had moved to Brooklyn by the 1900 Census. Wainwright was living with his family in Brooklyn and working as a bookkeeper for the New York Trust Company in Manhattan when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was inducted into the Army in New York on May 26, 1918 and went to Camp Meade. He was first assigned as a Private with the 152nd Depot Brigade, then was transferred to Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his mother, Mrs. Anna J. Wainwright of Brooklyn, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was promoted to Private 1st Class on October 12, 1918 and again to Corporal on November 15, 1918. Wainwright returned to Brooklyn after the war and continued living there through the 1925 New York State, 1930 and 1940 federal censuses; he lived with his parents and sister, Mary, in Brooklyn through these years and worked as a salesman. Neither he nor his sister were married. Wainwright filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942 when he was 49 years old. He was living in Brooklyn and working in Manhattan for a real estate company. He identified his mother, Mrs. Annie J. Wainwright, as his contact person; his father had died in 1941 and his mother moved to Florida (where her other son was living) by 1942. Wainwright died in Brooklyn in December 1974 at age 81; burial record was not found.



FRANK (FRANCIS) ALOYSIUS WARD (CORPORAL)

Frank Ward was born June 7, 1894 in Philadelphia, one of five surviving sons of Arthur J. and Mary Dooley Ward. Ward's mother died at age 54 in 1915; he was the informant on the death certificate. He was working as a clerk for an express company in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He indicated on his registration form that he had previously served in the U.S. Infantry for 6 months. Ward was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on September 23, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his brother, Mr. Daniel J. Ward of Philadelphia, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was promoted to Corporal on May 29, 1919. Ward returned to Philadelphia after the war. At the 1920 Census he was living with his aunt and working as a clerk. His older brother, Joseph, died in 1926 (suicide by hanging while in jail) and his father died in 1927; Frank was again the informant on his father's death certificate. At the 1930

Census he was a roomer and working at the U.S. Post Office. He filed for Veteran compensation benefits in 1934, and identified that both his parents were deceased at that time and that he had no dependents. Ward filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942 at age 47; he was still working at the U.S. Post Office at that time and identified another brother as his contact person on that form. Ward did not marry and died in Philadelphia on October 7, 1970 at age 76. He was buried at Old Cathedral Cemetery in Philadelphia.

GEORGE PRESTON WEBB (PRIVATE)

George Webb was born March 31, 1889 in the rural farming community of Belfalls (Bell County), Texas, one of six surviving children of Joseph Monroe and Sylvania Little Webb. His parents were from Alabama, and several of Webb's older siblings were born there. Webb had moved to Oklahoma in 1909, which was the same year his father died. He was working as a farm laborer in Union City, Oklahoma when he registered for the draft there on June 5, 1917. His registration form indicates he was married and with two children at that time; he had married Addie Gibbs in Union City in 1916 (he was 26 and she was 43). Webb was not originally assigned to the 315th Infantry. He sailed for France from Hoboken on February 27, 1918 with a unit called the Camp Travis Replacement Draft (2nd Company); he identified his mother, Mrs. Sylvania Webb of El Reno, Oklahoma, as his emergency contact on the transport passenger list. Camp Travis was an Army training site near San Antonio, and this is likely where Webb was inducted into the Army and received his training. According to the 315th Infantry history, Webb joined the unit as a replacement on October 26, 1918 in the Troyon Sector, after the unit had been reduced through fighting in the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Webb returned to the U.S. with Company G 315th Infantry in May 1919 on board the U.S.S. *Santa Rosa* and again identified his mother as his emergency contact on the transport list. Webb likely returned to Oklahoma after the war. The 1920 Census for him was not found, but the 1930 Census showed him as divorced, living alone and working in Union City as a farmhand. He was married to his second wife, Kate Watson, in 1931 and had four (possibly five) daughters with her. The 1940 Census showed them living in Grady County, Oklahoma, with Webb working as a day laborer. Webb filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942 at age 54. He was living with his wife in Tuttle, Oklahoma, and working as a farm laborer. Webb died at age 78 on June 3, 1967 in Oklahoma, and was buried at Union City Cemetery. His obituary noted that he was survived by his wife, Kate Watson, and seven daughters.



ALBERT LEWIS WILLIAMS (PRIVATE 1ST CLASS)

Albert Williams was born August 13, 1889 in Mt. Carmel (Northumberland County), Pennsylvania, one of seven surviving children of Cornelius and Elizabeth Carl Williams; his parents were a coal mining family in this area. By the time of the WWI draft on June 5, 1917, Williams was living in Philadelphia and working as a machinist for the Midvale Steel Company. His registration card indicated that he had already served as a Fireman 1st Class in the U.S. Navy for four years. He was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on September 23, 1917 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He married Constance Michcinski later in 1917. He identified his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams of Mt. Carmel, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. He was

promoted to Private 1st Class on April 11, 1919. Williams returned to Philadelphia after the war. He and his wife lived with her family in Philadelphia at the 1920 Census. By the 1930 Census, he was living with his wife and three daughters in Philadelphia and worked as a machinist for an engine manufacturing company. He filed for Veterans compensation benefits in 1934. At the 1940 Census, he was living with his wife and two daughters in Philadelphia and working as a pipe fitter for a chemical works company. Williams filed a WWII draft registration form in 1942 at age 52. He died at age 79 on March 17, 1969 in Philadelphia and his wife died in 1993 at age 96; burial records were not found.



WILLIAM THEODORE ZUEFLE, JR. (PRIVATE)

William Zuefle was born August 29, 1892 in Philadelphia, the only son of five children of William Sr. and Ursina Reude Zuefle. Both of his parents were from Germany and had immigrated to the U.S. in the mid-1880s. At the 1910 Census, he was living with his family and working as a clerk in a grocery store. He was working as an automobile foreman at the Ford Motor Company when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. Zuefle was inducted into the Army in Philadelphia on May 27, 1918 and went to Camp Meade where he was assigned as a Private with Company G 315th Infantry. He identified his mother, Mrs. Ursina Zuefle, as his emergency contact on the July 9, 1918 transport passenger list and also on the May 1919 return transport list. Zuefle returned to Philadelphia after the war. The 1920 Census showed him living with his parents in Egg Harbor City in southern New Jersey where they operated a canning factory. Zuefle married Florence B. De Young sometime after the 1920 Census; they had no children. He died on April 21, 1926 in Philadelphia at age 33 from cancer. He was buried at Fernwood Cemetery in Fernwood, Pennsylvania with his parents. His wife filed for Veteran compensation benefits in 1934. Her death and burial information were not found.

