

World War I Veteran stories West Point Grads

My paternal grandfather, Thomas Joseph Monahan was born in Philadelphia, PA and served in the U.S. Navy during WWI. His only son, my father Thomas Joseph Monahan Jr. was born in New York City and served as a radio officer on a Liberty ship with the Merchant Marines in the South Pacific during WWII. Following Japan's surrender, he served in the Army of Occupation before returning to New York. Their wartime service and sacrifice for their country inspired me to attend West Point and to pursue a military career.

COL Thomas O. Monahan, USMA 1986

My maternal grandfather, Joseph W. Stilwell, USMA 1904, served in WWI as the G-2 IV Corps. My paternal grandfather, Edmund P. Easterbrook, not a USMA graduate, also served in WWI as the chaplain for the 69th Artillery Regiment (CAC)...converted in France to railway heavy artillery. I had two uncles, not USMA graduates, who served in France during WWI: Arthur Edmund Easterbrook, an aerial observer in the 4th Division, and one of only two U.S. observer aces during the war. Wilfred George Easterbrook was with the 19th Combat Engineer Battalion, 26th Division. A third uncle, Joseph Lawton Collins, USMA, April 1917, served during WWI, but did not go to France until after the Armistice.

John Easterbrook, USMA 1962

CPL Harold S. deMoya (father of Harold G. deMoya, '46 and grandfather of Richard G. deMoya, '71) served in the Army Infantry from 1917-1919 with duty in France.

Rick deMoya

My grandfather, James A. Van Fleet, graduated from West Point in the Class of 1915. (He was my mother's father.) He commanded American soldiers in combat at every level of command. I believe he is the only person in US history to have done this. Platoon leader and company commander in the Mexican Border Campaign with the "Old Guard" (3rd Infantry), before WW I. Company commander and battalion commander in WW I Regimental, division and corps commander in WW II 8th Army Commander during the Korean War He was the first recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award from West Point. A copy of the text of the citation can be found at: http://members.tripod.com/msg_fisher/fleet-2a.html The DA General Order #30 that announced his death at the age of 100 can be read at: <http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/pdf/go9230.pdf> He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His biography on the ANC website can be seen at: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/vanfleet.htm> I graduated in the Class of 1965. The Class of 1915 was with us celebrating their 50th Reunion. My grandfather was seated on the stage when we went up to receive our diplomas and he is the one who stepped forward to hand mine to me.

Joseph A. McChristian, Jr. USMA Class of 1965

My father, Frederick A. Stevens, graduated November 1st, 1918. When he reached Germany, the war had ended. That was lucky for me, as he was trained as an artillery aerial observer. After several months with the Army of Occupation, he resigned from the Army due to the death of his father. In 1939, seeing the oncoming war, he contacted the Army about re-joining. The Army expressed no interest, so he approached the Marine Corps and was given a commission as Major, USMCR, and was called to active duty after Pearl Harbor. He served until 1945, having participated in the battle for Iwo Jima, and the Occupation of Japan. He retired as BG, USMCR. Thus he is the only West Point graduate (to date) who achieved flag rank in the Marine Corps.

F. A. Stevens, Jr. Class of 1952

I have a daughter, Cadet Tessa Knight '15 currently attending (6th generation USMA) and these are her Gr-Gr Grandfather and Gr-Gr-Gr Uncle:

BG John T. Knight
Class of 1884
Quartermaster General of the AEF (France)

CPT John T. Knight, Jr.
Class of August 1917
FA 5th INF DIV AEF [DSC-PH]

Victoria Knight

Both my grandfathers (not West Point grads) and 2 great-uncles (one was USMA, 1915) served in WWI. I've been researching my grandfathers' activities in some detail, so am interested in the topic. My paternal grandfather (a 1909 Citadel graduate) was career Army, commanded an infantry company on the Marne and at Belleau Wood (his battalion commander was Jesse Gaston, USMA '03), earned six campaign clasps in the Third Infantry Division, and later sent three of his sons to become West Point graduates. I've explored the National Archives to study his experiences. My maternal grandfather (a 1914 Virginia Tech graduate) was activated from reserve status in 1917 into an engineer company, trained at Camp Shelby, experienced collisions at sea enroute to France, directed construction supporting airfields near Toul in eastern France, then wrote about visits in Paris after the armistice while President Wilson was in town. John H. Cochran, USMA '15, a great uncle, was in artillery and served with AEF. I know little about his service, but am in touch with his grandchildren. His AOG memorial article from 1978 may help. (It is not yet on-line.) Two of his sons became West Point graduates. Lastly, another great uncle (a 1908 graduate of Washington and Lee) served as a chaplain in France (with the 32d Infantry Division, I believe).

John McMurray, USMA '75

Both my grandfather's wore the WWI Victory Medal. My mother's father, Karl Schmaelzle, a first generation German-American, was an enlisted soldier in A Co, 10th Engineer Bn and served in France. Family lore has it that his unit operated a saw mill. I have his WWI era dog tags. My father's father was a Coast Artillery lieutenant during the war, and served at Fortress Monroe. He was a Norwich grad.

Mark Nelson -USMA '76

My Grandfather Edmund L Daley was Class of 1906 and served in WWI. My Granddaughter, his great great granddaughter, Brianna Burnstad is in the Class of 2015. We are both descendants of Herman John Koehler, the Master of the Sword during WWI who conducted mass formation physical fitness training at various military bases during the war. Colonel Koehler was E.L. Daley's Father-in-Law.

John M. Daley Class 1958. Son of John P. Daley Class of 1931.

My father, Carl Edwin Berg, served with the Wisconsin National Guard in France during WWI. From France he entered the academy and graduated with the class of 1920. Carl served in the 1st Cavalry and the 120th Field Artillery of the Wisconsin National Guard from 16 July 1917 to 1 July 1918 which served in France. He was appointed to West Point from that unit. The 120th Field Artillery came into being on 22 September 1917 at Camp Mac Arthur, Waco, TX, as a part of the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, better known as the Iron Brigade. The 120th Field Artillery Regiment previously had been the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. The history of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry goes back to Civil War days. The 120th Field Artillery, as part of the 57th Brigade continued its training at Camp Mac Arthur, with the 32nd Infantry Division until February 1918, when the entire division was ordered to Europe. The 120th Field Artillery landed at Liverpool, England and then by rail to South Hampton and across the English Channel to Le Havre, France. In France the 120th trained at Camp De Coqtuidan, an old French Artillery Camp. It was here that it was equipped with French 75's and horses. Shortly before the 57th Brigade was ordered to the front in Alsace, the 2nd Battalion of the 120th was sent to Saumur, France with its batteries acting as training batteries for the Saumur Artillery School. The balance of the Battalion arrived in Belfort with the 57th Brigade on 8 June and marched to the front as a part of the 32nd Division, for the first time since leaving Camp Mac Arthur. The 120th Field Artillery went into action in the Chateau-Thierry sector on 1 August 1918 near Rancheros in support of the 32nd Division. After the 32nd Division had taken Juivgay, the 32nd Division was relieved by the 2nd Moroccan Division, which included the famous "French Foreign Legion". The 120th Field Artillery remained on the line in support of the Foreign Legion and helped blast a path for the charge of the Legionnaires. The 120th along with the 57th Brigade, was congratulated for the part they played in this action by the Commanding General of the Moroccan Division, by General Panot, French Corps Commander, and by General Mangin

Corwin Mitchell

I had two: my father Thomas D. Finley (class of 1916) and an Uncle John T. Bissell (1918 - but graduated early I believe). Both later served in WW2 also.

David D. Finley (1955)

My grandfather, MG Walter S. Grant, President, Class of 1900, Cullum number 3957, served in France in WW1.

Philip S. Kennedy-Grant, FAIA/ Class of 1971

Both my Uncle and my step-Grandfather were veterans of WWI. Both are deceased and neither talked much about their experiences. The former's only comment (that I can remember) was that he was "a pilot in the Cavalry" and after a suitable pause in response to the listener's quizzical look he'd explain that ". . . I'd pile-it here; I'd pile-it there, etc. . . ." "Which leads me to believe that he probably was in the rear echelons (no pun intended.) The latter was a member of the American Legion's "40 & 8" - a reference to the number of soldiers and mules respectively that could fit in a French railroad boxcar. The only souvenir that I have of my Uncle's government-paid trip to Europe is a miniature pair of wooden sabots given to my father (his much younger brother) and I believe that my brother has our step-Grandfather's "40 & 8" pin, the history of which can be found at this website: <http://www.fortyandeight.org/history-of-the-408/> . The site refers to 8 horses, although I never heard my step-Grandfather ever refer to that number as representing anything other than mules. The only other reminder of his service in the war was the tattoo on his forearm which he insisted on keeping covered with a long sleeved shirt, even on the hottest summer day. It's hard to know what he might say today after a trip to the grocery store . . . Their names were, respectively Charles L. Ditchendorf and Forrest D. Hurlburt.

Charles R. Ditchendorf, USMA '62 Military Academy Liaison Officer

My great uncle was a rifleman in the US Army. He died in the battle of Chateau-Thierry and is buried in France. His name was John Lawrence McGinley. He was a plumber before being drafted. He was much beloved and sorely missed by his siblings.

Jim Russell

My grandfather (father's side) fought in Europe with the Royal Scots Greys (now known as the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards following amalgamation in early-70s). Participated in a cavalry charge; lost an arm during the war. According to my Dad, he was a scratch golfer with the one arm and a hook

Guy Harris

I am Jim Riffe, '76'. My grandfather, my mother's father, Fred C. Yates fought in WW I. He was in the Signal Corp, laid wire to the forward positions. He was in two campaigns, first at St. Mihiel and concluding with the Meusse Argonne Offensive, where he was gassed, but never allowed himself to be evacuated. In 2012 I visited the battlefield along with a classmate and retraced his steps. Subsequently I self-published a book for my family that told his story, talked about his/our lineage and devoted a chapter to his WW I experience.

Jim Riffe ('76)

My grandmother was an Army nurse in France during WWI. I have her helmet and gas mask and a scrapbook with photos, maps, articles, buttons and ribbons.

Tim Lavelle

A great uncle participated in WWI with the USN. He also participated in the Spanish American War in the USN and WWII with the Merchant Marine (he was one of, if not, the oldest guys serving in WWII). His name was Bert Holloway.

R/ COL(R) Jim "Hawk" Holloway '77

My grandfather -- Charles C. Warner -- was not a West Point grad. He wanted to go to West Point and, by all accounts, was qualified, but his father -- who had immigrated to the US from Germany -- would not sign his papers to apply because he could foresee my grandfather having to fight against the Fatherland (Germany, of course) and because the family left Germany due to its growing militarism. Nevertheless, my grandfather volunteered when war broke out and after he became "of age", not needing his father's permission. He went to France as an enlisted man (Sergeant) was one of our first tankers, and his tank mate was the soon-to-be-famous Hoot Gibson. My grandfather was the primary influence on me (and my three brothers) coming to West Point.

Kasey Warner, COL, USA (Ret.) Class of 1974 (32510)

After lying about his age (he was 16), my grandfather served as a doughboy in WWI. I have a couple of photos if you're interested.

LTC(R) Dan Albert USMA 1988, I-1Cullum #44936



As requested in the 1.29.14 "First Call", regarding information on relatives of West Pointers who served in WWI, I attach two photos of my aunt, Martha Pendleton, from Boston. The first shows her when she led the first group of American nurses to our troops in Europe; the second, during WWII, shows continuing service to our military as a Red Cross volunteer.

Raymond A. Pendleton USMA '62

My grandfather, COL Wallace H. Hastings, 1924, served in WWI and WWII. He is buried at West Point.

Trey Hastings 1989

Both Mother and Father served in France during WWI. Mom was a nurse, and my father was a company first sergeant.

CK Russell, class of 1947

My grandfather was not a West Point graduate; however was a POW during the war. I have the telegram announcing he was missing in action, a POW and a telegram of his release. His name was J. William Hope from Bridgeport, CT. He helped build Bridgeport and was not only influential during WWII helping business and manufacturing in the area, but was summoned to Washington DC as part of a group of CPA's to forecast the federal budget back in the early 50's (when they did this with pencil and paper!).

Matt Forbes Class of '77

My grandfather George Buckley, said he served in the 32nd Infantry Div, Red Arrow and was gassed during the war. He lived in Michigan but his service is a mystery because he stayed in France after the war and many family members believe he was a spy. Not much is known about his youth but he could speak 9 different languages. Some records indicate he was from New York but others indicate he may have immigrated to the USA as youth, maybe as an orphan.

Curtis Cheeseman COL, USA (Ret) WP '80

My father, who was NOT a West Point graduate, served as a Doctor in the First World War. He served as a Captain in England, France and what was then part of Germany.

Will G. Merrill Jr. '58

Both my grandfathers served in Europe during WW I. One was in the Army and I believe was a general's (and other VIP's) driver. The other was a sailor who served aboard a mine sweeper in the English Channel and elsewhere. Neither were WEST POINT graduates.

Rob Gates A-4 1983

My uncle, Carl Roscoe Williams, served with Battery B, 334 Field Artillery in the 87th Division, from September 18, 1917 until January 22, 1918. He received an Honorable Discharge coded SCD, in reference to physical injuries impairing his functions, specifically a broken leg which healed improperly. The 87th Division deployed to France in September of 1917 but I can find no records indicating whether he was or was not with them in France. His final station of discharge was Camp Robinson, Arkansas. I have a copy of the index to his OMPF, and the VA Request for Information completed for the purposes of his death/burial. My wife's grandfather, Charles Vincent Emmanuel Uhlinger, served with Co F, 106 Infantry (Co F, 23 Infantry NYNG prior to being federalized) from September 26, 1917 to May 19, 1919. The 106 Infantry was part of the 53 Infantry Brigade of the 27th Division. He served overseas from May 10 to December 15, 1918. He was wounded in action "severely" September 29, 1918. This information comes from his record in the New York Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919.

James B. Clark '72

My Grandfather, Alexander Francis McAree served with the 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) from March 1915 until June 1919. He was awarded the M.M. (Military Medal) for action at Vimy Ridge (the 85th took the key terrain feature Hill 145). The 85th Highlanders were engaged in the following actions:

1. Vimy
2. The Triangle
3. Ontario Trench
4. Elue dit Leauvette and the Horse Shoe
5. Lens
6. Passchendaele
7. Arleux
8. Fompoux
9. Amiens
10. Arras (Drocourt-Queant Line)
11. Cambrai (Bourlon)
12. Valenciennes
13. Quievrechain
14. Honnelle River

There is a fine book written by one of the Battalion's senior officers: "The Eighty-Fifth in France and Flanders"

LT COL. Joseph Hayes, D.S.O., C.A.M.C.

I knew that my grand-father had served with the Highlanders in the Great War, but until I read the book written by LT COL Hayes, I did not realize how heavily involved the unit was in most of the major engagements in Flanders. I was also a bit astonished that he survived given the casualties that front line units experienced in that conflict. He passed away when I was eight years old so my only memories of him are those of a young boy with a very gentle loving grandfather. My father, who was a WW2 veteran and earned the C.I.B. while with the 130th Regiment (Blackhawks) commanded by West Point grad Col Art Collins (nickname The Ripper), 33rd Infantry Division (Golden Cross), had told me how he always admired the courage of his dad.

James Francis McAree USMA 1983 Co. H-3

My father, COL John J Baker, Inf, rose through the ranks of the Michigan National Guard, was in I Co 339th Infantry in Northern Russia, and decorated with the British George Rex Cross for action that saw him twice wounded. During my June week, '46, he was on crutches after Medivac from North Africa in December 1942 and a year in Walter Reed. Skinny Wainwright introduced himself to my father by class number. My father said, "Johnnie Baker, up through the ranks. You want to make something of it?" GEN Wainwright said, "Good for you." and put his arm around him. My father was to be given his first star on 29 December 1942; but, he was in a vehicle accident in the mountains at night on 26 December. He was integrated into the Regular Army after the war and was the reason I became a soldier.

Francis R Baker

My grandfather on my mother's side, Anton Czerbesz, was born in what is now Timisoara, Romania, but then Temesvar (Hungary) in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After moving around some with his wife, they settled down and lived in Munich, Germany with their 4 kids. When war broke out in 1914, because he was a Hungarian by birth, and because he was in that age-group that were the first to be mobilized in time of war, he had to return to Temesvar to join his Hungarian reserve Army unit. He was a platoon leader in an Infantry company in the 34th Infantry Division of the VII the Hungarian Corps. That Corps was sent to the Serbian Front, and, as close as I can tell, that is where my grandfather was KIA. (note: The Hungarian VII Corps was broken up after arriving on the Serbian front, with some Divisions and the Corps HQs being sent to the Galacian Front, but the 34th Division remained on the Serbian Front. My Grandfather's remains were interred in Temesvar.

Bill Eggering

My paternal grandfather (Robert Campbell "Camel" Lang, Jr.) served with the US Marines (2nd Marine Division?) in France. I do not have much in the way of details other than he participated in the Belleau Woods fight where "we picked off Germans like they were slow-moving targets." He often stated "never go to a hospital, they tend to kill you if you go there." He was wounded at least once and got the flu that killed so many men. He said those who went to the rear for their wounds or for the flu ended up dying. He stayed in the trenches and lived. There is a book written by one of his squad mates entitled "Through the Wheat" that granddad says is very accurate. He claimed several of his exploits are in the book, but was attributed to others, and he remembered most of the incidents described. The only way the author strayed from the truth was that he used some made up names and mixed up who did what so that one could not readily ID one man to one particular incident. Like my father and uncle, he never spoke much about the war and what he did or saw. Only spoke about some of the "good" times he had while in France. His friends and other relatives would on occasion tell stories about him. That's how I have picked up what little I know about his service Over There. By the way; the nickname "Camel" comes not so much from his middle name, but from the fact that he smoked unfiltered Camel cigarettes, starting around the age of 13. He lived well into his eighties even though he was a five or six pack a day smoker and smoked almost up to the day he died. In keeping with his vow to avoid hospitals he let it be known he was born at home, suffered wounds and the flu in France, had an appendectomy at home in the 20's, and not once was taken to a hospital. While in his 80's, still on federal service (local draft board), he went in for his annual physical. He passed with flying colors with the exception of the fact the doctor's x-ray machine was broken. The doctor told him to go across the street to the hospital and get his required X-ray there. Granddad refused, saying, "They only exist to find things that will kill you. I ain't going." When the doc told him he would flunk the physical without it he went albeit against his will. The X-ray showed a growth in one lung. A few months later he died of lung cancer, but not before telling the doctor and the family it was the hospital that did him in.

Robert Campbell Lang IV- USMA Class of 1972

My maternal grandfather served in WWI in the Air Service. He was a sergeant (mechanic) crew chief in an observation squadron. He joined the service shortly after the draft lottery was held in 1917. His squadron was sidetracked to England as part of the Mechanics Agreement. Six months into this, my grandfather was levied out and sent to another squadron on its way to the front. As luck would have it, his squadron moved forward to join the Second Army the day before the Armistice. His unit then remained in France, and eventually spent a brief period on occupation duty in German before redeployment and demobilization. While his story does not include combat, it stands as a good witness to the experiences and details that an average American went through during the mobilization and war.

Charles R. Herrick, '74 (and Son, 1LT Michael Herrick, '12)

My maternal grandfather Emery O'Mallory used to tell me stories of being a tanker in WW1. I most vividly remember him telling me that they wore leather facemasks inside the tank because when a .50 caliber machine gun stuck the outside of the tank, little slivers of steel would spall off the inside of the armor.

Les Leonard

My great Uncle, James D Ogilvie (known to me as Uncle D) was a Marine in WWI. I saw a picture of the 2nd Infantry Division (US Army) in family memorabilia. I believe he was one of the Marines who served with 2 ID. He was a mule skinner who hauled artillery and supplies. When his father died, he dropped out of school in the sixth grade to become the man of the farm. He ran the farm with the help of a black man who lived on the farm and the family mules. He had mules well into the 60's. I remember riding them as a child. His great adventure was to leave the farm and town of College Grove, TN to fight in WWI. He was a Tennessee Volunteer. When he got back, he said he'd seen some of the world, and no place looked better than Middle Tennessee and he wouldn't leave again. The only exception to this was a trip to FL after he retired. That's about all I know about Uncle D's service. The farm is still in the family. It's one of the oldest continuously farmed farms that's been owned by the same family in TN. It was established in the 1790s.

Thomas K. Littlefield, Jr. COL US Army Retired Class of 1975

Both my grandfathers (not West Point grads) and 2 great-uncles (one was USMA, 1915) served in WWI. I've been researching my grandfathers' activities in some detail, so am interested in the topic. My paternal grandfather (a 1909 Citadel graduate) was career Army, commanded an infantry company on the Marne and at Belleau Wood (his battalion commander was Jesse Gaston, USMA '03), earned six campaign clasps in the Third Infantry Division, and later sent three of his sons to become West Point graduates. I've explored the National Archives to study his experiences. My maternal grandfather (a 1914 Virginia Tech graduate) was activated from reserve status in 1917 into an engineer company, trained at Camp Shelby, experienced collisions at sea enroute to France, directed construction supporting airfields near Toul in eastern France, then wrote about visits in Paris after the armistice while President Wilson was in town. John H. Cochran, USMA '15, a great uncle, was in artillery and served with AEF. I know little about his service, but am in touch with his grandchildren. His AOG memorial article from 1978 may help. (It is not yet on-line.) Two of his sons became West Point graduates. Lastly, another great uncle (a 1908 graduate of Washington and Lee) served as a chaplain in France (with the 32d Infantry Division, I believe).

John McMurray, USMA '75

My father, James Lamar Appleton, Sr., was an aviator in WWI. He trained with the First Provisional Air Wing, after dropping out of the University of Alabama less than two months before graduating with a degree in education. He learned to fly at Fort McPherson, Georgia before transferring to Texas. When the First Provisional Air Wing departed for France, my father along with a handful of others remained behind as cadre and instructor pilots for the Second Provisional Air Wing, stationed at Park Place, (now Hobby Airport) Houston, Texas. The Second Provisional Air Wing was on the way to France when the Armistice was signed, so returned to Park Place for mustering out of most personnel. My father was retained for a period of time as a test pilot of the Super Jenny as a candidate aircraft for the US Air Postal Service. That aircraft was not selected and my father declined the regular commission he was offered, as his ambition was to become an educator of American youth.

JAMES L APPLETON (Cullum Number: 19029)

My grandfather, PVT Theodore "Teddy" Schroder, served in France in 1918. He was assigned to B/319th Machine Battalion, in the 82nd (All American) Infantry Division. His battalion commander, LTC Emory Pike (USMA 1901), was killed in action, and later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions that resulted in his death. I believe LTC Pike was the only USMA grad awarded the CMH in WWI. My grandfather served with the 82nd in both the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. My youngest son is named Theodore "Teddy" Schroder, after his great-grandfather.

Robert Schroder- USMA 1988

My maternal grandfather, 1LT Miles W. Middough, served in WWI. He enlisted on 6/12/17, joining the U.S. Army Ambulance Service, while a college student at UC Berkeley in California. He was commissioned a 1LT on 3/23/18, during training at Camp Crane, Allentown, PA. His unit was among the first U.S. troops shipped to Italy. His Section consisted of 36 men and 13 ambulances. He was decorated by the Italian government for actions on 8/17/18 while assigned to Section 563, 14th Division. He was discharged 4/25/19 at Camp Dix, NJ. He was not a graduate of West Point, but he was one of the people who inspired me to serve. Unfortunately he passed away while I was still in high school – prior to entering the Academy. (His decoration was presented to him after the war, in 1927, and was signed by the then Italian Minister of Defense, Benito Mussolini.)

George Greenlee '76 LTC, USAR, Ret.



My father, Harry Jeremiah Dritt, served honorably in WWI. He was working as an Electrical Engineer when he entered the US Army in at age 24. He was inducted on October 23, 1917 at Fort Thomas, Ky. and was a non-commissioned officer with the rank of Sergeant First Class. He served in WWI in the Balloon Corps. in France serving six months at the front with the Fourteenth Balloon company. He was wounded and spent two months in Base Hospital No. 43., Toul, France. He recovered and was sent home to the USA and discharged. These are copies of him in uniform circa 1918. He was discharged at Camp Sherman, Ohio, March 3, 1919. "Paid in full \$89.22." DOB December, 1893, Cass County, Logansport, Indiana. Died c.June, 1965, VA hospital in Florida of Alzheimer's Disease.

James & Ann Dritt

My grandfather, Nathaniel Jones, served as an enlisted man in WWI. Unfortunately, his service records were destroyed in the fire and his personal records were destroyed in a house fire in 1926. He passed in 1959. Thus, all information we have of him is based on family tradition. However, we understand he was a baker in the Quartermaster Corps. We understand he trained at Camp Merritt, NJ, and served in the 307th Bakery Company, which we believe was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. We are not sure when he deployed to Europe, but was there for the final campaigns and occupation. Attached is a photo of him in uniform.

Phil Jones

My grandfather, George Francis Metcalf, served in the 42nd ID in France during WW I as an enlisted man. Per family records: He was discharged as a SFC. He later served in the USAR reaching the rank of Major. He is not a grad. He is the grandfather of two USMA grads, Metcalf '71 and Metcalf '86 and 1 USNA grad, Metcalf '68. Three sons served on active duty during WW II in the Pacific Theater. His fourth son is a Navy Veteran. Other grandsons and great grandsons have served on active duty. His wife Jean, had two brothers who served with the Royal Canadian Army in WW I. Robert Edward Hill was killed in action at the Battle of Sanctuary Woods. William Laurie Hill was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele. Both are buried in Belgium.

PD - Metcalf '71

My grandfather, Donald A. Fox, joined the USMC in Dec 1917 and was w/67 Co, 5th Marine Regt. He served in the Verdun Sector from March 1918 to May 1918 and Chateau-Thierry from May 1918 to June 1918, wounded at Chateau-Thierry in June 1918. He was honorably discharged in April 1919 as a Corporal.

Scott Kearby '78

Although not a West Point graduate, my grandfather Clayton Harry Hoffman served as a lieutenant in World War I in the 311th Field Artillery Regiment, American Expeditionary Forces. He was a graduate of Dickinson College and Dickinson School of Law.

David Hoffman USMA '81

My grandfather, Frank Elmo Keechi was born in 1893 and served in WWI in the Artillery. He was in the battle of Belleau Woods in 1918 and awarded a medal, given to him by Gen Pershing. His brother George also fought in WWI, a link to him at

http://image1.findagrave.com/photos/2008/178/27874494_121462460339.jpg His grave lists his WWI service. My grandfather is a Delaware and always believed in serving his country. He lived a long life of nearly 100 years.

Frank Keechi

My paternal Grandfather, Maurice Edmund Sr, was a Private in the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One), during World War I. He served as a Medic, was wounded multiple times and awarded the Order of the Purple Heart. He was engaged in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, 12 - 19 Sep 1918, where the Americans defeated the Germans. He was also engaged in the Battle of Meuse Argonne Forest, 26 Sep - 11 Nov 1918, which was the largest American Expeditionary Force (AEF) action of the war, and an Allied victory.

Maurice "Ed" Hudson, III

Here is the information on my grandfather who fought in WWI. The information is from his "Enlistment Record."

Name: Earl Roy Best

Inducted May 25, 1918 at Minneapolis, Kansas.

Noncommissioned officer: Cpl 7/27/1919, 447 Depot Detachment Engrs

Battles, engagement, skirmishes, expeditions: AEF

Vocation: Farmer

Character: Excellent

Remarks: Left U.S. Aug 16, 1918, Victory Button (Bronze) issued Arrived U.S. Sept 19, 1919

Discharged at Camp Dodge, Iowa 28 Sept 1919

The Enlistment Record does not give a military specialty but I believe Earl was a supply or quartermaster troop. Earl's Discharge says his last assignment was with Co. C, 34th Engr.

Patrick N. Johnson, Col (ret), USMA 1974

I'm proud to say that my great grandfather, Harry W. Hays, was with Co. E of the U.S. Army's 13th Engineer Regiment. It was a unit full of railroad men, as the following article explains: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1990-05-27/news/9002130238_1_newsletter-second-world-war-future-wars My great grandfather was from the small rural town of Lawton, Iowa. During the war, he served in the Champaign Sector from Aug to Sept 1917; in the Verdun Sector from Sept 1917 to Oct 1918; and finally Argonne from Oct 1918 to Nov 11, 1918. His son, Jack Hays, went on to serve as a Navy corpsman for the 1st Marine Division at Guadalcanal in 1942.

Tom Devane

My Dad, Harry (NMI) Seigle enlisted in the 37th Ohio, the Buckeye Division and deployed to France. Made it as far as Verdun; contracted Scarlet Fever and was returned to the US. Fathered three sons; John William (Class of 1953) retired as MG; deceased; Robert Nicholson (Class of 1966) retired as COL and Thomas Richard (USNA Class of 1965) medically retired 1972 as Lt.

Bob Seigle

I have a brief Bio I asked my Dad to put together soon after I arrived at West Point in the summer of 1956. Since I was only 6 when he retired, I knew little about his Army career, especially WW I, even though he left a recording in May 1942, leaving me, at age 3, as head of the family (but you must obey your mother...drats). I have attached said Bio and am very thankful he responded to my request, since he passed away in November 1956. If there is anything else I can add, I will be glad to do so. He was in Patton's C&GSS class and I have a picture of the entire class. You may note in the Bio, that my Dad and Mom lived apart for some time. She was pursuing her opera career in Europe, my Dad his Army career here in the states. Mom was one of the two entertainers for FDR's first Inaugural, where she presented parts of her One-Woman show. A collection of songs and dances she assembled while Dad was serving as Military Attache. It also included a poem that Queen Marie had written for Mom to present in her show.

Emer Yeager

My grandfather, PVT George H. Jenkins, served in France in WWI. He was not a graduate of West Point, but kept a journal so I am able to follow his footsteps throughout. I even have some pictures. He was a horse mounted military policeman who served in the famous 29th Infantry Division.

John Simar '72

My great uncle Corporal Aime Gagne, Company K, 23rd U. S. Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division was killed in action late afternoon 6 June 1918 at Belleau Wood, France. Some 75 soldiers died in this hurried attack against a formidable German position by the 3rd Battalion. The attack was intended to relieve pressure on the division's Marine Brigade. Corporal Gagne's family was from Beuce in Quebec. He was living in Lewiston, Maine when he enlisted. He was 28 at the time he entered into permanent duty in France. Aime's brother Arthur also served in the Army in WW I but did not deploy. His younger brothers Joseph, Romeo and Alphonse served in the Army in WW II. Joseph, a sergeant at the time, was wounded in the Philippines. An interesting post script, 59 years later, two of Corporal Gagne's grandnephews served in the 2nd Infantry Division. My brother and I were both members of the division in 1973. My brother served as the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry.

Tom Rozman, Class of 1970



I have three, I am proud to say, but saddened by the loss of life of one of them. Of course, it was a great tragedy all the way around with much senseless destruction and death. My paternal grandfather was Raymond H. Kirchner and served in the NJ National Guard before being drafted into active duty. He served out the end of the war in Texas and then returned to NJ for a full life. My maternal grandfather was Andreas Lippert who was born in 1880. Not much chance for lying about his age and since he was no youngster he was spared the trenches. He was a farmer by profession and therefore a teamster. He drove a supply wagon which was horse drawn, of course. He survived to raise a family and see the end of another war. My maternal grand uncle was Josef Sammer and his young life was ended during the last months of the Battle of Verdun. It was another senseless waste of young men whose fates were decided by old men who would not have to face the fear and consequences of their

decisions. My German relatives mentioned herein were from Bavaria and served in those units, although I have no specific information on branches or regiments.

S. Kirchner -USMA 1974

My great uncle served in WWI. He was not a graduate of USMA, but he served in 1917 and 1918. His name was Rance Arthur Lynch from Marion, KY, (12/22/1894 - 12/14/1951), and he may have been a corporal in the infantry. I have not yet determined the unit he served with overseas. Although I did not know him, my maternal grandmother was his sister. She told us that she and her sister used to refer to him only as "Brother" and that he hardly ever spoke of his war service. However, my grandmother stated that he had to kill a German soldier who had been sent to the same tree that Uncle Arthur had been sent to in order to overwatch the battlefield. The story goes that the German soldier was already in the tree and that both were surprised to see the other. When she asked him if he had to kill the German, Uncle Arthur merely stated: "Well, I came back alive." Uncle Arthur was also gassed in 1918 and experienced associated health issues for the rest of his life. He was treated by the VA hospital in Memphis at one point late in his life. My wife and I found a letter that that he had written to his mother, which stated that he recalled sending her a birthday card from his training site at Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, KY, in 1918.

MG Robert J. Williamson -USA (Ret) -Class of 1973