314TH INFANTRYMEN ARRIVE AT CAMP DIX

Real Fighting Men of 79th Division Glad to Be Home

NEVER LEARNED RETREAT

The 314th Infantry, the first real fighting unit of the Seventy-ninth Division to return to this country—"the regiment that never retreated"—is resting quietly at Camp Dix today, the men happy in the exchange of a bit of wartorn France for the peaceful serenity of central New Jersey.

The 310th Machine-Gun Battalion and the 304th Field Signal Battalion, both of the same division, also are at Camp Dix. All three units arrived at New York yesterday aboard the transport Princess Matoika, and were landed and sent to the Jersey cantonment immediately after eating.

The 310th Field Artillery regiment was on board the transport Tiger, which docked at New York a few hours after the Princess Matoika. But those few hours were enough to do away with any possibility of entraining for Dix yesterday, and the men were forced to spend another uncomfortable night on shipboard. They left New York for Camp Dix this morning. None of the men will be given passes until after the sanitary regulations are fulfilled.

The doughboys of the 314th formed a real fighting unit. Emblazoned on their record of honor are dearly purchased victories at Malancourt, Montfaucon and Nantillois, as well as lesser victories at many other places. The regiment had 1300 casualties while abroad, 300 of them being deaths.

Ignorant of Retreat

"Those boys don't know how to retreat," Colonel W. H. Ourv, a regular army officer, who commanded the unit, said this morning as he looked over his outfit. "They never even made a strategic retreat. When they went at a thing they just kept everlastingly hammering until they got it."

"Huh! I never heard of him saying anything about retreating, and he was right out there with us all the time," a big sergeant who happened to overhear the colonel's remarks said. "Why, he took more chances than any of us, and then he says we never retreated. We couldn't unless we left him flat fighting the whole German army.

"And we couldn't do that, could we?" he asked simply.

The 310th Artillery was not so fortunate. The men who arrived on the Tiger have one great grievance.

The war ended too soon, they say.

For months they studied, and after finally mastering their weapons were moving up to the front when the armistice was signed. They were awaiting transportation to take part in the bombardment of Metz when the armistice put an end to the fighting.

Sane Praise

But they were fighting men and the French credited them with being the best outfit on the practice ranges of any they saw. One French officer put it, according to Chaplain W. J. Munster: "You are the equal of any French artillery regiment."

"And that is some praise," added Father Munster.

Brigadier General Andrew Hero, Jr., commander of the 154th Field Artillery Brigade, of which the 310th is a part, came in on the Princess Matoika. He is a regular army officer, and his home is in Maryland.

He had with him as adjutant Major Arthur E. Newbold, Jr., of Chestnut Hill. Lieutenant Fitz E. Newbold, brother of the major, commanded the headquarters detachment which returned with General Hero. Aides to the general were Lieutenant William Corcoran, of Jenkintown, and Lieutenant D. G. Buchanan, of Pittsburgh.

"That's a funny question. Why, I just did it. That is all."

The infantry, machine gun and field signal outfits were replete with heroes. Croix de Guerre were numerous and there were several wearers of the Distinguished Service Cross. General Hero paid tribute to them all.

"The Seventy-ninth Division was a cracker-jack and General Pershing said so himself," the brigade commander declared. "They fought their way well and I am only sorry we were not all in the thick of it."

As he was leaving the boat General Hero was handed orders to proceed to Fort Hamilton, New York, where he will assume command.

Modest One Greatest

One of the modest heroes of the whole lot was among the greatest. He is Private Clifford M. Seiders, of 109 North Fifty-fifth street, Philadelphia, a member of the machine-gun company of the 314th Infantry.

What did he do? Why he merely took twenty-two Germans prisoners and captured eight machine guns as part of one afternoon's work. He was only sorry it took two trips to a dugout to accomplish the trick and he had to kill another German instead of bringing him in alive. Asked how he did it, young Seiders grinned and said:

But his companions furnished the details. On September 26, at Malancourt, a number of machine-gun nests were bothering the 314th Infantry. Seiders went out in advance of his company all by himself. He came across a nest and cleaned it out.

One German raised a revolver to kill him. Seiders was quicker on the trigger than his antagonist, and the German fell dead. Twelve others in the nest threw up their hands and surrendered when they saw their leader fall. Others fled to a dugout.

Seiders took his prisoners back to his company and then returned for the others. He forced them to carry the machine guns back with them. All this was done with nothing but a steel nerve and a service revolver.

And for this Seiders wears the D. S. C. At least, he carries it in a box in his breast pocket and had to be urged to pin it on his coat so a picture could be taken showing the decoration.

Another D. S. C. man was Captain Fred A. Muhlenberg, of Reading, adjutant of the 314th. He could not be persuaded to tell of the actions that led to the decoration.

Captain John M. Bonbright, commander of Company B, 314th Machine-gun Battalion, boasts three Distinguished Service Cross wearers in his company. Captain Bonbright's home is at Sixteenth and Spruce streets, Philadelphia, and before going to France he was state editor of the North American. He took command of the battalion for a month following the gassing of Major John L. Evans, of Haverford, on November 4, at Vacherauville. Major Evans returned home some time ago.

Private Dwight Lemon, of Baltimore, a strapping fellow of six feet or more in his stocking feet, is one of the three heroes.

On November 6, at Hill 378, Company B was nearly famished for water. The supply had run short many hours before, and besides there was no food. Lemon was watching a shell go by. As it landed water spurted from the ground. The shell had opened a fresh spring.

Got Eighteen Canteens

Lemon gathered up eighteen canteens, carried them under shellfire 100 yards or more and brought them back filled. This meant the addition of more than sixty pounds to his equipment, which weighed about seventy-five pounds without the canteens.

Lemon did not stop at the first trip, but continued all the afternoon. He also managed to find food for the outfit. On one trip to the spring Lemon found two men so severely wounded they could not walk, but were able to use their hands. Lemon carried these men to the spring, where they filled the canteens while Lemon carried them.

In addition to the D. S. C., Lemon wears the French war cross. Both are for the same action.

A peculiar hero is Captain John P. Flood, of Company C, 304th Field Signal Battalion. He is a regular army officer and his home is in Baltimore. "For hiding in a dugout," was his explanation of the presence of the Croix de Guerre ribbon on his coat. That was all he would say, except "they had them around for anything over there."

His boys said different, however. On September 27, in the Argonne, a commissioned officer was called for to carry a message through a barrage it was thought no man could stand. Captain Flood did it.

First Sergeant Joseph L. Mulligan, of 2135 South Second street, told of the other heroes in the outfit. There were many of them, it seems, but only three won decorations—the Croix de Guerre. All were awarded for the same action.

The winners were Private Nate McDermott, of Wheeling, W. Va.; Private William J. Scott, of Hamilton, Ind., and Private John H. Foster, of Maryland.

During the fighting in the Argonne the three men laid a telephone line to within 100 feet of the German trenches—so close they could hear the Germans talking. They telephoned back what they saw and heard. And for twenty-four hours they kept the line going, patrolling it and repairing breaks caused by shell fire.

Sergeant Mark T. Pattie, of 1951 Judson street, is among the Philadelphians in Company C. He was a linotype operator for the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER before he was drafted. When he went to France he not only fought but helped entertain his fellows with cartoons. He traveled over a large part of France with a theatrical troupe from the 304th Field Signal Battalion amusing doughboys and artillerymen with his pictures.

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