

# "LOST" BATTALION REACHES NEW YORK

Many Stories of Heroism Mark Arrival of 79th Soldiers—Few Philadelphians Aboard

**OFFICERS FAVOR PARADE**

By a Staff Correspondent  
New York, May 28.—The first unit of the Seventy-ninth Division to go into action—the "lost" 312th Machine Gun Battalion—returned home today, landing at Bush Terminal at 7:30 o'clock this morning from the troopship Edward Luckenbach.

The transport brought home 2347 oficers and men. The ship arrived last night, but too late for the men to disembark. Besides the 312th under command of Major J. F. Taylor, of Pittsburgh, the 311th Field Artillery, commanded by Colonel Charles T. Moore, of Washington, D. C., was aboard the Luckenbach.

**Few Philadelphians Aboard**

There were but a few Philadelphians on the Luckenbach. Most of the men in the 312th Machine Gun Battalion came from upstate towns, among them Conshohocken, Norristown, Wilkes Barre and Scranton, with a sprinkling of men from Washington, D. C.

The 312th was waited anxiously, because of the uncertainty about its return. It has been reported erroneously to be coming home on the transport Virginia, which arrived at Newport News last Sunday.

The 312th, according to officers who returned on the Luckenbach, has been selected by the authorities for the honor of supply a name to one of the machine gun battalions in the new army. This is in recognition of the battalion's services in some of the hottest actions of the war.

September 20 the 312th reached the high water mark of the Seventy-ninth Division's advance at Nantillois, in the Montfaucon sector. In the bitter fighting of November 4 to 6, east of the Meuse, it supported the 316th Infantry in its famous attack on Hill 378.

The landing of the Seventy-ninth Division was witnessed by Brigadier General Otto Rosenbaum, formerly of the 315th Infantry—Philadelphia's 47th.

General Rosenbaum returned to the same dock at the Bush Terminal on another ship, the Santa Paula. He came home in command of the 39th Infantry of the Seventy-eighth Division, made up of New Jersey troops. He had been with the Seventy-ninth Division until the last moment of sailing from this country, when he was transferred to the Eighty-seventh, was attached to that division on the other side during the war, and after the armistice was sent to the Seventy-eighth.

**Greeted by Relatives**

A party of relatives of the men on the Luckenbach went down the river to meet them. The transport was given a cordial reception, the welcoming boat being decked with flags and banners, many of them bearing the names of towns in the Pennsylvania coal fields, whence came the majority of the soldiers.

Although Mayor Smith was forced to return to Philadelphia before the Luckenbach docked, Lieutenant J. C. Bradley, of the Philadelphia school board committee, was present at the disembarkation. Lieutenant Bradley conferred with officers of the returning

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units on the plans for a parade of the Seventy-ninth.

**Officers in Favor of Parade**

Officers of both the 312th Machine Gun Battalion and the 311th Field Artillery said they were in favor of holding a parade. The men themselves were not enthusiastic about it, making it clear that they were anxious to get out of the service and return home.

Colonel Mortimer, in command of the 311th Field Artillery, and a regular army man of eighteen years' service, gave high praise to the selective service men as fighters, saying that they made the ideal soldiers; that he was proud of them, and that they could not have been better. His command was not in action, having spent all their time in training areas in France. They lost seventeen men by influenza and one, Private Reynolds, of Scranton, by accident, when a gun exploded.

The 312th Machine Gun Battalion won the honor of being the first unit of the Seventy-ninth in action when Companies A and C were sent in to receive the French on September 13, in Sector 204. This was at Montfaucon. They held machine-gun posts in the line until September 25. A day later the machine-gun battalion was placed in support of the 315th and 316th Infantry Regiments, remaining in that capacity until after the capture of Montfaucon. Later the battalion was sent up the line to do offensive barrage duty, and fought from Nantillois to the Madelon Farm, the farthest point reached by the Seventy-ninth in the early offensive.

**Sent to the Meuse**

After doing outpost duty in the Crotoy sector from October 18 to 25, and repelling three German trench raids, they were sent to the heights of the Meuse, through Verdun and Forges Woods and took a defensive position south of the famous Hill 378.

The 312th was in this position November 3 when the attack on this key position of the German line was launched. By a brilliant piece of strategy, Brigadier General Egan Johnson turned the German attack by swinging the direction of his whole division from north to east and drove the Germans seven kilometers. The machine-guns fought on through Warville and Gihery to the Cote de Romaine, where they were still fighting when the armistice was signed.

In the terrific fighting for Hill 378 the machine-guns kept up a constant barrage with the Browning automatics. The fighting was at such close quarters for a time that they had to keep their machine-guns and use their automatic pistols. The hill was taken with heavy loss on the third charge. The machine-guns blasted German snipers out of trees on top of the hill, and cut up the famous Death's Head Hussars, the German Crown Prince's own regiment.

**Two Awarded D. S. C.**

Two of the men in the 12th were decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross. Neither returned on the Luckenbach. One of the men was Addison Milgram, a Philadelphian, who

served as a runner. General Johnson, who himself was given the Croix de Guerre for the brilliant strategy of the attack on Hill 378, used Milgram to get information when other scouts had failed. The Philadelphian's bravery under fire and ability to bring in information concerning the German defenses won him the Distinguished Service Cross.

Lieutenant Ralph S. Brown, of Washington, D. C., adjutant of the 312th, related that the battalion had been fourteen days under fire. There were 178 casualties, forty-three of the men being killed. Captain H. C. Youmans, of Ardmore, came home in command of Company A. His company lost thirteen men in ten minutes at Hill 378.

**Raid Dugout for Food**

Lieutenant Brown related today how the men of his company raided a German dugout for food after firing ceased on November 11. The Germans had retired, and the hungry machine-guns found there a Christmas box well filled with food, which they made haste to consume.

Lieutenant Brown saw Major William S. Manning, son of the governor of South Carolina, fall when landing his men in the attack on Hill 378. Major Manning was waving his cane and shouting "Come on, boys" when a sniper's bullet struck him. The men of the 312th, Lieutenant Brown said, made a coffin and provided decent burial for Major Ward Pierson, former professor at the University of Pennsylvania, who was killed in the same fight. Lieutenant Brown helped bury the body. He said Major Pierson had been hit by a high explosive shell.

**DR. GEORGE HODGES DIES**

Religious Author Was Dean of Episcopal Theological School

Boston, May 28.—Dr. George Hodges, dean of the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, Mass., since 1894, died yesterday in his sixty-third year. From 1881 to 1889 he was assistant rector of Calvary Church at Pittsburgh, and was rector from 1889 until he was elected dean of the theological school.

Doctor Hodges was probably more widely known as an author, among his books being "The Episcopal Church," "Christianity Between Sundays," "The Heresy of Cain," "In This Present World," "Faith and Social Service," "The Battles of Peace," "The Path of Life," "William Penn," "Fountains Abbey," "The Human Nature of the Saints," "When the King Came," "The Cross and Passion," "Three Hundred Years of the Episcopal Church in America," "The Happy Family," "The Pursuit of Happiness," "The Year of Grace," "Holiness," "The Apprenticeship of Washington," "The Garden of Eden," "The Training of Children in Religion," "A Child's Guide to the Bible," "Every Man's Religion," "Saints and Heroes."

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The Langley bill has been referred to the pensions committee.

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