

The Polar Bears

In the annals of Michigan history, one of the most unique and fascinating episodes is that of the men who fought as part of the Northern Russian Expeditionary Force during WWI. The members of the 339th infantry, 310th Engineers and 337th Medical Corps were known as the "Polar Bears," due to their service during the winter of 1918-19. They suffered great hardships, deprivations, harsh conditions and great loss but were proud of their service to their country. Over 100 men from the Upper Peninsula served in the Polar Bears and almost all of them were 1st generation Americans, some not even yet citizens. They represented the great social and ethnic diversity of the U.P. during the 1910s. Some would give the ultimate sacrifice, some were decorated for their service and others simply lived to tell the tale. This is their story.



Image courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.



Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Acknowledgements:

This exhibition would not be possible without the assistance of the following people and institutions, many of whom have been keeping the memory of the Polar Bears alive for several decades.

Polar Bear Memorial Association
Mike Grobbel

Bentley Historical Library,
University of Michigan

Michigan's Own Military
& Space Museum
John Auger

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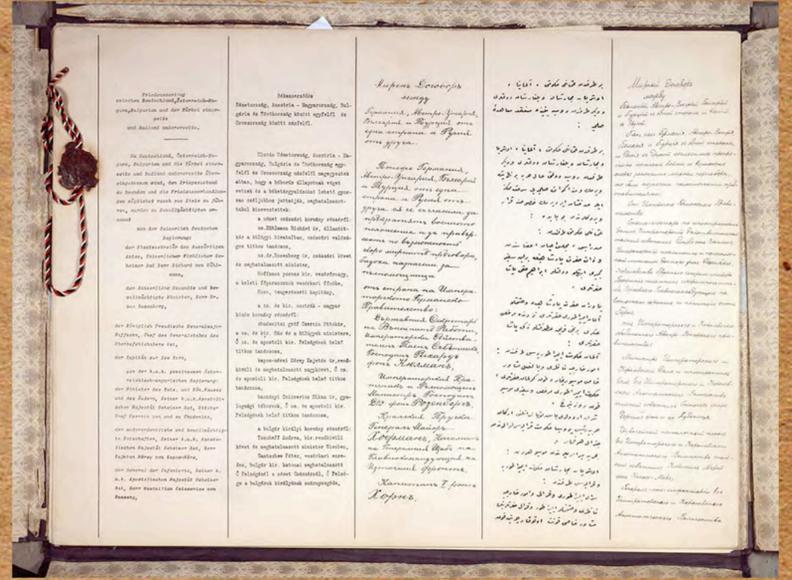
Russian Conflict Begins

In September of 1918, the "Great War" was beginning to wind down in Europe. Germany was collapsing and its weary army could no longer hold on to its claims in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. But just as the Western Front was coming to its eventual conclusion two months later, a new theatre was opening up for American soldiers.

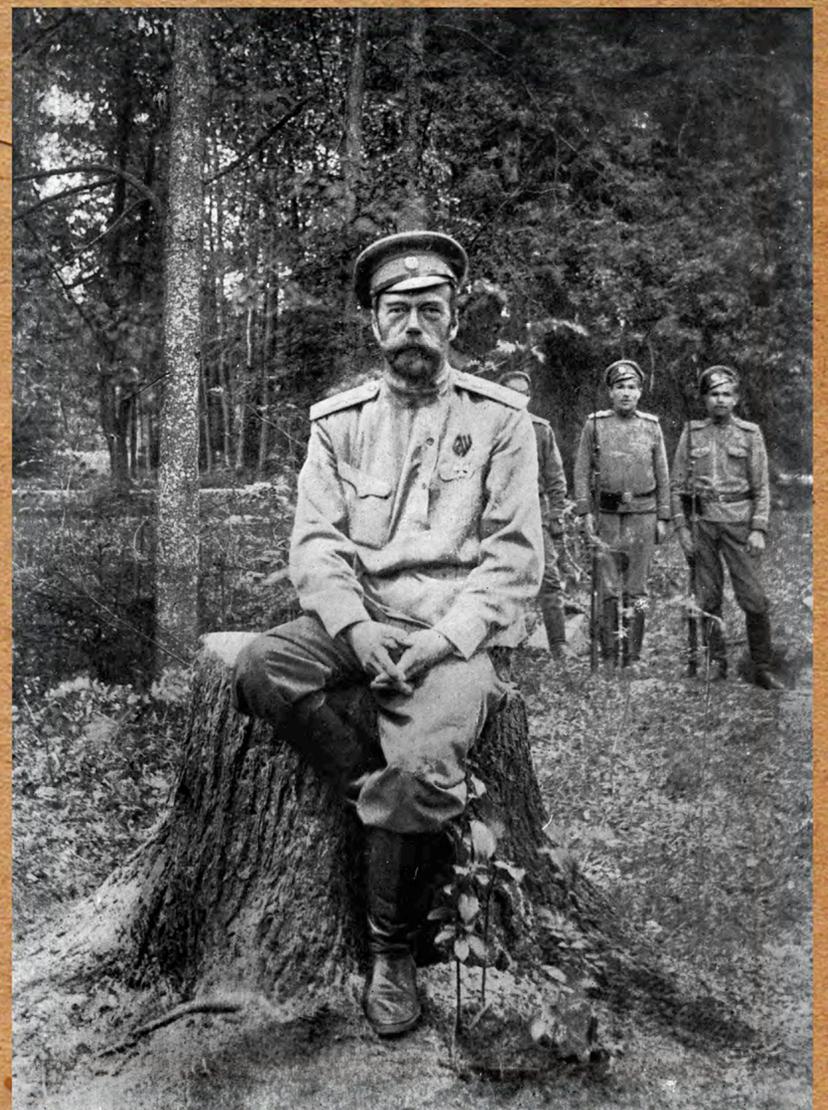
In that same month, the 339th Infantry and 310th Engineering Division arrived in England, expecting to be sent to France to help the war effort. However, by the time they arrived at their camp outside of London, political forces had already decided they would be going to a new location. Far in the north of Russia, a sideshow of the "Great War" was playing out that would soon envelope these two divisions.

Russia had been one of the allies during the beginning of the conflict, but after the October Revolution in 1917 the new government in Russia decided to end its front against Germany and the two powers signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918. England and France were concerned about the Germans no longer having to fight a war on two fronts and that the arms they had given the Russians would fall into the hands of their enemy. However, the English were also aghast at the Bolshevik takeover of Russia and wished to help White Russians to assist Czar Nicholas II (who was the first cousin of King George V of England) with reclaiming his throne.

British and French troops were already fighting in Russia when the American troops were given new orders to embark for Newcastle, England and then be transported to Murmansk and Archangel, Russia, to take part in this theatre of battle.



Above - The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk which ended hostilities between Russia and Germany. Left - Russian and German representatives discuss terms of armistice.



Czar Nicholas II - In the custody of Russia's revolutionary government after his abdication in March 1917.

Michigan's Own



Photographer Arthur Mole travelled to military bases around the U.S. in 1918, creating photographs of patriotic symbols created with the help of soldiers on the base. Here is a photo of soldiers at Camp Custer, which most certainly includes members of the Polar Bears. Mole had soldiers at other bases pose in the shape of the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty and even the face of President Woodrow Wilson. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.



Officers from the 339th Infantry, studying French before their deployment to Europe. Little did they know at this time that they would be shipped to Russia instead and wouldn't get to use their French schools until they were stationed in France for a brief period on their way home from the conflict. Image courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

The soldiers who comprised the Northern Russian Expeditionary Force were part of the U.S. Army's 85th Division, which included the 339th Infantry Regiment, the 1st Battalion of the 310th Engineers, the 337th Ambulance Co. and the 337th Field Hospital. The 85th Division was mustered in at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. For this reason, many of the soldiers were enlistees or draftees from the State of Michigan and over 100 of them were from the Upper Peninsula. There were also many from other Midwestern states and other parts of the country, but the divisions that were sent to Russia would soon be known as Michigan's Own or Detroit's Boys.

In the Spring and Summer of 1918, thousands of young men began arriving at Camp Custer for their basic training in the U.S. Army. Besides learning the techniques of firing a weapon and hand-to-hand combat, soldiers would mostly remember the long arduous marches through the Lower Michigan countryside. In July, the troops were finally mobilized after weeks of training and found themselves on trains headed for Detroit and further east. They arrived at Camp Mills on Long Island on July 15th and would set sail for Europe from New York on July 21st.

On August 2nd, the 85th Division arrived in Liverpool and was split up and sent to different encampments. Most were sent to Camp Aldershot near Brookwood, Surrey (about 15 miles southwest of London). For the next few weeks, they took part in training exercises, preparing for their departure to France. However, their officers were soon informed that plans had changed and that parts of the 85th Division were going to be sent to Northern Russia. Soldiers were given new Nogent rifles, which they felt were inferior to the Enfields they had trained on. They also were given new boots, known as "Shackleton Boots" since they were the same kind Sir Ernest's men wore on their ill-fated expedition to Antarctica.

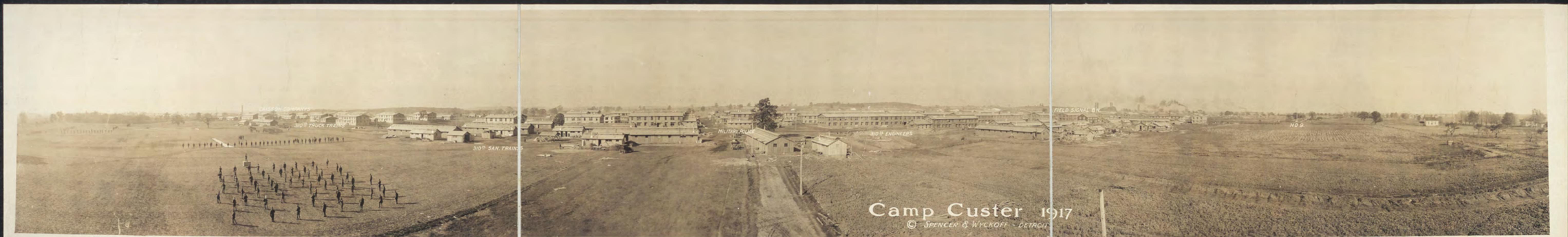
The American Northern Russia Expedition Force would be under the command of Col. George E. Stewart, who received the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Spanish-American War in the Philippines. The 339th was chosen for the Russian mission due to Stewart's experience with winter war tactics that he learned while stationed in Alaska, rather than the often repeated myth that it was because the majority of the soldiers came from the Upper Midwest.



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FUNK BROTHERS, Battle Creek, Mich.



DEPOT BRIGADE RECRUIT CAMP, 1500 Tents, CAMP CUSTER.



Camp Custer 1917

© SPENCER & WYCKOFF - DETROIT



MILITARY REVIEW. CAMP CUSTER. NOVEMBER 9, 1917.



CAMP CUSTER - MICHIGAN

PHOTOGRAPHED FROM KITES - CAMERA ELEVATED 500 FEET



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Col. George E. Stewart (left) with Maj. J. Brooks Nichols (right) inspecting a mortar company at Verst 444 along the Volgogda - Archangel Railway.
Image courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.



Camp Aldershot

There are no known photographs of American troops at Camp Aldershot near Surrey, England, which was a major staging and training area for American troops on their way to Europe. The 339th Infantry was stationed there before they left for Newcastle-on-Tyne, where they left on their sea journey to Northern Russia. Here are photographs of British recruits training at Camp Aldershot. The conditions for the 339th would have been much the same. Images are courtesy of the Library of Congress.



North to Russia

On August 26th, the American Northern Russian Expeditionary Force left the Newcastle-on-Tyne docks en route to Murmansk and Archangel, Russia. The soldiers from the 85th division loaded onto three British ships, the flagship "Somali", the "Nogoya" and the "Tydeus." The ships sailed north around Norway and then into the White Sea.

The men were used to sailing across seas, but these ships were hardly as comfortable as the ones they sailed in from America. The cramped quarters had little to no airflow and there were very meager cooking facilities. Seasickness on the rough waters of the North and White Sea took its toll on all the soldiers. However, once at sea an even bigger problem began to surface. While in England, several of the troops had contracted the "Spanish Flu" which had already been killing thousands in Europe (eventually 20 - 40 million people worldwide would die during this epidemic). The doctors quickly tried to separate the infected soldiers but due to cramped quarters and lack of proper medical supplies, it quickly spread. Soon hundreds on board the vessels were infected and by the time they had reached Archangel, dozens of soldiers had perished.



The transport ships arrived in Archangel on September 5th, but rather than docking in the city, they docked across the Dvina River in Barkaritzza (probably in part to avoid contaminating the local populace with the flu). The sick soldiers were than billeted in makeshift hospitals and the other soldiers prepared to embark on their appointed missions. On September 6th, the first troops began to disembark on their way to destinations unknown and for reasons even more obscure.

Images courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.



28602

28602 Convoy of the three ships which carried first American troops to Russia. Left to right: H.M.T. Somali, flagship; H.M.T. Tydeus; and H.M.T. Nagoya. Barkharitzza, Russia. Sept. 6, 1918.

The Five Fronts

The original orders given by President Woodrow Wilson was for the American troops to protect supplies and arms that had been sent to Russia from being captured by the Red Army and also to protect civilians from any advancing armies. However, while in Russia, the American troops were under the command of the British Army, which had very different goals. They had been actively engaging the Red Army with the assistance of White Russian, French, Polish, and Canadian troops. The goals of the conflict had changed. The British wanted to connect with Czech troops that had been fighting in Russia during the European conflict and were trying to make their way to the Pacific so that they could sail home. There was also an American/British expedition in Eastern Russian making its way west along the Trans-Siberian railroad. The final goal was to bring all these forces together and attack Moscow, ending the Bolsheviks power over the country.

In order to do this, there were five fronts created in Northern Russia. The first three started along the Dvina River, which ended at Archangel after crossing hundreds of miles across the interior. At one point, this split into three fronts: one along the Dvina, another along the Emtsa, and the last along the Vaga River. The fourth front was along the Onega River, which was further west of Archangel and the fifth was along the Vologda-Archangel Railroad which connected Archangel to Moscow.

For the troops assigned to the Dvina Front, this meant traveling up river in barges to their destinations. These often were coal barges, which did not have any quarters. Instead, the soldiers were loaded into the unused coal compartments, which had very little ventilation or facilities. The conditions were horrific, even for men who had just made the arduous journey from England. It was during this trip that the first soldier from the U.P. would die in this conflict. His name was Henry Gariepy of Sault Ste. Marie, a First Sergeant in Co. B of the 339th infantry. He had contracted the flu on the "Nagoya" and succumbed to the illness in the dark and dingy hold of a coal scow.



Two images taken of Archangel, the headquarters of the Northern Russian Expeditionary forces and debarkation point for troops entering the conflict. Images courtesy of the Library of Congress.



A typical type of scow used to transport troops up the Dvina, Emtsa and Vaga Rivers to the front. This image was taken in Seletskoe along the Dvina, and actually shows troops returning to Archangel at the end of the conflict. Image courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

Note: This map is divided into 15 squares. The side of a square is equal to 15 versts.

ARCHANGEL GOVERNMENT

SCALE = 1:10 VERSTS. R.F. 1:420000
VERSTS 10 20 30

REFERENCE

- Towns of importance
- Roads 1st class
- Roads 2nd class
- Villages
- church
- winter roads
- Footpaths



The Railroad Front

On September 6, 1918 (only one day after debarking their ship in Archangel) members of Co.'s I, L, and M of the 339th Infantry arrived in the village Oberzerskaya. This was a main crossroads along the Vologda-Archangel rail line and would become a base for the 3rd Battalion of the 339th. Over the next several months, Co. M would be engaged in a back and forth series of skirmishes, ambushes and artillery bombardments with the Red Army, with neither side making major advances or retreat.

As soon as Co. M detrained, they began marching down the rail line to meet with French troops at Verst 466 (a verst is a Russian distance measurement equaling about .66 of a mile). Over the next several weeks, the ally troops tried to advance against the Bolos, who would then push them back and then be pushed back, time and time again.

On September 29, a platoon from Co. M went deep into the woods in an attempt to outflank Red Army positions on the rail line. However, the platoon got lost in a deep boggy swamp and were forced to find their way back to the rail line. The platoon's officer had two corporals from the Upper Peninsula, Matt Grahek from Calumet and Frank Getzloff of Harris, lead the way through the woods back to the rail line. When they reached it, they were far from their intended position to attack the Reds. However, they joined up with the French to launch an attack, which was somewhat successful. Both Grahek and Getzloff would distinguish themselves in the attack. Grahek received the Distinguished Service Cross (see additional panel) and Getzloff was awarded the Croix de Guerre from the French army.

Another Upper Peninsula soldier in Co. M, Paul Smaglich from Stephenson, was not so lucky that day. During the assault he was badly wounded in the arm at Verst 458. He was diagnosed with "shell shock" after the incident.

“Company M, 339th Inf. after resting an hour, following the 17 hours march through the woods and swamps, set out again for the front. They are seen in this picture starting out along the railroad line. One of the armored cars use by the Allies is seen in the distance. Obozerskaya, Russia, September 29, 1918.”



Blockhouse on Vologda Ry.



*Bridge - Repaired - Vologda Ry
Folio A - Neg. No. 14*



Corporal John Manderfield, from Hancock, served in Co. A of the 310th Engineers in Russia. The work of the engineers was essential to battlefield operations and transportation. For his efforts, he was awarded the Military Medal. Image courtesy of the Manderfield Family.



28617

Images courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.





Corporal Albert Gitzen Houghton

Albert Gitzen grew up in a mining family in Houghton, Michigan. At the time he registered for the draft he was 23 years old and a book keeper for the Lake Superior Products Co.

After enlistment, he was sent to Camp Custer and placed into Co. A of the 310th Engineers. This was one of several companies that accompanied the 339th Infantry to Russia. The job of the 310th was to build shelters and blockhouses for soldiers, fortifications, repair roads and bridges and any general building that need to be done. Due to his role in the 310th he travelled to many different parts of the conflict, as attested to by the several passes below.

After the war, Gitzen returned to Houghton and started his own business selling candy out of a truck. This was the beginning of the Gitzen Wholesale Co., which specialized in supplying snack foods, office and paper products and tobacco to local businesses. The company still exists today and is owned by his grandson, Robert Wuthrich.

A song written by Gitzen while in Russia.

OUR HITCH IN HELL

Every day and night I'm thinking of the things I left behind,
 Yet I loathe to get on paper what is running in my mind.
 But I think I'll fall much better, so I guess I'll take a chance,
 'Till the regiment is ordered to another place in France.

We've laid an awful lot of bricks, o'er an awful lot of ground,
 And a mason plans this side of hell, I know, has never been found.
 We've worked in dust and scorching sun, in mud, and driving rain,
 'Till our legs and ears and lips and nose were swelling lead with pain.
 But there's one consolation, gather closely 'round, I tell,
 When we die we're bound for Heaven, 'cause we've done our hitch in Hell.

We've built a thousand mess halls, for the cooks to hold our rice,
 We've stood a hundred guard posts, and to wash, braced through the ice.
 We've washed a million mess kits, and cooked a million quarts,
 We've rolled a million blanket rolls, and washed a million mats.
 The number of failures we've done, is really hard to tell,
 But there'll be no "blame" in Heaven, 'cause we're worn 'em here in Hell.

We've passed a million sleepless hours upon our army cots,
 And worn a hundred gaging holes, in our army coats.
 We've driven a hundred million nails, and built a dozen camps,
 And brushed a hundred pounds of mud, from off our army pants.
 So when our work is done, in time, our friends behind will tell,
 "When they died they went to Heaven, 'cause they did their hitch in Hell."

The aim and effort we have ceased, likewise the bully beef,
 We've dined the gentle (?) guests of wind that brought our tents to grief.
 We've eaten the rejected, ten million grams of soup,
 And the vaccine scratched upon our arms, has made them very sore.
 And all these things to get our goods, we get all here to tell,
 Oh, the color goes, "Go to the front" we'll give those German Hell.

We've one battalion in Russia, and one battalion in France,
 The Germans and the Bolsheviks, have not in the least a chance,
 Every day our boys are working hard, at what is a common hell,
 And when the enemy tries to come our way, we never will give them hell.
 At night when our legs work is o'er, you never hear us yell,
 'Cause we're all in, done and done and done and done in hell.

When the final top is sounded, and we lay aside life's cares,
 And we do the last parade, on heaven's shining stairs,
 And the angels bid us welcome, and the horns begin to play,
 We can draw a million contented shades, and spend them in a day,
 It's then we'll hear St. Peter tell us loudly with a yell,
 "Hitch in Hell, 310th Engineers, you've done your hitch in Hell."

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

To whom it may concern, Greetings: No. 140
 THESE PRESENTS ATTEST. (This number must correspond with that on the Registration Card.)

That in accordance with the proclamation of the President of the United States, and in compliance with law,
 Albert Gitzen (Name) Houghton (City, State, Co.)
 Precinct _____ County of _____ State of _____
 has submitted himself to registration and has by me been duly registered this 5th day of June, 1917.

Fred W. Floyd Registrar

Form No. 164-C

By direction of the Secretary of War, you are hereby ordered to report to the Chief of this Local Board at _____ on the _____ day of _____ 1917, for military duty and for transportation to the Army mobilization camp at _____

From the date herein provided for you to report, you will be in the military service of the United States and you will be subject to the laws of the United States and you will be liable for military service in the event of your country with a declaration of war.

You will be held under the control of this board until the hour of departure of your train. During this period the local board will furnish you with the means of transportation to the mobilization camp at _____ and you will be held under the control of this board until the hour of departure of your train. You may obtain permission to leave and return to your home, but only if you get out and forward to the office of the Local Board at once the proper application for the permission at the end of the board.

You will not be permitted to take with you the most valuable and most portable property, such as gold, silver, jewelry, watches, cameras, and other articles of value, and you will be required to leave these articles at the mobilization camp. You will be required to leave these articles at the mobilization camp. You will be required to leave these articles at the mobilization camp.

Sept. 13/17 LOCAL BOARD FILED _____

Ps not valid after 30th June

FIELD PASS. Перевозной пропускъ.

Loss of this pass to be reported immediately. La perte de ce permis doit être signalée immédiatement.

Rpl. J. A. Gitzen U.S. Eng

Signature of bearer: J. A. Gitzen

Signature of officer: J. A. Gitzen

COMMANDEMENT L. 270. No. 25. Date 21-5-19



Cat 300, 50 Eng
 When Mar 1, 1919

Pass bear and give other soldier to give us a and Wistawaka and other military purposes.

Some lucky trip.



Sgt. Laing, Peter A. has permission to be absent from his organization till 6:00 A.M. April 6 1919 to visit Archangel.

Co. "A" 310th Engineers

A. P. M. BAKHARITZA

No. ... DATE: 5-4-19.

"Co. M, 339th Inf. 85th Div, on their return from a weeks fighting near Bolshie Ozerka, I to R: Lt. James R. Donovan, Cpl. Benjamin Jondre, Pvt. Jens Jenson, Obozerskaya, Russia."



Battle for Bolshie-Ozerka

Between the Volgogda Railroad and the Onega River fronts was the small village of Bolshie-Ozerka. This was a critical place along the road between Murmansk and the railroad crossing at Obozerskaya. By late March 1919, the Bolsheviks had been pushing forward along all fronts and it was trying to move further against the allies along the railroad. On March 17, the Bolsheviks attacked and destroyed a small French garrison in the village, which led to a counter attack by Co. H of the 339th and the British Yorkshire troops on March 23. However, the going was difficult in the swamps, which froze during the night and thawed during the day. In addition, there were far more Bolshevik troops than were originally believed and they could not advance against the machine gun fire.

On the east side of the village, the Americans built blockhouses and artillery came to support Co.'s H & M. They bombarded Bolshie-Ozerka, destroying the Bolshevik forces in the village. This helped the Americans to fortify their defenses for the eventual Red Army counter attack. This attack came on April 1, with the Bolsheviks trying to overwhelm the ally placements with sure numbers. However, they were mowed down by the American machine guns and artillery. Regardless, the attack continued for five days, with the Red Army continuing to send troops against the Allies in the east and west of the village. Finally, on April 5, the Bolsheviks retreated, leaving behind nearly 2,000 dead soldiers and losing many troops to desertion and surrender.

Because the warming weather made marching through the forest more difficult, it made it nearly impossible for the Red Army or the Allies to mount any new offensives. Besides the occasional skirmish and artillery exchange, the battle for Bolshie-Ozerka would be the last battle for the American troops in North Russia. Soon all of the American forces would be withdrawn from the front and sent to Archangel to begin their journey back to the U.S.

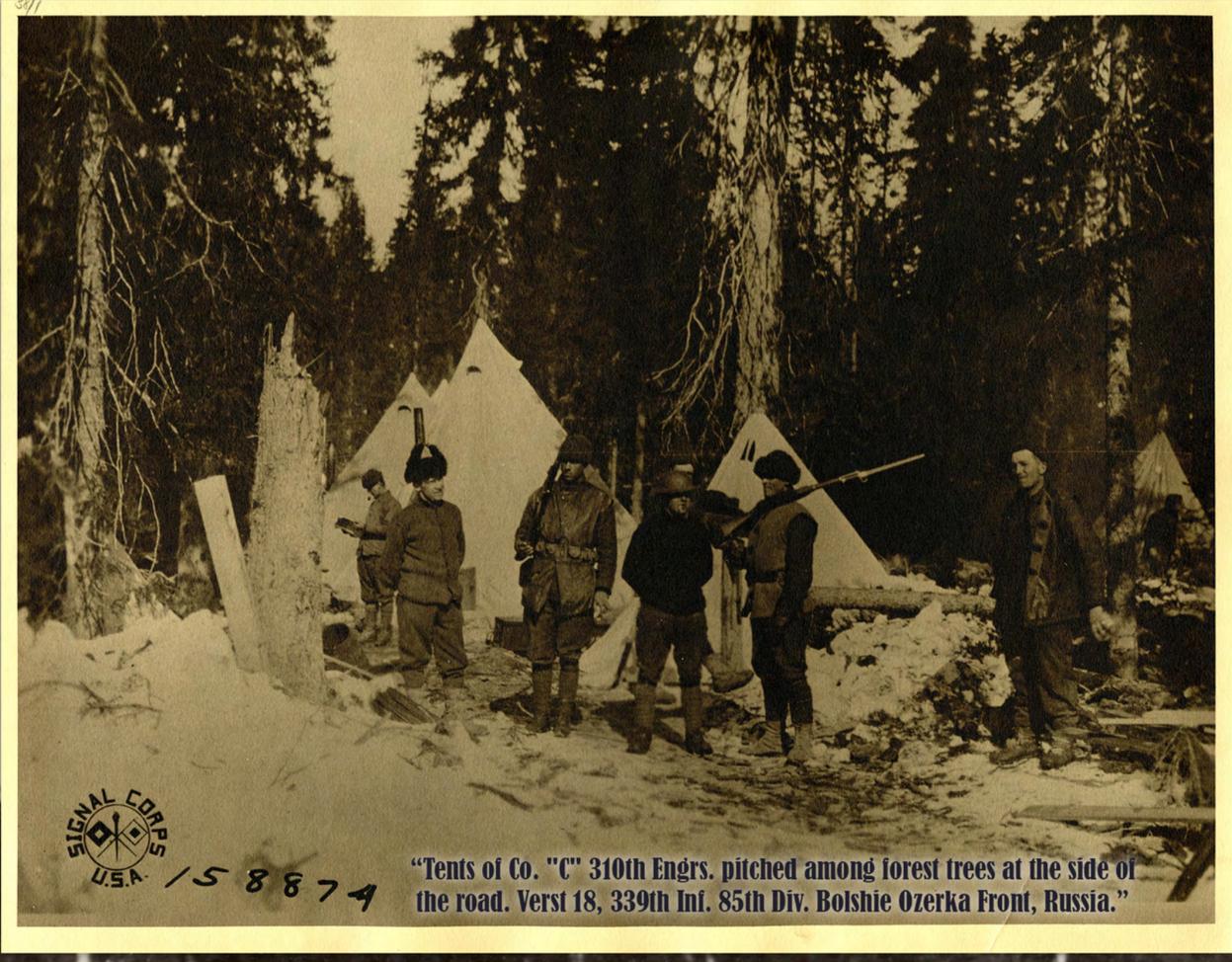
"Blockhouse No. 1, the most advanced allied position along the road in the direction of Bolshie Ozerka."



SIGNAL CORPS
U.S.A. 15 8861



SIGNAL CORPS
U.S.A.



"Tents of Co. "C" 310th Engrs. pitched among forest trees at the side of the road. Verst 18, 339th Inf. 85th Div. Bolshie Ozerka Front, Russia."



"Bridge across a marsh on the allied line of communications between Obozerskaya and the Bolshie Ozerka Front. Allied secondary defence positions for the protection of Obozerskaya were being constructed on the opposite bank of the marsh."

Images courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

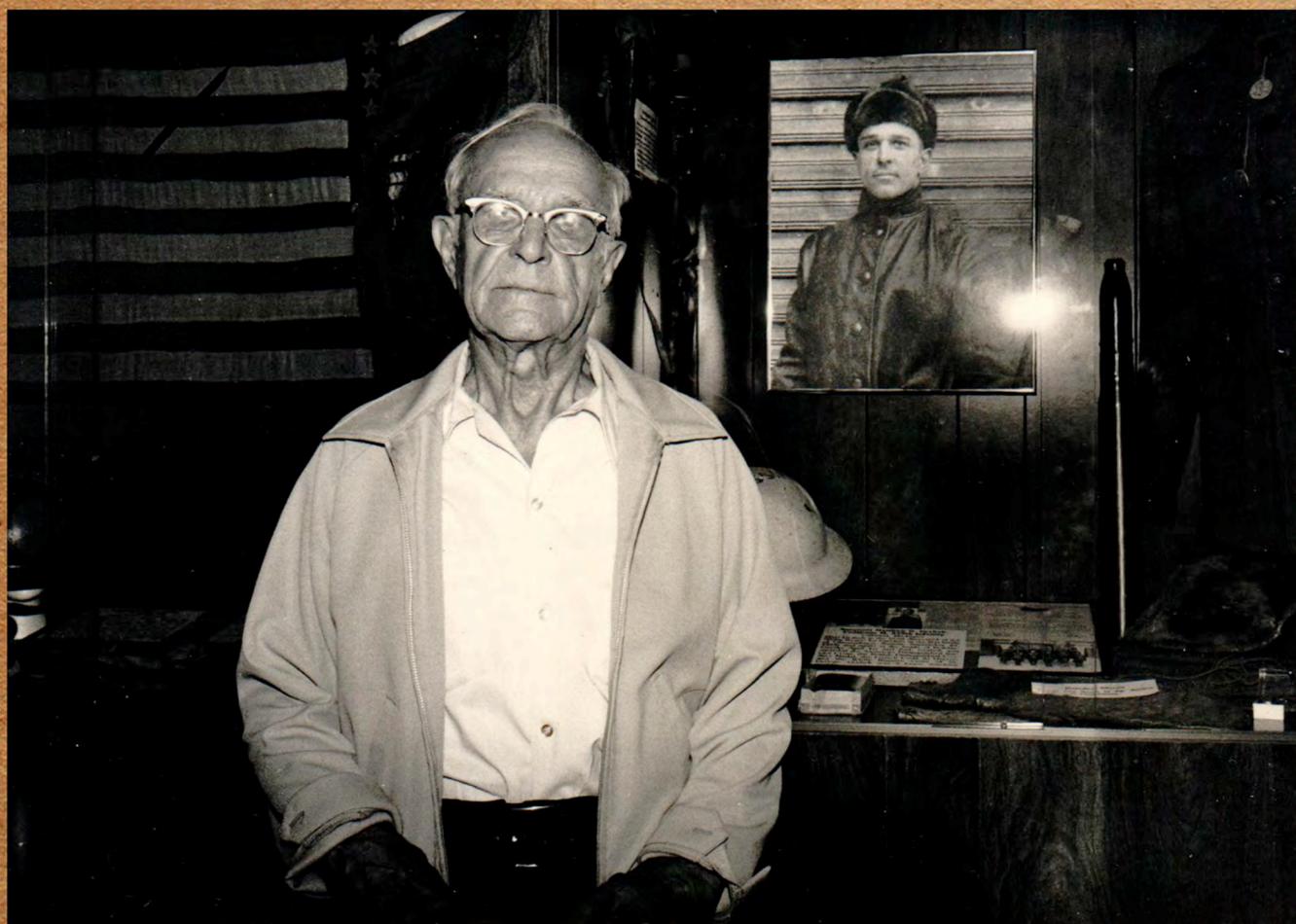
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U.S. OFFICE
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Matthew Grahek

Calumet native, Matthew Grahek, was the most decorated soldier in the Northern Russian theatre. A sergeant, Company M, 339th Infantry, Grahek was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross twice for valor during his time in Russia. His first came for extraordinary heroism in action near Obozerskaya, Russia, September 29th, 1918. Sgt. Grahek voluntarily went forward about 150 yards in advance of our line, exposed to heavy machine-gun and artillery fire, and rescued a wounded comrade. Again on April 1, 1919, near Bolshie-Ozerka, Russia, he advanced alone with a Lewis gun against enemy snipers concealed in a ditch and routed them. In addition to his two American medals, he was awarded the British Distinguished Conduct Medal, France's Croix de Guerre and the Russian St. George's Cross (fourth class).

Text by Mike Grobbel, Polar Bear Memorial Association Website.



Grahek (left) next to a display about his service in Russia. The display is at the Michigan's Own Military and Space Museum in Frankenmuth, which is dedicated to the contributions of Michigan citizens to the U.S. military and NASA. Images are courtesy of the Michigan's Own Military and Space Museum.

Company B, 339th

Each company in the 339th served with distinction in the Russian conflict. Probably none more so than Co. B, which was able to hold off the Bolshevik onslaught at Toulgas and keep that position for several months. However, as the months passed, and the purpose of the conflict became more confused, it was one of the companies that faced an open revolt.

Sgt. Silver Parrish, in charge of the 1st squad, penned a resolution that was signed by dozens of soldiers. Four U.P. soldiers signed the resolution: Pvt. George Keshick of Wilson, Michigan, 2nd Squad; Eino J. Kellio of Chatham, Michigan, 5th Squad; Charles Beaudette of Marquette, Michigan, 6th Squad; Jack Sintula of Eben Junction, Michigan, 6th Squad. Such threatened mutinies were common along the whole front, but none ever came to a court martial offense and the soldiers continued to serve until they returned to Michigan in July 1919.

Co. B had 17 soldiers from the Upper Peninsula, the second most in the conflict (Co. A had 28 soldiers from the U.P.). Three of these soldiers would not return home to Michigan: John Angove (Painesdale), Frank Clisch (Baraga) and Henry Gariepy (Sault Ste. Marie).

Unlike African-American soldiers, Native Americans were sometimes integrated with troops from European backgrounds. Thousands of Native Americans served in WWI, and there were several from the Upper Peninsula. Private George Keshick was from the Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Reservation, Wilson, Michigan. He was drafted in May 1918 and was sent to Camp Custer on May 25th. After training for six weeks, he was sent to England with the rest of the 339th. However, he became ill with the flu as soon as he got to Russia and was held back a month before going to the front. During his time at the front, he fought in five separate battles during his tour of duty.

John A. Peterson was born in East Tawas, Michigan, but was raised in Grand Marais, Michigan. His parents had a farm in Grand Marais that John and other family members worked. His younger brother was called to duty for World War I in 1918. His parents convinced John to take his brother's place by guaranteeing the family farm to him when he returned from the war. At 25 years old, John was inducted into the military as Corporal John A. Peterson on May 27, 1918 in Munising, Michigan.



Peterson did not say much about serving in World War I; his younger children did not even know about his service until they were much older. Corporal Peterson served in Company B of the Polar Bear Expedition, which was sent to Russia. On the rare occasions of talking about the war, Peterson said that the Russian peasants were very nice because they shared food with him and his fellow soldiers. He was honorably discharged on July 18, 1919 and returned to Grand Marais as the new owner of the Peterson Farm.



Dalton Joseph Gollinger was born in Buckingham, Quebec. The descendent of German, Scottish and Irish settlers in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa River valley's, he came to the United States as a boy with his extended family. In 1912, he began his studies at Ferris Institute (now Ferris State University) where he excelled in Track and Field and graduated with a degree in 1916. He entered the service on May 27, 1918 and at Camp Custer was assigned to Co. B of the 339th. In his diary, he spoke sparingly about the battles he took part in, probably due to the less than ideal conditions for writing. However, as his troop left the front he wrote more about his experiences. He recalls, "Today (May) 27, made a sail of an old blanket and stuck it on an old sail boat. It worked good and we had plenty of fun. Sailed to a town down the river and got plenty of potatoes...Saw first Ruski "barrasna" that was good looking and dressed up. Guess she was from Archangel." After returning in July 1919, he lived in Detroit for awhile before returning to Munising, where he became a car salesman. He was one of the charter members of the American Legion post in Munising. He passed away on July 31, 1982 at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.



Battle of Armistice Day

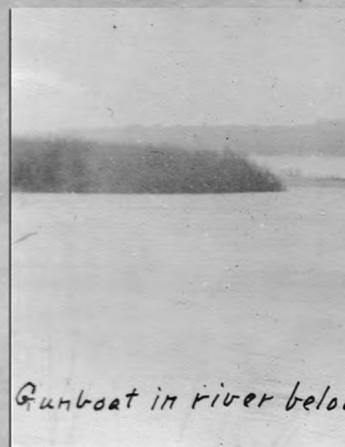
On November 11, 1918, the world rejoiced when Germany signed an armistice with the Ally powers in Compiègne, France. However, the members of the American Northern Russia Expeditionary Force did not hear the news right away and even after they did, faced another six months of engagement against the Red Army in Northern Russia.

Co.'s B, C and D of the 339th Infantry Division, along with several batteries of Canadian artillery and a company of Royal Scots, were on that very day facing their greatest challenge of the war. These companies had made their way along the Dvina River for two months, engaging the Red Army in several skirmishes in Chamova, Toulgas and Seltso. However, a Red Army offensive pushed them back to the village of Toulgas, along the Dvina River. There they built blockhouses and dug trenches to protect themselves. On the morning of November 11, all hell broke loose when the Red Army suddenly attacked the southern part of the village.

However, this was just a diversion as a force of several hundred Bolsheviks attacked Toulgas from the west. Surprised by the attack, a group of eight soldiers in Co. B stopped the western attack with their Lewis machine guns, forcing the Bolos to the north side of the village. This gave time for the Canadian artillery to set up and when the enemy attacked, they killed approximately 400 Bolshevik soldiers. The attacks had been repelled, for the time being.



Trench Mortar



Gunboat in river below



Converted Blockhouse -

Tulgas



Shell-proof Shelter - Tulgas

View of the Dvina

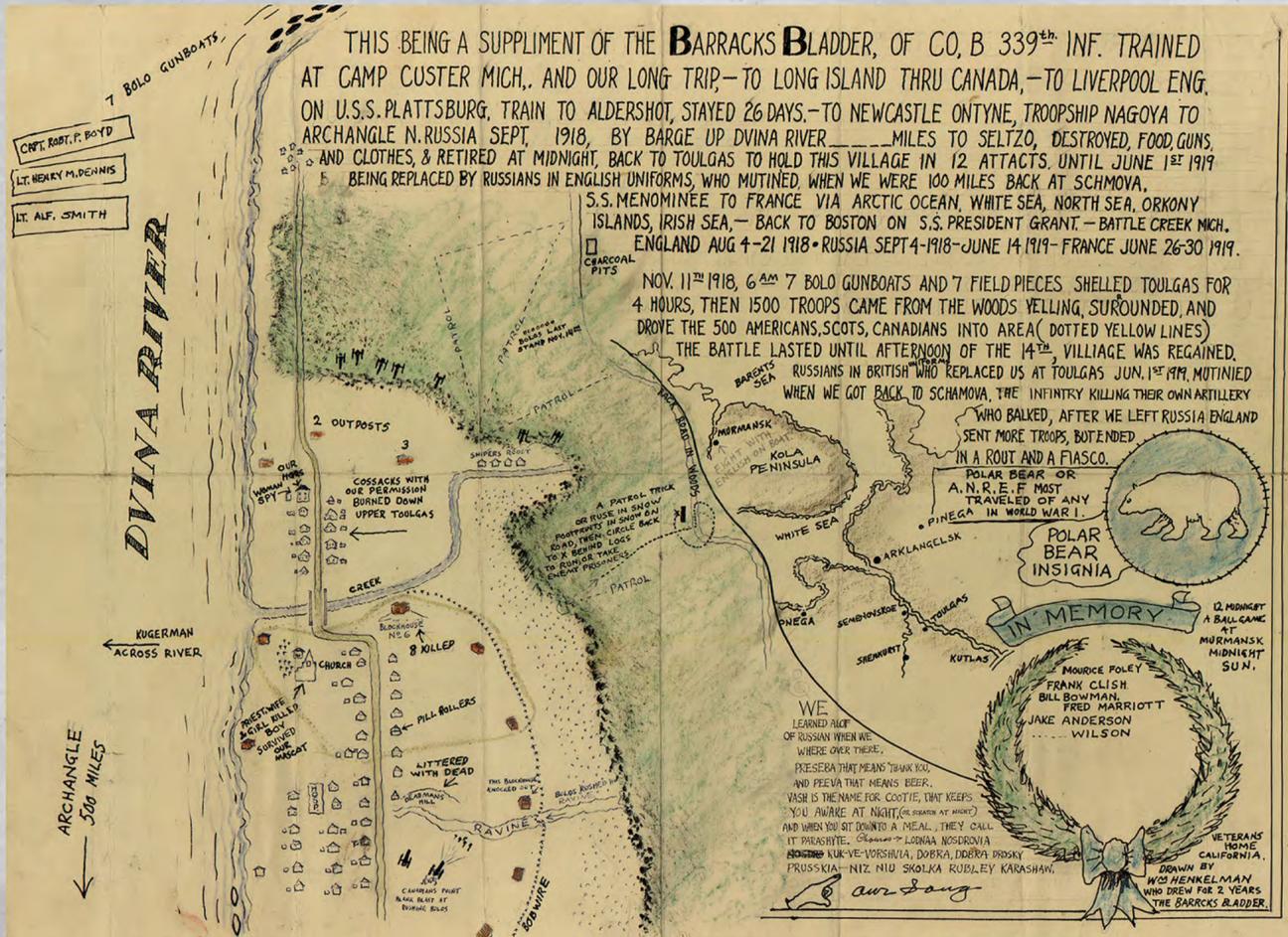
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Positions Toulgas - 19812

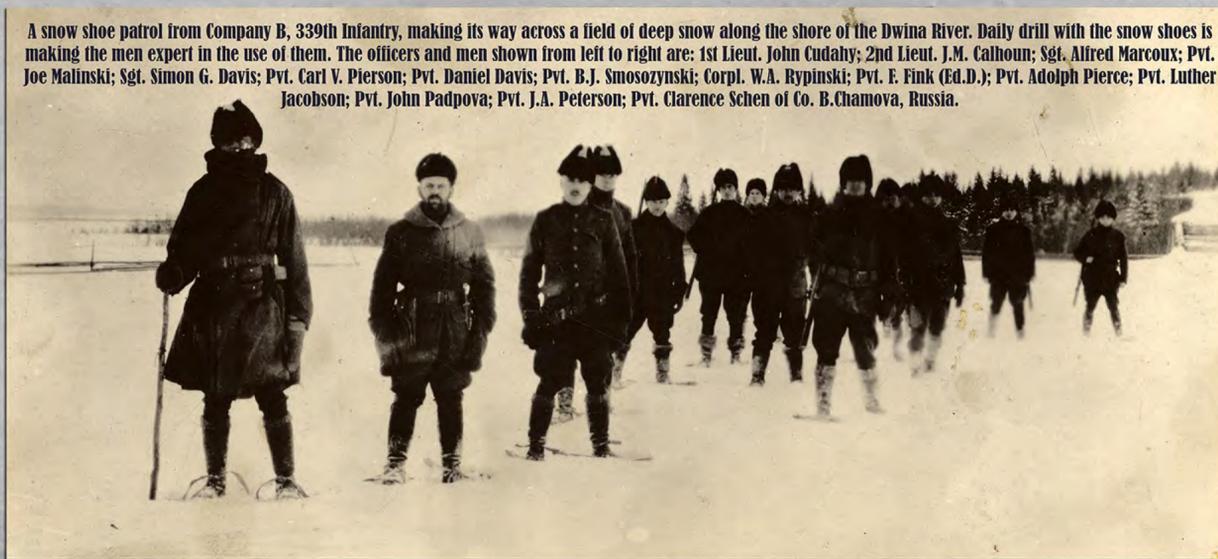


W Toulgas 145-9



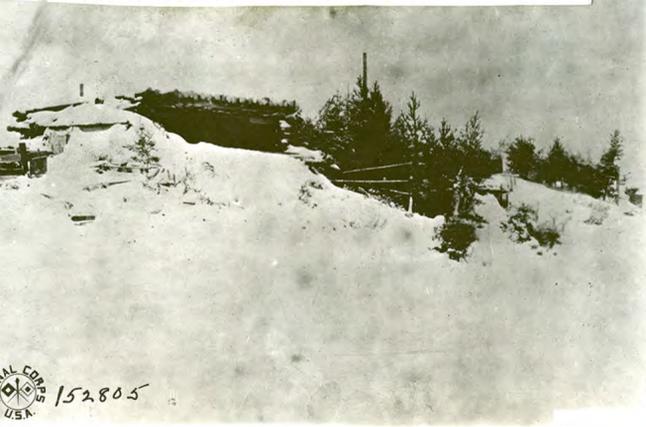
The next morning, gunboats on the Dvina opened up on the ally blockhouses in Toulgas. The focus of the bombardment was on the blockhouse protecting the southern bridge across the Toulgas River as the Bolos attempted to cross it over the next day. One blockhouse was hit, killing almost all of the soldiers inside. However, Private Charles Bell survived and held off the attack with his Lewis gun (he would earn the Distinguished Service Cross for his valor).

Over the next three days, the Bolos shelled Toulgas constantly from the river and the surrounding forests. Completely surrounded and running out of supplies, Lt. John Cudahy proposed that the only recourse was to mount a counter attack. Members of Co. B and D, led by Cudahy and Lt. Roy Derham (of Iron Mountain), led their men through the darkness in the early morning of November 14 on the Bolo positions. They suddenly attacked, throwing the enemy troops into a panic, believing that a larger force of reinforcements had arrived. Within minutes, the Red Army attack was repulsed and dozens of prisoners were taken. Toulgas had held and it would be weeks before the Bolsheviks would test the Americans again along the Dvina River.



A snow shoe patrol from Company B, 339th Infantry, making its way across a field of deep snow along the shore of the Dvina River. Daily drill with the snow shoes is making the men expert in the use of them. The officers and men shown from left to right are: 1st Lieut. John Cudahy; 2nd Lieut. J.M. Calhoun; Sgt. Alfred Marcoux; Pvt. Joe Malinski; Sgt. Simon G. Davis; Pvt. Carl V. Pierson; Pvt. Daniel Davis; Pvt. B.J. Smosozynski; Corpl. W.A. Rypinski; Pvt. F. Fink (Ed.D.); Pvt. Adolph Pierce; Pvt. Luther Jacobson; Pvt. John Padpova; Pvt. J.A. Peterson; Pvt. Clarence Schen of Co. B. Chamova, Russia.

152805 Thick walled emplacements in which two 3,3 guns of the Canadian Field Artillery are sheltered. These emplacements are located on the edge of a ravine which lies in the rear of Headquarters village, Toulgas. These "16 pounders" are manned by men of the 68th Battery, C.F.A. They played an important part in the repulse of a Bolshevik attack on the village, November 11, when they fired point blank into a party of the enemy, which had attempted to carry out a flanking movement against the allied positions at Toulgas, Toulgas, Russia, Jan. 3, 1919.



152805

65-A.

Conditions and Morale



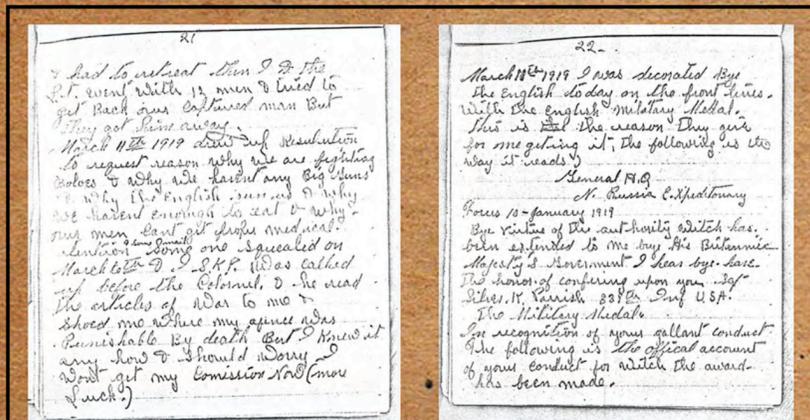
From the very beginning of the conflict in Russia, American soldiers were confused as to why they were fighting this engagement against the Bolsheviks. Originally, the soldiers were told they would only guard supplies and civilians from being attacked, but they were thrown immediately into front lines. Youthful exuberance about going to war would slowly give way to questions and concerns over their situation.



One of the first frustrations was that while their immediate superior officers were Americans, the upper echelon of the conflict was managed by the British who had very different goals for the conflict and also did not hesitate to put Americans in the most dangerous situations (though their troops had been in the same position for months before the Americans arrived). In some cases, during quick retreats, the British wanted the Americans to leave their wounded and dead, which was something the American soldiers refused to do if possible.

“Men of Company A, 339th Infantry, watching a boxing bout in their quarters. Boxing has been one of the chief forms of amusement during the long winter evenings. The two battlers are Sgt. Omar Yarger, (and the left) and Sgt. Robert Montgomery, Co. A, 339th Inf. Village of Visorka Gora, Ust Padenga, Vaga River Column, Russia.”

To compound this tense relationship, the Ally soldiers were all dealing with the harsh conditions of a Russian winter. The fall and spring thaws meant that it was hard for the Bolshevik (and Allies) to mount attacks but when the ground was frozen, that is when most of the attacks took place. The cold was unbearable, even for young men who were born and raised in the Upper Midwest (though they probably fared better than if the soldiers were from a warmer part of the country, the 85th Division soldiers were not chosen for this expedition for this reason. It was just a coincidence). The only benefit of the cold was that it helped to kill the lice and “cooties” that plagued the soldiers constantly.



Sgt. Silver Keshick Parrish of Co. B, 339th Infantry, drew up a resolution asking for an explanation from their superiors about their mission in Russia and that he and dozens of signed soldiers would not longer take part in the conflict. As stated in the pages from his diary (above), he was read the articles of war, which would lead to a court martial. However, immediately afterwards, he was awarded the Military Medal from the British Army. In truth, most American officers agreed with the frustrations of their men and were willing to look the other way if they rescinded their threats. It was also impressed on the British command that they were losing the support of the American troops, which they could not afford to let happen.

Lastly, though the vast amount of American soldiers were not communists, many were from working class and union backgrounds and had some affinity for the Red Army soldiers they were facing. There were several threats and even attempts of Ally forces to refuse to fight, though all attempts were stopped by officers who read the soldiers the rules of war. However, none were ever court martial because they had the sympathy of their superiors.

Defense of Ust Padenga

Near the village of Beresnik, the Vaga River empties into the Dvina. At this point, the 339th infantry and 310th Engineers sent companies up both rivers. Along the Vaga, the ally troops made great advances against the Red Army and reached the City of Shenkursk (65 miles from Beresnik) by mid-October of 1918. The troops pushed further up river to the village of Ust Padenga in order to protect Shenkursk from mortar attacks by the Bolsheviks.

For the next few months, the front lines on the Vaga saw scattered resistance from the Bolsheviks, who seemed to be waiting for colder weather and firmer ground before attacking. There was the occasional skirmish, and on November 29, a platoon was ambushed and surrounded, leading to the death of six men, four missing in action and three captured. However, this was nothing compared with what was to come.

On January 19, 1919, the Red Army launched a massive attack with over 3,000 men on the Vaga front. It began with a dawn bombardment of Ust Padenga for over an hour. The Americans in Co. A hunkered down in the trenches, but looking out, saw hundreds of Bolsheviks advancing across the fields under cover of the bombardment. Co. A tried to fight off the advance but retreat was inevitable. By the time they reached the village of Visorka Gora, one platoon of 47 men had only seven left not wounded, and 17 missing in action. One of those missing soldiers was Pvt. John Hannon of Ingalls in Menominee County.

For the next few days, the Reds continued to bombard the forward positions, knowing that a front assault would not dislodge the ally troops. However, eventually the Americans, Canadians and White Russians retreated to Shenkursk. It would only be a matter of time before Shenkursk, which was nearly surrounded, would fall as well. Only through luck did the ally troops successfully retreat from Shenkursk, taking a defensive position several miles downriver. Shenkursk was now in the hands of the Bolsheviks.



Private John Hannon

"Watching for signs of Bolshevik activity in a little village across the Padenga valley to the southwest of outpost No.2. The observations are being made by Sergt. Thomas J. Rapp, at the left and Sgt. Fred Nees, both of Co. A, 339th Infantry, 85th Division, Village Nijni Gora, at the Ust Padenga, Front, Vaga River Column, Russia."

All images courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.



152814

and Shenkursk

"Glimpse of the town of Shenkursk from the top of machine gun emplacement No.2. Shenkursk is noted for the number and beauty of its churches, two of which can be seen in the background. January 6, 1919."



"A view which shows the high north bank of the Padenga river which affords an excellent natural defense for the American forces. On this high ground the main line of defense rests, consisting of barbed wire entanglements, blockhouses and dugouts. Ust Padenga, Vaga River Column, Russia."



Private Peter Keshick of Harris, was one of the soldiers in Co. A, when it was attacked on January 19. He and six members of his company were wounded and trapped in a dugout. They dragged themselves several miles to a medical station. This was the second time he was wounded in Russia and was wounded a third time in March 1919, before being sent to England.



"A blockhouse and dugout now in course of construction surrounded by barbed wire. This blockhouse is located on high ground over looking the Padenga river. When completed it will be equipped with a Vickers machine gun. One non-commissioned officer, two Vickers men and six privates will be on duty. Visorka Gora, Ust Padenga, Front, Vaga River Column, Russia."



152822

U.S. OFFICIAL

"Bring Them Home!"

With the Armistice of November 11 and the end of hostilities in Europe, the soldiers of the 85th Division in Russia, and their families, thought they would soon be heading home. However, this would not be the case because the conflict was not even a side show of the "Great War." Instead, it was a full out intervention in a Russian Civil War.

By January, public opinion and political pressure began to be put on President Wilson to bring the "Polar Bears" home from Russia. Letters from soldiers on the front and the stories from returning wounded soldiers began to make their way into local and national newspapers. On December 8, 1918 the Detroit Free Press published an editorial by C.L. Meader, a professor of Russian at the University of Michigan, where he questioned the decision not to remove the troops from Russia and also questioned the entire campaign.

Family members began to organize as well, with a group from Detroit vowing to bring their anger to Lansing to lobby the Governor to request the return of the troops. "At a Detroit Church, on the night of February 4, at least two thousand organized Detroit's Own Welfare Association and started a petition drive soon to result in 110,000 signatures calling for a complete troop withdrawal and the end of the U.S. intervention in Russia. The next day, the Michigan Senate passed a resolution demanding the same policy. Kalamazoo sent its own resolution. And in Benton harbor, hundreds of Republicans met in solidarity, all crying out 'Get Out of Russia.'"

President Wilson had come to realize that troops needed to return but did not want to offend the allies at such an important time with the creation of the League of Nations and the Peace Treaty in Versailles. However, Senator Hiram Johnson of California had made it his mission to get America out of the Russian conflict and began to rally support in Washington. Pressure from all sides brought the Secretary of War, Newton Baker, to write to Congress stating that the soldiers in Russia would be withdrawn "at the earliest possible moment."

Quotations and much of the information in this panel are from: **Savage Peace: Hope and Fear in America, 1919**, by Anne Hagedorn, Simon & Schuster: New York, 2007.

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS.

RESCUE BOYS IN RUSSIA, IS STATE'S PLEA

Michigan Men Start Move Through N. Y. Circles.

DEMAND ACTION BEFORE JAN. 15

Would Cable Wilson, Open Siege On Congressmen.

By WILLIAM N. HARDY.
(Staff Correspondent.)

New York, Dec. 29.—Pointing out grave danger of extermination of 1,000 Michigan soldiers of the 339th infantry regiment and other Americans fighting in the icy swamps and snowfields of northern Russia, several prominent Michigan men here, representing the Wolverine state's war preparedness board, the Michigan Society of New York and the Michigan military relief bureau, made what is virtually a demand on the government today to withdraw the forces now battling against the Red Guards at odds of 15 to 1.

"Get us information and advise us as to the possibility of reinforcing or withdrawing the American troops at once," says a telegram sent tonight to United States Senators William Alden Smith and Charles Townsend and Congressman P. H. Kelley, for the Michigan delegation in congress.

Relief Ship Asked.

From information obtained from private sources, the leaders in the movement to bring the Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth home before it is entirely cut off by ice and exposed to the mercilessness of the Bolshevik, learned today that two British ice-breakers are supposed to be fighting their way up the Dvina river, and it is the belief of the Michigan men that a rescue ship could get through the ice with the help of the ice-breakers, before Archangel is entirely isolated, which will be about January 15.

Inasmuch as any attempt to rescue the Americans in Russia will have to be made immediately, an effort is to be made to place the facts before President Wilson by cable with the hope that he may see his way clear to expedite the work through co-operation with the Allied governments.

The Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth, comprised chiefly of "Detroit's Own" selective service army, which went into training at Camp Custer in September, 1917,

was transported to England as part of the Eighty-fifth division in the spring of 1918 and at an English training camp 1,000 men of the regiment were detached and sent with British and French troops to Archangel to guard military supplies, which, it was feared, would fall into the hands of Germany, because of the chaotic conditions in Russia.

Men's Plight Unexpected.

As far as is known here, the Allied governments and the United States had no idea that the Americans would be called upon to participate in any such guerilla warfare as has been going on for the last three months.

Reports from wounded soldiers, who have reached New York in the last week, tend to show that the Allied troops have been fighting under terrible conditions in Russia.

In view of a statement from the Allied governments, made a few days after the armistice was signed, that the Allies would not concern themselves with internal troubles in Russia, at least not for the present, the Michigan men who have been studying the Russian problem take it for granted that no reinforcements are to be sent the small force of British, French and Americans now stationed at Archangel.

Massacre Threatened.

It is this situation that alarms the Michigan men here, for the reason that the returning wounded and sick report the Bolsheviks outnumbered Allied troops 15 to 1 and have threatened to massacre the Allies as soon as the ice cuts off their supplies and the possibility of reinforcements.

After the first movement toward starting the governmental machinery in action in the interest of the Michigan boys and other Americans in northern Russia, John J. Bush, formerly of Lansing, president of the Michigan Society of New York, Senators Smith and Townsend and Congressman P. H. Kelley, with the request that it be brought to the attention of the Michigan delegation.

"Michigan wounded returning from Russia report hundreds of Michigan troops near Archangel in grave danger of extermination by overpowering number of Russian Red Guards. Can you get information and action by war department?"

Vanderhook Adds to Plea.

By order of Mr. Bush and members of the war preparedness board of Michigan, this telegram was sent to the same delegation in congress over the signature of Colonel Roy C. Vanderhook, secretary of the board.

"Deplorable conditions among American troops in Russia have been brought to our attention by several wounded soldiers just returned. There are 1,000 Michigan soldiers of the Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth infantry regiment with Allied forces near Archangel; and one soldier reports 100 died of influenza, because of lack of treatment. Many wounded die because of privations. Boys fight on empty stomachs and sleep in swamps and snow. Outnumbered 15 to 1 and are in danger of extermination unless reinforced.

"Get us information and advise us as to desirability and possibility of reinforcing them or withdrawing them at once. Immediate action necessary, as troops will be trapped by ice in less than two weeks."

Relief Director Wires.

For the Michigan bureau of military relief, Robert W. Atkinson, of Detroit, sent the following message to the Michigan delegation at Washington:

"One thousand Michigan troops in northern Russia in danger of extermination, according to reports of wounded men just home. Bolshevik outnumber Allied forces 15 to 1 and threaten extermination when formation is that troops could safely be withdrawn before January 15. Kindly get information and advise us of having and fighting conditions terrible, soldiers report."

At the meeting which considered the rescue of the Michigan troops, held at 24 West Fortieth street, were John J. Bush, formerly of Lansing, William McAndrew, T. S. Major, formerly of Centerville, Mich.; O. M. Barnes, formerly of Lansing; William McAndrew, formerly of Ypsilanti; F. E. Hutchins, formerly of Adrian; and Robert Williamson, Detroit, temporary director of the Michigan bureau of military relief.

Ask Statewide Action.

To further impress upon the Michigan delegation in Washington the necessity of speedy action on the part of the government in considering and acting upon the Russian situation, it is the desire of the above named gentlemen that the parents of boys in the Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth send telegrams or letters of appeal to the Wolverine state's senators and congressmen. The governor of the state, mayors of all cities and other prominent citizens are asked to do likewise at once.

Some of the stories brought back from Russia by the returning Michigan officers at Archangel, and who have been ministering to wants of returned fighters here, it was learned that the Bolshevik fighting the Allied forces are particularly bitter because a large number of Red guards taken prisoners by the Allies were reported slain.

No Food for Prisoners.

According to Mrs. Allen, the Americans made large captures in their 124-mile drive from Archangel, but when the prisoners were brought back there was no food for them. Even the Americans had nothing but canned beef and hardtack, and consequently the prisoners were turned over to the British and by them to the French, who are reported to have killed them in large numbers.

It is because of this reported killing that the Bolsheviks threatened to exterminate the Allied forces when ice cut off Archangel.

One encouraging feature about the latest news from Russia is that German officers who were leading the Red guards in September and October were recalled when the armistice was signed. The Bolsheviks have only a few officers that can hold the respect of the men, the returning soldiers say, and they add that this may work to the decided advantage of the Allies, even though the Red guards outnumber them 15 to one.

In talking with The Detroit Free Press correspondent tonight, the Michigan men at 24 West Fortieth street were of one mind—that all the military stores in Russia were not worth one Michigan man, now that the war emergency had ended, but they admit their information on the internal Russian situation is meager and they anxiously are awaiting reports from the Washington delegation.



Senator Hiram Johnson of California, led the effort to get U.S. troops out of Russia in 1919. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Coming Home

By April 1919, American troops began to leave the front and head to Archangel on transports and by foot. Initially, the troops went to staging areas at posts in villages on the way back to Archangel. Out of the enemy fire and with warmer weather, the soldiers began to relax and enjoy the warm weather. Baseball games became more common as well as fraternization with locals and the young women in these communities.

Eventually, they made it to Archangel where they lived in tents waiting to board their transports to France. Pvt. Dalton Gollinger of Munising wrote in his diary, "In the P.M., we took a bath and were sterilized for coodies. June 2nd, heard my first music since arriving in Russia, the 339th band. Some swell. The same night saw the movies for the second time here. Tom Sawyer in four reels."



Images of the Memorial Day events in Archangel, May 1919, just before the American troops left Russia.
Images courtesy of Roy Nowak and Mike Grobbel.

Spring brought all of the troops back to Archangel, where they prepared to leave the country on transports. Joy abounded amongst the troops going home but they were reminded daily of the cost of the conflict at services for the fallen Ally soldiers at the burial ground in Archangel. By early June, troops started loading on transports for Brest, France. In Brest, the soldiers had several days of rest and relaxation, in addition to being deloused. Over the next several days, members of the 339th began to load onto transports to the U.S.

They arrived in Boston and departed for Camp Devins in Massachusetts. Since the different companies arrived over the next couple of weeks, they were not sent to Detroit at the same time. The first group arrived on July 4 with family members of many of the soldiers waiting for them at the Michigan Central train station. The soldiers then marched to Belle Isle, where they received a heroes' welcome from the State of Michigan. The next day they were on their way to Camp Custer, to be mustered out of the service and begin their civilian lives.

Members of the 339th Infantry about to board their transports out of Russia, June 1919 in Archangel. Image courtesy of the National Archives.



"BOGAYON" THE MIDNIGHT SUN LAT. 66°14' NORTH
 NO. 2. G. G. "WELSHWALD" LONG. 64°32' EAST
 JULY 1, 1919.

"THE FIRST HALF OF THE HOME TRIP"

The trip from Archangel to Seattle is an eight day trip and the ship keeps up her present speed. We should reach there on Saturday, July 13th. According to the present orders we will touch at LARSEN, the longest port in the Alaskan Archipelago, in order to get the latest British Admiralty instructions regarding mine fields and routes. At LARSEN we shall probably meet Captains Knight and Thomas and Lieut. H. W. Schuman, who are all proceeding to LONDON on official business.

From LARSEN our route will be through the STRAIT OF JOYCE which for the past five years was probably the most dangerous of the world's trade of passages. How long we are to stay in SEAS we are not sure, but the best opinion is that it will be two to four weeks depending on whether or not the leave that General Richardson asked for from ANCHORAGE in our behalf is granted. In case the leave is not granted our view of SEAS will be mostly from the inside of a camp looking out and we will spend most of the time in inspections, completion of paperwork and records and drill. However the trip back to the states will then be very fast and pleasant as the largest passenger ships are used for this service and the actual demobilization will only take a few days after reaching CAMP CUSTER.

"FAREWELL TO RUSSIA"

On our arrival in ANCHORAGE last September we were met by a rather superior staff captain with a band full of orders. No one knew who we were or what we could do. When we left ANCHORAGE on June 15th a band was turned out to see us off and representatives from all of the Allied forces came down to bid us farewell. General Crossley, commanding the base; General Miller, commander of North Russia; and General Richardson all came to the boat. Of course we expected this because we had worked hard, but the ones we counted were the fellows whom we had met on the different fronts and who were the men who held us good-bye because we were friends. Even though we were being home it was hard to understand that this was probably the last time we would see these fellows, and we realized that NORTH RUSSIA had not been all bad. Then the Russians looked on us as we pulled away from the deck. Then our old friends the Frenchmen, dipped their flag and went by and we realized that our part was finished.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE BRIDGE

During the last 24 hours we travelled a distance of 300 miles. We are now approximately 200 miles from LARSEN. If the present rate of speed is maintained we should reach the SEWARD ISLANDS late Wednesday. Wireless communications are not yet to be had, but we have it straight to the operator that we will receive the latest JAMES BURN MESSAGES tomorrow afternoon.

SECURITY

A Military Ball will be held Wednesday evening in the ART GALLERY. Only a limited number of invitations will be sent out, those wishing to attend, will kindly register on the ship's log, or else carve their name in the ART LARSEN, starboard side. Luncheon will be served from the DECK.

--"WELSHWALD"--
 "WELSHWALD"
 "WELSHWALD"
 "WELSHWALD"

Families greet soldiers as they arrive at the Michigan Central Station in Detroit, July 4, 1919.
Image courtesy of the Reuther Library, Wayne State University.



339th Infantry marching on Belle Isle, Detroit, upon their return from Russia.
Image courtesy of the Reuther Library, Wayne State University.



U.P. Soldiers in Polar Bears

First Name	Last Name	Rank	Hometown	Div./Co.	Awards/Casualty
August	Miserex		AuTrain	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Hubert H	Onkka/Onka		Ontonagon	Engineer, 310th	
Frank	Clisch	Private	Baraga	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	died 3/1/1919 from wounds received in action
Robert G	Ranta	Private	Baraga	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
John J	Rompinen	Private, 1st Class	Baraga	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	Croix de Guerre (CdG), Cross of St. George (CSG)
John F	Tones		Bergland		
Fred H	Green		Bessemer		
Axel	Hanson		Bessemer	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Oscar	Hill		Bessemer	Engineer, 310th	
John	Chiaparetto	Private, 1st Class	Calumet	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
John	Gasparovich		Calumet	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Hjalmer J	Karkela		Calumet	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Mathew G	Grahek	Sergeant	Calumet	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	Distinguished Service Cross, CSG, CdG
Glen/Glenn C	Shook	Corporal	Marquette	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Eino J	Kellio	Private	Chatham	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Axel	Parkila		Chatham	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Richard J	Rice	Private, 1st Class	Marquette	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	Citation Order #8
Oliver	Carlstrom		Crystal Falls	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Alvin	Johnson		Crystal Falls	Engineer, 310th	
Charles A	Joncas/Jancas	Private, 1st Class	Newberry	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	
Ray	Derham	1st Lieutenant	Iron Mountain	Infantry, 339th, Co. D	
Jack	Lintula	Private	Negaunee	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
John W	Hamim	Corporal	Escanaba	Transportation Corp 167th	
Elton F	Holmes		Escanaba	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Elmer V	Nelson	Private, 1st Class	Escanaba	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
George W	Semer		Escanaba	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Joseph	Lucier	Private	Gladstone	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	
Gordon J	Hosking	Private, 1st Class	Hancock	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
John S	Manderfield	Corporal	Hancock	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	Military Medal
Phillip	Martin	Private, 1st Class	Hancock	Infantry, 339th, Co. H	
Emanuelle	Simanare	Private	Hancock	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
Ransom	Tourville		Hancock	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Berger	Bergstrom	Private, 1st Class	Hancock		
Peter	Keschick	Private	Harris	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	Wounded 10/8/1918 and 3/9/1919
Joseph Albert	Gitzen		Houghton	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Russel J	Messner		Hubbell	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Charles O	Anderson	Private	Iron Mountain	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Dante	Constantin		Iron Mountain	Engineer, 310th, Co. C	
John	Ealmini	Private	Iron Mountain	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Caesar	Orella		Iron Mountain	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
Anton	Regoni		Iron Mountain	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
John	Przybylski	Private	Iron River	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	
Anton P	Leahy		Ironwood	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Charles	Lotzer	Private	Ironwood	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Daniel W	McManman		Ironwood	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Emil	Van Lockeren		Ironwood		
John	Kellow		Ishpeming	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Clyde H	Mitchell		Ishpeming	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Malcolm E	Nelson		Ishpeming	Infantry, 339th, Co. C	
Thomas	Trumberth/tremberth	Private	Kearsarge	Infantry, 339th, Co. D	
Leonard	Wilson		L'Anse	Infantry, 339th, Co. C	
Alfred M	Makela		Laurium	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
John W	O'Callaghan	1st Lieutenant	Lena/Norway	Infantry, Machine Gun Co.	
Eugene A	Merwin	Corporal	Manistique	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	
Herbert T	Morrison		Manistique	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Harvey	Olmstead		Manistique	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
William	Coppens		Marquette	Engineer, 310th	
William J	Haley		Marquette	Infantry, 339th, Co. I	
Boyne	Rose	Private, 1st Class	Marquette	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Fred J	Burke		Marquette	Engineer, 310th, Co. C	
Harold A	Libby/Libbey		Marquette/Princeton	Infantry, 339th, Co. C	
Charles	Beaudette	Private	Marquette/Wetmore	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Joe	Bauer	Private	Menominee	Infantry, 339th, Co. H	
E.E.	Beyer		Menominee	Infantry, 339th, Co. H	
Joseph	Erdman		Menominee	Engineer, 310th	
John T	Hannon	Private, 1st Class	Menominee	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	Missing in action 1/19/1919 Ust Padenga
Frank J	Holub		Menominee	Infantry, 339th, Co. a	
Albert	Kmeciak/Kmecink	Private	Menominee	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	
Otto A	Rassmussen	Private	Menominee	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
Charles P	Beyerle	Private	Munising	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
Lewis P	Cannon		Munising	Engineer, 310th	
Dalton J	Gollinger		Munising	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Ernest	LaBounty		Munising	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
James	O'Boyle		Munising	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Miles E	Simmons	2nd Lieutenant	Munising	Infantry, Machine Gun Co.	
Elliott	Stow		Munising	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Edward C	White	Private	Munising	Infantry, 339th, Co. C	Unfit for further duty, sent to eng. 5/15/1919
Robert R	Carbines		Negaunee	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Robert	McInnis		Newberry	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
James H	Nichols		North Escanaba	Infantry, 339th, Co. C	
J. M.	Beach		Norway	Field Hospital Co., 337th	
Frank H	Johnson		Norway	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
Henry F	Stanchina		Norway	Infantry, 339th, Co. F	
John P	Angove	Private	Painesdale	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	KIA 11/13/1918, body returned in 1919
William	Randerson		Pickford	Infantry, 339th, Co. C	
C.A.	Beijer/Beijar		Ramsey	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
R.C.	Bennett		Rapid River	Infantry, 339th, Co. A	
Agabus	Mikkola		Rock	Infantry, 339th, Co. F	
Edward	Erickson		Rockland	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	
Richard W	Ballessinger	Captain	Sault Ste Marie	Infantry, 339th, Co. H	
Charles	Doe	Private	Sault Ste Marie	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	Unfit for further duty, sent to eng. 5/15/1919
Henry	Gariepy	1st Sergeant	Sault Ste Marie	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	Died of disease 9/10/1918
Max	Radtke		Sault Ste Marie	Engineer, 310th	
T. G.	Sindles		Sault Ste Marie	Infantry, 339th, Co. D	
Alexander	Jollineau	Private	Sault Ste Marie/Strongs	Infantry, 339th, Co. H	
Michael	Mulcrone		St. Ignace	Infantry, 339th, Co. G	
George H	Ross	Private, 1st Class	St. Ignace	Infantry, 339th, Co. E	
Max A	Smith	Private	Stambaugh	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	Muscular rheumatism, evacuated to England 12/1/1918
John	Boreson	Private	Stephenson	Infantry, 339th, Co. H	KIA 10/1/1918
Paul	Smaglick/Smaglich	Private	Stephenson	Infantry, 339th, Co. M	Wounded & shell shocked, 9/29/1918 Verst 458
Andrew	Bolo		Wakefield		
William E	Erickson		White Pine	Engineer, 310th, Co. A	
George	Keschick	Private	Wilson	Infantry, 339th, Co. B	