

***Men of L* Newsletter, Number 2** **November 11, 2020**



Mission

This *Men of L* newsletter provides information of interest to the descendants of Company L soldiers, and the public. It honors the soldier's sacrifices and service during WWI. Our mission also includes identifying descendants of the soldiers assigned to Company L. We also desire to keep descendants, and the public, informed of Company L's participation during WWI, and our continuing research of the soldier's military and related information. Newsletters are emailed to registered descendants and others who may find the information interesting. Newsletters are archived on the Company L website. company-l.com/newsletters/

Issue Number 2 Contents

1. Descendants identified: To date, descendants of six Soldiers have been identified. See their Comments page for more details. Add to your ancestor's story - view their Comments page from the Database of *Men of L* soldiers. We have also received communications from visitors to the Men of L website who are descendant's of soldiers who served with other units. They appreciated the website's content that presents information on similar wartime experiences that their ancestors shared.

HEALY, Paul. Sergeant. Enlisted November 1917. Received the Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.

FOSTER, Wesley. Sergeant. Regular Army. Prior service. Killed in Action October 11th, 1918 during the Battle of Bois de Fays. Awarded the

Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.

MARES, Frank. Private First Class. Third Platoon. *He suffered respiratory issues due to being gassed and died early as a result.*

PALLIN, Gustav. Private. Enlisted April 1917 and Joined Company L in December 1917 from the 108th Supply Train.

REUTER, Lee. Corporal. Prior service Company L, Illinois National Guard. Company Clerk and founding member of the original *Men of L* post-war organization.

SHANKMAN, Harry. Private First Class. Fourth Platoon. Drafted. *He suffered respiratory issues due to being gassed and died at age 55 as a result. Arrived 1910 and naturalized 1919.*

YOUNG, Sam T. Private. Drafted. Fourth Platoon. Arrived France August 1918 and Joined Company L October 1918.

2. Outreach efforts by *Men of L* and request for more descendants to register: *Men of L* is conducting outreach to organizations that may have contact with descendants, or those interested in WWI. Our goal is reaching descendants who may benefit from knowing details of their ancestors WWI service and postwar activities.

5. The *Men of L* website is adding biographical information for each soldier assigned to Company L. This includes photos, draft registrations from WWI & WWII, Census data, burial data, and other documents relating to their life. While an ongoing project, to date it has highlighted the diversity of the soldiers. Some are young, some older. Many had little formal education. Many were recent immigrants to America. Many spoke German and other foreign languages. Some did not become American citizens until the war was over. Some died young, some very old. This research project will be completed by December. This information should be helpful for future outreach efforts.

4. The original *Men of L* organization issued

newsletters to their membership until their last issue of 1972. No newsletters have been found with the exception of the last. These comments reflect the camaraderie the men still shared 50 plus years after WWI ended.

Lee Reuter was the author of the Men of L newsletters. He wrote in the last distributed Men of L newsletter on February 2, 1972 apologizing for why he had been out of touch and explaining about his stroke in December 1970. Lee Reuter died October 1972.

“All of this news is 2 years old.”

Oscar Owens was living in Mesa AZ in Feb 1970. He had a slight heart attack and was to be 81 in May.

Fred Koenig: “We report the death of **Fred Koenig** on Aug 10, 1970.”

Hans Hanson wrote Jan 20, 1970 wife died, wanted to know how **Mollet, Gieseke and Passe** were.

Lundy wrote Jan 29, 1970 that he was fine, going fishing three times a year.

Fred Ehler has had a heart attack recently and I have not heard lately how he is

Obermiller wrote in 1970 that he has been house bound for 5 years.

Herb Mathis wrote Feb 1970 that he is in fair health.

Frank Lynch died in early 1970 of a heart attack.

Sam Malatt was in CA in Jan 1970

Colonel Art Larson reported the death of **Art Keating** late in 1968.

Chick Bissel was still traveling with his trailer between Oregon and California.

Oscar Owens died Oct 22, 1970 (this was reported by his daughter)

Roy Whiteman still alive.

Comrade **Timborious** wrote all was well.

Bob Malone sent a \$100.00 check to Men of L in Jan 1972

William Vickers died in Feb 1970 — note from his wife.

Captain Wise sent his Christmas letter with a picture of him and his wife in front of their country home.

Paul Healy sends regard to all.

R.J. Kuratko hopes we have one more reunion.

Ed Frueh is well, sons are married, and he has 16 grandchildren.

George Trost died Aug 6, 1970

G.E. Farnum sent a card. He has not been well. He saw **Tom Tibbits** who has leg trouble.

Pietrowicz and **Ardaugh** dropped in on me (Lee Reuter). Both are into biking. Consider themselves “6 day bike champs.”

Ernie Anderson writes he thinks of you all.

Comrade **Thompson**'s son wrote his dad, **Roger K had died** on May 30 1971

Sam Bernstein wants one more reunion.

Fred Elsner is confined to his home with a bad leg.

6. The Chicago Genealogical Society Winter 2019-2020 issue included an article about the *Men of L* and WWI. The article is available on the Men of L website Books page. This is the direct link to the article (PDF):

company-l.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CGS_QTR_V52N02

7. Descendants of Sergeant Healy provided a

newspaper article regarding his award of the Silver Star medal for his Gallantry in combat. The Silver Star Medal is the United States' third highest award exclusively for combat valor. *The Silver Star was not established as an individual medal until July 19, 1932. At that time, veterans of World War I who had been cited for "gallantry in action" and awarded the "Citation Star" were, based upon specific criteria, authorized to request issuance of the Silver Star Medal in lieu of the earlier ribbon device.*

Read the article on Sergeant Healy's Comments page.

PAUL J. HEALY ARGONNE HERO, WINS WAR MEDAL

Was One of 13 Men of Company Who Survived

Paul J. Healy, member of Norman Cornwall Post of the American Legion, has recently been awarded the Silver Star for "gallantry in action in the Argonne Forest. Healy served as a sergeant in Company L, 132nd Infantry, 33rd Division. This

8. Company L soldiers displayed gallantry during combat and were authorized the Silver Star medal. Nineteen Men of Company L were cited for gallantry in action by General Pershing and General Bell. The Silver Star Medal is the United States' third highest award exclusively for combat valor. The Silver Star was not established as an individual medal until July 19, 1932. At that time, veterans of World War I who had

been cited for "gallantry in action" and awarded the "Citation Star" were, based upon specific criteria, authorized to request issuance of the Silver Star Medal in lieu of the earlier ribbon device. The citation order, with *Men of L* soldiers indicated, was added to the website.



Captain Roger K. Thompson
First Lieutenant John L. O'Donnell
Sergeant George H. Bates
Sergeant Aaron L. Datin
Sergeant Wesley Foster
Sergeant Paul J. Healy
Sergeant Geoffrey L. Hubbard
Sergeant Walter A. Neubiser
Sergeant James Reynolds
Sergeant Ralph Salisbury
Sergeant Benjamin H. Taylor
Sergeant George M. Trost
Sergeant Royce V. Wallace
Corporal Arthur L. Gainer
Corporal Lorenzo Martinez
Corporal Dee Pickenpaugh
Corporal Thomas P. Tibbets
Private Marion Avery
Private John H. Carvell

Company L Commander, Captain Charles Wise, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The Distinguished Service Cross is the Army's second highest military award for extraordinary heroism and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Only the Medal of Honor is higher.



Captain Charles E. Wise:

Near Bois de Forêt, October 12, 1918, when leading his company in advance, Captain Wise was severely wounded but continued to lead his men until he became so weak that he was unable to advance. He then directed the advance from a shell hole until the command could be turned over to the first sergeant, all other officers having become casualties.

9. The monument for a Company L soldier who was killed in action was recently discovered by *Men of L* to have an error. Private George Anagnostopoulos is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Departement de la Meuse, Lorraine, France. The American Battle Monuments Commission is having the monument corrected. It is good knowing our hero's graves in National cemeteries are being maintained.

"Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The ABMC is continually working to ensure that the information on the headstones and inscriptions on the Walls of the Missing are correct.

Your observation is correct, the 132d Infantry was part of the 33rd Division. When headstones are weathered and the inscriptions become less clear, they are replaced by new ones. It is possible that in a previous replacement, a mistake was made and the error was carved into the new stone as the records clearly support 33rd Division.

We will request a new corrected headstone to be made and installed. "

10. *Men of L* Descendant Membership certificates make great heirloom historical gifts.

11. DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES:

Men of L newsletter distribution is based on requests for updated

information on Company-L, and others who may be interested.. **If you no longer desire to receive newsletters** please visit company-l.com/newsletters/ to unsubscribe or contact RonMiller@Company-L.com.