

WHITEMAN-DAVIDSON POST 49  
TILTON-NORTHFIELD, NH

PFC. FRANK C. WHITEMAN

Company C. 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry



YANKEE

DIVISION

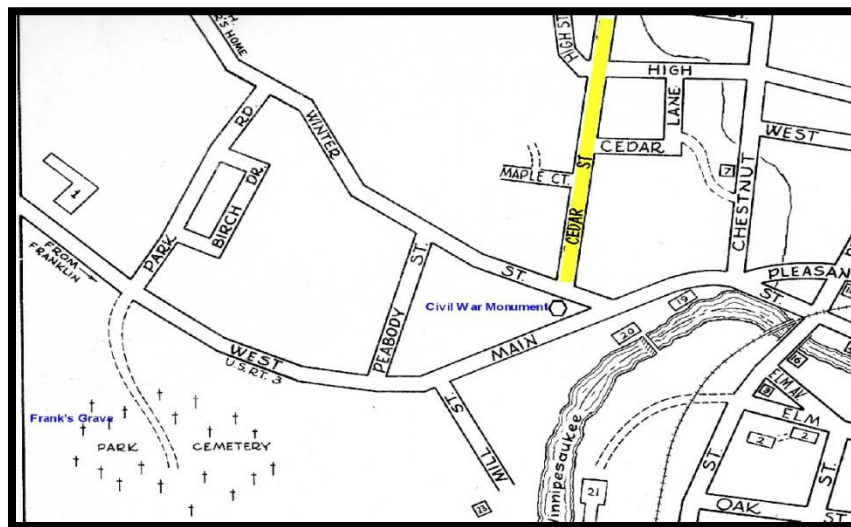


Frank C. Whiteman was born August 20<sup>th</sup> 1896 in Tilton, New Hampshire. His father's name was Frank C Whiteman (46) and his mother was Emily M (Aldrich) (39). They were both born in Warren, NH. Frank had two siblings an older sister Effie born in February 1884 and an adopted sister Viola born Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1903.

Frank's father died Jan.2<sup>nd</sup> 1932 and his mother in July 31<sup>st</sup> 1943 and sister Voila died in Laconia Jan. 1981

Frank's father had several job, a section hand on the railroad, a packer in the local woolen mills and in the 1920s and night watchmen at the Burleigh Optical Factory.

Before Frank enlisted in to the Army he was living on Cedar St in Tilton, NH.



At the age of 21 Frank enlisted in the Army, May 1<sup>st</sup> 1917 at Camp Keyes Concord, NH. Assigned to Co.C 1<sup>st</sup> Inf NH NG (Co C 103<sup>rd</sup> inf.)

The first New Hampshire infantry, Colonel Healy commanding with headquarters in Manchester, NH was called out July 25, 1917 and assembled at Camp Keyes at Concord, NH. July 27<sup>th</sup> 1917.

The regiment was mustered into federal service August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1917. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1917, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry came into existence and sent to Camp Bartlett in Westfield, MA August 27<sup>nd</sup> 1917.

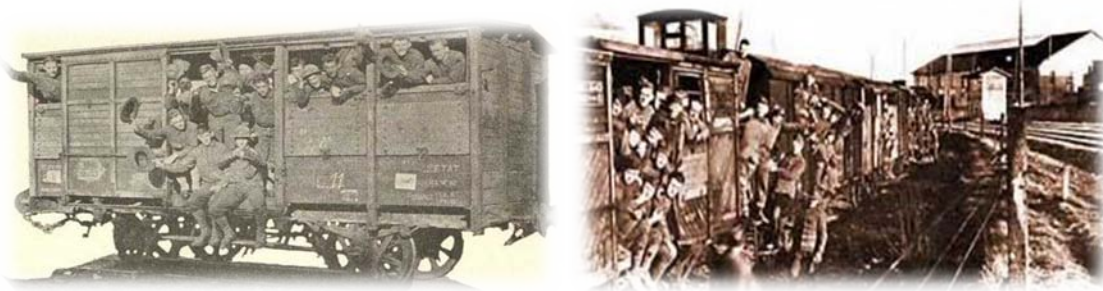


Camp Bartlett Westfield MA-September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1917 ----- Frank C. Whiteman is somewhere in this photo



Once Frank and his unit arrived at Camp Oxney they received training along with the Tommies (British Soldiers), Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders.

On the night of October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 1917 the battalion crossed the English Channel and landed in Le Havre, France. After a 24 hour move Frank and his unit boarded for their first troop train ride in box-cars “40 hommes (humans) and 8 chevaux (horses)” {40 & 8}.



World War One 40 and 8 box-cars

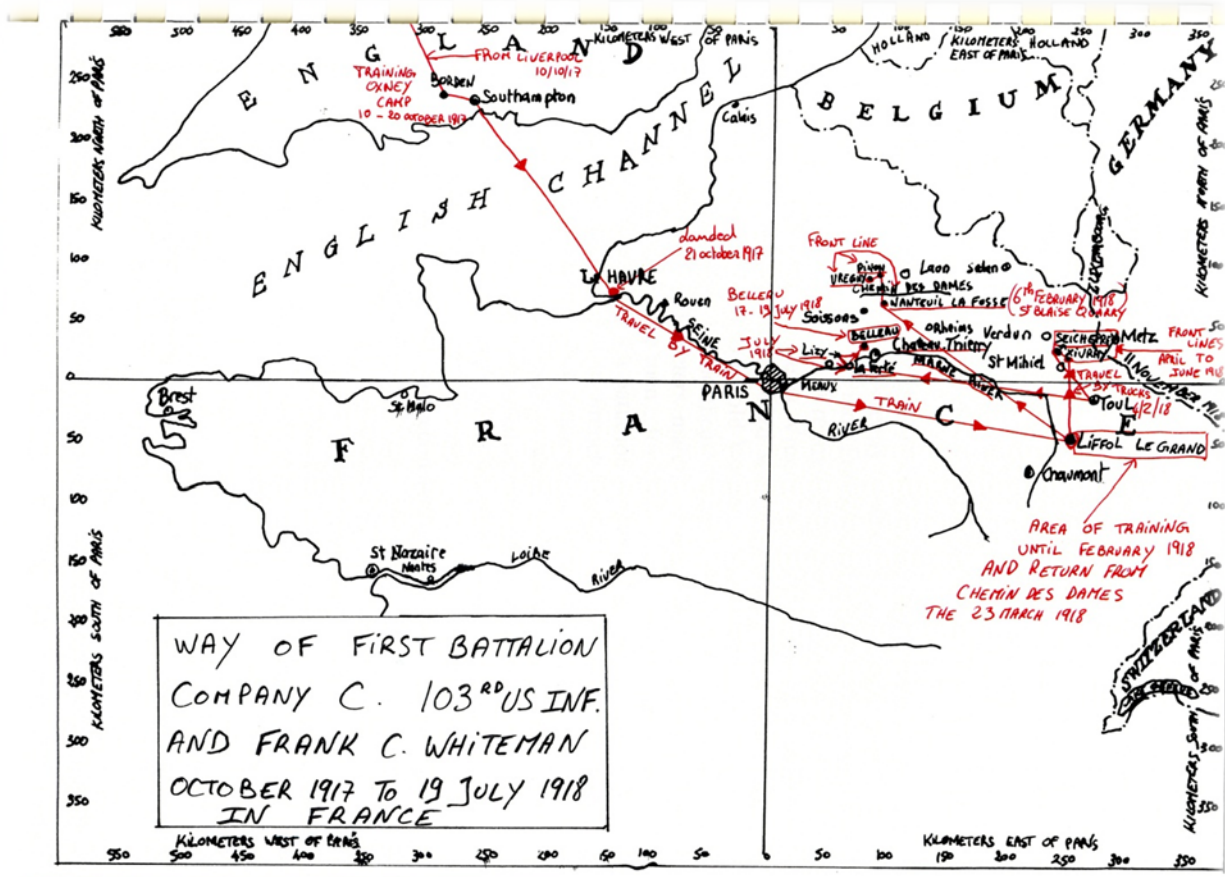
The trip took two nights and a day, and arrived in Liffol le Grand, France a small village of 1500 inhabitants situated in the French Department (county) of Vosges.

Frank and his battalion would lodge among the villagers. The welcome of the people was genuine; they received the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry into their homes and hearts. They stay in Liffol le Grand until February, 1918.

While still in Liffol le Grand they received training in the trench systems with the 162<sup>nd</sup> French regiment at Noncourt, France on a plateau about 12 kilometers from Liffol le Grand.

February 5<sup>th</sup> Frank and his unit left Liffol, France by train to Soissons, France after arriving in Soissons around noon time February 6<sup>th</sup> they immediately detrained and march to Saint Blaise quarry. (Saint Blaise is a underground cave, a chalk mine) Located near Nanteuil La Fosse, France, it was a tremendous underground cave able of accommodating over a battalion, cut out of solid rock, it was an underground village made up of large chambers, corridors and alleys. They slept on bunks made of woven wire or chicken wire over the frame, a dynamo (generator) furnished electric. Rats, vermin and bad underground air were the caves principle faults.





Follow Frank's Journey through French

Frank and Co.C 103<sup>rd</sup> Inf. went to the front line on February 8<sup>th</sup> near Soissons at Chemin Des Dames sector.

Frank Battalion's positions: Feb. - March 1918

- Bois Dherly (Front Line)-February 8-19
- Vregney (Reserve)-February 20-27
- Pinon (Front Line)-February 27-March 7
- Vregny (Reserve)-March 7-10,

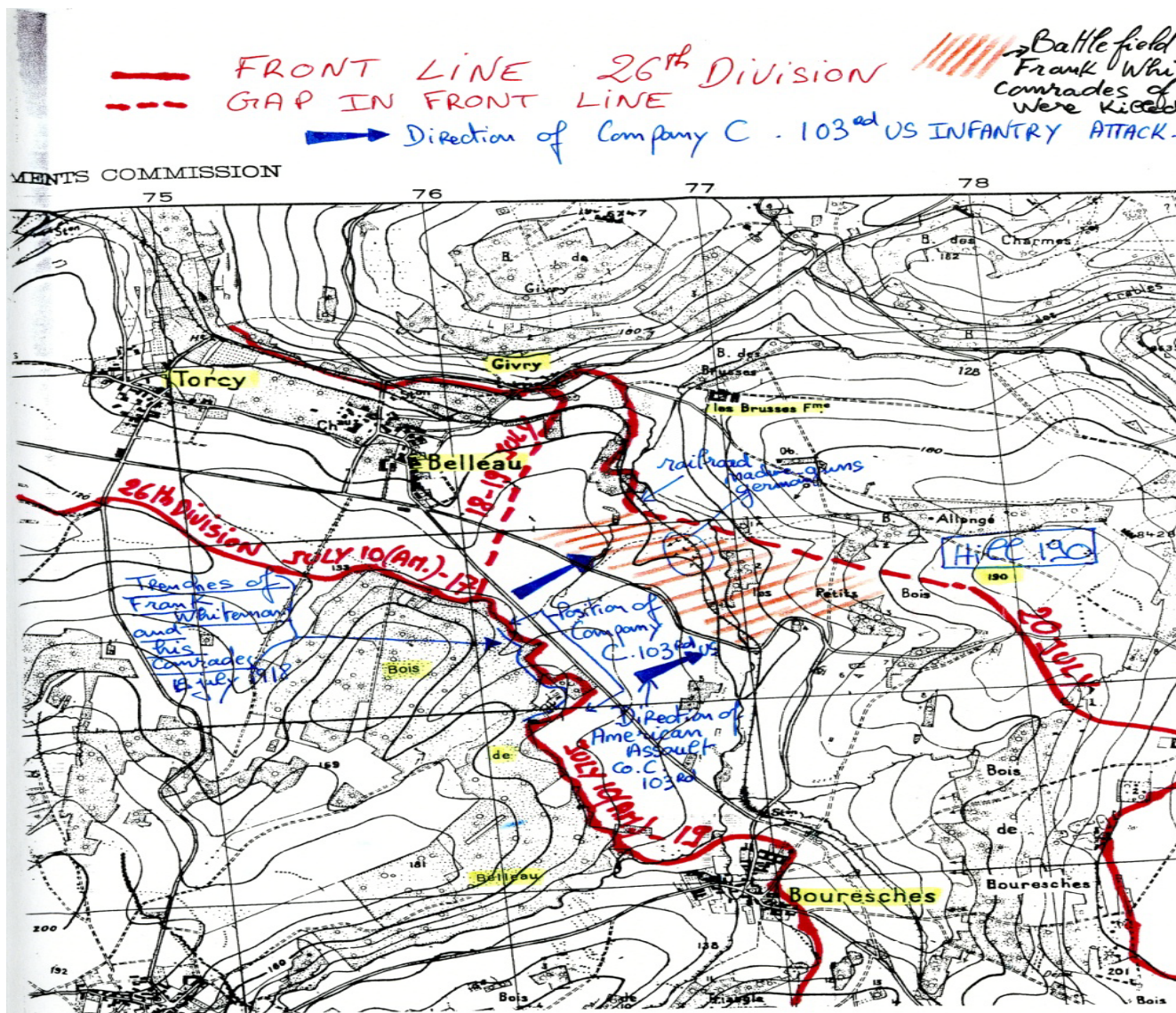
In Vregny also cave like at St Blaise quarry where Frank and the other stayed in reserve position.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1918 the 103<sup>rd</sup> was relieved. They went back to Liffol, France where a fine welcome awaited the men, from their good friends were glad to see them back.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1918 the 103<sup>rd</sup> was put on French trucks and moved to the Toul, France front in the vicinity of Commercy. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion went to Vertuzey and occupied the front line near St. Mihiel, France. Where Seicheprey, Bois Brule and Xivray, France all being scenes of battle.

Frank Battalion's position: April-June 1918

- Veruzey-April 23-30, 1918
- Saint Agnant- May 1- 15, 1918
- Royaumiex-June 14, 1918
- Camp Moose-June 14-22, 1918



Frank's Regiment received a citation for a heroic action against a strong German detachment in this area when it was on the front line between Xivray and Seicheprey, France.

On June 29, 1918 they left Toul and moved to La Ferte Sous Jouarre at the northeast of Meaux. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion then went to Lizy Sur Ourcq, this town not more than 7 miles from the front

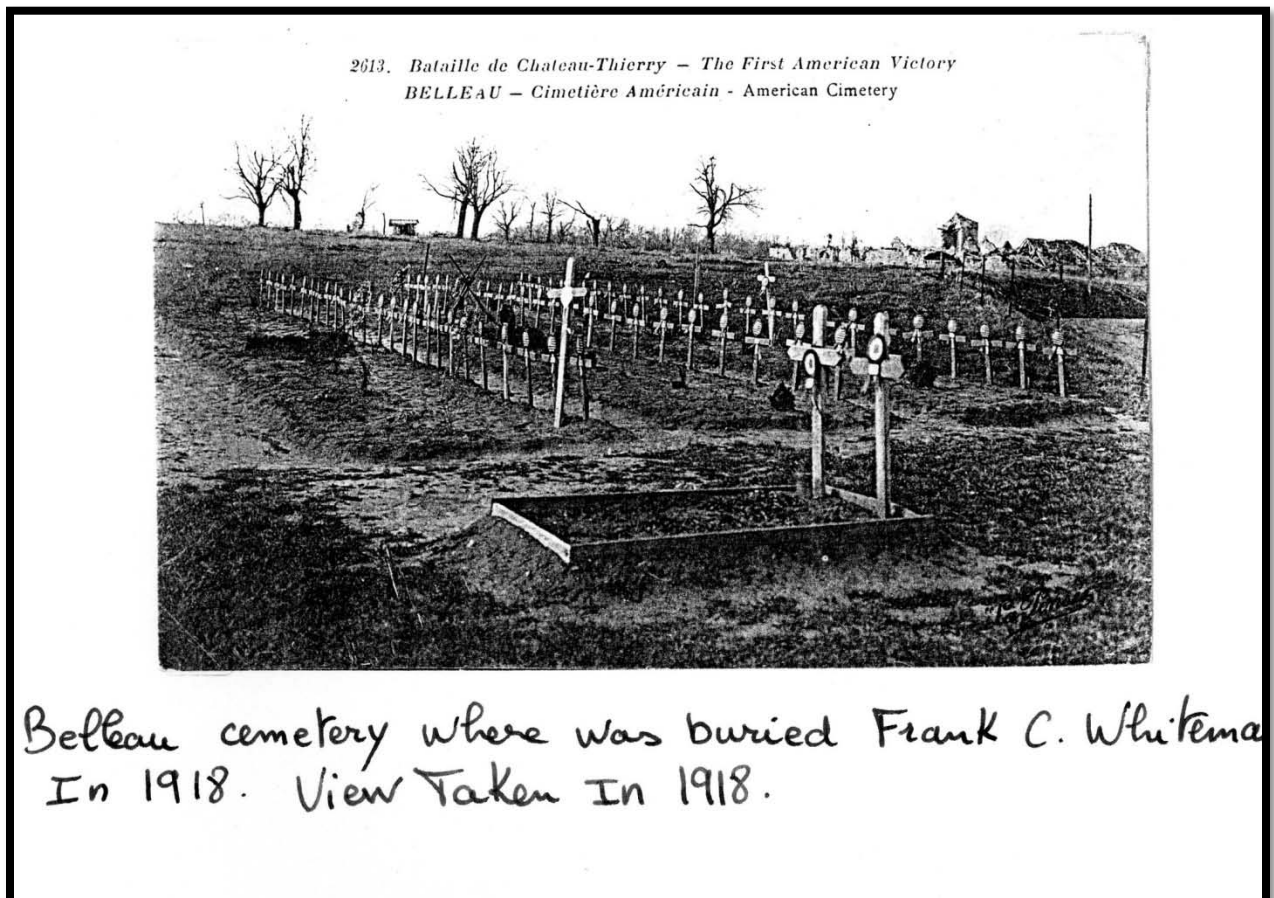


lines, from they went to Bois Jean and took over the front line relieving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1918. On July 17<sup>th</sup> Frank's regiment holding the front line in the Torcy Belleau area, also holding line of outposts with the French on their left and the 104<sup>th</sup> US Infantry on their right on the northwest corner of Belleau Woods.

For the next several days the fighting was fierce around Belleau Woods. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918, message was received that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, companies A and B had taken hill 190 (see map), but was severely shot up by German machine guns and needed help or the position would be lost. The casualties were very heavy.

It's during this attack that Frank C. Whiteman and his comrades were killed by enemy shelling and machine guns. Twenty four men of Company C of the 103<sup>rd</sup> infantry were killed in the assault of July 20<sup>th</sup> on hill 190. It was more than half of the total casualties of Company C during all of World War One (total:42 men died). The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had lost that afternoon on hill 190, 49 men were killed in action or dead from their wounds. All this was due to the many German machine guns concealed in the patch of woods at the foot of hill 190 along the railroad (see map)

The body of Frank C. Whiteman along with his comrades was buried after the battle in the first little cemetery at the center of Belleau Village



[illegible]

Frank's body was return to Tilton and laid to rest at the Park Cemetery on West Main Street.



AMERICAN LEGION "FRANK C. WHITEMAN" POST 49







**MEN OF COMPANY " C " OF THE 103rd INFANTRY KILLED OR DEAD OF WOUNDS**  
**RESULTING OF ATTACK OF THE HILL 190**

Sergeant BELL Herbert H. ,killed by shell fire , 7/20/18 , Concord N.H.

Sergeant BUNTEN George T. ,died from wounds , 7/21/18 , Livermore Falls, ME.

Private CHAPELLE Atlee E. killed by rifle bullet, 7/20/18.

Private COUTUSE Ernest, killed by machine gun bullet 7/20/18.

2nd Lieutenants GLOVER Joseph A., killed by machine gun bullet 7/20/18 ,New Britain ,CONN.

Sergeant GOBLE Theodore , killed by shell fire, 7/20/18 , Boston, MASS.

Sergeant LACASSE Oliver , killed by shell fire ,7/20/18 , Claremont ,N.H.

Private MYSHRALL Mathew K., killed by rifle bullet, 7/20/18 Pangley, ME.

Private MORRISON Daniel, killed by machine gun bullet 7/20/18, Cambridge , MASS ( still in Belleau Cemetery).

Private MIEFERT Frank M.,died from wounds, 7/22/18.

Private MC MASTER Frederic A. .Killed by rifle bullet 7/20/18 Gardiner, ME.

Private MC KENZIE George R., killed by machine gun bullet, 7/20/18 , Barre ,VT. (still in Belleau Cemetery).

Corporal NICHOLS Oscar R., killed by machine gun bullet, 7/20/18, South Chesterville, ME. (Still in Belleau Cemetery)

Corporal POHL William Jr, killed in action, 7/20/18, Boston, MASS.

Private PELACCIA Pauline, killed by machine gun bullet, 7/20/18. (Still in Belleau cemetery).ME.

Private RYDER George E. killed by machine gun bullet 7/20/18, Livermore Falls, ME. (Still in Belleau Cemetery).



Corporal ROSS Frank L., killed by machine gun bullet, 7/20/18 Manchester, N.H.

Corporal SADLER Leon A., died from wounds, 7/21/18, Brighton, MASS.

Corporal SAVAGE Charles H., killed in action, 7/20/18, Everett, MASS.

Private STORER Charles H., killed by rifle bullet, 7/20/18, Washington Mills.

Private SMITH Joseph N. killed by shell fire, 7/20/18.

Private TURCOT Florian, killed in action, 7/20/18, ME. (still in Belleau Cemetery).

1st Sergeant THOMAS Gunnard, killed by machine gun bullet, 7/20/18, Chesterville , ME. (Still in Belleau cemetery).

Private WARD Ernest R., killed by shell fire, 7/20/18.

I want give Thanks to *Gilles Lagin* a young man from Marigny, France, who gave me all the information and maps of Frank C. Whiteman's while he was in France in 1917-1918. Gilles was a college student in 1997, that's when I had contacted him through the World Wide Web.

If anyone has any more information about, especially a photograph of Frank C. Whiteman, even a group photograph of him , it would greatly appreciated if you would contact the American Legion Whiteman-Davidson Post 49 at [legion@metrocast.net](mailto:legion@metrocast.net)

