

SOUTHAMPTON
HISTORY OF WORLD'S WAR WORK
NEW YORK STATE HISTORY

Name in full and rank *William J. Jennings, 2nd Lieutenant*
 Organizations *103rd Field Signal Battalion, Signal Division, Tenn.*
 Place and date of enlistment *Pittsburgh, Penn., May 28, 1917*
 Place and date of discharge *Camp Dix, N.J., April 25, 1918*
 Military camps with dates *Pittsburgh, Pa. March 16, April 15 to Sept. 6, Camp Dix, N.J. May 18, 1918*
 Date of trip overseas and return *Sailed from Camp Mills, N.Y. May 16, 1918. Sailed from Camp Dix, N.J. May 16, 1918. Sailed at Liverpool, Eng. May 31, 1918.*

Describe below service as you saw it, battles and engagements, etc., also interesting items of historic value. Give account of all medals, citations and certificates of merit awarded you. Your photograph is especially requested. Are you a member of the Malcolm White Post, No. 433, American Legion? If so note it below.

Our Battalion sailed from New York on May 16, 18 on the S. S. "Matagana" a Canadian ship. On our last day out a German submarine was sighted among our transports and sunk by a Convoy destroyer.

On June 5th we landed at Calais and were marched to the British rest camp. Our first night there we saw an aeroplane raid our that city.

On July 12th my section of the Signal Corp was assigned to the 109th Regiment of Infantry to take charge of all its signal and communications work. This Regiment was on the front lines with the French holding the Germans at their most advanced point toward Paris, at "Coudes". On July 14th when the Germans opened up their dive toward Paris all our lines of communication were broken and could not be repaired during the barrage so new lines had to run. During this battle I had charge of the most advanced signal station with fourteen men, losing one sergeant killed, ~~one~~ two men wounded and one, shell shocked. This battle was the "2nd Battle of the Marne".

Cont.

After being on the "Mame" front for 14 days we were transferred to the "Aisne-Arrou" sector. On August 5th the 107th Infantry was on the line and pushing its way up toward "Fermes" and "Frismittes" and the Vire River.

During this advance all our communications lines were laid on the ground and constantly being broken by shell fire and ~~our~~ advancing troops. ~~During~~ Our communications ~~was~~ on this sector was ~~also~~ chiefly by telephone.

During this engagement I was hit at the knee with a piece of shrapnel. On August 15th we were transferred to the

Mame-Arrou sector ~~that~~ starting at the first engagement and continuing until ~~the~~ 14th when we were taken out to ~~re~~ reorganize. During this battle our principal line of communication was by telephone. In one instance we used the semaphore flag in signaling back to the artillery to lift their barrage. This was the only time our ~~section~~ detail used the flag for signal work. Our lines were extremely hard to maintain during ~~our~~ this engagement and we were ~~comp~~ compelled to lay all new lines during the nights and work a great deal of the time with gas masks on. While in the front I was gassed and could not and lost my voice for 2 1/2 weeks.