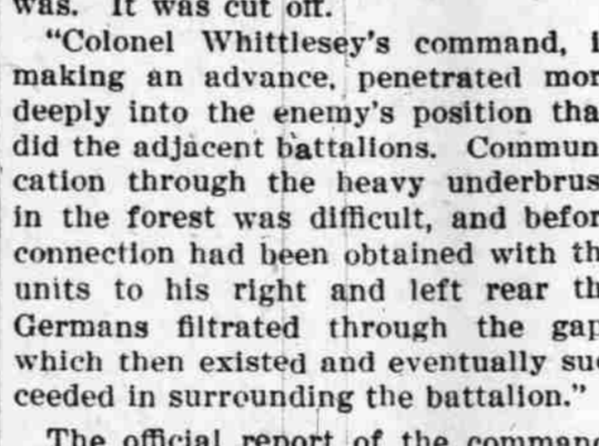


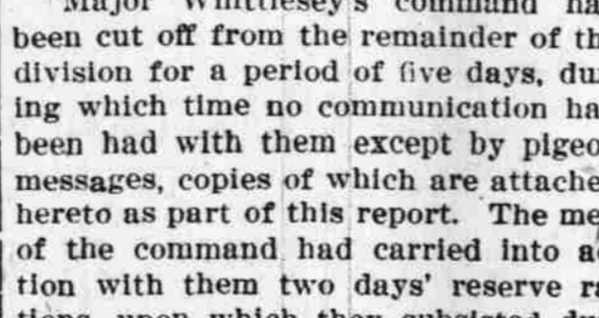
# "Lost Battalion" Was Not Lost



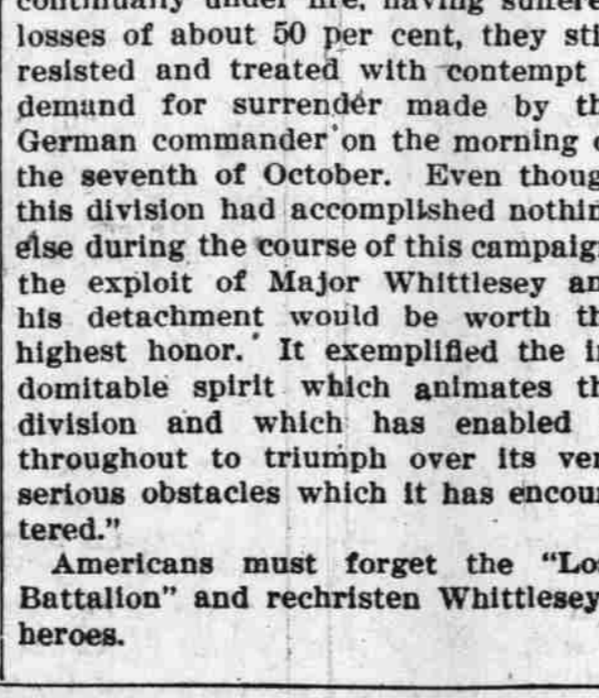
GENERAL PERSHING  
Charles & Ewing



CONGRESSMAN ISAAC SIEGEL  
Charles & Ewing



MAJOR WHITTLESEY  
Charles & Ewing



THE "LOST BATTALION"  
Photo from "The Argonne" by Woodrow Wilson

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN  
OL. CHARLES S. WHITTLESEY'S "Lost Battalion" was never lost in the Argonne forest for the five days, October 3 to 7, 1918. It was a "Get-There Battalion," a "Hang-On Battalion," a "Surrounded Battalion," a "Cut-Off Battalion," a "Never-Surrender Battalion," but it was never for one minute a "Lost Battalion."

The newspaper correspondents, announcing its heroism to the world and searching for the picturesque, coined the phrase "Lost Battalion." Their "Lost Battalion" phrase stuck and still sticks. It doubtless was one of the things that drove Whittlesey over the side of his ship in the night to an unmarked grave in the sea. It distresses the fifty-fifty survivors of the Whittlesey battalion. The American people must learn the true story of those unforgettable five days in October of 1918 and the words "Lost Battalion" should never be heard again on American lips.

The detachment under command of Colonel (then Major) Whittlesey was composed of 600 men of the Seventy-seventh division—the First battalion of the Three Hundred and Eighth Infantry, together with elements of the Three Hundred and Seventh Infantry and Three Hundred and Sixth Machine Gun battalion. The men were from the upper and lower East Side of New York city. Most of them were either immigrants or sons of immigrants.

The Seventy-seventh division was ordered to advance through the Argonne forest. It was nineteen miles of jungle, with steep hills, deep ravines, sheer cliffs, swampy streams, barbed-wire entanglements and machine-gun nests—and the Germans had held it for four years!

The advance began September 26. October 2 the whole line of advance was held up by concentrated machine-gun fire. But the orders were to advance without regard to losses. Whittlesey's objective was a position in "The Pocket"—where two ravines came together in a swampy place at the foot of a cliff.

Whittlesey's battalion, after a loss of ninety men and the capture of two officers and twenty-eight privates of the enemy, gained its objective October 3.

And the Whittlesey battalion was the only detachment that did fight its way through and did gain its objective.

Soon Whittlesey's battalion was surrounded and cut off. He notified headquarters by carrier pigeons that he was cut off. Thereafter there was no communication for five days. Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander, commanding, believed Whittlesey would hold on and tried desperately in every possible way to open up communication.

Then followed five days of hunger and thirst and death until the 600 were about 300. The Germans, who were close at hand, made incessant demands for surrender.

The Americans, so far as their replies are printable, told the Germans to come and get them. The Germans didn't dare try that. They considered it wiser to throw hand grenades and to pick off the volunteers who crawled to the spring after water.

On the fifth day it looked like death for the whole American outfit. That afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the Germans sent in a captured American private, with a white flag, blindfolded. He bore a letter from the German commanding officer to the American commanding officer asking the Americans to surrender in the name of humanity. Colonel Whittlesey handed the note

to Captain McMurty and to Captain Holderman. Then he put the letter in his pocket with a smile. Those with him say he didn't say, "Go to h—!" But the battalion said it—out loud and with additions that would singe a Puritan's ears.

The odd-looking picture of this scene (given herewith) is genuine. It is an enlargement of a photograph taken by a member of the battalion with a wrist camera. It is one of the most remarkable photographs of the war.

Later that afternoon Whittlesey and his men heard the guns of the One Hundred and Fifty-third and One Hundred and Fifty-fourth brigades forcing their way in to them. In the meantime, Lieut. Heinrich Prinz, the German officer who had sent the surrender note, was arranging to use flame-throwers on the Americans. But the Americans beat the Germans in the race against time. And at 9 p. m. October 7 the relieving Americans drove the Germans out and reached the "Never-Surrender Battalion."

The "Come-and-Get-Us Battalion" had reached its objective, had held its objective and the front of the Seventy-seventh division was stabilized.

It was a big achievement for the Whittlesey battalion. It was everywhere recognized as such. Whittlesey was made colonel and got the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Whittlesey came home and took up his law practice in New York city. But he could not get away from the war. He could not close his ears and eyes and heart to the pitiful aftermath of the war. He was a center around which the manifold woes of his men revolved. The burial of the "Unknown Dead" at Arlington was the climax. He sailed for Cuba for rest. He disappeared from the steamer in the night. The war killed him just as much as if he had died in "The Pocket" in the Argonne forest.

Isaac Siegel is one of the representatives in congress of New York. He was born in New York city and represents the district where most of Whittlesey's battalion came from. He was chairman of the Overseas commission which visited the front in 1918. The constant reference to the "Lost Battalion" exasperated him. The unemployment of the survivors distressed him. Articles in New York newspapers intimating that the "Lost Battalion" was well named angered him. Whittlesey's sad end sent him to his feet in the house in defense of Whittlesey and his heroes. He furnished military proofs that the "Lost Battalion" was never lost.

A letter from General Pershing to Representative Siegel says in part:

"In brief, Colonel Whittlesey's command was not lost. After it had been isolated frequent attempts were made to furnish food and ammunition by means of airplanes. Unfortunately, it was very difficult for the aviators to locate in the dense forest the position

of the battalion, which had been accurately indicated on the map. These relief supplies fell into the hands of the enemy. I mention this as evidence that the battalion was not lost in the sense that we did not know where it was. It was cut off.

"Colonel Whittlesey's command, in making an advance, penetrated more deeply into the enemy's position than did the adjacent battalions. Communication through the heavy underbrush in the forest was difficult, and before connection had been obtained with the units to his right and left rear the Germans filtrated through the gaps which then existed and eventually succeeded in surrounding the battalion."

The official report of the commanding general of the Seventy-seventh division, Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander, made through the regular military channels in 1918, bears out the facts set forth in the foregoing. It is in part as follows:

"Major Whittlesey's command had been cut off from the remainder of the division for a period of five days, during which time no communication had been had with them except by pigeon messages, copies of which are attached hereto as part of this report. The men of the command had carried into action with them two days' reserve rations, upon which they subsisted during the five days of their isolation. Too much credit cannot be given Major Whittlesey, Captain McMurty (since promoted to major), and the other officers and men of this detachment. On short rations, surrounded by enemies, continually under fire, having suffered losses of about 50 per cent, they still resisted and treated with contempt a demand for surrender made by the German commander on the morning of the seventh of October. Even though this division had accomplished nothing else during the course of this campaign, the exploit of Major Whittlesey and his detachment would be worth the highest honor. It exemplified the indomitable spirit which animates the division and which has enabled it throughout to triumph over its very serious obstacles which it has encountered."

Americans must forget the "Lost Battalion" and rechristen Whittlesey's heroes.

nerves and brain. How often we dislike a duty simply because it interferes with a plan, and we strew over the difficulties of our particular lot and sink the obstacle to peace in the same quietness of spirit we bring to the task we love. It is, perhaps, too much to ask of humankind that work we love shall be as alluring as that we loathe. But meet the unloved task as a challenge to strength and patience, as without any doubt, in the sight of the angels, something we need to do for our soul's good and get it done and over with.

one of the earliest civilizations in the world, the probability is that licorice is about the oldest confection of all, and the taste which the boys and girls of today like so well was enjoyed by the youngsters of 3,000 years ago.—Washington Star.

The Unloved Task.

Even when we have learned the ordinary duties of life, so they no longer have power to fret us or rob us of sleep, the unaccustomed, or the unwanted retains a nightmare hold upon

## OTHER MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD

FUTURE CONFERENCES TO BE HELD AS RESULT OF WORK OF ARMAMENT MEETING.

## TO DISCUSS WORLD PROBLEMS

Five-Power Conference Eight Years Hence to Again Discuss Naval Armament.

Washington.—When the Washington conference went out of existence it left a dozen legates in the form of commissions and other international bodies which again will bring representatives of the powers together to discuss world problems.

Besides many general agreements "to consult" among themselves when troublesome questions arise, the governments represented here authorized specifically, among other things, a five-power conference eight years hence to again discuss naval armament, a five-power commission to revise the rules of warfare, a "special conference" and "separate revision commission" to regulate the Chinese tariff, "a board of reference" to consider economic and railway questions in the far east, and an international commission to inquire into extra territorial rights in China.

Only two duties are bequeathed to the secretary general of the expiring conference, and it is the expectation of officials that the secretary general's office will wind up these tasks and finally close its doors in the very near future. It has merely to compile and have printed the corrected minutes of the plenary sessions and committee meetings and to act as a clearing house through which the various nations will inform each other fully as to their existing commitments affecting China. This information is to be filed with the secretary general for transmission to all conference members "at the earliest convenience," and similar commitments entered into in future are to be dealt with by direct communication between the various foreign offices.

The provision for another armament conference is embodied in the five-power naval treaty signed recently. It sets forth that "in view of possible technical and scientific developments, the United States . . . shall arrange for a conference of all the contracting powers which shall convene as soon as possible after the expiration of eight years from the coming into force of the present treaty to consider what changes, if any, may be necessary to meet such developments.

In addition, it is provided that in case one of the five signatories becomes involved in war, the others shall "consult" and all five shall "meet in conference" again when the war is over. A conference also is to be held if any development seems to materially affect the "requirements of national security" of any power in a manner to involve treaty provisions, and if any signatory desires to terminate the treaty after its initial 15-year tenure, "all the contracting powers shall meet in conference."

Will Stop Making Bibles.  
New York.—After more than 100 years of manufacturing Bibles, the American Bible society has announced it would soon close down its plant in the old Bible House, in Astor Place. The high cost of production was given as the reason for discontinuing publication.

Victim of Theater Collapse.  
Washington.—Miss Caroline Upshaw, of Atlanta, Ga., niece of Representative Upshaw of Georgia, died as a result of injuries sustained in the Knickerbocker theater disaster. Her death brought the number of dead from the disaster up to 98.

Miss Upshaw had been at the point of death since she was taken from the theater ruins a week ago.

Mississippi Governor Sued.  
Jackson, Miss.—A \$100,000 damage suit, charging Governor Lee M. Russell, of Mississippi, with seducing Miss Frances C. Birkhead, a former employe of his office, was filed against the chief executive in the United States district court here.

Propose Farm Risk Insurance.  
Washington.—The establishment of a farm risk insurance bureau, which would insure growing crops or non-perishable crops against loss or damage resulting from adverse weather conditions, is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative King.

The bureau, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, would have authority to adopt a form of farm risk policy and to fix "reasonable" premium rates. A revolving fund of \$10,000,000 would be created for the payment of claims.

# PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT

## Newberry Seated by Senate



Truman H. Newberry has been seated as United States senator from Michigan, following proceedings of various kinds lasting since the 1918 election. The right to the seat was determined by the senate itself, by a vote of 46 to 41 on a resolution sponsored by Republican leaders. All who voted for him were Republicans, while nine Republicans and thirty-two Democrats voted against him. Three senators were paired for and three against the resolution, and three senators did not vote. The resolution seating Senator Newberry is as follows:

"Be it resolved, That Truman H. Newberry is a duly elected senator from the state of Michigan, and is entitled to hold his seat in the senate of the United States.

"That, whether the amount that was expended in this primary was \$195,000 as was fully reported, or more or less, or whether there were some few thousand dollars in excess, the amount expended was in either case too large, much larger than ought to have been expended.

"The expenditure of such excessive sums in behalf of a candidate, either with or without his knowledge or consent, being contrary to sound public policy, harmful to the honor and dignity of the senate, and dangerous to the perpetuity of a free government, is hereby severely condemned and disapproved."

were some few thousand dollars in excess, the amount expended was in either case too large, much larger than ought to have been expended.

## McCumber: Where He Stands

Senator McCumber of North Dakota (portrait herewith) has been selected by the committee on committees as chairman of the senate finance committee to succeed the late Boies Penrose. Senator Frelinghuysen (Rep.) of New Jersey was selected to fill the vacancy on the finance committee.

Senator McCumber furnishes just twenty-one words of autobiography to the Congressional Directory: "Porter James McCumber, Republican, of Wahpeton; lawyer; elected to United States Senate 1899; reelected in 1905, in 1911, and in 1916."

He says of his selection: "Speaking personally, while I am aware that I have often been considered as too ultra-conservative to satisfy the views of some elements of the West, it is news to me to be informed through some of our eastern journals that I am dangerously radical. Standing between these two viewpoints, I derive some consolation from the fact that I know myself exactly where I stand. I am a protectionist, but not a spotted one. I am a conservative, and must remain so. I believe in progress and in keeping abreast of the time. But I want to progress upward and not downward, forward and not backward. The same conservative and businesslike course that prevents disaster and assures success in business enterprises is just as applicable in the conduct of national affairs."



## Pepper Gets Penrose's Seat



George Wharton Pepper, Philadelphia lawyer, has been appointed United States senator by Governor Sprout of Pennsylvania to succeed the late Boies Penrose. Under the law the appointment stands until a successor is selected at the November election to fill the unexpired Penrose term ending in 1927. Governor Sprout in announcing the appointment said that he expected Mr. Pepper to be a candidate to fill the unexpired term.

Senator Pepper is recognized as one of the ablest constitutional lawyers in the country. He is fifty-five years old, having been born in Philadelphia March 16, 1867. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1887 and received the degree of doctor of laws from the University of Pennsylvania and Yale. In 1890 he married Charlotte R. Fisher. For years he was a lecturer at Yale and he is a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania and of Carnegie Institute. During the World War Pepper was chairman of the Pennsylvania council for national defense and was vice president of the League for the Preservation of American Independence. He was opposed to the League of Nations and took part in debates in many sections of the country. He is the author of a number of legal publications.

By coincidence, the new senator's name goes into the roll exactly where that of Penrose comes out. He is rich, eloquent, much interested in Y. M. C. A. activities and a baseball fan.

## Poincare Succeeds Briand

Raymond Poincare, former president of France (portrait herewith), has become premier and foreign minister of France, succeeding Briand, resigned. He has formed a new cabinet to succeed the resigned Briand ministry.

M. Poincare has been one of the most consistent leaders of the French political faction demanding: Strict execution of every clause of the Versailles treaty and subsidiary documents by Germany.

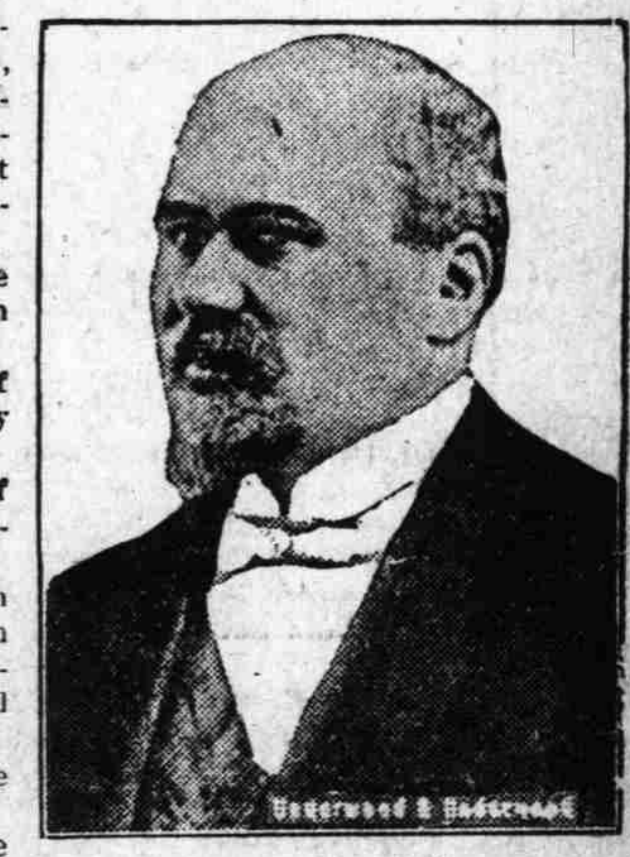
Further military occupation of Germany if the Berlin government defaults in its indemnity obligations.

A receivership for Germany with an allied control commission in Berlin if Germany fails to make the indemnity payments due this month and next.

A close alliance between France and Poland.

Refusal by France to recognize the Moscow soviet government unless it promises to pay all Russia's foreign debts and makes other concessions.

Concerning governmental declaration, the best pointer is the statement by M. Poincare to the correspondents: "I wish that the engagements taken at Versailles be fulfilled—nothing more. My task accomplished, I shall retire."



## OLDEST CONFECTION

The greater part of black licorice is derived from Spain, where it is made from the juice of the plant and mixed with starch to prevent it from melting in hot weather. The licorice plant is a shrub that attains a height of three feet, and it grows wild where its roots reach the water. It flourishes especially on the banks of the Tigris and the Euphrates river. Since the valley of the Euphrates contained

one of the earliest civilizations in the world, the probability is that licorice is about the oldest confection of all, and the taste which the boys and girls of today like so well was enjoyed by the youngsters of 3,000 years ago.—Washington Star.