

Comment

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO HAMILTON COUNTY

Wendell Willkie is one of the best-known names in this republic and his war record was of such interest that on recent days it was made up by the Adjutant General's office at Washington and enshrined in the Congressional Record. A Pennsylvania Congressman, James E. Van Zandt, was responsible for the record being made a part of the Congressional Record, saying the name was on the lips of every man, woman and child in America and that the record speaks for itself. In brief, it is as follows:

War Department,

The Adjutant General's Office,
E. S. Adams, Adj. Gen., Washington.
Wendell Lewis Willkie, first lieutenant, Three Hundred and Twenty-fifth Field Artillery, Eighty-fourth Division

The records show that Wendell Lewis Willkie, resident of Elwood, Ind., made application in April 1917 for a commission in the Officers' Reserve Corps and admission to attend a training camp for officer candidates.

He reported on May 11, 1917, at the first Reserve officers' training camp, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and trained as a civilian candidate for a commission until the close of the camp on August 14, 1917. He was reported by the examining officers as fitted for a commission as first lieutenant, Infantry, and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Officers' Reserve Corps, August 15, 1917. He was assigned to active duty the same date and, after a period of attendance at the training camp, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., he joined the Eighty-fourth Division at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., and was assigned on September 15, 1917, to duty with Battery F, Three Hundred and Twenty-fifth Field Artillery.

He was on special duty at the Infantry School of Arms, October 12 to 25, 1917, and commanded Battery F, Three Hundred and Twenty-fifth Field Artillery, January 24 to March 25, 1918. He attended the school of fire for Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla., from March 30 to June 7, 1918, when he satisfactorily completed the war course for Light Artillery (horsed), and returned to duty with the Three Hundred and Twenty-fifth Field Artillery, then at the Field Artillery firing center at West Point, Ky.

He was transferred on June 28, 1918, to Headquarters Company, Three Hundred and Twenty-fifth Artillery. He sailed with the regiment on September 9, 1918, for France, where the regiment took station at Camp De Souge, and served again for a period with Battery F, and later as battalion adjutant, second battalion, returning to the United States, February 15, 1919, arriving at Newport News, Va., and proceeded with his regiment to Camp Sherman, Ohio, where he was honorably discharged, February 28, 1919, by reason of demobilization of the emergency forces.

The records further show that in letter of October 26, 1918, addressed to the commanding officer of the One Hundred and Fifty-ninth Field Artillery Brigade, Lieutenant Will-

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kie was recommended by the commanding officer of the Three Hundred and Twenty-fifth Field Artillery for promotion to the grade of captain. This recommendation was approved and forwarded to the division commander, thence to general headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces. However, before final action was taken thereon the armistice was signed, when all appointments and promotions then pending were, by direction of the President, suspended.

With reference to the recommendation for his promotion the division commander described Lieutenant Willkie as an efficient and capable officer. At the time of discharge Lieutenant Willkie's commanding officer recommended him for a subsequent appointment in the Regular Army or Reserve Corps and stated that he was an excellent officer. "Would be glad to have him in my command."

The récital of this record appeals to the whole country and especially to many of the boys who went into that world war from Hamilton County, for they, too, were in the 325th Field Artillery, served with Wendell Willkie, knew him and appreciated him in the time of that war across the Atlantic. These home boys went with Willkie on the same ship to France and went into camp with him "over there". Some of the local boys knew Lt. Willkie well and all are happy to know that he is worthy in every way of the great honor which has come to him, the nomination by the Republicans, and endorsed by many of other parties, for President of the United States.

Among those from this county with Wendell Willkie in his trying course, at Camp Taylor, Kentucky, and served in the 84th Division, known as the Lincoln Division, and who went with him to France:

Cecil Kellam, John Leach, Jesse Lennen, Albert Moon, Howard Moffitt, Fred Morris, Arthur Heiny, Alpha McKnight, Ralph B. Neal, Leland Perisho, Harry Waltz, Fred Thomas, Harley Hines, Arthur Pursel, Hershel Woodward, William Stahl, Ray Stanton, Bert St. Clair, Frank Stern, Richard Stern, Eugene Stiles, Lee Stottlemeyer, Oren Randall, Victor Roudebush, Herbert Shannon, Harrison Seeright, Elbert Shaw, Ira Shelburn, Ira Sinclair, Harry Supple, Ner Teeters, Lawrence Thomas, Walter Vernon, Homer West, Harry Wall, Hershel Wall, Franklin Cruzan, James Denny, Larrue Drescher, Edwin Driver, Leo Eck, Elzie Evans, **Arthur Foulke**, Vernon Newton, Noah Noble, Ira Ogle, Noel Orbaugh, Oscar Reagan, Walter Hall, Walter Harmon, Kelso Bishop, Harry Bright, Earl Burgess, Clair Corbin, Louis Coughlin, Harry Gwinn, Clay Pearce and Sam Priddy and others.

The Ledger will be glad to have the complete list of the home boys with Wendell Wilkie in the service in this country or in France.
