

Lesson 1: What is an Alabama Veteran?

Part 1: WORLD WAR ONE AND ALABAMA'S ROLE

PART B: 167th Infantry Regiment



Vocabulary Words: national, infantry, regiment, intensive, front-line, war memorial, recipient
(Definitions at end of story)

Soon after the United States entered World War One, 3,677 men in the Alabama National Guard rode eight trains from Montgomery, Alabama, to New York for training. When the Guard became part of the **national** Army, the President of the United States gave the Guard a new name: the 167th **Infantry Regiment**. The Regiment joined a larger group called the Rainbow Division. After several months of training, the Rainbow Division boarded ships to England where they received more training. The soldiers wrote about the training in their letters and diaries. They told about their hardships training in the snow, sleeping in haylofts, and eating cold meals. After the **intensive** training, the 167th Regiment, now part of the Rainbow Division, traveled to France at the end of February in 1918, to join the **front-line** trenches. They fought for nine months in many battles against the Germans. They fought on the front lines for 110 days without relief. The war ended on November 11, 1918.

Throughout France there are **war memorials** for Americans who fought and died in World War One to save France from the Germans. One of the memorials in the Croix Rouge Farm area of France honors the soldiers of Alabama's 167th Regiment.

After the war ended, in May, 1918, the soldiers returned on ships to the United States. They took trains home to Alabama. All across Alabama they were welcomed with large crowds. Many cities had parades. The picture below is of the parade in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1919 called the Victory Parade.



Picture courtesy of the Encyclopedia of Alabama

Many of the men from Alabama were honored for their service in the war. Corporal Sidney E. Manning from Flomaton, Alabama, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for leading his men after he was severely wounded on July 28, 1918. He is listed on the Columns at the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park as a Medal of Honor **recipient** from Alabama. Many other men received medals for bravery. General Douglas MacArthur was very impressed with the men from Alabama. He said,

“...the 167th Alabama assisted by the left flank of the 168th Iowa had stormed and captured the Croix Rouge Farm in a manner which for its gallantry I do not believe has been surpassed in military history...”



Medal of Honor Recipient Corporal Sidney Manning

Picture courtesy of the **Encyclopedia of Alabama**

Corporal (Cpl.) Manning was born in Butler County, Alabama, in July of 1892. He became Commander of his platoon (his army group) after both his Commander and Sergeant died in the beginning of an attack on strongly protected heights overlooking the Ourco River. Even though Cpl. Manning was himself severely wounded, he led the 35 surviving men in his platoon to fight the enemy and gain a foothold in their territory. During the battle he led his platoon into, he received more wounds and 28 of his men died. He protected his 7 remaining men by holding back a large group of the enemy just 50 yards away. He kept shooting the enemy with his automatic rifle until the 7 men successfully joined another platoon on the front. Then he dragged himself to a shelter suffering from 9 wounds in all parts of his body. He survived his wounds and lived 42 more years.

Vocabulary Words with definitions:

National: belonging to the whole country; the national government is the government of the whole United States; for example, the National Anthem is the song of everyone in the United States. A national Army is the Army of the United States.

In the Story: soldiers from the Army in Alabama joined soldiers from other states. They all became a part of the national Army.

Infantry: soldiers marching or fighting on foot; another name is foot soldiers. Sometimes these soldiers were also called ground troops or ground soldiers. In World War One they were nicknamed Doughboys.

Regiment: a military group that is made up of several large groups of soldiers

In the Story: the President of the United States made the Alabama National Guard part of the United States Army. The President gave the National Guard soldiers a new name: the 167th Infantry Regiment. Infantry Regiment means a very large group of soldiers fought on the ground instead of in airplanes or on ships. In World War One, the Infantry built long and deep trenches in the ground and stood in them to fight the enemy.

Intensive: very hard work with extreme force or strength or to an extreme degree

In the Story: Intensive training means that the soldiers had days and days of very hard work. During this work they were taught how to build trenches, handle guns, and work together to win the war. Another example of the word intensive is the way a football team has to practice to be really good and win their games.

Front-line: part of the Army that is closest to the enemy

In the Story: The 167th Infantry (foot soldiers) Regiment (large group of soldiers) who were the nearest to the enemy were the front-line soldiers. This meant that they had the most intense fighting (the hardest fighting). When they won a battle and captured the enemy or when the enemy left, these men often went to another place and took over the front-line of those battles.

Recipient: a person that receives an award

In the Story: An Alabama soldier named Corporal Sidney Manning who fought with the 167th Infantry Regiment was very, very brave and saved the lives of many men. He was awarded the Medal of Honor. A Medal of Honor is the highest military award a soldier can receive. To receive this medal a soldier has to do something that saves the lives of other soldiers. It is **not** correct to say he was a Medal of Honor winner because he did not win this award. He was given the Medal as an honor. So, the correct way is to say: He is a Medal of Honor recipient.

War Memorial: a structure, usually made of stone, that is built in honor of people who died in war

In the Story: During World War One, the 167th Infantry Regiment fought in the country of France. Germany was trying to take over the country of France. The United States helped France to fight them. When the war was over, the French people built war memorials in many places in France to show honor to those soldiers who helped them win the war and keep their country.