

402

Note. This Questionnaire should be completed so far as possible with such information as can be furnished at once, and returned with photographs and additional notes or letters, if available, to Department of War Records, State Library, Hartford, Conn. Your completed Questionnaire will convey to your children and to their children, your story in your own words, of the part you took in the great conflict. The "Roll of Honor" and the accompanying list of names certified by a town official, will form the Title-Page and Table of Contents to the volumes of War Records relating to those in service from your Town.



### Connecticut Participation in the World War

## State of Connecticut

12179

# MILITARY SERVICE RECORD

D. H. R.—Form 1. Ed. 3  
State Library

Compiled by the Department of War Records, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, where it will be filed, as a permanent memorial of the deeds of Connecticut soldiers, sailors and marines in the service of the federal, state and allied governments during American participation in the World War.

Name in full Rodriguez Hidalgo | Cristobal | Spanish custom adds mother's maiden name to patronymic.  
(family name) (first name) (middle names)

Date of birth December 12 1887  
(month) (day) (year)

Place of birth Coamo Porto Rico  
(town) (county) (state) (country)

Name of father Regino Antonio Rodriguez Birthplace Porto Rico  
(country)

Maiden name of mother Santos Hidalgo Birthplace Porto Rico  
(country)

Are you White, Colored, Indian or Mongolian? White

Citizen Yes Voter Yes Church Christian - Methodist Episcopal  
(yes or no) (yes or no) (denomination)

Married 1 at \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ (maiden name) Born 1 at \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_ (name) Born 1 at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Born 1 at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Born 1 at \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternal Orders \_\_\_\_\_

Previous military service or training None

Occupation before entry into the service office secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ ; employer Remington Arms Company, Bridgeport, Conn.

Residence before entry into the service 36 Poplar St., Bridgeport, Fairfield  
(street number) (town) (county)

Present home address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street number) (town) (county) (state)



## WAR RECORD

Inducted into service or Enlisted on August 24, 1917, at Fort Slocum,  
(date) (place)  
New Rochelle, New York, as a first class private  
(rank)  
 in the Infantry (Fourth Recruit Company) section of  
(infantry, artillery aviation, etc.)  
 the Regular Army  
(Regular Army, National Guard, Home Guard, National Army, Navy, Naval Reserve, or Marine Corps)

Identification number

Assigned originally to Company C, 38<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry (38<sup>th</sup>)  
(company) (regiment) (division)  
 (or) \_\_\_\_\_ at Syracuse, New York.  
(ship) (place)

Trained or stationed before going to Europe: —

School, camp, station, ship	From (date)	to (date)
<u>Syracuse, New York</u>	<u>Sept. 18, 1917</u>	<u>October 25, 1917</u>
<u>Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C.</u>	<u>Oct. 25, 1917</u>	<u>March 11, 1918</u>
<u>Camp Merritt, New Jersey</u>	<u>March 13, 1918</u>	<u>March 20(?) 1918</u>

Transferred to: —

Company	Regiment	Division	Ship	Date	New Location
<u>Company C</u>	<u>38<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Infantry</u>		<u>Oct. 25, 1917</u>	<u>Camp Greene</u>
				<u>March 11, 1918</u>	<u>Charlotte, N. C.</u>

Promoted: —

From (rank)	to (rank)	Date
<u>(Served in Adjutant's office - November, 1917, to January 16, 1918.)</u>		

Embarked from Camp Merritt, N. J. on \_\_\_\_\_  
(port) (ship)  
March 20(?) 1918 and arrived at (England) Brest France, April 14, 1918.  
(date) (foreign port) (date)

Proceeded from Dept. of Haute Marne to Château-Thierry, May 30, 1918.  
(date)

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Trained or stationed abroad: —

Country	Place	From (date)	to (date)

NOTE: — Should form or space in any case prove inadequate for recording the desired information, please state facts on separate sheet of paper and enclose with this record.



## WAR RECORD

First went into action May 30, 1918 - Chateau-Thierry (east)  
(date) (place)

Participated in the following engagements Chateau-Thierry Bridge, Fossoy, June 2-3  
Active service in this section for three weeks. A few days in  
rest camp. To Surmelin valley July 3. Bois d'Aigremont July 14.  
Near Crezancy - July 15. (In labor operations with 30" Inf. preceding battle.)

Cited, decorated, or otherwise honored for distinguished services. (Give circumstantial accounts of exploits, including dates and places where performed, also by whom and in what manner the honors were bestowed):—

Killed in action, killed by accident, died of wounds, died of disease, wounded, gassed, shell-shocked, taken prisoner:

Nature of casualty	Place	Date
<u>Killed in action - Crezancy, France,</u>	<u>Front line trench - high explosive shell - instantaneous death. No grave.</u>	<u>July 15, 1918.</u>
<u>Marne River. 38 Regiment designated by French "Rock of The Marne."</u>		

Under medical care:—

Name of hospital	Location	From (date)	to (date)

Permanently disabled (through loss of limb, eyesight, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(specify disability)

Arrived at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(American port) (ship) (date) (from)

Discharged from service at \_\_\_\_\_  
(place) (date)

as a \_\_\_\_\_  
(rank)

### RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE

Occupation after the war \_\_\_\_\_

If a change of occupation was occasioned by reason of disability acquired in the service, describe the process of re-education and readjustment, and indicate the agencies or individuals chiefly instrumental in furnishing the new occupations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE:—Should form or space in any case prove inadequate for recording the desired information, please state facts on separate sheet of paper and enclose with this record.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What was your attitude toward military service in general and toward your call in particular?.....

*Intense patriotism. Cause of liberty for country superior to personal aspirations.*

What were the effects of camp experiences in the United States upon yourself — mental and physical?

What were the effects upon yourself of your overseas experience, either in the army or navy or in camp in France, England or elsewhere?

If you took part in the fighting, what impressions were made upon you by this experience?

What has been the effect of all these experiences as contrasted with your state of mind before the war?

Photographs — If possible enclose one taken before entering the service and one taken afterwards in uniform, both signed and dated.

Additional data *Cristóbal Rodríguez Hidalgo was a martyr to duty. Was refused permit to visit fiancée, seriously injured by automobile, because other soldiers "went wild" and were absent several days before embarking. He sacrificed personal desires for farewell and marriage, by conforming to army discipline.*

Signed at..... on..... 1.....

(place)

(date)

(full name)

(rank)

(branch of service)

The information contained in this record, unless otherwise indicated, was obtained from the following persons or sources:

*Marian Doyle (fiancée of deceased), 1496 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.*







*Christy W. ...*



*Letter destroyed as  
requested.*

July 25,

23

Miss Marian Doyle  
1496 Fairfield Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

My dear Miss Doyle:

Your letter of the 21st inst., with the enclosed Questionnaire relating to Cristobal R. Hidalgo, Company C, 38th U. S. Infantry, received, for which please accept our thanks.

I am very sorry to learn of the sad experience which has been yours. There are times when one can simply look and say nothing, for words fail to express one's real meaning.

We will greatly appreciate receiving the pictures, and will gladly have them copied and returned to you, for we would not think of asking you to bear the expense in connection with this.

Thanking you for your co-operation, and trusting that the sky which seems so dark and unpromising may yet brighten for you, I remain

Very sincerely,

CSG MCH

State Librarian  
and Director

August 9, 1923

Miss Marian Doyle  
1496 Fairfield Ave.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

My dear Miss Doyle:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt with my best thanks of the two photographs of Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo which you kindly sent us.

I have had copies made from these photographs and am returning them to you under separate cover.

A Certificate of Service will be engrossed and sent to you in a few weeks.

Again extending my sincere sympathy to you for the loss of your fiancee, and trusting the pictures reach you safely, I am

Very sincerely,

State Librarian  
and Director.



Unrecorded

Home Address	For	to	Country	Origin	Service
Washington, D.C.	U. S. A.	Tr.	U. S. A.	U. S. A.	U. S. A.

July 25, 1923

Miss Marian Doyle  
1496 Fairfield Ave.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

My dear Miss Doyle:

Your letter received and contents noted. I am pleased to receive the questionnaire and history of Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo for which please accept my thanks.

If you will send the pictures we will have them copied and returned to you, we wouldn't expect you to have them copied.

A Certificate of Service will be engrossed with his name and rank and forwarded to you in a few weeks.

Extending to you my sincere sympathy for the loss of your dear friend, I am

Very sincerely,

State Librarian  
and Director.



CRISTOBAL RODRIGUEZ HIDALGO

Born in Coamo, Porto Rico, CRISTOBAL RODRIGUEZ HIDALGO, son of Regino Antonio Rodriguez and Santos Hidalgo Rodriguez, although listed among the most patriotic American citizens who ever made the supreme sacrifice for their country, always retained the lineal custom of his Spanish ancestors in appending his mother's maiden name to his patronymic.

Cristobal received his education in an elementary school of Coamo and in the High school at San Juan; following his graduation from the latter, he studied law for a time, but dominated by the desire for travel, and realizing that an attorney must spend years in the establishment of a permanent practice, he abandoned his professional course and equipped himself for a secretarial position. Declining the financial offers of his father, the young man embarked for South America, where he worked in several cities prior to his arrival in New York and subsequent location in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

During 1916 - 1917 Mr. Hidalgo was employed in the offices of the Remington Arms Company. Throughout his residence in Bridgeport he was affiliated with the First Methodist Episcopal church and was a member of the Bible class instructed by Dr. Edward Sylvester Smith.

Impelled by the summons of patriotism, Mr. Hidalgo enlisted in August, 1917, joining the Fourth Recruit Company at Fort Slocum (New Rochelle)<sup>18</sup> New York; he was transferred in September to the training camp in Syracuse, New York, as a member of Company C, 38 United States Infantry. This regiment moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, October 25, and was stationed at Camp Greene where for some months Mr. Hidalgo worked in the office of the adjutant. His experience in this position was designed as preparatory training for a similar assignment abroad; Cristobal, however, eager to contribute active service in the ranks, resigned from this post of comparative safety and resumed the duties of first class private.



"I enlisted to fight," he said simply; "the welfare of a future generation, the protection of the women who are the flower of our country -- demand it."

Although enduring many hardships while in Camp Greene, which at that time received official condemnation from Secretary of War Newton H. Baker, Private Hidalgo registered no complaint to either friend or associate, but wrote humorously of his experiences in the bitter cold of wintry blast and storms of sleet and snow, when, drenched to the skin, he retrieved his tent which had blown from its fastenings, melted ice water for his daily bathing, or suffered from the pernicious effects of the unsanitary conditions which permitted mud, garbage and other refuse to be washed into the sleeping quarters of the soldiers.

On the eleventh of March, 1918, Company C received marching orders and removed to Camp Merritt, New Jersey, <sup>(arriving March 13)</sup> from which place they embarked for France approximately a week later. Private Hidalgo saw active service in the engagements at

participated in the engagements at Chateau-Thierry Bridge, May 30, 1918, at the front line in Fossoy, June 2-3, and remained at the front for three weeks following. After a few days in a rest camp, he was hurried to the Sarmelin Valley July 3, 1918. His company was assigned to the support of the Thirtieth Regiment at Bois d'Aigremont, where he was engaged in labor operations (July 14), preceding the momentous battle of The Marne, July 15, when he made the supreme sacrifice and found his last resting place in the trench which he had helped to make.



On the morning of July 15, 1918, the Thirty-eighth Regiment, ever after designated by the French officials as "THE ROCK OF THE MARNE", kept the Huns back from Paris - their objective. Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo, in a front line trench near Cresancy, a mile south of the river, gave his life for the principles so dear to his heart, when a high explosive shell from the German barrage caused the instantaneous death of the Bridgeport soldier and six of his comrades. In tribute Captain Edmund H. Rogers, adjutant of the regiment, wrote:

"Private Hidalgo was well known and loved by all as a soldier and a man. His was the death of a real soldier at his post of command, giving all he had to the cause we all hold so dear."

Although recorded as being interred in the military cemetery at Cresancy, Private Hidalgo has no grave that could be located by his brother José, who visited France in 1919.

Poet, author and linguist, Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo's paramount characteristics were profound religious sentiment, patriotism and veneration of womanhood. Courageous, sincere and unselfish, he was practically a martyr to duty subsequent to his enlistment. Engaged to be married to Miss Marian Doyle of Bridgeport, an instructor and member of the New England Woman's Press Association, he was never permitted to visit her after entering camp. Prior to his embarkation from Camp Merritt, he was not accorded leave of absence sufficient for a trip to Bridgeport, owing to the infractions of the major portion of his regiment who "went wild" on realizing that they were leaving their country on so perilous an enterprise, and were absent without leave for 44 days.

How was it possible for Miss Doyle to see her fiance for farewell or the marriage which he desired, since in September she had been incapacitated in what was at first regarded a fatality by a reckless criminal operating an automobile in violation of three State laws. (This was Stanley T. Kellogg, who was never punished for his crime.) The young woman was not able



to leave her room until several weeks after the arrival of Mr. Hidalgo in France. In his last letter to her, mailed after his death, the soldier communicated to her in their private code the fact that he was en located on the Marne, following three weeks of desperate conflict, and was hoping for a future home in Bridgeport. "I forget all my hardships when I receive your letters," he wrote; "always remember that I am not the only one who is sacrificing himself for his country. Do not worry about me - pray for the safety of the nation."

Surviving Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo are his father, Regino Antonio Rodriguez, a planter of Barros, Porto Rico, his sister Aurelia of New York City, His brother Deogracias, engaged in business in Spain, and his brothers Rogelio and José, prominent in commercial and municipal affairs in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. All his relatives are American citizens. His death has been commemorated in a poem of exquisite sentiment entitled "Flor de Sangre" by his boyhood friend, Evaristo Ribera Chevremont.



AUG -7 1923

RE CRISTÓBAL RODRIGUEZ HIDALGO, COMPANY C , 38 UNITED STATES INFANTRY.

12179

1496 Fairfield Avenue,  
Bridgeport, Conn.,  
August 4, 1923.

Mr. George S. Godard,  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Godard,-

During the current week I have received a letter from José Rodríguez Hidalgo, brother of Cristóbal, recently returned from a foreign business trip. He states that he succeeded in finding Cristóbal's grave in France, and that the soldier's remains have been transferred to the Arlington National Cemetery. He sent me a picture of the grave. The number on the cross (doubtless the identification number) is 54.

I have always known that Cristóbal was the first man of Porto Rican birth to perish in the World War. Perhaps you would like to include that statement in your history, since my fiancé did not wait to be drafted, but enlisted when he might easily have chosen domestic happiness and perhaps have escaped the draft. He was intensely patriotic and wrote poems expressing his willingness to die in the cause of liberty. He used to write to me : "The sunshine of your smile --- and my country forever."

I have also found the exact date of Cristóbal's enlistment at Fort Slocum - August 24, 1917.

I am sending two photographs -- one taken a few days prior to his enlistment, the other at Camp Greene, North Carolina.

I thank you for all your kindness in the matter of these historical records and memorials; additionally for your personal sympathy expressed in your letters.

Very sincerely,

Marian Doyle.



ADD HISTORY OF CRISTÓBAL RODRIGUEZ HIDALGO ,  
COMPANY C, 38 UNITED STATES INFANTRY

---

(August 4, 1923)

Subsequent investigation by Private Rodríguez Hidalgo's brother resulted in the discovery of the soldier's grave in France. His remains have been transferred to the Arlington National Cemetery.

Attorney Luis Samalea Iglesias, Fiscal at Large of the Department of Justice in San Juan, Porto Rico, on July 14, 1923, published an appeal to the citizens of the island to perpetuate the name of the first soldier of Porto Rican birth who sacrificed his life for the cause of the Liberty of the World. . . . CRISTÓBAL RODRIGUEZ HIDALGO.

Mr. Samalea Iglesias was a schoolmate of the young soldier and is an intimate friend of the Rodríguez Hidalgo family. It is his desire to have a monument erected in San Juan as a memorial to the first man of the island to lay down his life voluntarily in the struggle for World freedom.

---