Military Service Record

This is the Military Service Record of **John Patrick Dwyer**

Born on December 19, 1893 In Waterbury, Connecticut, USA In New Haven Country

Father’s Name of Father: William Born in England

Mother’s Maiden Name: MaryJane Parker Born in England

Are you white, colored, Indian, or Mongolian: White

Citizen: YES

Voter: YES

Church: Congregational

Married: Yes on Feb. 27, 1922 in Waterbury, Connecticut

To: Gladys Whitehouse Born: on Dec. 4, 1901 in England

Children: John Born on June 16, 1925 in Waterbury

Ruth Mary Born on Dec. 11, 1923 in Waterbury

Edward Born on Jan. 15, 1927 at Waterbury

Fraternal Orders: Veterans Foreign Wars, Yankee Division

Previous Military Experience: None

Occupation before entry to the service: Machinist

Employer: Manville’s Machine

Residence before entry into service: West Easton Ave., Waterbury, Connecticut in New Haven
County

Present home address: 36 Ives Street, Waterbury, Connecticut in New Haven County

**War Record**

Inducted into service or enlisted On June 17, 1917 in Waterbury as a: Private

In the: Company “G” Infantry section of the National Guard.

 (Note that the word inducted into service is crossed out, leaving only the word “**enlisted”)**

Identification Number: 65057

Assigned originally to Company “G”, 102nd Regiment, 26th Division.

Trained or stationed before going to Europe: New Haven

Went aboard transport USS Lenake in September. Ship broke down about two days out, returning to shore at Fort Totten. Stayed there about three weeks, then sailed on Adriatic from June 1917 to September 1917.

Transferred to: **None indicated**

Promoted from the rank of private to the rank of Corporal on July 1918; promoted from the rank of corporal to the rank Sergeant on October 1918.

Embarked from: Hoboken, New Jersey On the ships: Lenake and Adriatic

In September and October, respectively And arrived at (port): Liverpool, Eng.
In November 1917

Proceeded from: Liverpool, Eng. To: Le Havre, France In November 1917

From: Le Havre, France To: Rouvres La Chetive, France In November 1917

From: Rouvres La Chetive, France To: Front line In February 1918

 Trained or stationed abroad: at Rouvres La Chetive, France

First went into action on Feb. 4, 1918 In Chambre des Dames

Participated in the following engagements: Toul Front, Chambre des dames, Chateau-Thierry, Saint-Mihiel, Argonne

**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):**

 Recommended for D.S.C. (Distinguished Service Cross at Toul for carrying wounded sergeant, Name Singer, from Front Line over the top of trenches, was all smashed in from shell fire and could not go that way.

**Killed in action, killed by accident, died of wounds, died of disease, wounded, gassed, shell-shocked, taken prisoner:** Wound in left hand in Chateau Thierry, France July 21, 1918 Did not go to hospital until after the Armistice. Went to Hospital with the flu and also had hand operated on unsuccessfully.

**Under medical care:** at Hospital Base 77 in Autun from November 1918 to January 1918; Also operated on at Newport News and Fort Mc Henry, Baltimore, Md.

**Permanently disabled (specify):** left hand, palm of hand

Arrived: Newport News On July 1919 from Paris

At Camp Dix On November 17, 1919 Discharged as a: Sergeant

**Return to civilian life:**

Occupation: Fireman, City of Waterbury

If a change of occupation was occasioned by reason of disability acquired in the service, describe the process or re-education and readjustment, and indicate the agencies or individuals chiefly instrumental in furnishing the new occupation: **None indicated,**

Additional information:

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

I believe the US was justified or I would not have enlisted. Believe in this country being prepared for defense but also helping hereafter they should stay home and do it.

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

I think the training etc. done me good, but was more interested in getting across the pond than anything else.

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

A hatred of war as now I consider it both silly and inhuman and not a civilized way of settling anything.

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

What a rotten thing war is the first time. I began to say that was when I saw three comrades about 18 years old blown to bits with a H.E. (high explosive) shell, then I began to wonder just what it was all about.

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

I just wish I had the education to be able to explain myself in writing, but it’s no go so I want try it. Perhaps it’s for the best at that.

Signed at Waterbury, Conn. On 19th of December, 1921

Signature: John P. Dwyer Rank: Sergeant Branch: Infantry

Additional data: 2-page Handwritten letter attached to the War Record survey At the top of the letter, it reads: “In reference to Honor”

Also served in the 204th MP (Military Police) Company in Paris from January to July 1919. While in the 102nd, served as Sergeant Battalion Sniper. [A letter was attached to the form.] In reference to honor: In reference to the time I was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross, Sergeant Singer of Ansonia was very dangerously wounded, and it was essential that he be moved from the front line to Beaumont, where they would better be able to take care of him. So Captain Gettings of the Medical Corp. (he is now living in New Haven) asked for volunteers to carry him over. It was impossible to carry him by way of the trenches as they were all caved in by shell fire. Another man, name Tournard and myself undertook to do the job. It was on the 21st of April about 11 a.m., a nice bright day and we had to carry him about ½ mile in plain sight of the Germans. We were about half way over when they started to fire from Mont Lec with one of their many 77. They would fire one in front of us as we heard it coming, we would drop Singer and throw ourselves on the ground. After it had broke, we would run to the wounded man and pick him up again. Then, they would fire one in back of us and we would do the same as we did before. They were trying to bracket us “the meanies” and they continued to keep that up all the way across. I believe we threw them off their aim by dropping as we did. Anyway, we got him over ok. That is almost over when Mr. Tournard got shell shock and was unable to continue, but we were close to the reserve lines by then and some engineers ran out and helped me carry the man in. They all carried Tournard in too. He went to the hospital avec (with) Singer. Tournard was from Company A. St. Thomson of the 2nd Battalion snipers recommended us for the medal but he did not have any luck or rather we didn’t. Wel ce le Guerre. PS. Singer died from his wounds about five years ago. (Letter Signed) John P. Dwyer, 36 Ives St. Waterbury, Ct.