

SOUTHAMPTON  
HISTORY OF WORLD'S WAR WORK  
NEW YORK STATE HISTORY

Name in full and rank .. William George Prichard.. PRIVATE.....  
 Organizations .. Motor Mechanics + Co. E 38 Inf 3rd Div <sup>Camp</sup> ..  
 Place and date of enlistment .. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. New York .. <sup>Jan</sup> Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1918.....  
 Place and date of discharge .. Camp Misc. New Jersey, Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 1919  
 Military camps with dates .. Fort Slocum Jan 25 Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Camp Hancock Georgia  
 Date of trip overseas and return .. March 28<sup>th</sup> 1918 .. Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 1919 .. <sup>until March 24<sup>th</sup></sup>

Describe below service as you saw it, battles and engagements, etc., also interesting items of historic value. Give account of all medals, citations and certificates of merit awarded you. Your photograph is especially requested. Are you a member of the Malcolm White Post, No. 433, American Legion? If so note it below.

I enlisted in the Motor mechanics and was transferred to the Infantry without my knowledge or consent shipped from Hancock to Merritt got there about 1 o'clock in the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> of March and at 6 o'clock in the morning I was on the boat Mt Vernon on to give it a German name the Crown Princess Cecilie. Arrived in France on April 1<sup>st</sup> stayed three days in the Pontanzen barracks in Brest and proceeded to a little town called Evreux for a training period lasting from April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> (This was all the training I had before going on) Push to the front from there to ~~stopped~~ the German drive. Name offensive occupied a small town named Josoy for around two weeks + then to the next town in the Somme valley called Maisy took part in the defensive July 15-18 and the drive that followed cutting my company of 260 to about 45 men I was lucky got filled up (replaced) during a two weeks rest (so called) sent to Fumes which we entered losing 60 men went to Gondrecourt for two weeks training then about 100 miles to St. Mihiel when we did more taking thence by Motor truck to the

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. EDWARD WHITE, Southampton, N. Y.

Argonne went into support around Oct 1<sup>st</sup> moved up  
to the first line in broad daylight Oct 4<sup>th</sup> went over  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> on the very hill were the great American  
cemetery at Romagne is captured the hill in about half  
an hour with a loss to our regiment of about 1800 men  
my company had 42 left stuck around a few days  
losing sandy men & some more of my nerves move to  
around Madeline Farm a distance of about 3 kilo  
took us 6 hrs to ~~to~~ wended on to ~~the~~ Mans land  
got all shot up I'm lucky again but got gassed  
with mustard didn't know it till next day could  
smell it but didn't say put the old mask on might  
get drowned in a mud hole so dark could hardly see  
a thing with it on let alone off Eyes started  
to close around 6 o'clock the next afternoon sleep (not  
slept stayed) in a hole which penetrated in falling  
with water that night (could tell you a whole lot about  
that night it I take writing more worse night I ever  
spent unless it was the night of the clutch bombardment  
on the Murne) at daybreak <sup>Oct 14<sup>th</sup></sup> for a dressing station  
when I could open my eyes was sent to hospital  
in Paris for the 10<sup>th</sup> military and after sundry stops  
and camps landed in the Ct of O Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1919  
stayed there (at Obermending) until Aug 5<sup>th</sup> sailed for  
Brest got home & was discharged

Sorry I can't let you have a picture unless  
I know I can have it back have a turtletail in  
uniform

W. S. Pritchard  
If you can read this you a better than I am.