

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

Name in full and rank . . . Joseph White . . . Corporal
 Organizations / 5th / Reg't / Gunns art. Ship . . . X
 Place and date of enlistment . . . Dec. 17/17 . . . Brooklyn N.Y.
 Place and date of discharge Camp Dix N.J. July 30-20
 Military camps with dates . . . Fort Niagara N.Y. 5th Dec 17
 Date of trip overseas and return . . . Dec. 17/17 . . . July 20-20

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 am a Polish American boy.

Born in Southampton in 1901 on Nov. 29. When the war broke out, I was very anxious to enlist in the army and go abroad and fight. But I was so young that my parents would not listen to such talk. But I never gave up hope. I said to my self, I would get their room or later. When America declared war on Germany I said, to myself here is my chance, but no as my parents would not let and besides they would not take me, as I was too young. The rest of the Southampton boys, no I was refused, and believe me I was certainly disappointed that I cried my eyes that night. But still I never gave up hope, if I could not enlist in the American army, I shall join the foreign legion, as I did, I went to Brooklyn and enlisted in foreign legion. With out my parents consent, I did not stay very long, I was sent to France. As I was young I was sent to school of artillery and there I got my real life. When I came out I got a rank of Corporal and was in front in the

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

You see we was under the ~~the~~ French government
and they could do anything they pleased with us
as they did we were half starved poorly clothed, and
they send us where the fighting was the
hardest, around the Verdun section and deep
forest and ~~fight~~ with the English. And
believe me inside of three weeks of fighting
our first division of 20,000 men were
reduced to 1,000, so you can figure for your
self what we went thru. But I will not
tell no more about it, as I swan, that if

I came out alive, I will not tell no person
living nor even my mother. You know what
I mean mis White, that it was regular hell,
that I said if I returned I would not tell
no body about my experience, if somebody
wants to know let them go over there and
find out what is to go through. So I am very
sorry that I can not tell you about it, but
if you want to know more about me, I think
miss Fitzgerald ~~please~~ she will tell you
about me, or you can write to me, if you don't
believe and I will send you my papers.

After the armistice was signed, I was
send to Russia to fight the Bolsheviks. You
see Poland was fighting them with
Russia, so we went down there to help the
Poles to fight the Russians. And believe
me how we suffered there, no clothes, no
food no money, and cold as hell, how cold
to us there, that many of our boys froze
to death. There I was wounded twice in the
leg and gassed, spent 4 months in the
hospital, decorated by the French and
Polish government for bravery in Nov. 17/1919.
I was given with a palm and a Polish Cross.
I came home like a tramp, almost naked uniform
in rags and hardly any shoes on our feet. I travel
with a bunch of men, with the people of this
army called heroes, when we were over, but we
came back we were called brags. I

Living
over
to
my
mother
in
White
at