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## Highway 30: The David Wiley Lillard Memorial Highway

by Stewart Lillard  
Silver Springs, Maryland

Editor's Note: How often do we pass a highway or bridge bearing the name of a person unfamiliar to us? Who was this person, and what did he do to merit the naming of a highway for him? This well-researched article by Stewart Lillard tells us the story of the life and heroism of one such hero, David W. Lillard. Many Tennesseans may find a connection with this regiment and the men who served, while others will find it instructive for research sources.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of Tennessee met in Nashville during January of 1961. In this session of the House and Senate, House Representative G. L. Aderhold, of Etowah, McMinn County, presented House Joint Resolution No. 14 on Monday, January 23. The resolution dealt with the completion of a new State Highway 30 from Athens to a point on U.S. Highway 411 north of the city limits in Etowah, approximately nine miles. It was to be dedicated "in proper ceremonies during the late spring months of 1961, along with the dedication of the McMinn County Airport facilities."

"This new highway . . . lessened the driving distance from Etowah to Athens, and . . . opened up considerable new building territory enhancing the property values along this route, and [brought] closer the business relations of Etowah, Athens and Decatur." Since Highway 30 already existed on state maps and began in Van Buren County, continued through Bledsoe, Rhea, and Meigs Counties, and extended to U.S. Highway 411 near Etowah in McMinn County, a portion of Highway 30 was to be dedicated as a "memorial to distinguished persons reflecting great credit to the State of Tennessee."

The House of Representatives adopted the resolution on Jan. 31, 1961. The Senate concurred on Feb. 7. On Feb. 8, the resolution was submitted to the governor for his signature. Governor Buford Ellington approved the resolution on Feb. 9, 1961, and "requested and petitioned" State Highway Commissioner D. W. Moulton "to set aside the portion of State Highway 30 from State Highway 58 at Decatur in Meigs County to U.S. Highway 411 just north of Etowah, Tennessee city limits as the David W. Lillard Memorial Highway."

Why was Lillard so important? What were his connections to a highway that stretched from Etowah to Decatur, in Southeast Tennessee? David Wiley Lillard was born in Decatur, Meigs County, on February 7, 1879, the fifth child of Colonel Newton Jackson Lillard (1832-1905) and his wife Elma Caroline (Worth) Lillard (1845-1920). Col. Lillard had served as a standard bearer in the East Tennessee 5th Volunteer Infantry (1847-48) during the War with Mexico. Later, he served as a captain and then colonel of the 3rd Tennessee Mounted Infantry (Vaughn), CSA, from 1861 to 1865. When David was born, Newton and Caroline Lillard were living in their new two-story home overlooking the Athens Highway (later Tennessee Highway # 30) across from Decatur Town Lots #1 and 2, east of the Baptist Church. Col. Lillard was serving as Circuit Court Clerk of Meigs County, having been elected in 1870 following his marriage on October 23, 1865, in Ashe County, N.C., his return to Tennessee in 1865, and his reinstatement as a male voter loyal to the constitution of Tennessee and the USA. Col. Lillard remained as Circuit Court Clerk until 1882, when he was elected as Clerk and Master from 1882 to 1888. David, therefore, spent his first ten years in Decatur, Tennessee.

On one occasion, David followed his father to town and begged for a nickel. After several appeals, the father had not responded. Finally, David shouted, "Damn it, Colonel, give me a nickel!" His father had heard him all along; he bent over and pulled up a wooden slat from the floor of the store front porch and spanked young David before all the assembled loafers of the village.

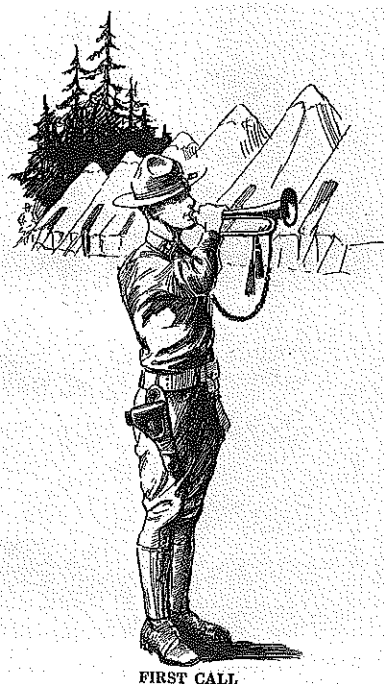
In 1888 Elma Lillard's father, David Worth of Creston, Ashe County, North Carolina, died. He had been a merchant and owned a small wagon factory. It was necessary for Col. and Mrs. Lillard and their family of young children (six sons and one daughter) to move to the Worth home in Creston to support widow Elizabeth (Thomas) Worth (1821-1895). David Wiley then spent his middle years in Ashe County among his siblings and cousins. Oral traditions in the family recorded that young David would ride his horse up the hollows and to neighboring communities about Creston and tell the young folks that there was to be a party at the Worth home on the next Saturday evening. When the young folks from the hills appeared, his mother and the other women at the home, without prior notice, would have to bake some biscuits and cakes and entertain the visitors. In this new environment, David attended the public school in Creston and was, at age fifteen, an assistant marshal for the April 9, 1894, closing exercises at the Creston Academy.

Several years after the death of Elizabeth (Thomas) Worth in Creston, the N. J. Lillard family returned to Decatur, Tennessee, and lived there through the death of Col. Lillard in 1905 and the death of Elma Lillard from influenza in 1920. David attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1900, where he completed his literary education. He was a law student in 1901, graduating in 1903. He was admitted to the bar in 1906, likely in Tennessee, as he had returned there and practiced in Decatur from 1906 to 1910, at which time he moved to Etowah.

[Etowah has an interesting background: the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company (L&N) purchased 1454 acres of swamp land in McMinn County, Tennessee, in 1904, to build a midpoint terminus (depot) for a maintenance and repair facility. The L&N would connect Atlanta with Cincinnati and avoid the high Appalachian Mountains. The purchase and construction of the depot made Etowah a boomtown by 1906. Etowah was the railroad's first "planned" town. At the height of operations, the railroad employed 2,100 employees during the 1920s. By 1931, however, employment in the L&N facility was down to eighty workers; by the mid-1930s it closed.]

On October 28, 1910, David was admitted to the Masonic Order, Trinity #2, of Tennessee. His designation was Latin 46876, dated Oct. 31, 1910. Throughout his life, he would continue to progress through Freemasonry to the Knights Templar 32d degree of the Scottish Rite.

When David moved to newly-built Etowah, he joined the Tennessee National Guard and was assigned by Captain R. W. Green to Company G, first as a bugler (Nov. 1 through Dec. 28, 1912).



He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on Dec. 28, 1912, then to 1st Lieutenant on June 21, 1913. His unit was sent to the Mexican border on December 7, 1916, where he was promoted to Captain.

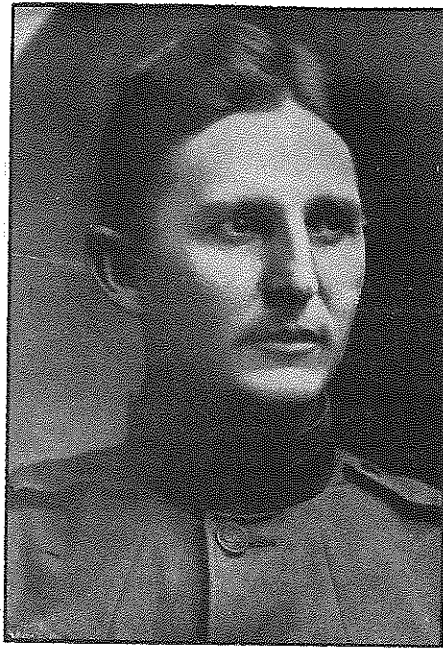
In international disputes, the U.S. recognized the new government of Venustiano Carranza in Mexico, but, in 1915, Pancho Villa had counted on American support to obtain the presidency. Villa then began to raid border towns and kill American citizens, especially at Columbus, New Mexico, in March 1916. In response, President Woodrow Wilson called out militia units and stationed them along the U.S.-Mexican border. The 3rd Tennessee Infantry National Guard was called on to support the expedition into Mexico. On June 16, 1916, they left Knoxville and served on the border for nine months, at which time they were mustered out of federal service.

During this expedition into Mexico to capture Villa, Brigadier General John J. Pershing achieved little in the way of a military victory. His troops were often infiltrated by Villa's soldiers posing as civilians, but General Pershing and his troops did receive valuable camp and maneuvers experience which would be put to use one year later in Europe.

Lillard's service record described him as unmarried, living in Etowah, a lawyer, and 5 feet 11 inches tall with grey eyes, dark hair, and a fair complexion. His 3rd Tennessee National Guard Infantry, led by Colonel Cary F. Spence, of Knoxville, was mobilized at Camp Rye, Tennessee, on July 3, 1916, and served at Pharr, Texas, near Brownsville, from Sept. 21, 1916, to March 7, 1917, after which they returned to Knoxville. During this short period, Lillard served as 1st Lieutenant, then as Captain.

With the outbreak of World War I, Captain Lillard of Company L reported with his company at Etowah and was mustered into federal service on July 27, 1917. They had had only three months of civilian life between services.

The 3rd Tennessee National Guard Infantry was mobilized in the summer of 1917 as part of the 117th Infantry, 30th Division, of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), and was sent to Camp Sevier, South Carolina. It was an organization distinctly Southern in that the National Guard units were from North



CAPT. DAVID W. LILLARD,  
COMDG. CO. L, 117TH INFANTRY

and South Carolina and Tennessee. Since President Andrew Jackson had been born in South Carolina, schooled in North Carolina, and lived most of his adult life in Tennessee, the 30th Division was given the name "Old Hickory," the nickname of Andrew Jackson. The 30th Division's insignia was a monogram in blue of the letters "O" and "H." The cross bar of the "H" contained a triple "XXX," the Roman numerals for thirty. The whole was on a maroon background.

The units trained at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, from September 1917 until May 1918 in an area along the Southern Railroad, six miles east of Greenville, South Carolina, near Taylors, and on the railroad to Spartanburg. The training location was a pine forest that needed to be cleared and converted into a military facility in a very short time. The Quartermasters Corp found it impossible to supply the demand for army uniforms, so the soldiers trained in civilian clothing. The men learned infantry foot drills, and the instruction and practice went on with enthusiasm. Then, in May 1918, the troops of the 117th Infantry moved through Charlotte and Greensboro, North Carolina; Danville, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; Philadelphia; and Jersey City, New Jersey. Finally, the 30th Division was formed at Camp Mills and Camp Merritt on Long Island, New York. "Few men were granted leaves. During the days . . . preparations for transporting the division were carried forward, shortage of equipment was filled, and detailed matters arranged so that all would be in readiness for sailing at the appointed hour." It was difficult to transport an entire division of soldiers, horses, mules, and equipment across an ocean infested with submarines and hostile craft. In fact, the advance party left Camp Sevier, South Carolina, on April 30 and arrived at Camp Mills, New York, on May 1. This party sailed for Europe on May 7 from New York City and arrived May 14, 1918, in Liverpool, England. The advance party then crossed to Calais, France, on May 16.

Captain Lillard was listed as a member of the Advance School Detachment and may have left Camp Sevier on April 30 and arrived at Camp Mills May 1. He then may have sailed on the *George Washington*, May 8, 1918, from Hoboken, New Jersey, arriving in Brest, France, on May 18. In all, twenty-six ships transported the division from Montreal, Brooklyn, New York City, Hoboken, Philadelphia, and Boston during May and June to Liverpool, Brest, Glasgow, and London. The remaining members of the 117th Infantry Regiment left Camp Sevier May 4 and 5. "Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Machine Gun Company, and Supply Company sailed on the *Orduna*. First and Second Battalions sailed on the

*Northumberland*. Third Battalion sailed on the *Anselm*. Regimental casualties sailed on the *Laomedon*." Upon arrival overseas, the regimental units entrained for Folkstone and Dover, England, from which points crossing was made to Calais, France, May 24, 25, and 28. As their officers wrote, the soldiers and officers of the division had "grim determination to do their utmost in hurling the HUN from the fields of oppressed France."

Being in France did not make this 30th Division, AEF, battle ready. In fact, they had not yet been tested or trained in battle. The first troops landed at Calais, France, and were sent to billet in the Eperlecques training area. Then, by July 4, 1918, the division entered Belgium at Watou, and the men were to be trained in the line as support to the British Divisions in that area. On August 17, 1918, the division took over the canal sector extending from the outskirts of Ypres to near Voormezele, Belgium. Finally, on Sept. 23-24, the Americans took over a front line sector, relieving the 1st Australian Division.

On Sept. 29-30, 1918, the British First, Third, and Fourth Armies ruptured the German's Hindenburg Line at Bellicourt. Sir Douglas Haig's Victory Dispatch declared that "[t]he enemy's defense in the last and strongest of his prepared positions had been shattered. The whole of the main Hindenburg Line passed into our [British] possession and a wide gap was driven through such rear trench systems as had existed behind them. Great as were the material losses the enemy had suffered, the effect of so overwhelming a defeat upon a morale already deteriorated was of even larger importance."

The American 30th Division took over the line near Montbrehain on Oct. 4-5, in relief of the 2nd Australian Division. During this entire period, Sept. 30-Oct. 5, 1918, the British were engaged heavily and almost constantly against the Germans. The British sought to widen the breach made on Sept. 29, and the Germans sought to narrow it. "The Germans unleashed no less than thirteen counterattacks during this period, employing twenty divisions, many of them from the reserve, against a total of twelve used by the British. But the British were not to be denied in their advance and so, by Oct. 6, the German situation was desperate; huge losses in men and material had been suffered and outstanding strategic and tactical advantages had been forfeited."

Then, during the whole of Sunday, Oct. 6, according to the Daily Operations Report, 59th Brigade [Brig. Gen. Tyson] of the 30th Division AEF [Maj. Gen. Lewis], preparations were made to attack on the morning of October 7 for the purpose of straightening out the line between the 118th Infantry and the left point of the 117th Infantry, where it joined the British, and to extend it forward some 800 to 1,000 yards.

By Oct. 6 the American 30th Division was on the line and ready for what would be known as the Battle of Montbrehain, which occurred from Oct. 6 to Oct. 12. In the Division's "brief date" records, the entry reads: "Battle of Montbrehain. The division attacked on four successive days making an advance of 17,500 yards." Then, after a relief by the 27th American Division, the 30th Division again saw battle at La Selle River, Oct. 17-20, 1918.

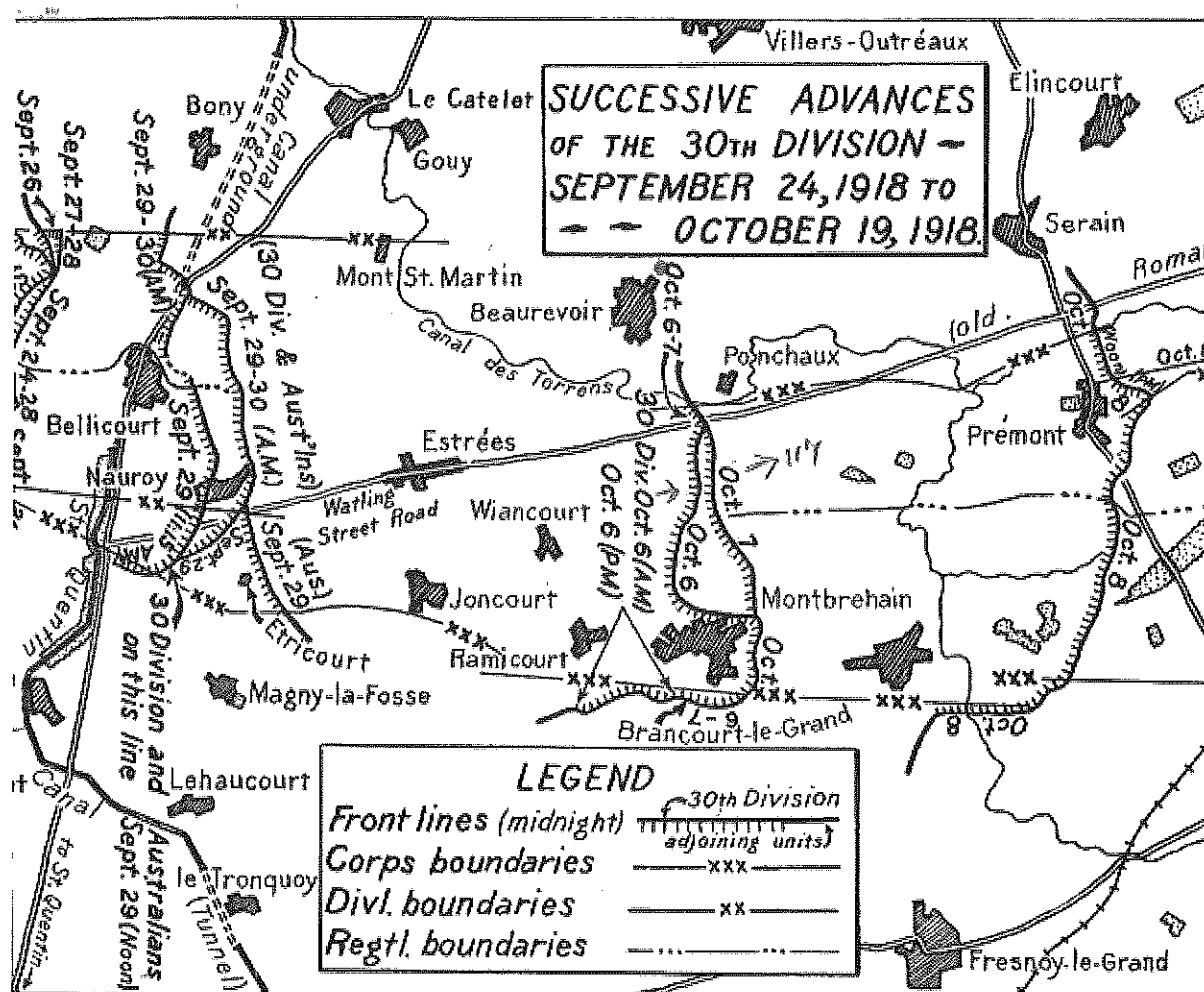
Elmer A. Murphy and Robert S. Thomas, who wrote the history of the 30th Division in 1936, state that "on the night of October 5-6, 1918, the 59th Infantry Brigade [Americans] relieved the 2d Australian Division in the line extending from Montbrehain, northwest to Beaurevoir." As the Americans joined the line, the 118th Infantry Regiment was placed on the right of the American sector; the 117th Infantry, on the left.

The shorter line (approximately 2,000 yards) occupied by the 117th Infantry was from eight to twelve hundred yards in rear of that held by the 118th. This situation necessitated an operation to straighten the line and thus insure a better line of departure for the general attack. This minor

movement was ordered to be set in motion at 05:15 A.M., October 7, 1918. The 117th Infantry was to advance its line approximately one kilometer until it would be abreast of the 118th. Two platoons of the 118th and the 3d Battalion of the 117th were designated as assault units.

Early in the morning of Oct. 7, before the battle, Colonel Cary F. Spence, commanding the 117th Infantry, recorded in his message diary that he had asked for artillery support for the 117th Infantry's attack:

The town of Ponchaux has been reported to us as having some Field Artillery and Machine Guns. It is just out of our sector on the left. While the Artillery is going to shell this quite heavily, I would be glad for you to lend us any assistance you can with your Machine Guns on this town to give my Battalion needed protection. This of course, is, with the understanding that your field of fire is such that you can do this without causing any loss to my troops. This is with the understanding that no troops are operating on our left.



SUCCESSIVE ADVANCES OF THE THIRTIETH DIVISION—

Murphy and Thomas continue:

The attack started, as scheduled, under cover of a rolling barrage. However, as the barrage covered only a portion of the front, it was inadequate in its protective mission. On the right, Company E of the 118th advanced without meeting serious resistance. The 3d Battalion [Major Ellis] of the 117th [Col. Spence], with Companies M [Capt. Pennington], L [Capt. Lillard] and I [Capt. Callen] in line from right to left, Company

K [Capt. Bell] in close support, and Company F (2d Bn.) [Capt. Henderson] in battalion reserve, attacked in its sector and met at once with stiff resistance. Company M, to the right, gained its objective and established liaison with the 118th Infantry. From the vicinity of Geneve, Bois de la Palette, and Ponchaux, terrific enemy machine gun and shell fire was poured into Company L in the center and Company I on the left. As the British failed to advance on the left and artillery fire provided did not cover that side of the line sufficiently, the left detachments were able to advance but little. Elements of the center reached their objective. By 06:40 A.M., a gap had developed between Companies L and I and into this opening Company K was thrown. At one time during the fighting, it was reported that the 3d Battalion of the 117th had been wiped out, and still another rumor gained circulation to the effect that the Germans were counterattacking—fortunately, both reports proved false, although the second report proved disastrous to Company H of the 117th. This Company, along with Company G, was ordered forward to help repel the non-existent counterattack and, in moving in and out of the fighting area, suffered heavy casualties from enemy shell fire.

Col. Spence wrote the following in his report to the Commanding General of the 59th Brigade [Brig. Gen. Tyson]:

One Battalion of this regiment [117th Infantry] was ordered to straighten out a line on October 7, this was one of the most difficult things that any organization has to do; however, it was accomplished by the Third Battalion of the 117th Infantry; casualties in the battle amounting to 22 officers and about 345 men. Two companys [sic] were in close support; the Third Battalion captured 104 prisoners during this operation.

Murphy and Thomas came across an account from Company L describing the events:

[T]his company was ordered to go over the top at 05:15 A.M. The barrage opened up at this time, which was a very slight one, and lasted fifteen minutes, during which time we followed it up under intense machine gun, trench mortar, and rifle grenade fire from the enemy. At the time the barrage lifted we were within fifty yards of the enemy's lines, at which point we were held up for ten minutes by heavy machine gun fire from the enemy. In the advance up to this point, the casualties were very heavy, among whom was our Captain [David W. Lillard], and our First Lieutenant, second in command [Charles D. Walters] . . . We entered [the German] trenches in the three line formation with the second and third platoons on the right taking some twenty-five or thirty prisoners . . . We had reached the railway at this point and consolidated the second and third platoons. The first and fourth platoons did not advance with the second and third platoons, having lost connection, and dug in one hundred and fifty yards from the railway . . . Runners were sent to the first and fourth platoons three times to establish connection, but they failed to return. Our commander, 2d Lt. William H. Eckel was seriously wounded before we established our line with M Company, leaving the 2d and 3d platoons under the command of 1st Sgt. Ben C. Long. The 2d and 3d platoons held this position until dusk, practically surrounded by the enemy and under heavy trench mortar and machine gun fire from the enemy, as it was impossible to establish connection with the first and fourth platoons, on account of machine gun posts on our left.

The linear calendar reference for October 8, 1918, kept by the 30th Division, described the battle briefly as follows:

Our troops advanced yesterday morning in the face of strong machine gun fire and straightened our front east and north of Mont Brehaim [sic]. All objectives taken with the exception of a small part on our left. 277 prisoners were taken; our casualties 8 officers, 213 men. The advance was about 500 yards on a front of 1,200 yards. Hostile counterattacks repulsed.



Writing several months later, on January 6, 1919, to Lieut. Col. William J. Bacon, 114th Field Artillery, AEF, Col. Spence gave a delayed account of the battle:

Our total casualties will run in the neighborhood of 2000 men. We had 12 officers killed and about 300 men. Major Hathaway was wounded very seriously, Captain Ware [?] and Captain Lillard was very seriously wounded and is in the Hospital yet, and Captain Blair. Captain [Lones] was killed, Lieutenant Eckles was killed, Lieutenant Foote, Lieutenant Wright and Captain Moody. Captain Moody was wounded seriously and taken prisoner; about five days later near the town of Premont we found that his body had been dressed very nicely by the Boche [derogatory term for 'the Germans'], they had given him the best of medical attention. One of the men who was wounded and taken prisoner at the same time stated he was given all medical attention that could possibly be given. . . We probably should have taken many more prisoners, but when the machine gunners stayed at their post and shot our men up, there was not much mercy shown. Near my Headquarters after a battle, I went out about 500 yards and looked over 15 machine gun posts [echeloned] along the side slope of a hill, each one contained a machine gun, and in it was a dead 'Boche' that had been bayoneted by our men.

Colonel Spence gave more details on Captain Lillard's wounding on Oct. 7, 1918, when he proposed a citation to Lillard:

On the morning of October 7, 1918, when Capt. David W. Lillard was directed to attach and straighten out a line near Poncheaux [sic], France, his company was moving forward under heavy machine gun and trench mortar fire, and reached within 75 yards of its objective (a railroad cut), when Capt. Lillard was hit by a machine gun bullet, which exploded two magazine clips containing fourteen shells. All of these shells entered his body, making a fearful wound. Although terribly wounded and knocked down, he got to his knees and waved and directed the further advance of his company to its objective. He then, while lying on the ground, wrote three orders and sent runners for assistance. The fire was so intense that his orderly carried him about 75 yards to the rear to a shell hole where he was unconscious for a few minutes. Regaining consciousness, he continued in command of his company, issuing verbal orders from time to time, and remained in command for about six hours.

After a month in the hospitals of France, Lillard was shipped to London General Hospital, England, from where he sent his niece, Miss Caroline "Caro" Lillard, a printed Christmas card from Company L, 117 Infantry, AEF. Although the card reads, "On Christmas Day we think and talk of all our friends at home and far away," it was mailed on Nov. 22, 1918, and does not mention any wounds. Caroline received the card after December 14, in Millington, Tennessee, where she was teaching high school. Apparently, officers and soldiers were encouraged not to give details of battles nor of locations, all of which information was classified.

In a summation report, Col. Cary Fletcher Spence [117th Infantry] and Major General Edward Mann Lewis [30th Division, AEF] tried to establish correct figures for the 117th Infantry and 59th Brigade. In the Beaurevoir sector, Oct. 8-9, 1918, the units advanced 17,500 yards, at the expense of eighteen officers and 403 enlisted men killed, twenty eight officers and 587 enlisted men severely wounded, ten officers and 857 enlisted men slightly wounded, five officers and 370 enlisted men gassed, 100 enlisted men missing and five enlisted men taken prisoner by the Germans. By January 27, 1919, Col. Spence concluded that

...out of 90 officers going into the line, 80 were casualties, 15 of these were killed, one died from Influenza contracted in the lines, and in addition, one officer died in the United States before our department for overseas. We are again checking our records, and the total casualties, including officers and men, are 1,879 since



On Christmas Day we think and talk of all our friends  
At home and far away.



With Warmest Friendly Greetings  
that you will find  
Old Joys and New this Christmas, and Health,  
Happiness and  
Good Fortune with the New Year.

From  
Company L.  
117 Infantry, U.S.A.,  
American E.F.,  
France.

1918-19.

our arrival here. Of the above total, 315 men were killed and 16 officers, 30 men died in the States and the one officer mentioned above, making a total of 1,910 casualties. There are some missing, we do not know whether they are alive or dead as we have had no information from them from any source.

Major General E. M. Lewis, Commander of the entire 30th Division, AEF, concluded that the division had a total 8,415 casualties and that the division had smashed through one of the strongest defense systems in the entire line, the Hindenburg Line.

Whatever the totals, the 30th Division, AEF, sailed for home on March 18, 1919, less than one year after arriving in England in May 1918. Most of the 117th Infantry arrived in Charleston in early April. In Tennessee, "the 117th Infantry paraded in Knoxville on the afternoon of April 5, in Nashville April 6, and in Chattanooga on April 8." The final demobilization ceremony took place for the 117th Infantry at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia, April 17, 1919. The other demobilization site for the 30th Division was Camp Jackson, South Carolina.

The 30th Division received more Congressional Medals of Honor (twelve) than were awarded to any other single division of the American Expeditionary Forces. Of the twelve, six were from South Carolina, one from North Carolina, and five from Tennessee. The Tennesseans included Joseph B. Adkinson (Egypt and Memphis), James E. Karnes (Arlington and Knoxville), Milo Lemert (of Iowa, who entered service in Crossville), Edward R. Talley (Russellville), and Calvin John Ward (Greene County and Morristown).

For those who returned to the States, more awards were handed out. Brigadier General Lawrence D. Tyson was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal

...for exceptionally meritorious service in command of the 59th Brigade, 30th Division, II Corps, in its formative period of training and on October 7 and 8, 1918, when by its attack the line was advanced two and one-half miles with the capture of Brascourt and Premont, France, with more than one thousand prisoners and much material.

The 30th Division's commanding officer, Major General Edward Mann Lewis, a West Point graduate of 1886, went on to command the US Army Pacific (Hawaiian Department) from January 1925 to August 1927, his last major assignment before retirement. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Belgium Order of Leopold, and the French Croix de Guerre for his work in World War One.

General Orders No. 51, from Headquarters 30th Division, Commanded by Major General Edward M. Lewis, cited numerous soldiers and officers for "meritorious conduct" during their months in Europe. Of Company L, 117th Infantry, based in Etowah, there were many citations: Sergeant George W. Tallent, Sergeant Samuel W. Kelly, Sergeant Clarence F. Cannon, Sergeant Edward R. Talley, Corporal George W. Spears, Private First Class Thomas G. Cagle, Corporal Russell L. Plemmons, Corporal John W. Packett, Corporal Clarence S. Wright, Private First Class Charles Smith, Private Frank McClure, and Private Otto F. Wischmeier.

The War Department, Office of the Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C., concluded that the 30th Division had captured ninety-eight German officers, 3,750 German soldiers, eighty-one pieces of artillery, and 426 machine guns. "It advanced about 18 miles and suffered 6,893 casualties and had 133 Distinguished Service Crosses awarded." The Commander in Chief of the U.S. AEF had released a different report on March 6, 1919, from Europe which listed a preliminary total casualty for the 30th Division of 1,772, which included killed in action, died of wounds, missing in action, and prisoners. It may not be possible to unravel the source of statistics that justify these numbers, as different as they are.

If the statistics seem difficult to assemble, it is even trickier to find the exact village crossroads on a modern French map, since the area of **Ponchaux** where Capt. D. W. Lillard was wounded is now officially recognized as **Ronchaux**, east of Beaurevoir and near Geneve. This location is north-northeast of Paris, along highway D932. On the 1918 military maps of France, the village was named **Ponchaux**.

Captain David Wiley Lillard was honorably discharged at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, on September 18, 1920. Colonel Spence, Commander of the 117th Infantry Regiment, speaking at the mustering out ceremony at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, recalled the extensive heroic services of Captain David W. Lillard (Company L), Corporal Stephen R. Bass (Company C), and Corporal Joseph R. Yardley (Company C), which were recorded in General Order No. 14. Spence said that he had sent a citation to Washington recommending Lillard for the Distinguished Service Cross and called Lillard "not a hero of the 30th division, but a hero of the entire army." Captain Lillard received the Distinguished Service Cross according to the War Department General Orders No. 81, issued at Washington, June 26, 1919, when he had already returned to Etowah. He also received the French Croix de Guerre for bravery in action after being wounded.

An end to the war and to military service did not bring an end to Captain Lillard's medical problems. While he was in the military hospitals in London (1918-19) he underwent several operations to remove the bullet fragments located in his abdomen and hip areas. Following the London hospitals, Lillard was transferred to an Atlanta hospital. D. B. Todd of the Etowah *Enterprise* newspaper visited him and wrote this description (1919-20?):

We found him in bed, lying on his back, turned slightly on the left side, his body held in rigid position by a plaster cast, the head of his bed raised about six inches higher than the foot, with strips made of sheets holding his body in position on the bed, from which position he had not moved since his last operation, about three weeks before. He is permitted to eat only such things as are prepared at the hospital under the direction of the surgeon in charge; he can read a short while at a time, and even smoke a cigar now and then, although he frankly admits that he does not yet enjoy these very much . . . he has undergone six surgical operations within the past eleven months, every one of them considered very serious by the surgeons in charge of his case, and each one sapping his vitality a little more. His last operation was performed by Dr. Babcock of Philadelphia, a surgeon recognized all over the world as among the best, and although his great surgeon was not sure of the outcome of the operation and gave the patient as close personal attention as possible to note any change in his condition, after five or six days he told his patient that there was no further cause for his becoming disheartened, and if some little doctor should thereafter express doubt as to his case not to believe him, but to take care of himself, obey his nurse and watch himself improve. The X-ray had shown to the surgeons in London that there were numerous pieces of metal in his liver and kidneys, but they had said it would not do to attempt to remove them, however.

When this condition was brought to the attention of Dr. Babcock he said those London surgeons were of small caliber and had not realized that death would finally result if those pieces of metal remained where they were, and he gave orders for the patient to be immediately prepared for the necessary operation, which was done. The anesthetic administered in this case left the patient perfectly rational but temporarily paralyzed at the point where the knife was being used. The surgeon freely discussed the operation with the patient, exhibiting to him each piece of metal as it was removed, and when a metal eyelet from the Captain's belt was removed the surgeon said he would not be satisfied to quit until he had found the rest of the belt. After a day or two, when he had rallied from the operation and recovered from his terrible nausea, the nurse exhibited to him a handful of metallic fragments of jackets of machine gun bullets and other metals, the presence of which could be accounted for in no other way only on the theory that the Germans used everything they could find that would cause death or great bodily harm. These souvenirs Captain Lillard keeps at the head of his bed, and they may be seen by any of his friends who ask to see them.

Editor Todd went on to say that he was

reliably informed that General Pershing has personally recommended him for the much coveted Congressional Medal; yet through the inactivity of lack of interest or influence of some one in Washington, this recommendation has not materialized, and may not do so until after the return of General Pershing, when it will be taken up by him personally. [Lillard, however,] seems decidedly more interested in justice being done his men than he is in himself, and when he returns home he will be met by all his men with the same love and respect they showed for him on the battle field.

[W. Wayne Babcock, MD (1872-1963), surgical innovator, educator, and author, became Chair of Surgery at Temple in 1903 and taught there for 45 years. He earned worldwide recognition for pioneering the usage of spinal anesthesia and stainless steel sutures. Babcock's *Principles and Practice of Surgery* remained the authoritative text in surgery through the 1950s.]

Captain Lillard returned to Etowah in 1920. Etowah folks learned that Lillard was at the home of his mother in Decatur and intended to come to Etowah for his first visit since he left for France in July, 1917. [Since his mother, Elma Caroline Worth Lillard, died on February 20, 1920, this visit must have been early in 1920 unless he was visiting other family members following her death.] The editor of the newspaper account wrote:

There was little time for preparation, but the news was soon noised abroad, and by 4:15 Thursday afternoon some fifty cars or more left Etowah for a point about three miles beyond Athens to escort Mr. Lillard home. C. E. McConkey had gone earlier to Decatur to bring the Captain over, but he never intimated to him anything of the plans for his reception, and on turning a short curve in the road and coming in view of a long stretch, the Captain beheld automobiles lined up as far as one could see. After they had passed the last car of the escort party the cars fell in line behind them, and the party came into Etowah, going down Washington avenue to Ninth street, east on Ninth to Ohio avenue, back north on Ohio to Fifth street, east on Fifth to Tennessee avenue, and south on Tennessee to Hotel Glenora. Here the party stopped and Captain Lillard was kept busy for some time shaking hands with his friends as fast as they could crowd in and pass on to give place to others. [Captain Lillard expressed his appreciation and said that] he and his company had only done their duty . . . We could not do less. I still believe the American army is the greatest army in the world.

Following this reception, Lillard again opened his law practice with offices over the First National Bank. On May 24, 1922, David W. Lillard married Margaret Murphy, a daughter of John W. and Mary (Franklin) Murphy and sister of William H. (Bill) Murphy of Etowah. During these same years, Lillard was elected as city recorder and later city attorney. He formed a partnership with Reuel R. Webb in the practice of law in 1924. When the Etowah Band was organized by R. Frank McKinney, he became a member and played trombone for several years. Lillard also continued his interest and education in Freemasonry and in veteran affairs. Three children were born to David and Margaret Lillard during these Etowah years: Mary Carolina, Margaret Elizabeth, and David Wiley, Jr.

Following the decline and closing of the railroad shops in Etowah, Lillard in 1941 moved back to his home town of Decatur, where he assisted his older brother, Jasper Worth Lillard, in law practice. In 1944 he was named acting Attorney General of the 18th Judicial Circuit, appointed by Judge Alan S. Kelley to serve in the place of the incumbent, C. C. (Ted) Chattain of Winchester, who was absent on leave to serve in the Navy during World War II.

In Decatur, Lillard was active in the Lions Club, the Woodmen of the World, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He taught the men's class at the Decatur Methodist Church for his last seven years. He died on Sept. 24, 1954. Funeral services were conducted from the Decatur Methodist Church, with the Rev. W. M. Dean officiating, and assisted by the Rev. M. W. Little of the Decatur Baptist Church. A full Masonic rite was said, followed by a military rite at the Decatur cemetery. Taps was blown by Bandmaster Ralph V. Reed of Etowah. Twenty-one of Captain Lillard's war buddies who fought with him in the trenches of France during World War I were his active pallbearers: Lt. Walters, Louisville, Ky.; Bob Barclay, Copperhill; John Hutson, Loudon; J. W. Packett, Lenoir City; Clarence Cannon, Lenoir City; R. L. Dalley, Loudon; Earl Scarbrough, Chattanooga; Melvin Clabo, C. C. McElroy, Charles Moates, W. M. Grant, E. J. Tripplet, W. A. Carlock, J. O. Turner, and Stacy Adams of Etowah; G. B. (Buck) Farris, Norris; F. T. Tallent, Riceville; and R. R. Long, Frank Royston, Jim Jewell, and Lark Lane of Maryville.

Several years later, in the spring of 1961, through the efforts of Representative G. L. Aderhold of Etowah, the state of Tennessee memorialized the 30th Division, the division that had broken through the German Hindenburg Line in 1918. The Legislature chose to name a portion of Highway 30 from Decatur to Etowah for Captain David Wiley Lillard who had personified the volunteer soldiers who had been killed, severely wounded, or gassed in the frontal attacks in Europe during the First World War. Captain Lillard was only one of many who served his country and who was awarded service medals. The highway is a lasting memorial to East Tennessee's contributions to victory in the First World War.

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