

The Standard Stripes

March 14, 1919

Commander of "Lost Battalion"

WHITTLESEY, CHARLES W., major, 308th Infantry; northeast of Binarville, in the Forêt d'Argonne, France, October 2-7, 1918. Although cut off for five days from the remainder of his division, Major Whittlesey maintained his position, which he had reached under orders received for an advance, and held his command, consisting originally of 463 officers and men of the 308th Infantry and Company K of the 307th Infantry, together in the face of a superior number of the enemy during the five-day period. Major Whittlesey and his command were thus cut off, and no rations or other supplies reached him, in spite of determined efforts which were made by his division. On the fourth day Major Whittlesey received from the enemy a written proposition to surrender, which he treated with contempt, although he was at that time out of rations and had suffered a loss of about 50 per cent of killed and wounded of his command and was surrounded by the enemy. Home address: F. R. Whittlesey, father, 38 Pomeroy Avenue, Pittsfield, Mass.

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