



28th "Iron" Division

Whitford Riddle Dickinson Sr.
Private U.S. Army
19 March 1917 – 7 March 1919

Whitford, known to family and friends as “Dick,” was born on 9 May 1899, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents were **George D. Dickinson** (1865–1932) and **Anna E. Deborah (Pinkerton) Dickinson** (1867–1929). Dick attended grades 1 through 8 in Philadelphia. During his teen years, Dick worked as a golf caddie and eventually as an assistant golf professional at Overbrook Country Club in Philadelphia. This instilled into him a love for, and ultimately led to a career in, golf. The family was living at 1411 Felton Street in Philadelphia on 19 March 1917, when Dick enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (Company M, 1st Infantry) at the age of 19. In April 1917, the Guard moved from Philadelphia to Camp Hancock, Georgia, for training, where it was activated and re-designated as the 28th Infantry Division. Dick was assigned to Company M, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division. Training at Camp Hancock was completed by the end of April 1917, and the division moved to Camp Upton on Long Island, New York, for overseas transport to France. They departed the States on 3 May 1917, and arrived in France on 25 May 1917. After a period of training with the British, the division moved inland on 14 July 1917, with most of the division committed to the second line of defense south of the Marne River and east of Château-Thierry. As the division advanced, Dick was wounded in his left leg at Château-Thierry on 15 July 1918, on the first day of the second battle of the Champagne-Marne Campaign (15–18 July). He was taken prisoner by the Germans and was held in captivity for five months. He was released about a month after the signing of the World War I Armistice on 11 November 1918. He remained in France until 8 February 1919, when he sailed from Brest, France, for return to the States aboard passenger ship SS *St. Louis*, a ship that the U.S. Navy had captured from the Spanish during the Spanish-American War. Dick arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey, on 22 February 1919, and he was discharged from the Army at Camp Dix, New Jersey, on 7 March 1919. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal, and World War I



Victory Medal. After he returned home, Dick pursued a career in golf. Initially he became an assistant golf professional at Plymouth Country Club in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and then went to the Susquehanna Country Club in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, where he was a golf professional and manager. In 1936, he left Sunbury and went to Brookside Country Club in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where, at times, he was manager as well as a golf professional for 13 years. While there, he was a prime mover in the growth and success of the club. When he joined the Brookside Country Club, Dick moved to and settled in Lower Macungie Township. Dick married **Hilda Roseanna Clark** (5 May 1902–8 April 1959) of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on 5 November 1926 in Dauphin, Pennsylvania. They raised two sons; **Whitford Riddle Jr.** and **James Mather**. Dick died of heart failure on 3 May 1949. He is buried at Vincent Baptist Churchyard in Chester Springs, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in a family plot, along with his wife, Hilda, their two sons, his parents, and his brother, **Herbert**. Dick was a member of the Allentown Elks Lodge, American Legion Herbert Paul Lentz Post 29 in Allentown, and both the National and Philadelphia District Professional Golfers Associations.