



WW I Victory Medal



79th Division



314th Infantry

Charles Franklin Guldin
Private First Class U.S. Army
27 May 1918 – 30 May 1919

Charles was born on 1 March 1891 in Trexlertown, Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school. After graduating from high school, he attended Kutztown Normal School in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, and in 1911 began teaching grade school for the Lower Macungie Township School District at the Hartzell's School in Minesite, Pennsylvania, and helped his parents run the family farm and mill along Spring Creek in Lower Macungie. Charles was drafted into the Army and inducted as a Private on 27 May 1918 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was assigned to Company D, 314th Infantry Regiment, 79th ("Cross of Lorraine") Division of the American Expeditionary Force. He underwent training at Camp Meade, Maryland, with the Regiment, and in July 1918 the Regiment sailed to France aboard the *USS Leviathan*, formerly the *SS Vaterland* which was



Hartzell's School



USS Leviathan

seized by the Allies from Germany. Upon arrival at Brest, France, on 8 July 1918, they continued training until 26 September when they took part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. After capturing the town of Malancourt on 26 September 1918, they assisted the 313th Infantry Regiment the following day in the capture of Mont Faucon, a heavily defended area and observation post of the German army. On 30 September 1918, The 79th Division was relieved and was transferred to the Troyon sector. While

there, the 314th Regiment assumed a variety of duties, including defense of the front, sharing trenches with the 313th, 315th, and 316th Regiments. During that time, they were harassed with mustard gas, shelling, and enemy raids, but they held the line. At the end of October 1918, the 79th Division was ordered to move to participate in the third phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. On 28 October 1918, they began their advance, and by 9 November 1918, they captured the towns of Crepion, Waville, and Moirey. The next day the unit captured Buisson Chaumont, Hill 328. On 11 November 1918, the 314th advanced against Côte de Romagne and stopped firing at 11 a.m., the time of the Armistice. By the end of the day, the 314th had made the greatest advance into German lines east of the Meuse River. The Regiment was shipped home on 15 May 1919 aboard the *Princess Matokia*. They arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey, on 26 May 1919 and were discharged at Camp Dix, New Jersey, four days later. Charles returned to Trexlertown and became Clerk of Orphan's Court in Lehigh County. In 1950 he became Justice of the Peace in Wescosville until his death in 1953. He was very active in the Wescosville Union Sunday School, and for many years he served as its Superintendent and Teacher of the Adult Bible Class. Charles married **Hallie Stettler Bastian** (10 November 1892 – 2 June 1976) in September 1919 in Emmaus, and settled in Wescosville in Hallie's parents' house. They had one daughter, **Katherine Bastian Guldin**. Charles died on 18 March 1953 in Allentown Hospital, and is buried at St. Paul's Union Church Cemetery in Trexlertown alongside Hallie. Charles' parents were **Reuben G. Guldin** (March 1858 – December 1952) and **Ellen Amanda Reinhart** (December 1860 – 1947).



SS Princess Matokia