



WW I Victory Medal



79th Division



314th Infantry



George Victor Butz
Private First Class U.S. Army
September 1917 – May 1919



Butz Brothers General Store
1949



George was born on 31 January 1895 at home in a log cabin on Krocksville Road in Wescosville, Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. George's Parents were **Levi W. Butz** (22 September 1853 – 3 March 1929) and **Callie Romig** (8 Aug 1857 – 28 Feb 1916). In 1910, the family moved to the nearby Village of East Texas, where they lived in a house on East Texas Road next to a general store that George's father had purchased and operated. A few years later, his father also became Postmaster for the Post Office located inside the store. George assisted his father as a Clerk in the store until he entered the Army for service in World War I with the 79th Division, 314th Infantry Regiment. The men of the 314th arrived at Camp Meade, Maryland, during September 1917 for basic and trench warfare training. After they completed training, they sailed for Brest, France, in July 1918 aboard the *USS Leviathan*, a passenger liner captured from the Germans. Upon arrival at Brest, they continued training until September 1918, when they took part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. They captured the town of Malancourt on 26 September 1918, and assisted the 313th Infantry Regiment on the following day in the capture of Montfaucon. On 30 September 1918, the 79th Division was transferred to the Troyon sector for alternate periods of rest and manning of defensive trenches along with the 313th, 315th, and 316th Infantry Regiments. At the end of October 1918, the 79th Division participated in the next phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. From 1 to 10 November 1918, the 314th captured the towns of Crepion, Waville, Moirey, Buisson and Chaumont. On 11 November 1918, as they were advancing against Côte de Romagne, they were ordered to stop firing at 11 a.m., the time of the signing of the Armistice and the War's end. They continued to train in France until they were shipped home on 15 May 1919 aboard the *Princess Matoika*, another ship captured from the Germans. They arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey, on May 26, and were sent to Camp Dix, New Jersey, for discharge by the end of May 1919. George returned home to East Texas, where he assisted in running the store, then co-owned by his father and George's uncle Harry Butz, until his father's death in 1929. After his father's death, George sold his interest in the store to Harry, but continued to serve as Postmaster. George married **Helen A. Desch** (30 January 1901 – 29 April 1981) in 1920. They purchased the house his family had lived in, and lived there with George's father. On 10 July 1925, George took over as Postmaster until his death in 1956. While Postmaster, George also served as President of the Board of the Macungie Bank and the Director of the Macungie Building and Loan Association. In addition, he was very active in church, civic, professional, and fraternal organizations in the area, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. George died on 8 May 1956 in Allentown Hospital. He is buried alongside Helen in East Texas in the churchyard behind Salem Evangelical Church, for which he served as President of the Church Board of Trustees and Treasurer for the Sunday School. George and Helen had no children.



USS Leviathan



Princess Matoika