



WW I Victory Medal



**Howard David Readler**  
**Private First Class U.S. Army**  
**20 December 1917 – 9 June 1919**

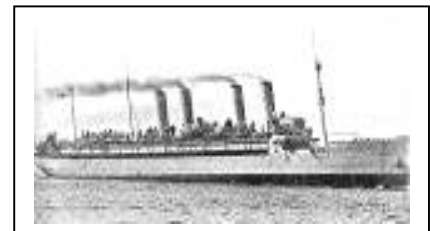


79th Infantry Division



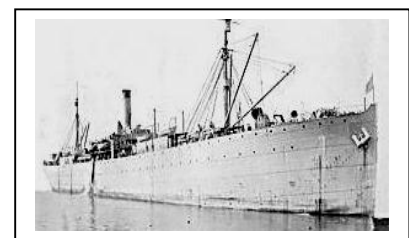
WW I Occupation Medal

Howard was born at home on 9 January 1894 in Macungie, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter his family moved to a farm to the northeast of Brookside Road in Lower Macungie Township. Howard attended Ritterø Elementary School on Macungie Road. He worked on the family farm during his school years and afterwards until he was drafted into the Army on 20 December 1917. After reporting to Camp Meade, Maryland, he was assigned to the 29<sup>th</sup> Company, 154<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment for training. On 22 January 1918 he was assigned to Company C, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 79<sup>th</sup> Division for further training and preparation for deployment overseas. On 9 July 1918, the 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment sailed



*USS Agamemnon*

from Hoboken, New Jersey, to France aboard *USS Agamemnon*. The *Agamemnon*, which had been the German passenger steamship *SS Kaiser Wilhelm II*, was seized while she was laid up at New York when the United States entered the war. The Regiment disembarked at Brest, France, on 18 July 1918 and continued training in the vicinity of Prauthoy, France, until 8 September 1918, when they were relocated to the front between Meuse and Argonne. They went on the offensive on September 26 as part of Phase 1 of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. After capturing the town of Malancourt on the 27<sup>th</sup>, they assisted the 313<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in capturing the heavily defended town of Montfaucon-døArgonne, and went on to take Bois-de-Beuge and Nantillois by September 30. On October 3, the 79<sup>th</sup> Division moved to the Troyon sector south of Verdun where they were assigned to hold the front, with the 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment sharing the trenches with the 96<sup>th</sup> Divisionø other two regiments, the 313<sup>th</sup> and 315<sup>th</sup>. During that time, they were harassed with mustard gas, shelling, and enemy assaults and air raids, but they were able to hold the line. On 26 October 1918, the 79th Division was ordered to take part in Phase 3 of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and moved into Verdun on the following day. On the 29<sup>th</sup> they entered the Grande Montogne sector east of the Meuse River and went on the defense until November 3. While a Machine Gun Company of the 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment assisted other regiments in the capture of Hill 378, a heavily fortified German position, the rest of the Regiment continued on to take Crepion, Wavrille, and Gibery by November 9; Chaumont-de-Danvillers on November 10; and Ville-de-Chaumont on November 11. With the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, fighting came to a halt. The 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division remained in Europe, initially patrolling and rounding up German prisoners. They then went into a period of training and occupation duty until 16 May 1919 when



*USS Texan*

Howardø Company C, along with other units of the 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, boarded *USS Texan* for the return trip home. They left from St. Nazaire, France, arriving at Philadelphia on 29 May 1919. They proceeded to Camp Dix, New Jersey, on the same day, and Howard was discharged there on 9 June 1919. He returned home and resumed farming on the family farm until retiring there in 1973. He had inherited the farm from his father in 1923. Howard married **Anna S. Walbert** (24 January 1901 ø 15 June 1979) in April 1920. They had three children: **Ruth Walbert**, **Margaret Elizabeth**, and **David Walbert Raedler**. Howard died on 21 June 1986 at the home of his daughter, Margaret, in East Macungie, Pennsylvania. He is buried next to Anna at Solomonø United Church of Christ in Macungie, where he was a member and served as a Church Councilman and was a former Treasurer of the Sunday School. Howard was a past President of the former Lower Macungie Township School Board, and he served on the Executive Committee of Macungie Grange 1569. Howardø parents were **Charles A. Readler** (16 April 1872 ø 6 March 1923) and **Lizzie L. Jarrett** (2 Jan 1874 ø 26 April 1928). Howard and Annaø grandson, **Michael David Raedler**, enlisted the Navy in 1985 and in the Army National Guard in 1998 and, respectively, took part in Operation Desert Storm in Iraq in 1991 and supported Operation Enduring Freedom in Germany in 2002/2003.