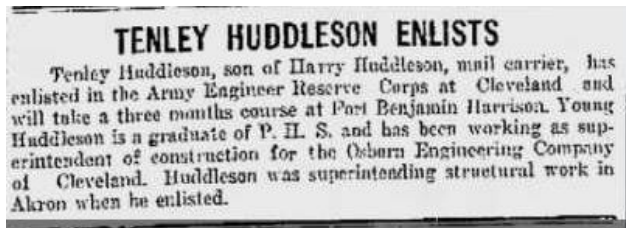
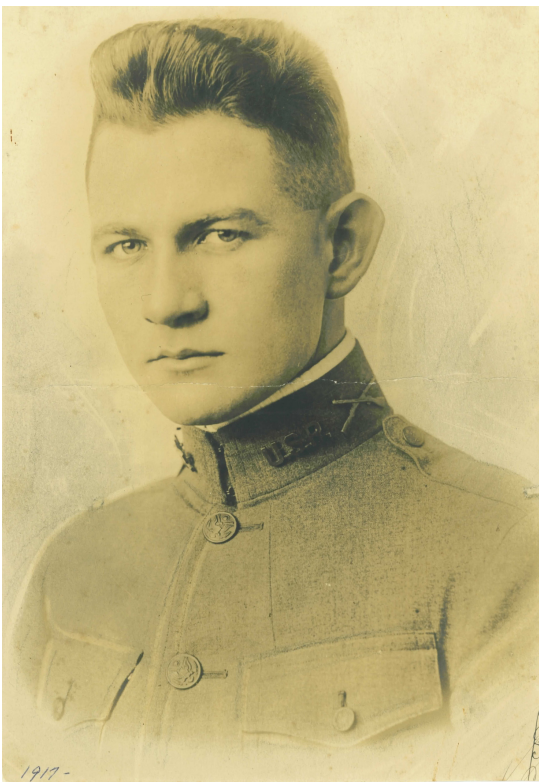


ELMER TENLEY HUDDLESON

By Sara Dawson



3 May 1917

As November 11, 2018 marks the 100th year commemorating the first Armistice of World War I, I feel it's important to share how our ancestor's contribution aided in the efforts to end the "war to end all wars."

War was declared by the U.S. Congress in April 1917. The Selective Service Act, requiring all males ages 21 - 30 to register for the draft was passed on 18 May 1917 with the actual process to take place on the 5th of June.

Tenley enlisted in early May. While not required to register for the draft, his registration card tells us that he was already serving at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana, in the Officer's Reserve Corps.

Tenley was 21 years of age in early May 1917 and had been working as a superintendent of a construction firm in Akron, almost 250 miles away from his hometown of Portsmouth, Ohio.

After Officer's Training School, he was stationed at Camp Meade near Baltimore, Maryland.

Later, Tenley was stationed at Camp Colt near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for training in the Tank Corps. The commander of Camp Colt was Captain Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The men were trained to operate the French Renault FT or FT-17, the world's first modern tank. An FT is on display at the Fort George G. Meade Museum, Maryland.

ELMER TENLEY HUDDLESON

Tenley shipped out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania aboard the *City of Exeter* on 14 August 1918 bound for England. He was a 2nd Lieutenant with Company B, 303rd Battalion Tank Corps.

The Tank Corps joined the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France. The AEF was under the command of General John J. Pershing.

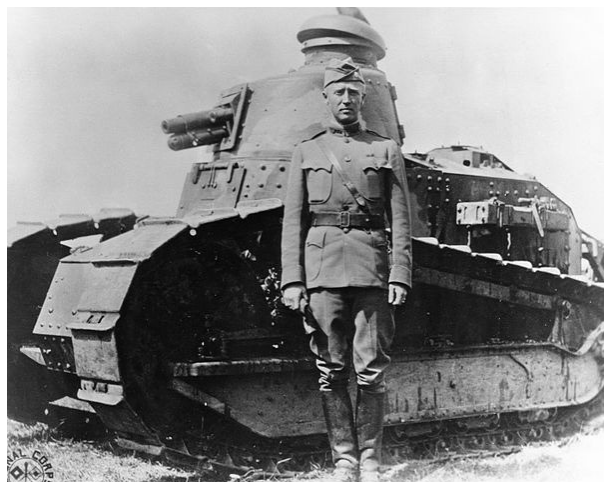
In June 1917, General Pershing ordered the creation of a tank force to support the AEF's infantry. By September 1918, Lieutenant Colonel George S. Patton Jr. had finished training two tank battalions.

The Battle of Saint-Mihiel, in September 1918 was the AEF's first major offensive against German positions and the first U.S. tank attack in history. 144 AEF (Renault) tanks along with 275 French tanks from the

French 1st Assault Artillery Brigade took part in the battle. In 36 hours the Americans took over 13,000 prisoners and captured 466 guns, at a high cost as they suffered 7,000 casualties.

The AEF moved northwest to between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest where they would take part in the largest and deadliest battle ever fought by U.S. soldiers.

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was fought from 26 September 1918 until the Armistice of 11 November 1918. An estimated 26,277 Americans and 28,000 Germans lost their lives in those 47 days.



George S. Patton and Renault FT 1918 France

For a view into the battlefield experience at Meuse-Argonne, this video was created for the visitor center at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery:
<https://youtu.be/s2J3eOdo2i0>

While the majority of the fighting was over after 11 November 1918, the AEF occupation of the Rhineland lasted until July 1919. Tenley returned home from France aboard the *Europa* in March 1919.

Lieutenant Tenley Huddleson arrived at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Huddleson, after spending nine months with the American tank forces in France and England.

27 April 1919



OHIO SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES, WORLD WAR, 1917-18 8019

HUDDLESON,
 ' ELMER TENLEY,
 2nd Lt., White,
 1652 Legan St.,
 Portsmouth, O.

Br Portsmouth, O. May 24/95. 2 Lt Inf Aug 15/17
 fr CL. Ft Benj Harrison Ind May 18/17 to Aug
 15/17. 306 Bn Tank C to disch. Chillicothe O; Cp
 Meade Md; AEF. AEF Aug 14/18 to Mch 17/19.
 Hon disch Apr 12/19.