

CITY BOWS TO 117TH HEROES

**"First To Fight" Acclaimed
By Thousands During
Triumphant March.**

**EMOTIONS STIRRED
BY EMPTY SADDLES**

**"We Did The Best We
Could," Says Com-
mander — Mayor
Welcomes Unit.**

Baltimore bared its heart yesterday when the men of the One Hundred and Seventeenth Trench Mortar Battery came home. The whole city showed what it thought of them and how it felt toward them.

"We did the best we could," said Capt. J. Woodall Green, when the command stopped at the **City Hall** on its line of march around the city to receive its official welcome home, "and if our people here at home are satisfied we are glad."

CROWDS ROAR TRIBUTE.

That they were satisfied, and more than satisfied, was shown by the massed thousands who lined the route of the **parade**, who cheered until the mighty chorus was like the roar of the surf beating on the shore; it was shown by the fact that there has rarely been a turnout of the people in this city on any occasion as great as that which met that little group, seasoned by experience into mature men, yet in years but little more than boys.

That parade, including the escort of the Fifth Regiment Veteran Corps and the platoon of police, with Marshal Carter and Deputy Marshal House at their head, and the bands and the whippet tank that brought up the rear, took just five minutes to pass a given point. It took the men who have won glory at Laneville, Baccarat, Champagne, Cateau Thierry, the St. Mihiel salient and the Argonne about half that time, for they made up less than half the men in the **parade**. Yet they were the men the people turned out to see, not more than 150 of them, and they were the men for whom the cheers were given. For them they began gathering along the line of march at noon, and they remained in their places for more than three solid hours just for a glimpse of them, just to let them know that their home folks were satisfied with what they had done in France and that they were more than glad to have them home again.

The men came in from Camp Meade soon after 2 o'clock and left their train at Mount Royal Station. At the station there was a dense mass of people, filling the station grounds and overflowing into all the streets around. When the men appeared from the train shed, marching with a swinging stride, a great cheer broke out and it was carried along for several blocks. After some little delay the **parade** was formed with the platoon of police at its head, and the six riderless horses of the men who lost their lives in France following in single file immediately behind. These men were Corporals Dupont L. Wolfe and Charles J. Blankford and Privates George C. Clark, Addison Landrim, Harry P. Cushing and James E. Potts. Each of the horses was led by one of the dead men's comrades.

STREWS FLOWERS IN PATH.

One of the prettiest incidents of the **parade** occurred just after the start was made from the station. Mrs. J. S. Moon, of Forest Park, had made up six big bunches of apple blossoms and a bridal wreath, which she took to the armory before the **parade** started and suggested that they be hung from the saddles of the six riderless horses. This, she was told, was against regulations, although the men of the command appreciated her offer very much. Then she took the flowers with her to **Mount Royal Station**, and when the **parade** started she broke them apart and strewed the pavement before the horses with the blossoms while the crowd applauded and the horses and the men behind them marched over and through them.

The line of march was from the station, down Mount Royal avenue to St. Paul street, to Chase street, to Charles street, to Lexington street, to Holliday street, past the **City Hall**, where a stop was made for a review by Mayor Preston and Adjutant-General Henry M. Warfield and a formal welcome to the troops. Then the march was resumed, the men going down Holliday street to Baltimore, to Howard, to the old Richmond Market, to Howard, where the **parade** was disbanded.

A dense mass of people banked the space in front of the **City Hall** and the whole of the **City Hall Plaza**, and they, too, broke into cheers when the men came marching by, and then changed their formation and brought up at attention before Mayor Preston, Adjutant-General Warfield and a number of city and State officials.

MAYOR EXPRESSES CITY'S JOY.

"You can readily recognize the joy of the people of Baltimore in welcoming you back home by the crowds you see on the streets this afternoon and by the acclaim of the people as you march through the city," said the Mayor. "This is an evidence of the love of the people for you, for our great country and for the wonderful work that has been done.

"It is also a richly deserved tribute to you, for we glory in your success and in the success of the cause which took you from us so many months ago. This battery was the first to fight and the first to return, and you come back to us and to your loved ones and friends covered with the laurels of **victory**, meeting with the acclaim of the people with joy in their hearts on your return.

"We are thankful to the Almighty that you have come back, and we are here to tell you of the love for you all that is deep in our hearts.

"You were splendid Americans over there and you come back better Americans, ready to carry aloft again, if need be, the flag—stronger Americans, with a deeper and loftier patriotism. We ought not to forget the future that is before us in continuing our national march and in continuing the work you have done. May your future be as successful as has been your past."

GEN. WARFIELD VOICES PRIDE.

The Mayor then introduced Adjutant-General Warfield, who helped to prepare the battery for its service overseas. "This is an honor I had not looked forward to," said General Warfield, telling the boys that he did not come prepared to make a speech. He spoke of the preparation of the old Maryland National Guard for service abroad and of the deep feeling he had for all of them, and especially for those of the One Hundred and Seventeenth Trench Mortar Battery. He said he could not find words in which to express this feeling.

General Warfield referred to the orders he received from the War Department to organize three companies of coast artillery, and of the response he had received from the young men who were anxious and willing to help guard the coast from invasion by the enemy. He called attention to the subsequent orders that sent the Trench Mortar Battery overseas ahead of all other Maryland organizations, and of the proud spirit in which the men went away.

General Warfield told of the selection of officers for the battery, and of the great pride he had in the promotions of Lieutenant-Colonel "Bob" Gill, who went over as a captain.

"All that I knew about your present captain (Captain Green) was what the men told me," General Warfield said. "I took the word of those men, and I am

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here to say that I made no mistake in selecting officers for this battery.

"We are proud of you, and there is nothing that we will not do for you. We are proud of the great work you did abroad, and we welcome you back with all our hearts." General Warfield told the men that the Governor joined heartily in the welcome.

ALL CHEER "BOB" GILL.

There were loud calls for Colonel Gill, who rode at the head of the battery.

"Come here, Gill," shouted General Warfield.

Great applause broke out as Colonel Gill came forward and bowed first to the Mayor and General Warfield and then to the crowd of men, women and children in front of him.

"I have no right to make a speech on this occasion," said Colonel Gill, "but I am very glad to respond to this very cordial welcome. During our work abroad—and the battery was in every major engagement—we talked of the day we would **parade** in dear old Baltimore. We appreciate more deeply than we can tell you the reception you have given us today. We are glad to be back."

"DID BEST WE COULD."

"Captain Green was next called upon and was greeted with tumultuous applause as he snappily walked to the front.

"In behalf of the officers and men of the battery I thank you most heartily for the reception you have given us today," said Captain Green. "We were the first to go over and the first unit to come back. We did the best we could, and if you appreciate it we are glad. I thank you for your kind reception."

The Mayor and General Warfield showed Colonel Gill and Captain Green one of the certificates of appreciation the Mayor and City Council have provided for all the men who went into the service from Baltimore. General Warfield told the men of the battery that they would each be given a certificate at a later function.

This ended the exercises at the City Hall and the men took up their march again through more lines of cheering home folks and back to the old armory from which they started from Baltimore on August 27, 1917, to help make more glorious history for their native land and make the name of their home city more widely known. After resting up the men went to Homewood to see the One Hundred and Seventeenth's nine play a game of baseball with the Johns Hopkins team.

Just before the men left Camp Meade Captain Greene told them that they could go to their homes after the **parade**, but added that they must be in camp by 10 o'clock this morning. They will leave the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Station at Eutaw and Pratt streets at 8.45 o'clock.

Captain Greene also announced that the battery would be demobilized by noon Saturday. He said work was necessary night and day to accomplish this end, but added that with the co-operation the unit is now getting from the camp officials it could be done.