

World War 1 – Lester's Service

Lester Hubbard served in the 145th Infantry Division during World War 1. That division was sent in to reinforce the troops at Chateau Theyry after the Allied forces nearly wiped out there. This division fought at the Battle of the Marne and Verdun and other lesser publicized positions, always at the front and in the trenches. For several months, he drove mule supply trains, under cover of night, in the effort to supply different sectors. Transportation was not mechanized then, and supply trains were under heavy fire.

After the Armistice was signed, he was assigned to accompany some of the officers to Paris, France to be a company clerk because he could type and he wrote well. When the occupation army left Paris, Lester stayed there, living with a French family. He attended the University of Sorbonne and earned a certificate that year.

Hanging on the south basement wall of the house at 339 Douglas Street were two large photographs of the men of the 145th Division. (The pictures were about 14"x24"). When the house was cleared in October 1984, Bryant Croft visited with commandant at the Fort Douglas Museum to ask if the pictures were of value to them. They took them eagerly because they had pictures of the 143rd, 144th and the 146th divisions, but none of the 145th, even though there was a room for the records of the history of that division and there were scenes of the battle grounds and accounts of the fighting and some medals that had been donated.

Two days later the commandant called to request permission to send one of the pictures to Fort Lewis because there was none there and the division had done their initial training there.

Lester would seldom speak of his army experiences, and he did not want to return to France except to visit the Sorbonne. He and Barbara planned to make such a trip the year of his first major heart attack.