

CRUISER BRINGS MEN OF OLD 9TH HOME

Rousing Welcome for First Unit of New York Troops to Get Back.

GREAT CROWD AT PIER GATES

57th Coast Artillery, as It Is Now Known, Is Sent by Train to Camp Merritt.

After being buffeted by northwest gales and big Atlantic rollers, which made her three days late on her voyage from Brest the United States cruiser Huntington arrived yesterday morning at Pier 3, Hoboken, with 44 officers and 1,784 enlisted men on board. There were also 11 naval casualties, who expressed their great satisfaction at being able to walk on something that did not rise up in front of them and roll from side to side in an unpleasant fashion.

All the incoming transports have been warmly welcomed by the Mayor's Committee on the police boat Patrol as they steamed up the harbor from Quarantine, but the Huntington was accorded a special reception, as she was the first vessel to arrive with a unit of New York troops. This consisted of two battalions of the Fifty-seventh Coast Artillery, 37 officers and 1,651 men, which was the entire force of the regiment, with the exception of 16 officers.

The 57th was organized at Sandy Hook a year ago by Colonel Elmer F. Austin of the old 9th Coast Artillery. It was composed of drafted men from Rochester, Regular Army men from Fort Hancock, and New York City men from the old 9th.

The band on the Patrol played "Home, Sweet Home," "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here," "Smile, Smile, Smile," and other popular tunes. The women of the Police Reserves and Knights of Columbus, who were on the Patrol, threw packets of cigarettes and chocolates to the New York soldier boys standing on the after decks of the cruiser, and bundles of newspapers were also thrown on board.

Women Broke Through.

There was a big and enthusiastic crowd of men and women in front of the gates on River Street when the 57th marched out, headed by the Embarkation Port Band, to entrain for Camp Merritt. The police reserves were out in force to keep the crowd from taking charge of the sunburned warriors, and they succeeded pretty well except at the River Street crossing. On the further side, where the women rushed past the uniformed guardians and managed to hug their men folks just once before order was restored.

The 57th was trained at Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, until May 10, when the regiment was sent to France on the transport Ryndam, and was convoyed by the same cruiser Huntington on which they returned from France. After landing at Brest, they went to Libourne, near Bordeaux, where the regiment received its artillery from the Ordnance Department, consisting of twenty-four 155-millimeter guns, with a range of ten miles, and two machine guns to each of the six batteries for protection against enemy planes. While the 57th was at Libourne the 2d Battalion was transferred to the Railway Artillery, and a battalion of the 51st Coast Artillery took its place.

The 57th was ordered up to the front on a hurry call to take part in the attack on St. Mihiel on Sept. 12, but on account of the delays on the cross-country railroad journey they arrived too late to get into the big action, much to the chagrin of the officers and men. They were sent a few days later to the Argonne-Meuse sector and took up a position near Montzeville, where the guns of the regiment did good work in the great drive which commenced on the night of Sept. 25. After the Hindenburg line was broken on Sept. 29 the 57th moved forward and occupied positions in rotation at Esnes, (Hill 304,) Culsy, Montfaucon, and Romagne.

The 57th arrived yesterday under the command of Colonel James M. Wheeler of the regular army, and the following New York officers were with him: Major Robert M. Macon, commanding the 2d Battalion; Captain Frank H. Brown, commanding the 3d Battalion; Captain R. E. Dupuy, Regimental Adjutant; Captain Gilbert H. Higgins, Battalion Adjutant; First Lieutenant Prassly H. McCance, Battalion Adjutant; Second Lieutenant E. B. Myrack, Headquarters Company; First Lieutenant Roger B. Garvin, Supply Company; First Lieutenant Alex. W. Peck, Battery A; First Lieutenants Frank J. Roszel and Albert J. Neal, Battery B; Captain William D. Cameron, First Lieutenants Grenville W. Parkin and John L. Hutton, Battery E, and First Lieutenant Thomas L. Cleaver and Second Lieutenant Joseph J. Connell, Battery F.

Lieutenant McCance Cited.

One of the heroes of the regiment was Lieutenant Prassly H. McCance, Personnel Adjutant, who was cited in division and brigade orders for exceptional bravery at Beauport on Nov. 4. A German shell struck the commissary shack and killed or wounded forty men. McCance ran out from his dugout under a terrific fire and tried to get the wounded from under the debris. He found the job too much for his strength and went back for help through the German fire. He then returned to the ruined commissary shack and worked there until every wounded man had been rescued.

Captain Ardenas N. Chase, the regimental surgeon, in speaking of the work done by the troops from New York in the battlelines on the western front, said: "American history has no more beautiful page than the fighting of the New York boys in the Argonne Forest. Every foot of that ground is sanctified with America's best blood."

The Huntington also brought back the headquarters of the 39th Coast Artillery Brigade organized in August, 1918, whose officers and men were drawn from troops in France. In October the headquarters moved to the front, to Essey, near Thiacourt, in the Toul sector, where they took over the command of the heavy artillery of the 4th Corps of the Second Army. The entire counter-battery work and destructive fire was controlled by these headquarters from that time until the armistice was signed. It was commanded by Colonel F. W. Phisterer, C. A. C., six other commissioned officers, and fifty-eight enlisted men.