



## INTRODUCTION

This paper is included with the Foose Genealogy information base on the service of my Grandfather, Irvin O. Foose in the 314<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and my father with the division as an infantry Platoon Leader (1st Lt.). My father was knock out of action near Rheims after winning the Bronze Star for valor. He suffered multiple injuries and underwent extensive rehabilitation following his return to the U.S.

## 79<sup>th</sup> DIVISION THE LORRAINE CROSS DIVISION



The insignia of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division is the Cross of Lorraine, a symbol of triumph dating back to the victory of the House of Anjou over Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, in the 15th century.

During the fall of 1918, General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces spent much time in studying the question of the identification of troops in battle and of assembling them during the heat of action with its attendant confusion and dispersal of units. The idea of selecting distinctive insignia for each division, with the insignia to be worn by each member of the division on the upper left arm near the shoulder was proposed and immediately acted upon. The commanding generals of all combat divisions were ordered to select insignia for their divisions and to submit their selection for approval to General Headquarters. One by one, the combat divisions adopted their insignia. Following official approval and enactment, the idea

proved to be so successful and of such an assistance in stimulating the morale of the troops that it was later extended to include all organizations in the American Expeditionary Forces.

The official insignia for the Seventy-Ninth division was selected and approved shortly after the signing of the armistice, while the 315th Infantry still held its position in the shell-torn villages of Etraye and Damvillers northeast of Verdun. The insignia proposed by Major General Joseph E. Kuhn as best symbolizing the history and spirit of the Seventy-Ninth Division, was the Lorraine Cross. The Lorraine Cross is an ancient emblem of victory, adopted in the 15th century by the House of Anjou as a symbol of triumph following the defeat of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, in the Battle of Nancy.

For over five hundred years the double traverse Cross of Lorraine had served as an emblem of victory and freedom for the brave, liberty-loving people of Lorraine, and certainly no other emblem could have better represented the history and traditions of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division.

The historical background for the adoption of the Lorraine Cross as the official emblem for the 79<sup>th</sup> Division rests in the fact that during its period of training in America the division was popularly known as the "Liberty Division." In addition, during all its operations in World War I the Division faced the enemy in Lorraine, the province which the United States was pledged to win back in its entirety for France.

The insignia of the Seventy-Ninth Division, as officially adopted, consists of a gray Lorraine Cross on a blue shield with a gray border. In the passing of time, a slight modification was made to the insignia as worn by officers in which the Lorraine Cross was done in silver thread with a silver border for the shield. .

In its hues of silver, gray and blue, the insignia of the Seventy-Ninth Division has become dear to the hearts of thousands of the best of America's citizen soldiers.



## PRIMARY UNITS (WWI)

### 157th Infantry Brigade:

313th Infantry Regiment  
314th Infantry Regiment  
311th Machine Gun Battalion

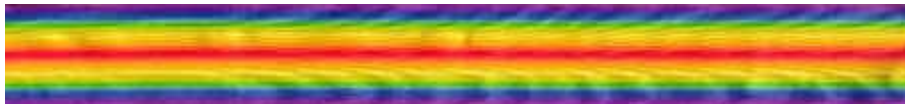
### 158th Infantry Brigade:

315th Infantry Regiment  
316th Infantry Regiment  
312th Machine Gun Battalion

### 154th Field Artillery Brigade:

310th Field Artillery Regiment (75mm)  
311th Field Artillery Regiment (75mm)  
312th Field Artillery Regiment (155mm)  
304th Trench Mortar Battery

## WWI CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION



### Campaign Streamers:

Meuse-Argonne  
Lorraine

154th Field Artillery Brigade & subordinate units:  
None

### U. S. Victory Medal Clasps:

Defensive Sector  
Meuse-Argonne

## “THE CABIN” AT VALLEY FORCE, PA

During the hectic days of the fall of 1917, Camp Meade (now Fort Meade), MD was the site of thousands of young soldiers being trained and prepared to fight in France in World War I. One such group of men was from the 314th Infantry Regiment, part of the 79th Division, with soldiers serving from PA, DE, and MD. With some time on their hands during the 10 months of training at Camp Meade, some of the men decided to build a log cabin from trees felled on the reservation. It was located just beyond the Regimental Headquarters, and became sort of a shrine to the thousands of men who poured through the camp. It was something unique of soldierdom, and it stood as an insignia of the regiment.

About 450 men from the 314th Infantry Regiment lost their life in the war, and the survivors suggested that a memorial was needed. What better memorial than the cabin that had been built by some of the very men who fell in France. In 1921, log by log, stone by stone, the Cabin was taken down and transported from Camp Meade to the campus of the Washington Memorial Chapel. It was rededicated as a memorial to the fallen of the 314th in 1922.

Over the years, as the surviving members of the regiment died off, the 314th's cabin was open for visitors less and less frequently. In 1995, the World of Scouting Museum was looking for a place for their museum, and a symbiotic relationship was



formed. A portion of the cabin is still dedicated to displaying relics from the 314th Infantry Regiment, while the majority of the cabin contains displays of Scouting memorabilia. The cabin is roughly 1100 square feet, heated and air conditioned.



*Display of items from the 314th*

<http://www.worldofscoutingmuseum.org/314thpromo.html>

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## 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in WWII



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The Army reactivated the 79<sup>th</sup> Division at Camp Pickett, Virginia on 15 Jun 42 as the 79th Division and re-designated it as the 79th Infantry Division on 1 Aug 42.

The division moved to [Camp Blanding, Florida](#) on 1 Sep 42 (visit the [Camp Blanding Museum](#)); moved to Tennessee Maneuvers Area on 3 Mar 43 where the division participated in the Second Army No. 1 Tennessee Maneuvers; transferred to [Camp Forrest, Tennessee](#) on 19 Jul 43 and moved to Camp Young, California on 17 Aug 43 for the Desert Training Center No. 3



California Maneuvers ([Camp Laguna, Arizona](#)). The division arrived at Camp Phillips, Kansas on 4 Dec 43. The division relocated and staged at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts on 31 Mar 44.

The division departed the Boston Port of Embarkation on 7 Apr 44; arrived in England 16 Apr 44 and landed in France in Jun 44. The division crossed into Belgium and then into Holland; entered Germany 3 Mar 45 and after VE Day performed Army of Occupation duties in Czechoslovakia. The division returned to New York Port of Embarkation on 10 Dec 45 and was deactivated at [Camp Kilmer](#), in Piscataway, New Jersey on 11 Dec 45.

## COMBAT NARRATIVE

After arriving in England, the division crossed the English Channel and landed across Utah Beach, France. On 14 Jun 44, the division attacked toward [Cherbourg](#) with the 313th and 315th Infantry on 19 Jun 44, and reached the outer fortifications of the fortress-city the following day. The division began its main assault 22 Jun 44 as the 313th Infantry drove against the strong-point at La Mare á Canards. The 314th Infantry captured [Fort du Roule](#) on 26 Jun 44.



The division left Cherbourg and moved south to hold defensive lines along the Ollonde River until 2 Jul 44. The division then pushed down the west coast of the Cotentin Peninsula in driving rain and took La Haye-du-Puits after repelling German counterattacks on 8 Jul 44. It crossed the Ay River behind the 8th Infantry Division on 26 Jul 44 and took Lasey the next day, capturing Laval on 6 Aug 44. It sped past Le Mans on 8 Aug 44 and established a bridgehead near Mantes-Gassicourt over the Seine River 20 Aug 44, which it held against German counterattacks 22-27 Aug 44. It moved forward with the 2nd Armored Division and crossed the Therain River at the end of the month.

The division then concentrated in the Joinville area on 10 Sep 44, and the 314th Infantry battled through Charmes 12 Sep 44 and forded the Moselle as the 313th Infantry captured Poussay and the 315th Infantry seized Neufchâteau 13 Sep 44. After heavy combat as the division cleared its sector, the offensive resumed on 18 Sep 44. On 20 Sep 44 the 314th Infantry encountered German fire as it reached the Meurthe River near Lunéville attempting to turn the German flank. A battalion crossed the river near St. Clement the next day but had to be withdrawn. The division moved forward despite intense attacks from the Forêt de Parroy, the 315th Infantry losing and then recovering part of Lunéville 22 Sep 44 as the 314th Infantry faced counterattacks at Moncel. The 314th Infantry frontally assaulted Forêt de Monden the following day in heavy combat and the division entered the Forêt de Parroy. The 315th Infantry was temporarily isolated in fighting at the main road junction there on 5 Oct 44. An all-out divisional assault forced a German withdrawal from the forest with the final capture of the main road junction 9 Oct 44.

The division next took Emberménil on 3 Oct 44 and battled for the high ground east of the town 15-22 Oct 44. It was relieved in this area 24 Oct 44. It rested at Lunéville and returned to the attack 13 Nov 44, with the 314th and 315th Infantry out of the Montigny area which carried it across the Vezouse and the capture of Fremonville 19 Nov 44. The division consolidated north of Strasbourg 25 Nov 44, and fought the Battle of Hagenau 9-11 Dec 44.

The division reached the Lauter River at Schiebenhardt on 15 Dec 44, and had an important role in successfully defending against the last major German offensive, launched in the Ardennes and known as [Operation Nordwind](#). The division held defensive lines at Wissembourg until 2 Jan 45. It then moved to the southern portion of the Rhine River held by Task Force Linden (42d Infantry Division). The Germans established a bridgehead at Gamsheim and by 6 Jan 45 the division had battled through Statmatten to relieve encircled elements of the task force. The division remained on the defensive along the Moder River until 6 Feb 45.

The division went into reserve and detached the 314th Infantry to forward positions overlooking the Roer as a diversion for [Operation GRENADE](#) 23 Feb 45. The division crossed the Rhine on 24 Mar 45. It reached the Rhine-Herne Canal against strong opposition 29 Mar 45. The following day the 314th Infantry concluded the drive to Emser Canal and the division established defensive positions there until 6 Apr 45.

The division then relieved the 35th Infantry Division west of Gelsenkirchen and attacked across the Emser and Rhine-Herne Canals on 7 April 45. It reached the Ruhr on 9 Apr 45 and moved against resistance east along the Ruhr, establishing a bridge-



head at Kettwig 11 Apr 45. It was relieved the following day and reverted to security duty in the Dortmund area where it was posted when hostilities were declared ended on 7 May 45.

There are various resources available on the Internet for research concerning the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



*Monument to 79th Infantry Division, World War II  
Located In La Haye du Puits, France*

*(The 314th Infantry Association World War II, Inc. proudly contributed to the erection of this memorial.)*