

James Arthur Manahan
Co. C, 357th Infantry, 90th Division
American Expeditionary Forces
World War I

Gainesville Daily Register, October 1, 1918

Lieut. J. A. Manahan, Co. C 357th Infantry, now on the French front, writes a cheering letter to his mother, Mrs. J. R. Manahan of this city, and sends a very unique present to his father. He also sends a copy of the "Stars and Stripes," the official paper of the American Expeditionary Forces. The present to his father is a buckskin vest, fleece-lined and warm as a stove, such as the officers wear in extreme weather in the trenches. But this vest was not needed to keep warm the heart of this old warrior. He has been through the carnage of battle and would go again for freedom's sake if permitted.

Following are some extracts from Lieutenant Manahan's letter:

We have moved back from the front lines for a bath and a few days' rest. Both are luxuries in France. Eating and sleeping are plentiful, but a bath, a little rest, and a letter from home are certainly God-sends to the American soldier.

We have had some wonderful experiences, and all the men are kidding each other about how cold (shakey) they got when the shells were thick. Don't look for my name under the casualty list—look for it under 'Cited for bumping off some few Boches.'

My men are a great bunch and I believe in them now and know what they can do.

Hope everyone at home is well and happy as usual. I have no letter from any of the home folks in a long time. Please write all the news. I am well and happy and not a 'cootie' on me! That's more than most of the men can say.

Love to all, Arthur.

Co. C, 357th Infantry, Am. E. F.

TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA BOYS IN FIGHTING

The casualty list issued for today is the largest reported up to date, and the large number of Texas and Oklahoma boys appearing on the list is the result of the entry of Ninetieth division into front line action. This division was trained at San Antonio and is made up principally of Texas and Oklahoma draft men.

The name of Lieut. James A. Manahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Manahan of this city appears in the list of killed in action. Word of his death was received by his parents a week ago, an account of which was published in The Register. He was killed Sept 16. This indicates that the casualties reported today occurred in the St. Mihiel drive and that the Ninetieth division played a conspicuous part in that notable battle. There are more than one hundred Texas and Oklahoma men on this casualty list, which is bringing the war home to us in a very forcible manner.

Gainesville, Daily Register, October 18, 1918

THE SOLDIER AND HIS MOTHER

Mrs. J. A. Manahan of this city, whose son, Lieut. Arthur Manahan, was killed in battle on the 16th of last month, has received the following touching poems, sent her by the author, Chas. J. North of Buffalo N. Y.

SLEEP, SOLDIER, SLEEP

Sleep, soldier, sleep. This work is done
Sleep where they duty found thee—
Just where the line was thinning down
When Glory caught and crowned thee.

Rest, soldier, rest. The crown is thine—
The crown of throne and glory,
Bright Angels lift thy bruised life,
And wave their palms before thee.

Dream, soldier, dream. Thy voice rings out,
And comrades swell the chorus
Dream that thy hand still waves the Flag:
Thy spirit flames before us.

KNIT, MOTHER, KNIT

A peaceful valley in the West,
The evening shadows flitting,
A trembling heat, a glist'ning tear,
A lonely mother knitting

Knit, mother, knit. The cross is thine—
The cross that mothers borrow;
For all must knit and some must mourn,
While war brings need and sorrow.

Dream. mother, dream. The night is here.
Dream that its shadows borrow
A radiance from the great beyond,
To light a blest to-morrow.

Gainesville Daily Register, December 14, 1918

OFFICER WRITES OF THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF LIEUT. JAS. MANAHAN

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Manahan have received the following letter from Lieut. H. Olenbush, who was in the same company with their son, Lieut. Jas. Manahan, who was killed at Fey-en-Haye, France, Sept. 12. A remarkable coincidence in connection with the death of Lieut. Manahan was that on the night of the day he was killed he appeared very vividly in dreams to both his mother and sister here. Mrs. Manahan first dreamed she was shot in the forehead, and then that it was her son instead of her. Lieut. Olenbush states that Lieut. Manahan was shot in the head and instantly killed. In the dream of the sister, Lieut. Manahan stood by her bed and said, "Don't worry, May, I have been given a decent burial." Lieut. Olenbush's letter:

France, Nov. 17, 1918.

My Dear Mrs. Manahan,

I received your letter of Oct. 23 yesterday and it reminded me of something I should have done long before this and that is to write to you. I wanted to write you just after my dear friend and your son was killed but we are forbidden to write until the families are notified by the government.

Later I was hurt a little and spent about a month in hospital from which I have just returned and there I had no opportunity to write.

You can imagine how it grieved the officers and men of the company to lose our good friend and fellow officer – Jimmie Manahan. The men loved him above all, and the officers admired him as one of the best officers in the regiment and cherished his friendship. He was truly a man from top to bottom and not a man has ever been missed more than he.

Jimmie was killed by a machine gun near Fey-en-Haye, France, on Sept. 12. He was shot through the head and died instantly. I didn't see him when he was hit and couldn't be at his funeral on account of having to go on with the fight. He was buried near Fey-en-Haye and the chaplain assured me that he got a good burial. His personal effects which were on his body were sent to the Effects Depot and his baggage went to the deceased officer's Baggage Depot. All of his effects will be sent to you eventually, which is the regular routine.

I will close by saying that you can be justly proud, for Jimmie died a hero. I wish to offer my deepest condolence, and the company joins me in it. Hoping that you will get his affairs straight and if I can do anything don't fail to call on me. I am

As ever,

H. Olenbush

1st Lieut., U. S. Army

FITTING TRIBUTE PAID TO MEMORY OF JAMES ARTHUR MANAHAN

Military Funeral was one of the most impressive in history of city

The mortal remains of Lt James Arthur Manahan were tenderly laid beneath the sod in beautiful Fairview cemetery Sunday afternoon, the solemn ceremony being witnessed by one of the greatest throngs ever congregated in the City of the Dead, the assemblage being estimated variously at 3,000 persons, attesting the popularity of this young soldier and the general appreciation of those who made the supreme sacrifice during the world war.

James Arthur Manahan was born June 9, 1889, at Temple, Texas. He moved to Gainesville with his parents a number of years ago, but was employed in a drug store at Wichita Falls when he enlisted for army service on May 9, 1917. He was trained in the officer's camp near San Antonio and received the rating of lieutenant. He was later assigned to Co. D. 357th Infantry, 90th Division and sailed overseas in June, 1918. He was killed in the historical St. Mihiel drive on Sept. 12, 1918, during a heated engagement, in which many other heroic Americans fell.

Speaking of Lt. Manahan's fine quality of mind and his love of parents, Rev. F. M. Dunsworth, preaching the funeral service in Grant Avenue Baptist church, related the circumstances of the young man purchasing a home for his mother and father just before going to the overseas battlefield and making other provisions for their comfort and health, should he meet the fate that was finally his. In two letters to his mother, written a few days before the fatal engagement, Lt Manahan expressed the greatest mental happiness he had ever known, and in which he suggested that, while not a member of any church, he had placed his hope and trust in Jesus Christ as his savior. Rev. Dunsworth, standing under the service flag of the church, which bore two gold stars, made a touching tribute to the memory of the gallant soldier whose body lay before him. He compared him to the great and mighty of all the ages, and said his greatness came through the love of a great mother as his background.

The church was overflowing with sympathetic friends and sorrowing relatives. National colors were draped here and there, and a great choir of 50 voices rendered music appropriate to the occasion. Rev. Staton said the final prayer at the church, after which the remains were taken in charge by former army officers, members of the American Legion. The pall-bearers were Messrs. Jack Shelton, Wm. Tyler, Booster Stanforth, Merlin Mitchell, W. A. Maddox and Bert Davis. They carried the flag-draped casket to the caisson, passing through a double line of uniformed soldiers, some of whom wore steel helmets and carried rifles. The procession was led by the Chamber of Commerce band of 20 pieces, with Capt Joe Boozer wielding the baton. Then came the stalwart doughboys who went through the fires of hell in France with the man who was being honored. The caisson, bearing the casket, was drawn by four Percheron horses,

ridden by artillerymen. Then came the mourners and a seemingly endless procession of automobiles.

Streets leading to the burying ground were lined for blocks with vehicles and a mass of humanity, while in the cemetery the throng was so great it was necessary for Boy Scout patrolmen to keep the line of march open, and they performed the task exceedingly well.

Gilbert Holman, commander of the American Legion post, made a few introductory remarks as to the solemnity and significance of the occasion, afterward calling on Hon. Geo. H. Culp and Hon. R. E. Thomason, who delivered splendid orations on the sacrifice young Manahan, along with thousands of others had made, and urged their countrymen to take the lesson home to their hearts, that America will continue to be one country whose flag has never known defeat, and to aid in bringing about an end to all future wars.

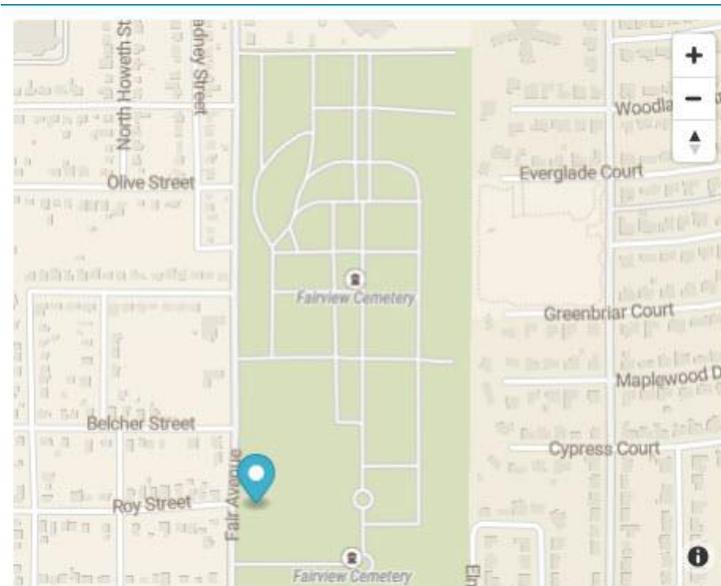
Chaplain Charles Richter of the Legion Post, said the burial ritual, then the squad of soldiers fired a parting salute of three volleys. Bugler Frazier sounded "Taps," and in the distance another bugle could be heard as though it were echoed from the instrument of the soldier who stood over the grave and paid the army's final tribute to its dead.

Besides his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Manahan, Lt. Manahan is survived by three brothers, C. A., of Brownsville, N. of Houston, J. F., of Sherman, and four sisters: Mesdames T. G. Shipp of Sanger, J. H. Ingle, Gainesville, Chas. Clark of Rogers and Chas. Dillingham of Whitesboro.

Among those here for the sad occasion were: Mrs. S. L. Farmer of Knox City, sister of J. R. Manahan, Mrs. E. J. Griffin of Sanger, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Shipp and family of Sanger; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Dillingham of Whitesboro; Mr. and Mrs. John F. Manahan and son of Sherman.



Memorial in Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas



Cemetery Name
Fairview Cemetery