

CITY PAYS TRIBUTE TO 44 SOLDIER DEAD

Friends and Families of War
Heroes and Ex-service
Men Form Line at Terminal

Widow of Captain Gearty,
Overcome With Grief,
Flings Wreath Away

Its soldier dead again claimed the city's attention and its reverence yesterday. Forty-four additional bodies arrived at the Reading Terminal shortly before 10 o'clock in the morning.

The reception accorded the veteran dead was marked throughout with the same touch of tender tribute and of honor paid to those who died that has characterized the arrival in Philadelphia of former consignments of soldier bodies.

War mothers, American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars and other ex-service men and members of the families and friends of the dead formed a double line of honor reaching the length of the station. Between these lines of grave men and sorrowing women the flag draped caskets tumbled from the baggage coaches to the great freight elevator by which they were lowered to the street level where waiting hearses conveyed them to the respective families. Each casket, as before, bore a wreath placed by the American National War Mothers, Philadelphia chapter. The wreaths were of poppies and oak leaves, fitting reminders of the fields of France where conflict claimed the dead.

One touching incident served to accent the depth of grief that prevailed in many a heart as those loved in life returned in death. Mrs. Walter M. Gearty, widow of Captain Gearty, whose body was among those received, in a rush of emotional grief, seized the wreath that had been placed on his casket and flung it to the ground, as though all mark of tribute were inadequate, and in harmony, perhaps, in the presence of the desolation of the death that was hers to endure. Weeping bitterly, the widow then walked along behind the unadorned casket.

Major Edwin B. Hollenback, 109th Infantry, who has directed the arrangements for the former receptions of soldier bodies, was in charge of yesterday's ceremonies. Assisting was Mrs. Maude Cluley, secretary of the War Mothers Chapter, who supervised the placing of the wreaths as each casket was removed from the coaches.

"Mike" Schrepfer, for thirty years a member of the old First Regiment and regimental sergeant major until the regiment went overseas as the 109th, and Charles P. Pursley, Company K, 109th, bore crossed American and Legion flags forming an arch beneath which all caskets passed.

Leading the long line was the body of John Barry, 109th Infantry. His mother, Mrs. Mary Barry, was present.

Rev. Joseph L. M. Wolfe, pastor of St. Barbara's Church, Fifty-fourth and Diamond streets, who was chaplain of the 109th in France, was at the terminal, together with a number of men of the 109th, comrades in arms of the dead. Captain Gearty Post, American Legion, supplied the color guard.

Fifty more bodies of Philadelphia men are yet to be returned from the shipment of 7000 recently returned from France by the government. These are expected to arrive within the following ten days.

With the exception of one from Glenside and another from Delair, N. J., all the bodies are Philadelphians.

The funeral of Private Martin R. Waldvogel, of Atco, N. J., a member of the 312th Regiment, who died in France of pneumonia, November 16, 1918, will be held at three o'clock at the Atco Methodist Church. The service will be supervised by the Haddonfield Post, American Legion. A volley will be fired over the grave by a squad from the John H. Crow Post, American Legion of Philadelphia. The Camden Cadet band and representatives of Camden county posts will attend.