

307th Infantry Regiment Memorial Grove
Analysis of Company Trees (Revised 1/16/2015)

Companies of the 307th Infantry Regiment	Company Tree Present (or Exceptions)¹	Location on 8/12/14 Site Diagram	Date Planted²	Reported Species³	American Forestry Assoc.?⁴	Notes
HQ Company, Supply Company, Sanitary Detachment	Missing	# 5			No	
Machine Gun Company	Present	# 1			Yes	Note 5
Company A	Missing	# 4			No	
Company B	Present	# 6	5/7/1922	Red Oak	Unknown	Note 6
Company C	Missing	# 9	5/1/1921	Oak	Unknown	Note 7
Company D	Present	# 2	10/31/1920	Oak	Yes	Note 8
Company E	Missing	# 7	5/1/1921	Oak	Yes	Note 7
Company F	Present	# 3	4/3/1921	Oak	Yes	Note 9
Company G	Missing	# 13	5/15/1921	Oak	Yes	Note 10
Company H	Missing	# 10	5/1/1921	Oak		Note 7
Company I	Missing	# 12	5/8/1921?	Oak	Yes	Note 11
Company K	Missing	# 11	5/8/1921	Oak	Yes	Note 11
Company L	Missing	# 14	5/8/1921	Oak	Yes	Note 11
Company M	Missing	# 8	5/8/1921	Oak		Note 11

Notes:

1. All information regarding the current presence or absence of company trees is based upon inspection on 12 August 2014.
2. All information regarding dates of planting is from contemporaneous news articles.

A diagram dated 8/12/14 contains location numbers that are referred to in this memorandum. A link to that diagram appears near the beginning of the web page to which this memorandum is linked. Ignoring the existing, apparently younger, non-oak tree to the N.W. of the HQ Company, Supply Company and Sanitary Detachment pedestal (which tree probably was not a part of the original Grove), the surviving company trees and the company pedestals appear to form an “inner horseshoe” array of six companies, surrounded by an “outer horseshoe” array of eight companies (treating the HQ Company, Supply Company and Sanitary Detachment as one company). This arrangement is similar to the arrangement of 14 trees in the 1926 site plan in the NYC Design Commission archives. (That site plan probably was prepared by or under the supervision of the architect, W. Kerr Rainsford, who is identified in the accompanying application; CPT Rainsford had been Commander of Company M, and later of Company L, of the regiment. He was also the author of *From Upton to the Meuse, with the Three Hundred and Seventh Infantry*, published in 1920.)

The following is a chronological summary of what is known regarding the order and dates of planting of 11 of the company trees:

Planting Order	Date Planted	Company(ies)
1	10/31/1920	D
2	4/3/1921	F
3	5/1/1921	C, E, H
4	5/8/1921	I?, K, L, M
5	5/15/1921	G
6	5/7/1922	B

3. All information regarding the species of trees is from contemporaneous news articles. The species of remaining trees should be confirmed by inspection.
4. If “Yes”, the following words appear in three lines at the bottom of an existing, associated company plaque: “REGISTERED / AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION / WASHINGTON, D.C.” None of the apparently older plaques that were cast instead of being inscribed, contains those words. All of the inscribed plaques contain those words.
5. At some unknown date prior to 2002, an apparently newer (inscribed), duplicative Machine Gun Company plaque was installed at Location # 1, presumably because the apparently older (cast) one was missing. Sometime later, probably after the Company H plaque had been stolen, the older Machine Gun Company plaque apparently was recovered and installed at Location # 10. Thus, for a time there were two Machine Gun Company plaques in the Grove. On the assumption that the tree at Location # 1 probably was the original Machine Gun Company tree, the older Machine Gun Company plaque was moved to Location # 1 in June 2012, when a replacement Company H plaque was installed at Location # 10.
6. According to a contemporary news article, the Company B tree was dedicated on 7 May 1922. More than two hundred “gold star” mothers reportedly took part in the ceremony. COL John J. Bradley, Chief of Staff, 77th Infantry Division, made a speech, and the presentation was by LT Arthur J. Hamblen. A speech of acceptance by NYC Park Commissioner Francis D. Gallatin followed. The plaque was dedicated by Mrs. William H. Charles, representing the ‘gold star’ mothers. LT Hamblen then read the names of the fallen members of the company. A benediction was offered by Father James Halligan, former Chaplain, 77th Infantry Division, and prayers were offered by the Rev. Thomas E. Swan, Chaplain of the United States Army.
7. According to a contemporary news article, the trees honoring Companies C, E and H were dedicated on 1 May 1921. CPT Edward (“Eddie”) L. Grant, formerly a member of the Phillies and Giants, was the Commander of Company H when he was killed in action. Speeches were made by COL Sheldon, 307th Infantry Regiment, and Hon. Ogden L. Mills.
8. According to a contemporary news article, the Company D tree was dedicated on 31 October 1920. MG Robert Alexander, Former Commander, 77th Infantry Division, spoke and presented the tree, which was accepted by NYC Park Commissioner Francis D. Gallatin.
9. According to a contemporary news article, the Company F tree apparently was dedicated on 3 April 1921. Although the article refers to Company “D”, its list of the honored dead agrees with the list of Company F on both the main tablet on the natural boulder monument and the Company F plaque. The tree was accepted by NYC Park Commissioner Francis D. Gallatin, and speeches were

made by CPT Dudley Davis, the company commander; by MAJ DeLancey K. Jay, on behalf of the battalion and regiment; and by Former Governor Charles S. Whitman. Former Chaplain Francis W. Walsh offered a brief prayer and read the names of the fallen members of the company.

10. According to a contemporary news article, the Company G tree was dedicated on 15 May 1921. It was described as the tenth memorial tree in a series of plantings in the Grove which “will be continued until every company has thus honored its deceased heroes”. The ceremony began with the playing of “America” by the 77th Infantry Division Band, after which the former comrades and relatives of the deceased Soldiers of the company distributed earth about the roots of the tree. NYC Park Commissioner Francis D. Gallatin accepted the tree, and there were speeches by MAJ DeLancey K. Jay and Mrs. William Van Namee. A prayer was offered by the Rev. James J. Halligan, former Chaplain of the regiment, followed by the sounding of TAPS and the playing of “The Star-Spangled Banner”.

11. According to a contemporary news article, the trees honoring Companies I, K, L and M were dedicated on 8 May 1921. Although the article refers to Company “J” instead of Company “I”, this appears to be erroneous, as there was no Company “J”. The article also states that each of the company trees was protected by an iron enclosure, to which its company plaque was attached. It may be surmised that the currently existing concrete pedestals were installed sometime later, after the trees had grown and the protective enclosures were removed. The article also reports that before the ceremony, approximately 300 former members of the companies marched to the Grove from the 72nd Street entrance to the Park, led by “Keith’s Boy’s Band”. After an invocation was offered by Former Chaplain Stanley M. Cleveland, earth was thrown around the trees by veterans and relatives of the fallen Soldiers. Speeches were made by NYC Park Commissioner Francis D. Gallatin, MG Robert Alexander, and the four Company Commanders: CPT Nathan H. Lord, CPT Joseph Holahan, CPT Ward B. Chamberlin, and CPT Samuel S. Nash, Jr. Chaplain Cleveland then dedicated the trees, and a bugler sounded TAPS.