

LOST BATTALION

CHARACTERS

The Lost Battalion is a true story about American soldiers, led by a civilian-turned-soldier, Major Charles Whittlesey. It was a company of brave young men, made up mostly of tough, young, Irish, Italian, Jewish, and Polish immigrants from New York City. They became trapped behind enemy lines towards the end of World War I, but fought against the odds, and many of the survivors were honored as heroes upon their return.

MAJOR CHARLES WHITTLESEY: RICK SCHRODER

The Battalion commander; tall, kind, humane, fair, wiry; successful ex-Wall Street lawyer; young for his position, but warfare has aged him from the inside out.

GENERAL ROBERT ALEXANDER: MICHAEL BRANDON
Stocky; determined; aggressive; organizer of the American offensive; orders Whittlesey's battalion to embark on a futile mission to a certain death; a career soldier and the complete opposite of Whittlesey.

CAPTAIN GEORGE McMURTRY: PHIL MCKEE

A big, burly, Irish-American, with a ruddy face who seems to always be in good cheer; a tough "take-no-prisoners" type of guy; more experienced in battle than Whittlesey; a career military man.

SGT. GAEDEKE: JAMIE HARRIS

Young, but much more experienced in battle than the others; a tough, straight-talking, hard-bitten; he very rarely betrays emotion; a career soldier.

COLONEL JOHNSON: ADAM KOTZ

General Alexander's right-hand-man; sympathetic; has much more of a conscience than his superior officer; a decent man caught in an impossible situation; his loyalties divided between Whittlesey, whom he respects and General Alexander; he realized the battalion is in danger but is unable to warn them in time.

PVT. KROTOSHINKSY: ARTHUR KREMER

A young Polish immigrant who's extremely proud of his American citizenship.

PVT. ROSEN: MICHAEL GOLDSTROM

A smart, funny, street-wise, ethnic-looking, Jewish tough-guy from the Lower East Side of Manhattan; urban, tough-talking, but like the others, terrified of what lies ahead.

PVT. STANLEY CHINN: PAUL COURTENAY HYU

Chinese-American, a Radio Operator from NY's Chinatown.

PVT. LIPASTI: ANDRE VIPPOLIS

Battalion "runner"; Italian-American; self described "Pushcart Dago"; street smart; city boy; talkative.

PVT. YODER: RHYS MILES THOMAS

Cowboy from Montana, an "Apple Knocker"; inexperienced.

PVT. OMER RICHARDS: JUSTIN SCOT

Battalion Pigeon Keeper; kind; loves his birds.

LT. LEAK: JAY RODAN

Young lanky Texan; doesn't fit in with the New York Unit; strong Texan accent; new Lieutenant and new to war.

PVT. CEPEGLIA: DANIEL CALTAGIRONE

Italian-American; good friends with Rosen; street-smart; tough guy.

PVT. HOLLINGSHEAD: GEORGE CALIL

True fighter; brave; an American Doughboy; highly spirited; energetic; more experienced.

PVT. ISIDORE SWERSKY: JOSHUA COHEN

Battalion Medic

CAPTAIN NELSON HOLDERMAN: ADAM JAMES

Young Californian; always upbeat; a phenomenally brave man; Whittlesey's confidant.

GENERAL DECOPPET: HUGH FRASER

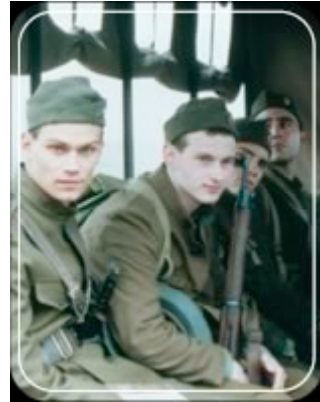
French Officer; bemused attitude; cynical; war-weary.

LT. SCHENCK: TIM MATTHEWS

Young Lieutenant.

PVT. HENCHMAN: ANTHONY AZIZI

More experienced fighter; friends with Hollingshead.



1. How did Americans fighting in W.W.I justify their involvement in this conflict?
2. What year and where does this particular conflict take place?
3. What new technology do you see being used during W.W.I?
4. Discuss the plan that General Alexander wants Major Whittlesey to carry out?
5. How does Major Whittlesey react to the General's plan?
6. Where are most of Major Whittlesey's company from?
7. What do you think happened to the soldiers walking along the road with their eyes covered?
8. Describe the advice some of the veterans give the new replacements.
9. Of what use are pigeons in this conflict?
10. Discuss the Germans impression of the American soldiers.
11. Why does Major Whittlesey want to fall back after their initial attack?
12. What happened to the American communication line? What does the operator think is happening?
13. Discuss what happens when the Germans go on the offensive against the 308 & 307.
14. What message does the 77th division headquarters receive from Major Whittlesey?
15. How do they get rid of the German sniper?
16. Why is the Major so intent on holding their position?
17. How effective was American artillery?
18. What information does Lt. Leak tell the German Major Prinz?
19. What are the total casualties after the artillery bombardment?
20. Describe how Major Whittlesey feels about his soldiers.
21. How does the Major respond to General Alexander when he states, "your men have been through hell"?
22. How many men did Major Whittlesey lead into battle? How many men did he leave with out of the Argonne forest? What happens to Major Whittlesey after the war?