

Lost Battalion Film Sheet

Name _____

Per. ____ Date _____ Row ____

This is a true story of about 500 soldiers who were ordered to advance into the Argonne Forest against heavy German resistance and hold their position at whatever cost.

Setting: Argonne Forest in France (German-held territory); October, 1918 (toward the end of WWI); Major Whittlesey enters the Argonne Forest on October 2, 1918

Main Characters:

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| 1) 308th Battalion (part of the 77th Division of the U.S. Army) | 5) Pvt. Yoder, from Montana |
| 2) Major Charles Whittlesey (commander of the 308th) | 6) Lt. Leak, from Texas |
| 3) General Robert Alexander (commander of the 77th Division) | 7) Pvt. Lipasti (runner), from New York |
| 4) Capt. George McMurtry | 8) Pvt. Cepaglia/Pvt. Rosen, from New York |
| | 9) Pvt. Krotoshinsky, Polish immigrant |
| | 10) Major Prinz, German officer |

- 1) In what country does the film take place?
- 2) In what year does the film take place?
- 3) What division (number) is going to attack the Argonne Forest sector?
- 4) What do Major Whittlesey's troops have to do at Charlevaux Mill?
- 5) What did Major Whittlesey feel the mission was?
- 6) What was Major Whittlesey's occupation before the war?
- 7) Where was Major Whittlesey from?
- 8) What was the name (number) of the battalion?
- 9) Why did Lt. Leak think his assignment was a mistake?
- 10) What U.S. city did most of the soldiers in the battalion come from?

- 11) Why were the soldiers blinded?
- 12) What are the 2 kinds of stuff?
- 13) What is the weapon they do have to worry about?
- 14) What does Whittlesey tell the troops before they leave the trench?
- 15) What was the signal to leave the trench?
- 16) According the German officers, why were the Americans a tough opponent?
- 17) What were the French units doing?
- 18) What did the troops do with the pigeons?
- 19) Whittlesey's division was the only one to do what?
- 20) What were they afraid of the Germans doing?
- 21) Why did Whittlesey want to start fires and burn the coffee?
- 22) Why did Whittlesey order any soldier who went for water to be shot?
- 23) With the French flank a no-show, what happened to the Americans?
- 24) What did Whittlesey decide to do?
- 25) Why are they known as the "lost battalion"?
- 26) Why is Whittlesey adamant about holding his area?
- 27) What happens after the bombing begins?

- 28) How did Whittlesey get the bombing to end?
- 29) What did the German officer (Major Prinz) want to discuss with Lt. Leak?
- 30) What caused the men to get excited?
- 31) How were the Allies able to find the battalion's position?
- 32) What did the note from Major Prinz (brought back by Lt. Leak) ask of Whittlesey?
- 33) What was his response?
- 34) What weapon do the Germans use against the Americans?
- 35) How did the German officer describe the Americans after the attack?
- 36) What did Whittlesey give to General Alexander?
- 37) What did General Alexander say about the loss of so many men in the battle?
- 38) What was the name of the wounded carrier pigeon that helped save the battalion?
- 39) Of the 500 men who served with Whittlesey, how many survived?
- 40) How many days did the siege last?
- 41) Why did the men each button the top button of their tunic as they walked out of the forest?
- 42) Why were there no African American soldiers among the troops in Whittlesey's battalion?
- 43) What happened to Major Whittlesey after the war? Why?