

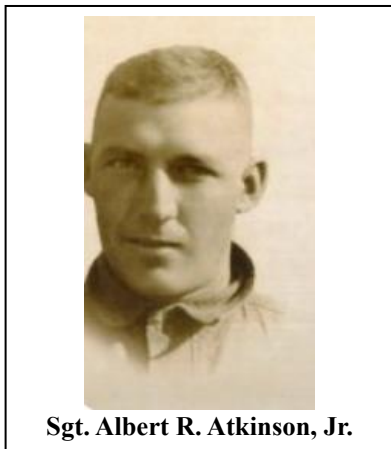
History of the Albert R. Atkinson, Jr. American Legion Post 210

Overview

This section of Post history is between 1918 and 1934. Information is gathered from items posted to the Post's previous web site and reviewing newspaper articles from the Doylestown Daily Intelligencer. The focus was on major news items about the Atkinson Post and the American Legion. There were a number of News Notes which were announcements about meetings and the drum and bugle corps, which was a major asset to the Post during this period of time.

1918 – 1934

The United States was drawn into World War I primarily due to Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare, which threatened American ships and lives, particularly after the sinking of the Lusitania. Additionally, the interception of the Zimmermann Telegram, in which Germany proposed a military alliance with Mexico against the U.S., further inflamed public opinion, and led to the declaration of war on April 6, 1917.



Sgt. Albert R. Atkinson, Jr.

Capt. Daniel D Atkinson was a Captain in Company G, 101 Infantry Division of the 28th Pennsylvania of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), referred to as the Bucket of Blood division. Daniel served with his three (3) brothers Albert, John, and George, who were members of the Doylestown Community and sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Atkinson.



Captain Daniel Atkinson

The war ended on November 11, 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th Month of the 11th day. Prior to the official ending of fighting, Sergeant Albert R. Atkinson, Jr. was killed on September 17, 1918, by machine gun bullets in Fismes, France.



Additional information on Company G can be found at <https://www.doylestownhistorical.org/wwi/company-g/>,

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1919 – Post Commander Daniel D. Atkinson

The American Legion was established in March 1919 in Paris, France, by officers and men of the World War I American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), who fought in Europe. The American Legion was subsequently chartered by the 66th U.S. Congress on September 16, 1919. Veterans who returned home after World War I, organized and chartered American Legion Posts across the country.

At a meeting in Doylestown, Pennsylvania on August 8, 1919, called by Colonel George Ross, and held in his Doylestown office. Twenty-two veterans of World War I signed an application for a charter, and elected the following temporary officers:

Chairman - Daniel D. Atkinson
Vice-Chairman - Samuel B. Stilwell
Secretary - A. Frederick Scheetz
Treasurer - Henry D. Livezey.

On August 20, 1919, the charter was granted, and the charter members are twenty-two returning WWI Veterans:

Percy Musgrave	Carrell N. Mattis	C. Byron Michener
George Ross	Claude S. Corson	George W. Grim
Walter Trainer	H. LeRoy Kister	Harrison Hibbard, Jr.
Ira C. Shaw	Henry D. Livezey	Ralph J. Penrose
Isaiah J. Sellers	A. Frederick Scheetz	John P. Gerhart
Robert G. Hendricks	Daniel D. Atkinson	Abraham N. Angeny
Samuel B. Stilwell	George M. Atkinson	Alfred J. Hellerman
R. Blair Myers		

Another meeting was held in the Doylestown Armory on September 10, 1919, but at that time selection of the name for the post was postponed until a larger membership could be secured. Later the post was named in honor of Albert R. Atkinson, Jr., who on September 17, 1918, gave the ultimate sacrifice in Fismes, France. He was one of four sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Atkinson, of Doylestown.

By November 1919, the new organization had more than 150 members, and the following permanent officers were elected:

1st Commander - Daniel D. Atkinson
Vice-Commander - George M. Atkinson
Adjutant - A. Frederick Scheetz
Finance Officer - Rolf H. Kielland
Insurance Officer - Ira C. Shaw

Executive Committee: Bartram H. Moore, Daniel D. Atkinson, William E. Tucker, Samuel E. Spare and R. Blair Myers.

1920 - Post Commander - George Ross

In the beginning, meetings were held in the Doylestown Armory, later in the Schabinger Building on South Main Street, and then in the K. G. E. Building at the corner of South Main Street and Oakland Avenue. As the membership grew it was necessary to find a larger meeting area. From 1921 to the early 1930 they occupied the meeting hall on the second floor and third floor of the KGE building located today at Oakland Ave. and Main Street.

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1921 – Post Commander - George B. Stilwell
1922 – Post Commander - Edward J. Gallagher, Jr.
1923 – Post Commander – Ira C. Shaw
1924 – Post Commander – A. Frederick Scheetz
1925 – Post Commander – Bartram Moore

1926 – Post Commander – Matthew L. Godshell

October 8 – “DOYLESTOWN FAIR OPENS WITH BIG CROW” - “Corn-O” booth operated by the A. R. Atkinson Post 210 American Legion of Doylestown

1927 – Post Commander – Walter Trainer

May 31 – “Bucks and Montgomery Veterans Hold Reunion at Doylestown” – Scenes of World War mobilization days were pictured in a vivid manner here Saturday night when 1,500 veterans representing 38 Posts in Bucks and Montgomery counties participated in the parade that started from the Sixth Regimental Armory. A.R. Atkinson Post 210 was the host to the assemblage of veterans and food was prepared by the members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Atkinson Post of Doylestown in the Sixth Regiment Armory.

1928 – Post Commander – Charles Hart

March 5 – “LEGIONNAIRES PROVIDE AN AMERICANISM MEDAL”, It is substitute for Essay Writing. This award takes the place of the annual American Legion award that was made in past years to the student writing the best essay on Americanism.

March 8 – “LEGION’S BUGLE CORPS TO RAISE A \$300 FUND” Believing that the drum and bugle corps of the A. R. Atkinson Post of the American Legion is one of the best advertisements Doylestown has away from home, business and professional men of the community as well as others interested in the welfare of the Legion and its members have promised support a campaign to raise \$300 for equipment fund of the corps.

April 2 – For a period of thirty days the national colors at the Atkinson American Post headquarters are at half-mast in honor of the late Marshal, who was elected honorary commander of the American Legion on a visit to Philadelphia several years ago. Ferdinand Foch was a French general and military leader who served as the Supreme Allied Commander during World War I, playing a crucial role in the Allied victory.

The post last night agrees to improve the Burpee Memorial Playground to the extent of building two well-constructed and official sized marble shooting rings which will be elevated from the eight inches. A complaint had been entered in the county marble shooting championships that the Doylestown rings last year were the most unsatisfactory of any in Bucks County. In order to meet requirements, the legionnaires were willing to see that the boys and girls of the community have regulation rings throughout the season and have agreed to finance the building of them.

April 20 - Members of the A.R. Atkinson Post will meet tonight at 5:30 with the drum and bugle corps for the trip to North Wales where they will take part in the ninth district parade and rally.

June 22 - Members of the A.R. Atkinson Post will leave here today at 1 o'clock to take part in the American Legion Day parade at Perkasio American Legion this afternoon when over 5,000 veterans will be the guests of the Perkasio American Legion post marking the close of the fiftieth anniversary of that borough.

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May 2 – BOYS' - GIRLS' "LOYALTY DAT" PARADE The drum and bugle corps of A. R. Atkinson Post of the American Legion, in dress uniform and wearing the new Australian army campaign hats.

June 22 - The Atkinson Post drum and bugle corps will rehearse tonight at 7:45 in the Sixth Regiment Armory. Plans will be made to take part in the big Moose dedication parade in July and in several out-of-town parades scheduled for the near future.

June 24 – "Perkasie's Jubilee Climaxed by a Big Parade" The drum and bugle corps of Atkinson Post of Doylestown won first prize.

1929 – Post Commander – Samuel L. Spare

July 10 – "LEGION WORKS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATION – BY LEGION COMMANDER", Commander Howarth, who has been influential in Legion since the organization in Paris highly praised the Atkinson Post No. 210 of Doylestown. He declared that no other post in the district or in the entire state for that matter has been more progressive and up-to-the-minute in carrying out the principals of the Legion.

August 17 – "LEGIONNAIRES READY FOR SCRANTON" Delegates from A. R. Atkinson Post will back Howarth for Vice Commander and will take part in Discussions of Important Issues One of the most important problems before the meeting was the question of whether or not soldiers of allied armies in the war, who have since become citizens of the United States could be taken into the American Legion.

In the interest of international peace, and through the international peace organization of the ex-soldiers of all countries, known as the FIDAC (VETERANS GUARD THE PEACE) the leaders believed that the gates of the organization should be thrown open wider to admit all friends who had taken part in the interest of democracy in the war.

August 27 – Doylestown's Legion Golfers brought home the bacon yesterday in the second annual tourney of the American Legion of the ninth district, composing Bucks and Montgomery counties.

September 10 – "TOWN GETS PUBLICITY THROUGH LEGION WORK", This article made the front page of the Doylestown Daily Intelligencer. Doylestown was officially marked on the on the air maps of the United States as a result of the Legion securing an air marker for the town, additional advertising was brought to the town at the state's convention of the American Legion in Scranton when one of the large moving picture news companies "shot" the Atkinson Post drum and bugle corps and box car belonging to the local post. For the last four years the local post has been enjoying steady growth until it is now one of the most active posts in the main district.

Legionnaire George Fields reported that equipment including pup tents, packs and cooking outfits has been purchase by the Legion and donated to the Boy Scout sponsored by the post.

October 8 – "RUSSELL GULICK HEADS THE A. R. ATKINSON POST", Last evening at the annual meeting of the Albert R. Atkinson Post No. 210 Russell B. Gulick was unanimously elected commander for the ensuing year.

Athletic Field

Preceding the election, a number of important matters were considered, among them being the community recreation field. The post felt that some action should be taken in the near future in reference to the field which was recently gotten from National Farm School. Another matter of importance brought up for discussion was that of giving aid to ex-service men who wander into the borough and ask for assistance. Report was made that quite frequently individuals posing as ex-service men appear in the borough and

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ask for aid. It was learned that these men usually go to representatives of the Red Cross, and it was because of this that the matter was brought before the post.

October 23 – “GENERAL S.D. BUTLER COMING TO COUNTY SEAT” – Famous Marine Leader to attend Legion Banquet here on November 9th – Legion also plans for Armistice Eve Ball Halloween.

October 24 – Black Thursday – Wall Street Stock Market Crash

October 29 – “DOYLESTOWN CORPS WON IN PERKASIE’S PARADE”

November 5 – “LEGION PEACE MOVEMENT DIST. COMMANDER SAYS”, Foremost in Building a Bridge for Men of Tomorrow. Plan Permanent Home. In an address after the installation of officers at the Albert R. Atkinson Post, District Commander William E. Zimmerman. Critics, who recently deplored the show of the military in parades and the bright uniforms of marching drum and bugle corps, were shamed by the ninth district’s new commander in a forceful address following the installation ceremonies.

Building Considered – Howard Barnes, chairman of a special building committee stated that several propositions advanced recently to the Legion for the purchase of buildings to be remodeled into a permanent home for the Atkinson Post of Doylestown, were investigated.

Armistice Banquet is scheduled for next Saturday evening at the Masonic Temple.

Halloween Parade - \$488 has been raised by the American Legion through community subscriptions for this year’s Halloween Parade.

November 12 – “I DON’T WANT WAR, SAYS BUTLER, BUT TELLS OF NEED FOR ARMY”, Addressing Legionnaires and guests, the famous Marine Leader says soldiers should not permit things they fought for to be frittered away – thinks soldiers should be in politics – praised Lieut. Gullick (Atkinson Post Commander). Members of the American Legion, as veterans of World War, were urged to take a more active part in politics of the day by Major General Smedley D. Butler in an address Saturday night at the annual banquet of the A. R. Atkinson Post of the American Legion in the sonic Temple.

November 30 – MILITARY RITES HELD FOR CAPTAIN STILWELL – American Legion and 108th Field Artillery Present. World War veterans donned their olive drab of 1917 long enough yesterday to pay their last respects to another buddy “gone west”. Captain Stilwell was formerly the Adjutant of one of the battalions of the 108th Field Artillery, National Guard of Penna. The Atkinson Post No. 210 oversaw the interment, and he was buried at Doylestown Cemetery with full military honors.

December 3 – “LEGION IS TO BE HOST TO SCOUTS ON SATURDAY” Over 1000 Boy Scouts from every section of Bucks County will be the guests of the A. R. Atkinson Post of the American Legion long enough next Saturday to enjoy some hot refreshments in the Masonic Temple banquet hall on East State Street.

December 6 – Bristol Courier (Page 1) “1200 BOY SCOUTS WILL BE IN PARADE TOMORROW” At 6 p.m. the American Legion Post of Doylestown, through its representative, assisted by the Girl Scouts of Doylestown, will serve hot cocoa to the Scouts in the basement of the Masonic , East State street. Temple in the basement

December 6 – Page 2 “The Gossiper” of the Doylestown Daily Intelligencer praises the Legion’s drum and bugle corps and the men who returned from fighting in Europe during WWI. Here are the closing sentences of the article “these returning heroes have been the leadership and service given in sponsoring one community movement after another. These boys who went “over the top” in Europe have been going over the top ever since in activities that call for peace time application.”

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1930 – Post Commander – Russell B. Gulick

In 1930 the Post acquired 1.02 acres of land between Lacey Avenue and North Street to build a permanent home where veterans can meet, socialize and support each other. The membership started to build the building in early 1930, completed it in 1933 and dedicated it in 1934.

April 5 – “LEGION PLANS RAISING ARMISTICE DAY FUNDS”, during the next week the committee of the Atkinson Post of the American Legion will confer with Burgess (Mayor) George S. Hotchkiss and the Doylestown Business Men’s Association to complete definite plans and means to raise \$1,000 for staging the Bucks-Montgomery Armistice Day celebration here in Doylestown next November 11th.

It will be of interest to know that at the present time there are 3,000 cases of veterans on the waiting list for hospital care and attention.

April 23 – “Legion Starts Drive for Armistice Event”, It is for a Bi-County Event, and they expect to get Contributions for 150 Businessmen.

The following two articles were on the bottom of the first page the “Doylestown Daily Intelligencer.”

May 21 – “LOCAL DAY CEREMONY”, *Atkinson Post, American Legion, Will Sponsor Services-Post will attend Services at the Methodist Church.* World War Veterans, members of Atkinson Post 210, will attend a special Memorial Day service at the Doylestown Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday morning May 29. Plans for Memorial Day, Monday May 30 are about completed. There will be the usual ceremony in Doylestown in the morning. This will include the parade from the American Legion Headquarters to the 104th Regiment monument and there onto the Legion and G.A.R. plots in the Doylestown Cemetery. The drum and bugle corps of the Atkinson Post will take part in the ceremonies.

May 21 – “Auxiliary Plans Poppy Sale” – The little red symbols of sacrifice – a thousand poppies – will be placed on sale next week by members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the A. R. Atkinson Post of the American Legion. The proceeds of the sale will be placed in a fund for direct welfare relief and rehabilitation work of disabled veterans and their families. The American Legion was the first national organization to adopt the red poppy of France and Flanders as its memorial flower.

1931 - Post Commander – Arthur M. Leatherman

1932 – Post Commander – James B. Fretz

January 5 – “LEGION PLANS FOR ARMISTICE DAY”, Atkinson Post asks Burgess Hotchkiss to call Meeting of Merchants and Other Businessmen to Learn Their Sentiments.

March 8 – “LEGION HEAD FAVORED MUCH LARGER U.S. ARMY” – Only Three Times the Size of New York Cop Force. The article discusses the need to provide more doctors, nurses and hospitals for veterans and the concern of the size of Army.

March 15 – “LEGION TO HELP PROVIDE JOBS”, Atkinson Post Will Have 25 Veterans Make Door-to-Door Canvas for Jobs – Armistice Day Celebration – Veterans Urged to Join Up.

March 26 – “AMERICAN LEGION AUTO RACES”, Langhorne Track Races to be Conducted This Year by Imhof Post Assisted in Bucks and Montgomery by Atkinson Post – First Race Will be May 7 – Aid to Unemployment.,

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April 5 – “LEGION PLANS RAISING ARMISTICE DAY FUNDS” Plans for ways and means to raise \$1000 for staging the Bucks-Montgomery counties Armistice Day celebration here next November 11th.

April 23 – “LEGION STARTS DRIVE FOR ARMISTICE EVENT” Business men of Doylestown will be solicited next week by members of A. R. Atkinson Post, American Legion for funds to make it possible for the County Seat to stage the Ninth District Legion celebration of Armistice Day here – the biggest patriotic celebration that town has ever attempted. Ten thousand people from Bucks and Montgomery are expected to be attracted to the celebration.

May 3 – “DOYLESTOWN DAY” SET FOR THURSDAY MAY 12 – TO TRANSPORT YOUTHS”, At a meeting of Atkinson Post, No. 210 American Legion last night final plans for “Doylestown Day” were completed. Post Commander James Fretz announced the trip to the Athletics’ ballpark and that between 1000 and 1300 youngsters Doylestown and vicinity are expected.

May 21 – “LOCAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY” – Atkinson Post, American Legion, Will Sponsor services – Post Will Attend Services in the Methodist Church. Worl War veterans, members of Atkinson Post No. 210, American Legion will attend a special Memorial Day service in the Doylestown Methodist Episcopal Church on the Sunday morning. Members of the Legion will meet at the post headquarters and go to the church a short distance in a body following the annual custom of attending church in a body the Sunday before Memorial Day.

July 12 – “Chairman Hobensack Announces Contributions to Finance Armistice Day’s Big Celebration are coming in Weekly”.

July 26 – “VETERAN HONORED”, William E. Bertles, World War veteran and member of the Atkinson Post of the American Legion, received the Order of the Purple Heart, a gold heart-shaped war medal, in recognition of merit during the World War. Mr. Bertles, who was gassed in the great conflict, is the first local legionnaire to receive this honorary medallion. Accompanying the medal is a bar pin to be worn with the medal. Mr. Bertles and his brother Philip Bertles, both served with Company G, 28th Division, while overseas.

August 2 – “Armistice Day Plans Discussed”, At meeting of the Atkinson Post Last Night, it was decided to work in conjunction with the Chester County Veterans in planning the Armistice Day Parade here (Doylestown). General Butler was also invited.

August 18 – Doylestown has two delegates attended the Legion Convention in Pittsburgh

November 8 – “ALL VETERANS ASKED TO JOIN CELEBRATION”, Armistice Day Event for all Veterans of the War. Seventy members of the A. R. Atkinson Post of the American Legion of Doylestown last night turned out to greet the new Post Commander Andrew Schott. Plans the upcoming Armistice Week and parade for veterans of Bucks and Montgomery counties.

December 13 – Christmas Week Charity Ball
Friday Night Dec. 30th, 1932
111th Regiment Armory, Doylestown
Auspices A. R. Atkinson, Jr. Post No. 210
Benefits of AMERICAN LEGION WELFARE FUND
Dancing 8:30 to 2 Subscription \$2.00 Couple
Harry Shusters Dance Band

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December 31 – “*LEGION’S CHRISTMAS BALL A BIG SUCCESS*”, Two hundred dancers and Armory Decorations Surpassed Any for the Year.

1933 – 1934 Post Commander – Andrew H. Schott

Upon completion of the building, it was dedicated on January 21, 1934, with Major General E. C. Shannon, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, and Commanding Officer of the National Guard of Keystone State, making the principal address. With the generous assistance of the citizens of the community, the home was erected at a cost of approximately \$6,500.



Post Members digging foundation for the Post 210 Building on North Street Doylestown.

With the building of the home an American Legion Home Association was formed. The original officers were:

President - Andrew H. Scott
Vice-President - Warren L. Leister
Secretary - Russell B. Gulick
Treasurer - Abel M. Mac Reynolds

Trustees: Charles F. Hart, William A. May, Fred J. Dietz, Herman D. Wagner, Harman Y. Cope, Paul E. Mills, David J. Windholz.