

10/29/1952 GETTYSBURG TIMES article

Founded In 1916, The Littlestown Hardware and Foundry Co. Inc. of Littlestown is another of the Adams County concerns founded since the turn of the century which has grown into one of the county's leading industries. The plant was opened in 1916 with Emory H. Snyder as president and Luther D Snyder as secretary-treasurer. Its products bear the trade name Littco and the diamond "L" trademark which is recognized in many parts of the world to which such products are shipped as the very acme of quality. The United States entered World War I a few months after the plant began operations and during this conflict it made machinery castings. Before World War II the plant turned out of variety of goods, among them bookends, paperweights, doorstops, fireplace fixtures, bench and pipe vises, claw hammers and other articles of similar nature. Both before and after Pearl Harbor, the Littlestown Hardware and Foundry Co. provided articles used for training, housing and feeding the rapidly expanding war machine of the United States. It supplied the army, navy and marine corps with millions of castings from its production lines, and sent these articles to the far corners of the earth, wherever such war materials were needed and the Allied forces had penetrated. In late 1941 fire doors for camp kitchens, aluminum castings for special bread-baking units and dial gauges and frames for sirens on coastal patrol boats were produced. Approximately 35,000 pieces of a special flange were turned out to be used to hold bunks in place on the ocean liner *Normandie*, which at that time was being converted into a troop transport. The last of these were delivered just three days before the liner caught fire and was destroyed. Thousands of bushings and conduit fittings were sent by other sub-contractors to Littlestown for machining and plating before being used on battleships, submarines and bombers. Tons of plumbing materials went into docks and aircraft plants. The first item for the training camps was a practice tank land mine of which 69,902 mine bodies and fuse sockets were turned out. Later the foundry produced almost 3,000,000 rifle grenades for practice purposes. Later efforts were turned to producing battle grenades on an assembly line designed and built by E. H. Snyder. The daily average production rate reached close to 6,000. Thousands of these grenades were used by U. S. forces in the Battle of the Bulge and later in the Rhineland fighting of World War II. Littlestown grenades also were used in the invasion of Iwo Jima. The foundry also produced more than 3,000,000 plugs for small aerial bombs, thousands of plugs for thousand-pound bombs, brackets for the installation of lights in bunks on aircraft carriers, valve wheels for naval craft, handles for rifle ramrods, special vises and a score of other articles for the war effort. Numerous articles were also made for national defense training purposes, including cement tampers for emergency landing fields, chart weights for ships and army field headquarters and shoemakers nail dishes for the quartermaster corps. The original floor space of the Littlestown Hardware and Foundry Co. has been increased to its present 57,000 square feet and the number of employees is now 171 compared with the 21 employed when the factory first opened. Today it manufactures many hardware items with the familiar diamond "L" trademark, and specialties in grey iron and aluminum. The plant supplies grey iron and aluminum castings for many other manufacturers as well.