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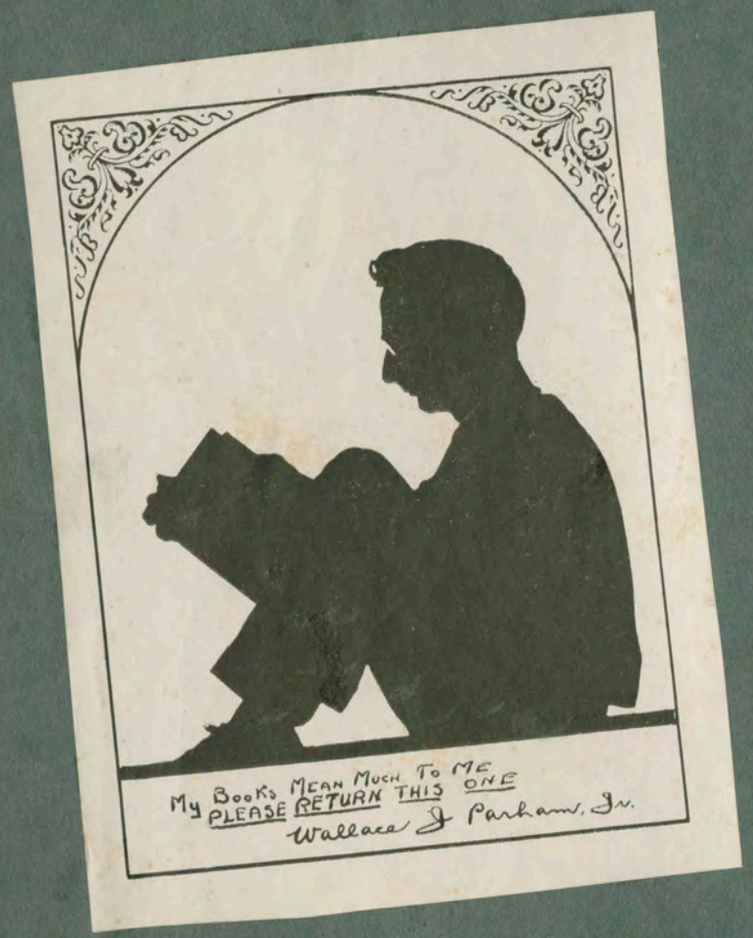

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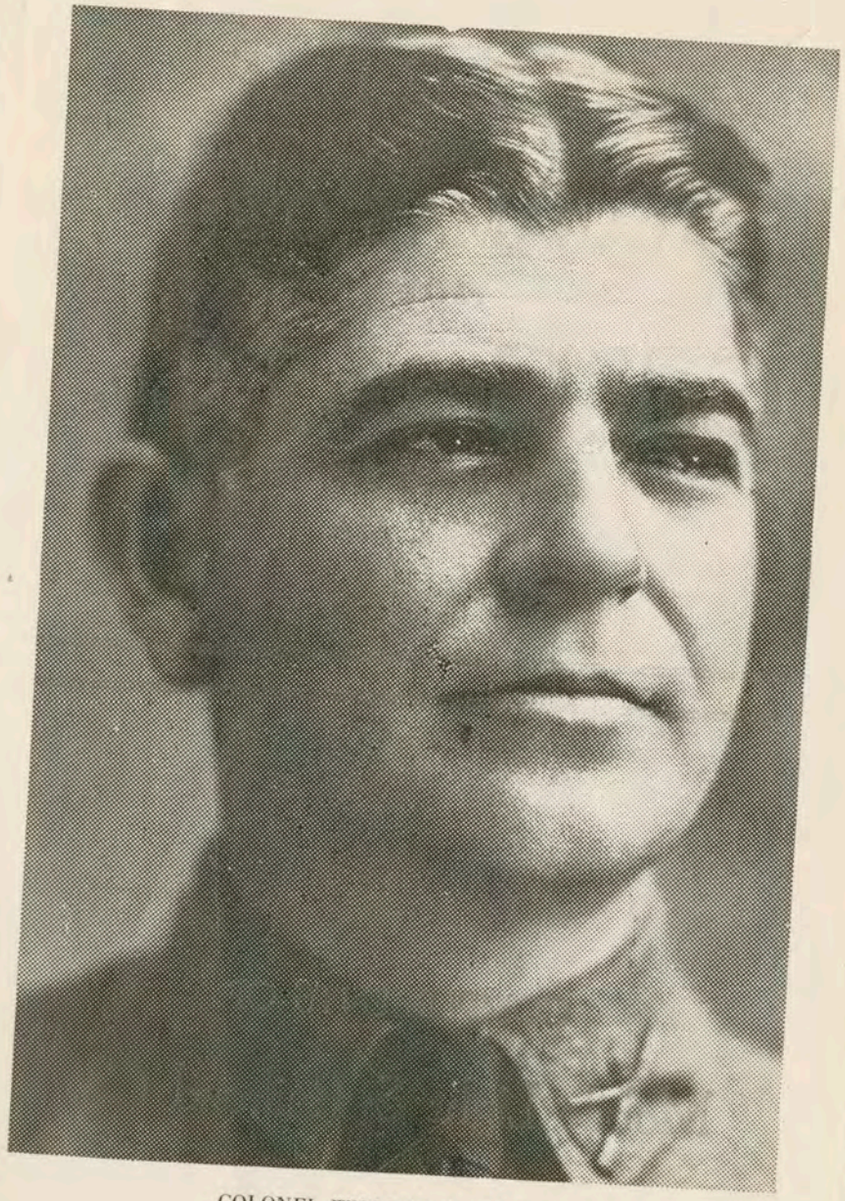

COLONEL WILLIAM P. SCREWS

167th U. S. Infantry

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42nd DIVISION

167th U. S. INFANTRY

RAINBOW

EDITOR'S NOTE: *As the accredited historian of the 167th Infantry, Wm. H. Amerine spent much time and earnest effort in the work assigned him. His first service was rendered with the 32nd Division, from which he was transferred to the 42nd Division, 167th Infantry, Alabama's Own. His valuable service to his home organization is apparent in the publication of his famous book, "Alabama's Own in France," from which "Lest We Forget" has enriched its value with its foreword.*

ON the Champagne front, about eight o'clock the morning of July 15, Corporal James E. Hendricks, of Excel, Alabama; Private William P. Vaughn, of Opp; Private John E. Brodie, of Searight, and Private Harry Nichols, of Abbeville, all of the 167th's Machine Gun Company, were operating a machine gun and the French were working with them at the piece.

It was an advanced position, the "Boches" were coming in thick and fast, and finally the small group was surrounded. The French sergeant went to Corporal Hendricks and said: "Alles tout de suite!" meaning for the men to run for their lives. "Pas allez!" replied the plucky corporal, "Americains soldats pas allez," by which Hendricks meant: "Do not go! American soldiers do not run." The language was faulty, but it controlled the "Frogs," and the trench was held. One of the Alabamians said afterward: "Some Huns got into the place, but they didn't get out."

After the battle Marshal Foch sent a telegram to General Gouraud reading in substance:

"I congratulate you and those of your army on the work you have done. But for it I could not undertake the offensive I am now about to launch." That very day, July 18, 1918, the great strategist caused the world to leap with joy and expectancy by his brilliant blow at the Chateau-Thierry salient.

For gallant conduct in battle while in Gouraud's "Iron Corps" the men of the 167th were dubbed by the French "The Tigers."

I pointed out the Foch message because, regardless of the brilliant work done by the regiment in the drive beyond Chateau-Thierry a few days later, there are those who argue, and in all respects they are correct, that in the Champagne there really began the disintegration of the Huns' driving power, the realization of his growing weakness, and that then and there occurred the final failure of his plans to take Paris.

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As to the Croix Rouge Farm fight in the Chateau-Thierry thrust, it is admitted that the place was the key to the crossing of the Ourcq, where, too, the Germans made a determined stand; also the capture of Sergy and Fere-en-Tardenois and the progress toward Fismes all depended upon the taking of the stronghold there at the farm. That stronghold the Alabamians took! Then the knife of the American Army went deep into the Hun's heart.

To the Chateau-Thierry onslaught the "Rainbow" was rushed by rail and in camions; and following the engagement at the farm, the 167th immediately took up the pursuit of the enemy, which did not cease until it had fought nobly and had assisted in the decisive defeat of the Fourth Prussian Guards Division, the kaiser's own.

From February 21, 1918, excepting only a week's rest in the rear and time on the march, to August 4, 1918, the regiment was constantly in combat. In the Chateau-Thierry affair the enemy was sent reeling back about 19 kilometers, approximately 12 miles, and Paris surely saved—possibly the world—from the iron-shod heel of the Prussian military caste. There it is said the 84th Infantry Brigade made the lunge an entire division should have undertaken.

It must be mentioned that when the 84th Brigade went into that maelstrom it relieved the 26th Division and elements of the 28th at a time when the drive was at a standstill. The battle for the Croix Rouge Farm will be described in full herein.

There the Alabamians went in without artillery preparation, the most trying of ordeals for infantry, and there it was that Major John W. Carroll, of Ozark, was heard to shout: "Save your fire, men! We'll give 'em hell with the bayonet."

There, too, the gallant young Montgomerian, Captain Julien M. Strassburger, of the 167th's machine gun company, fell in a hellish hail of lead.

And all through that awful fighting the Alabamians placed their name atop the dizzy heights of fame.

As to regiments Alabama, as well as each of the other states from which came these officers and men, have every reason to glory in the 167th's record. It put a brilliant gleam on our bayonets and emblazoned in letters of heroic deeds in the book of time the story of America's noble sons. It is probable that our country, in all her military history, has never sent a better regiment into battle.

Certainly it was widely known across the waters, chiefly on account of its splendid esprit de corps and tested fighting qualities. Indeed the latter were often mentioned along with those of France's "Blue Devils" and her "Foreign Legion."

All through England, France, and Italy, far down in the island of Sicily —even in Germany—I heard of "those Alabamians who put the fear of God into the hosts of the kaiser." The very mention of the name, it seemed, shot terror through the ranks of the Huns. That was the talk all about, anyhow —I am writing what I heard from many lips. Where any other regiment was named once, the word Alabama was uttered a dozen times.

As an idea of how the men of the 167th impressed the "Boches," and this story reached me through a soldier from another state, it is related that a German prisoner boasted: "We fear none of the American divisions except the 'Rainbow,' the 42nd and the 167th."

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Now remembering that the "Rainbow" was the 42nd, and knowing that there was no 167th Division on the line, it seems clear the "Fritzies" thought the 167th an entire division instead of only a single regiment. It would appear, also, that the "Rainbow" was exceedingly well known across "No Man's Land."

More than once—yea, often, as I stood listening to tales of the struggle—some soldier from another state remarked: "Well, that 'kamerad' stuff didn't go while the fellows from Alabama held the trenches." One enlisted man from Michigan said: "Those Alabama guys were hell, believe me!" In short, almost anywhere one could hear similar declarations. The name Alabama caused a veritable commotion nearly every time it was spoken.

It was also true that an army or a Red Cross nurse, if hailing from the state, was promptly and endearingly dubbed "Alabam." So it was in the case of an Alabamian who chanced to be serving in some other army unit.

There is a tale that a German officer who had been taken prisoner paid the men of the 167th this compliment: "They fight our machine guns with their bare fists. How can we hope to stand against them?"

In Paris, in a well-known little restaurant off the Rue de Rivoli, close by the Place de la Concorde, I met an ex-member of the "Foreign Legion." He was battle scarred and wore many decorations. That old veteran, partly in French and partly in English, as he drank a glass of wine, related to me his knowledge of our men and their deeds, and above them he mentionel Colonel Screws' men. He told me France had learned to love the "Alabamas."

But, although the regiment left Montgomery a distinctly Alabama organization, it had about 3,200 casualties in France, something like half of them at Chateau-Thierry, so the replacements from other states were very numerous. Several hundred were from Alabama, however. Consequently, as previously stated, the localities all over the country from which these officers and enlisted men came, share with us the great pride due in this gallant band's case. I heard of one original company of 250 men which suffered heavily and altogether had about 500 replacements during its career.

During the Chateau-Thierry drive, when Colonel Screws reorganized the regiment after the heavy fighting, all but one of its field officers had been wounded, and there were two captains killed, together with some ten lieutenants.

One day in December, 1918, in the little German town of Mayen, a youthful looking "doughboy" put in his appearance at the Red Cross warehouse. "I am straggling a bit," he said, "am hungry and want a bite to eat." Was it the Alabama speech I heard? I questioned him.

As he ate the food which I had caused to be prepared he thanked the Red Cross and began talking. He proved to be one of the 167th's immortals! He had left Montgomery the latter part of August, 1917, having sworn falsely to the age of eighteen in order to enlist, he said, though at the time of our conversation he declared he was not yet that old. To Camp Mills with the regiment he went and served with it in all its battles.

Just before he shouldered his rifle to depart, he said: "I knew I wouldn't be killed because my mother back in old Mobile prayed too hard for me."

Then tears came to those boyish eyes which had not quivered before the raking machine gun fire of the Argonne. The last I saw of him he was trudging up the road to overtake his company.

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They went into battle clothed in the simple armor of their mothers' prayers —American mothers, mothers of Alabama, who had given up their sons to die, if need be, in the most glorious cause of all time!

Many did fall, but over those sacred little mounds in a foreign land—that fair republic from which war's blood-laden breath has drifted—is wafted the wholesome atmosphere of sweet peace. It breathes life itself to the beautiful flowers so tenderly placed on those hero-graves by the hands of other mothers—mothers whose sons, like those of the mothers of our land, sacrificed themselves to let happiness and contentment come again to a world bathed in sorrow and misery!

So in the years to come the rainbow, God's own omen of brightness and sunshine, is to have an added meaning to the simple peasants of France, to the proud owners of those grand old chateaux, and to those in authority within the fortifications of Paris. It shall tell the poor, the rich, and the powerful alike that those of the "Rainbow" Division left happy homes across the Atlantic to come and help drive the Hun back across the Rhine. American mothers have made the colors of that rainbow just a little brighter, just a bit more lasting, through the heroism and self-sacrifice of their boys!

By some will of Providence the rainbow was visible to the 42nd Division as it entered every fight but one—that for the possession of the Cote de Chatillon, a wooded hillside in the Argonne. There the Third Battalion of the 167th Infantry, under Major Ravee Norris, of Birmingham, with one company of the Second Battalion, for two days had tried to take it. Then the Second Battalion complete, under Captain Abner Flowers, of Ozark, was added, and the third day the rainbow, previously not visible, flashed across the heavens and the Alabamians stormed the position and captured it. It was one of vital importance to the Germans.

And, mothers, you should have seen your crusaders in Germany. Of all the troops I saw they were of the most veteran appearance—proud, erect, broad-shouldered, square-jawed fighters!

A study of their eyes was enough to convince one that before him stood the men who had helped to upset and later tear in pieces the most thoroughly organized, best disciplined and most superbly and adequately equipped legions the world ever saw—the forty-year German products.

Your sons were ever alert, neat in their looks, precise and snappy in their salutes, and knightly in their bearing. They were stern when duty demanded, but among themselves just playful, good-natured boys, all longing for home.

As an officer of the Red Cross, a man who had served continuously with the division, said to me:

"Follow the 'Rainbow's' course and you have before you the history of the American Army's participation in the war."

And right he was, for it was on the line and took part in all the battles our troops fought—all of any consequence, anyhow. Too, it served gloriously with the French Army. It stopped the "Boche" in the Champagne, kicked him back at Chateau-Thierry, where the monster first began to tumble toward a fall, and put the finishing touches on him in the Meuse-Argonne campaign.

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The salient points in this preface are well worth remembering, and they will be brought out in detail later, because they show what the division did at the most crucial times, its wonderful efficiency, terrible punch and marvelous power of endurance. Indeed it was often referred to as "The Pine Tree Division" because of no "leaves" being granted it—in comparison with rests allowed other bodies of troops. It had none to speak of, but went on fighting, fighting, fighting to the end!

It was hinted, when it was first organized, that there would be no unity of purpose because of its organizations being from so many different states. That idea, however silly it was, together with others—among them, that National Guard units could not be depended upon—has been torn to bits and scattered like so much chaff before the wind. Men from Iowa, Alabama, Ohio, and New York fought side by side like brothers. Usually, in battle formation the 167th (Alabama) held the center, with the 165th (New York) on its left, and the 168th (Iowa) on its right—a barrier representing the manhood and the intelligence of a free nation, it was impossible for the best troops of Germany to pass. In such positions, too, the regiments kept their part of "The Watch on the Rhine." And only because they had earned them were they given such posts of honor!

Without the National Guard, and none can deny this truth, we could not have entered the war in strength before the spring of 1919—indeed, could not have helped poor France in time! These officers and men, who so long endured (and kept on working) an unmerited howl against them, pitted themselves against the world's best trained soldiers and—planted the American flag in Germany!

That tiny spark of patriotism—and it was minute because of the most unkind and smothering influences—grew into a flaming bonfire and could not be quenched. Its sparks carried light to dark spots in the hearts of millions across the ocean, so that today, to them, anyhow, it appears as a flaming beacon of hope and a pathfinder on danger trails. Yesterday it was a faithful, plodding, but derided thing; today it is just as true and just as toiling, and, by its own sheer strength, the mainstay of the nation—our own National Guard!

From beside the muddy waters of the Alabama, near which they received their first instruction in the cruel game of war, to the foothills of Arizona, through which the little Santa Cruz lazily creeps along; home again to guard railroads for a while, then on to Camp Mills, Long Island, now as a real United States regiment; thence to France, via Mother England, over submarine-infested waters, and to European battles at Luneville, Baccarat, the Champagne, Chateau-Thierry and Saint Mihiel—until there in the Foret d'Argonne they helped to close the greatest war in the world's history—traveled the officers and men of the old "Fighting Fourth" over their path to eternal fame and the gratitude of two continents! Finally, in "Hunland" itself the long-needed rest came to those who had survived. They had helped a world back to freedom!

Jut "tin" soldiers but—mighty avengers of wrongs done humanity!

WILLIAM H. AMERINE.

Montgomery, Alabama, May, 1919.

Compliments of
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"LEST WE FORGET"
MOBILE, ALA.

ROBT. E. BOND, Editor
HORACE EVANS, Assistant Editor and Business Manager

COMPLIMENTARY EDITION

This illustrated souvenir history of the military and naval activities participated in by the units largely made of Alabamians is made possible by the generous co-operation of Mobile business men and merchants. The history is published as a tribute to the men from Mobile county, and to those from the country at large.

The generous support given this publication by the citizenship of Mobile makes it possible for the publishers to distribute copies free to men and officers on duty and former service men in the Mobile district. As the publication is not sponsored by any so-called welfare association, it may be truly considered a complimentary souvenir, given by the people of Mobile as a small tribute to her gallant sons.

OLD HICKORY AND THE OTHERS

Probably no division serving in the great world war is more worthy of honor than the famous 30th or Old Hickory Division, which broke the Hindenburg line September 29, 1918, and taught the Huns distinctly that there was no such word in the American dictionary as "impregnable." Lest We Forget is most proud to be able to dedicate a special edition to such heroes. And yet much ground must be covered and the same edition is also filled with the work of the Wildcat 81st Division.

The Alabamians can well be proud of the sons they sent to tell in flaming tongues of cannon fire the word America would bear the Huns. Picked from the finest families of the states and volunteers and sons of volunteers, these brave warriors trained for the most part in their own beloved country. The famous Old Hickory was long at Camp Sevier in Greenville and the 81st was at Jackson and Spartanburg. When they sailed for France they carried with them the ringing cheers of their home-folks and their best wishes for successful downing of the "Boche".

Vast fields of heavy barbed wire, ground dominated by myriads of machine gun nests, concrete gun emplacements and a large canal tunnel concealing numerous trench systems—a complete Catacombs. These offered no deterrent, nor did the thousands of the "Boche" who defended them cause any worry. At 5:50 a. m., September 29, on a front of 3,000 yards, the 30th Division, the 60th Brigade, augmented by units of the 117th Infantry attacking, assaulted the German front and captured the entire Hindenburg system of that sector, advancing in all over 4,200 yards. Of course their losses were heavy, but only about one-third that of the Huns and besides they were victors.

This brilliant feat was practically a coup de grace and from then on the Germans were on the defensive and steadily losing. That was in September. A few days later, October 8-11, another drive was begun, the Old Hickory boys attacking each of these days and the Germans continuing just as steadily their retreat. The 30th Division had well earned in these few brief days their right to wear the insignia of Old Hickory and for them and for the world it was no longer merely a decoration, but it announced to all who saw that

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the 30th Division men and officers had in them the same inherent traits of the courage and spirit of the indomitable fighter, Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, the original Old Hickory.

From the day the boys left their homes for camp, when they sailed, when they fought and until their return, every loyal heart in Mobile and Alabama followed them and wished them well. And then when the order was issued returning them home, the city rightfully came into its own and such a welcome as was extended has seldom been seen.

Camp Jackson received the men for the process of delousing and demobilization and then the Tennessee members were sent to Fort Oglethorpe, while the Alabama boys came straight home. Even while they were in Camp Jackson many Alabamians journeyed up to treat them to a royal time and upon the return of the local members to the city, entertainment after entertainment was given in their honor. Truly, the country can be proud of her Old Hickory fighters and Lest We Forget extends to them, through its columns, the best wishes of Alabama and the thanks of the nation for their work well done and now at an end.

Bon voyage Old Hickory.

Le division est mort; vive le division!

THE WILDCATS

Like their much-feared name-sake, the Wildcats of the 81st Division itched for fight from the time they first got into service until the time they were actually in sight of the front line trenches, and yet like many a wild mountain lion who spots his prey almost too late, these would-be fighters scarcely got a taste of battle. They were in only a few days just before the armistice was signed, yet their behavior at that time, clearly showed their leaders and other officers their fighting worth.

Going into battle on the eighth of November the units of the 81st Division were probably about the most-disappointed of the many on the front at the signing of the armistice November 11. Yet, while they appear to regret, there are many who can not but be glad that they saw no more action and that where the losses would have been heavy they were comparatively light. Many loved ones breathed a sigh of most profound relief at the signing of the armistice and knew that if he had not already "gone West" their boy would eventually be with them again.

Yet, the Wildcats are deserving of praise for the work they did and their officers must be commended for their qualities of leadership displayed when the powder was burning. There were two million soldiers who never got overseas and probably over a million more who got little further than the coast or at most within twenty miles of the front lines. The Wildcats were there and they fought—like wildcats.

Many Alabamians were also in the Wildcat Division and some from Mobile county. But this division was sent to New York to be disembarked and the home-folks were unable to give them the welcome home desired.

Lest We Forget deems it a very privilege to publish a special edition in commemoration of the 82nd Division and its record of heroic achievement. It is a matter of deep regret to this book that circumstances did not permit the 82nd to return for demobilization close to Alabama and allow the people of Mobile the opportunity of expressing their great pride in the splendid fighting organization which came into being and went through the rigors of preliminary training only a few miles away.

"ALL-AMERICAN"

The 82nd, aptly named the "All-American", will always occupy a very warm corner in the hearts of Alabamians for the majority of its officers went

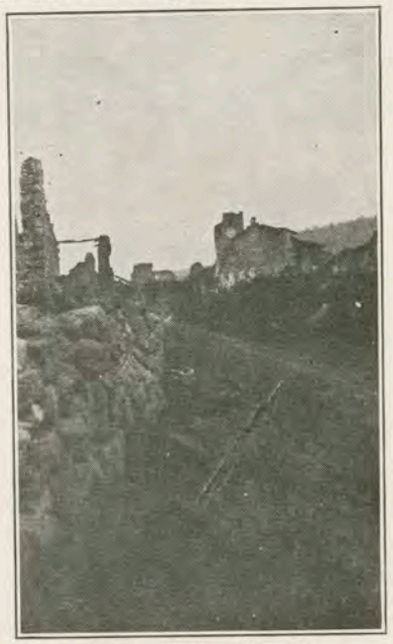
through the Officers' Training Camp at Fort McPherson. During the spring and summer of 1917, the first of the raw recruits who came to the division that September came from Alabama and the neighboring states of Georgia and Florida, and through the fall and winter that followed they watched the division grow, saw many of its men transferred away to other camps, saw thousands of others come in from all over the United States, and ultimately saw the finished product representing every state in the Union, truly an All-American Division, in those April days when the division packed up and left quietly, silently for the port of embarkation whence they were to soon go overseas and there grapple over the Hun.

Mobile followed every move the division made in the days that followed, read eagerly the first scanty crumbs of news which brought word that the "All-American" was at last in action, watched with proud sorrow the casualty lists as the names of men known and beloved in this city appeared day by day. Mobile mourned as if her own the loss of Captain Jewett Williams, the first man of the 82nd to die in action, and was soon shocked with grief as other names came in—Captain Joseph Wade Conkling, the Unitarian minister, who gave up his pulpit to serve in the lines; Lieutenant Carl Goldsmith; Captain Charles Foster, of New York; Captain Louis Battey, of Augusta, and scores of other brave young men.

Lest We Forget bids you welcome and farewell!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Lest We Forget wishes to thank the Mobile Register, Montgomery Advertiser, Mr. William H. Amerine, Mr. Stogner, Miss Annemerle Ledford, and other friends of this book for their courtesies and timely aid whereby this souvenir edition has been made possible.



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THIRTIETH DIVISION HAS GLORIOUS RECORD

To be one of the first Southern divisions to reach France, to be the first American division to march into Belgium and further to be of a division to win undying fame by breaking the supposedly impregnable Hindenburg line, that were honor enough for anyone and yet the 30th Division, like its namesake, "Old Hickory" of old, bears its distinctions with becoming modesty. They came, they saw, they conquered, and yet each of the many who fought believes he but did his duty.

Modesty is the keynote of the true warriors of today. They did; they did not talk about what they were to do. They made opportunities if there were none available and then they were ready for those opportunities when they arrived. And when this opportunity to perform a duty took them into the enemies' country far from aid and forced them to perform feats of great valor—why this was but the call to duty, and they were merely answering that call.

Duty is Foremost

Imbued with this spirit of "life and all for duty," those doughty warriors of the Old Hickory Division could well be supposed to perform tasks which would seem to the ordinary individual as all but impossible. It was with this spirit of always forward and never a thought of turning back which was responsible for the numerous decorations and citations of men and officers of this division and it was this same spirit again which caused the renowned and redoubtable Hindenburg line to melt away before their approach.

"Impossible, it can't be done," was a phrase no American warriors had learned and much less could it ever be thought that such a sentence had ever occurred to the boys from the South who had named their division after that indomitable warrior and statesman—Andrew Jackson.

They had long learned that "in the bright lexicon of youth there is no such word as fail" and they were young, with fighting blood and the blue of the South flowed through their veins. Mountaineers, some, from the mountains of Carolina and Tennessee; farmers, others, and still more were lawyers, doctors, bankers—every profession—for the 30th Division was composed largely of National Guard units and in those volunteer organizations, of course, could be found the best blood of the states. There was also in this division many of Alabama's own and every Alabamian held the whole division unto himself for this reason and watched and aided its progress from camp to battle and back again to camp and at last home.

CALLED INTO SERVICE

Shortly after the war broke out with Germany and the United States had announced its intentions of putting not only money but men and guns also at work to help the Allies and down the Hun from his lofty throne, the National Guard units were called upon and later sworn into Federal service. Some of these units, as in the case of those in Alabama, had just returned from Mexican border duty and were so well prepared with little extra training for the real work of fighting. Included among these were the Charleston

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Light Dragoons, the Irish Volunteers, the Washington Light Infantry, the Fusileers and the Sumpter Guards—each a volunteer militia organization in the city of Charleston.

These were called together, additional units from other states were added, chiefly from Tennessee and North Carolina, and were sent to camp at Greenville, S. C. Here at Camp Sevier the division was organized and divided up into all of the various units a division should have. It was then the 117th, 118th, 119th and 120th regiments of infantry, which were later to play such a part in the destruction of the Hindenburg line, had their beginning. At this time, too, the 113th, 114th and 115th regiments of field artillery became so organized and known. The headquarters troops, machine gun battalions, sanitary squads and the 105th ammunition train also had their appearance. When the organization was effected, the division was known as the 30th Division and was under the command of Major General Read. Some drafted units were taken into the division and the training continued.

Drill Ad Infinitum

Long months passed in which there was little but drilling, drills and more drills. Long hikes for the infantry were almost daily features and the "squads right and squads left" were commands so drummed into the heads of the prospective fighters that they even commanded themselves in their sleep. The cantonment at Camp Sevier became a scene of gruelling preparations for the fight to come. But off from the camp and when they were on leave, the rigors of preparation were forgotten in the splendid receptions accorded the members of the division in Greenville, Spartanburg and Columbia and Charleston, which some managed to visit. Quickly the South got her stride in war work and long before the boys left camp for overseas, they had been welcomed time and again by the Southern firesides and had enjoyed to the fullest the warm hospitality of the South.

Those kind thoughts and remembrances of Alabama and of the people there served to keep up their spirits when marching to the front and it was this same knowledge of the loved ones waiting at home which fired their courage in the hour of battle. And the people on this side for their part most anxiously scanned the news for the slightest word of their own boys, as they loved to call them, and kept constantly inquiring as to their welfare. Thus, when the word of action finally came, there was not a heart that was not glad, even though mother or sweetheart or daughter knew that the next report would bring tears to the eyes of many. This telepathic sympathy urged the boys on overseas and when their great deeds were done, it gave those who remained a joy seldom equalled to be told at last they were on their way home and that the ships upon which the majority of them would come would dock at their own Southern port of Charleston and that they would then be for a short time at Camp Jackson and then home for good. This was even true of the selectmen of the Middle West who had been drawn upon to fill out the number in the division so amply founded by the National Guard units from North and South Carolina and Tennessee.

Americans Born

Very truly the 30th Division was an American division and could as easily have possessed the name "All-American" as the 82nd to whom it was

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finally applied. The 30th personnel was more than ninety-five per cent of American born parents. But the 30th possessed the name and fire of Old Hickory and was satisfied. The record the division eventually made overseas showed that a more appropriate name than the one selected could hardly have been chosen.

Time passed and the training was being gotten down to a system. The fine points of bayonetting Huns, of tossing bombs, of manning machine guns and three-inch guns were being explained and as readily assimilated. The work was coming splendidly and the division commander was becoming satisfied that his division was about prepared to leave the training area, quit its sham battles and sail to the real seat of activities in France. Toward the middle of April, 1918, a war department inspection was ordered which was very favorable and after that it was but a few brief days before the troops had received their overseas orders.

A Hun Mine under this Bridge Killed Several Americans and a Number of Horses When They Attempted to Cross

During the first of May the removal was made, the necessary overseas supplies procured and upon the eleventh of that same month the division left Hoboken, N. J., and was en route to France. Sailing was made at first to Liverpool and then across to France. Calais was reached toward the last of the month and the twenty-fourth of May found the 30th Division landed and on their way to the Eperlocques training area. Here it was their task to undo quite a bit of what had been learned in America and to prepare in a practical way for the real job of fighting. But even while they were training, the division officers were seeing some of the real difficulties of warfare and experiencing some advance thrills in reconnoitering the Terleghen switch line, south of Casel, which was destined for early attack. During the time complete plans for occupation of this line by forced marches in case of emergency were formulated.

Front Line Ahead

For the majority, training continued harder and with an ever more increasing certainty that soon every atom of knowledge learned would be needed, for they were hearing rumors that they would soon be going into the line. But like all rumors this was a trifle ahead of time and it was still to be some months before the Americans got into actual contact with the enemy. But the enemy should only thank their stars for that fact, because the sooner Americans were in the line, the sooner was Kaiser Bill to give up the ghost. Yet, the officers wished to take no chances and desired that the utmost amount of training be given their men before actual contact with

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the enemy was made. And it was probably just as well that this was done. For certainly few troops were called to face in their first battle the many obstacles and almost insurmountable difficulties which this division was called upon to face.

Shortly before the 30th was to complete its training period the division was transferred to the Second British Army Corps, Second Army, in the Ypres sector. This was to be in close support in case of the expected German offensive. If the offensive had materialized as soon as it was expected, it would have meant that the division would have seen action earlier than it did and that its training period would have been correspondingly shortened. As it was training continued without undue excitement until July, 1918.

Into Belgium

By July the training was about completed and real work lay ahead, but for a time this was to be behind the lines and to consist of much trench and wire construction work. On the fourth of July, some 142 years after the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, the 30th Division, the first division to enter the kingdom of "Fighting Albert," a hero of freedom, marched into Belgium. Headquarters were taken at Watau in order that close touch might be maintained with the 33rd and 49th British Divisions. Here the division was employed in constructing the East and West Poperinghe defense systems immediately in the rear of the two British divisions and received much experience in performing this kind of work as well as aiding materially the British divisions.

While the defense systems were being prepared much trench and wire entanglement work was done. The Americans were told they were preparing the defenses for occupancy in case of a German attack and forced withdrawal of the British division ahead—orders to this effect were issued. Front line training was now given the members of the 30th and the representatives of Old Hickory as individuals and later as platoons and last by battalions were placed in the front line trenches along with the members of the 33rd and 49th Divisions. This was the last preparation made for the final flinging in on the front line the whole of the 30th Division.

Relieves British

By now it was August. The fifteenth had passed, in a day or two was to come the long-expected order to the front lines and for themselves. On August 17th the order was in force and by the evening of that same day the 30th had taken over the entire sector occupied by the 33rd British Division, the 60th Brigade being in the front line with the 59th Brigade in support. The sector taken over was known as the Canal sector and extended from the southern outskirts of Ypres to the vicinity of Voormezeele, a distance of 2,400 meters, or about 3,000 yards.

By the last of the month, the men had become well familiarized with life in the trenches and were eager for action. This was not to be denied them long for the British had long been planning an offensive, and on August 31st and the following day, September 1st, the 30th Division tasted its first real battle. With the 14th British on the left and the 27th Division on the right the offensive was made, the Americans scoring a singular success for their initial fight. The 30th captured all of its objectives, including Lock No. 8,

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Lankhof Farm and the city of Voormezeele, advancing 1,500 yards. Several prisoners and guns were captured.

Things Liven Up

This was the beginning and a good one. Various positions were now occupied by the 30th and for a time it was placed in the General Headquarters British reserve, with headquarters at Rolleecourt, France. On September 22nd the division was moved to the British Fourth Army, with headquarters at Bois de Buire, near Timcourt. Here a front line sector was taken over from the 1st Australian Division on the night of September 23-24. Then on September 29th with the 27th American Division on the left and the British 46th on the right, the division began the famous assault which has made the glorious record of the 30th a bright spot in history. It was that offensive which broke the touted Hindenburg line and crumpled for the first time the haughty spirit of the Germans by proving to them that the Americans recognized nothing as impregnable.

The Hindenburg line was the pride of the German general and was a remarkable work of fortification and defenses. Three main trench systems protected by vast fields of barbed wire, scarcely touched by artillery fire and unusually heavy, a tunnel through which flowed a deep canal, and scores of machine gun emplacements covering the approach from any angle and able to bring at once a withering fire upon any point of attack. Other tunnels ran out from the main tunnel and the whole subterranean system of entrances and exits and tunnels was guarded by thousands of Germans and believed absolutely impossible to capture. But after a few hours of fighting the Americans had gone through and the 30th had gone on for 4,200 yards on a front of 3,000 yards.

Like New Yorkers

Mention has been made of the 27th Division being on the left of the 30th Division in this engagement. This was the famous New York division which had trained at Spartanburg, S. C. Major General John F. O'Ryan commanded this unit and was always on the best of terms with Major General Read in command of the 30th. In fact so close a friendship developed between the two divisions and their chiefs that they became known as the Sister Divisions and received equal praise for the breaking of the Hindenburg line. Together on the momentous night of September 29th, 1918, they went over the top and they kept going until the objectives had been obtained. The loss of life was heavy and hundreds were wounded and killed, but the line was broken and with it the proud Hun spirit.

Five times had the attempt to break the line been made before the Americans took their place in the line, but with a bulldog determination the Americans, North and South, had agreed that there would be no sixth failure —and the sixth attempt was a success.

How great the fight was and what had to be done is best told outside the casualty list by the great number of medals and awards for valor which were made for work above and beyond the call of duty during this fight. In the 117th Infantry of the 30th Division alone, commanded by Colonel Carey F. Spence, of Knoxville, Tenn., there were 124 officers and men decorated. So severe was the fighting that within an hour after the fighting began the majority of officers had been wounded and put out of action, while the non-

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commissioned officers continued in the lead and at times only privates led privates. It was, indeed, an awful job, but it was successfully done—and success was what the Americans were after, for success in battle meant the putting down of the Hun rule and the beginning of the fight to make the world safe for democracy.

Doughboys Busy

After the beginning and work in this fight another rest was in order and then on October 8-9-10-11 another battle was engaged in by the 30th Division. On October 11-12 the 30th was relieved by the 27th American, but returned on the 16th and again took over the line, launching an attack on the 17th, 18th and 19th. The infantry did the greater part of the fighting and was often even without the support of artillery, determination and skillful use of rifle and bayonet only making up for this lack. Frequently, too, the terrain was against them, but in spite of difficulties the advance continued.

The division was withdrawn to Heilly for rest and replacements and two weeks later when immediate orders for return to the front were momentarily expected, the armistice was signed and the fighting was over, November 11, 1918.

With the cessation of battle, the Second American Corps was released from the British expeditionary force with which it had been associated and was transferred to the American LeMans area. Here 30th Division headquarters were opened at Ballon on November 21. The work was now over and the boys were ready to return home. Guard duty, however, had to be done and other tasks performed. Drills were continued off and on and as much discipline as possible maintained, but it was a long dreary wait and the fighters thought of nothing but home. Nineteen hundred and eighteen passed out of existence and there came the first month of 1919. The second month passed and still they were in France, but ships were now becoming better supplied and the rumor was going the rounds that it would be a few days at most now before their own division would be slated for the sailing list.

Homeward Bound

Then sailing orders came. The division was ordered to sail from Saint Nazaire and finally the ships arrived, the last good-byes to France and the battle ground were said, old comrades were regretfully left sleeping "where the poppies blow," and the others were off for America. The first units arrived at Newport News toward the last of March and were quickly followed by other units who were directed to Charleston, being the first troops to land at the splendid Charleston Port Terminals here. The first ship with the 30th men on board to arrive here was the Mercury, which came March 27th. After that many more came bringing men of the 30th division.

Charleston was prepared to give a great reception to her boys and those of her state as they came in, but the order was that they would be entrained immediately for Camp Jackson. After that they would be deloused and demobilized. But not able to give the welcome in person, the whole city turned out to wave a greeting as the first troop ships came up the harbor, and the mayor and others went out in special boats to extend official greetings to the returning heroes. It was a grand home-coming, but only the

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beginning of the round of festivities prepared for their home-coming when they should at last be by their firesides again.

Columbia, too, gave welcome and there was staged a great parade in the boys' honor. The Main street was a blaze of light and many booths were ready with welcome to the home-comers. On one day designated as Charleston day, about one hundred girls from Charleston went to Columbia and helped in the entertainment. Dances and all sorts of entertainments were given in their honor and officers and men alike were entertained to the fullest. But however much was done, nothing could have been too much for Mobile and Alabama's own who will ever be remembered in history as those who knew no such word as fail and who broke the impregnable Hindenburg line.

The Official Record

The official record of the first and following offensives is as follows:

On August 17, 1918, the division took over the entire sector occupied by the 33rd British Division, 60th Brigade being in the front line, 59th Brigade in support. This was known as the Canal sector and extended from the southern outskirts of Ypres to the vicinity of Voormezeele, a distance of 2,400 meters.

On August 31st and September 1st the division engaged in an offensive in conjunction with the 14th British Division on the left and 27th Division on the right. The 30th Division captured all its objectives, including Lock No. 8, Lankhof Farm and the city of Voormezeele, advancing 1,500 yards, capturing 15 prisoners, 2 machine guns and 35 rifles. As a result of this advance the 236th Division, which was considered an average German division was identified. During the six weeks previous to this advance, many attempts had been made by the British and our own troops to identify this German division.

On September 4-5 the division was withdrawn from the Canal sector and placed in British G. H. Q. reserve with division headquarters at Roellecourt, France. While in this area the entire division was trained in attacking in conjunction with British tanks.

On September 17th the division was again moved farther south with division headquarters at Herissart, and on September 22nd was moved to the British Fourth Army with division headquarters at Bois de Buire, near Timcourt, taking over a front line sector from the First Australian Division, on the night of the 23rd-24th.

Hindenburg Line

On September 29th this division with the 27th American Division on the left and the 46th British Division on the right, assaulted the Hindenburg line. The Hindenburg line at this point curves in front of the Tunnel of St. Quentin. This was considered impregnable by the Germans for the following reasons: The Hindenburg line curving west of the tunnel consisted of three main trench systems protected by vast fields of heavy barbed wire entanglements skillfully placed, this wire was very heavy and had been damaged very little by artillery fire. The dominating ground enabled them to bring devastating machine gun fire on all approaches. The lines had been strengthened with concrete machine gun emplacements. It contained at this point a large number of dugouts, lined with mining timbers, with wooden steps leading down to a depth of about 30 feet with small rooms capable of holding from four to six men each. In many cases these dugouts were wired for electric lights. The large tunnel through which the canal ran, was of sufficient capacity to shelter a division. This tunnel was electrically lighted and filled with barges. Connecting it with the Hindenburg trench system were numerous tunnels. In one case a direct tunnel ran from the main tunnel to the basement of a large stone building, which the enemy used for headquarters. Other tunnels ran from the main tunnel eastward to the city of Bellicourt and other places. This complete subterranean system with its hidden exits and entrances, unknown to us, formed a most complete and safe subterranean method of communication and reinforcement for the German sector.

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Take Wide Sector

The 30th Division, the 60th Brigade, augmented by units of the 117th Infantry, attacking, assaulted this line at 5:50 a. m., September 29th, on a front of 3,000 yards long, captured the entire Hindenburg system of that sector and advanced farther capturing the tunnel system with the German troops therein, and took the cities of Bellicourt, Nauroy, Riqueval, Carriere, Etricourt, Guillaine Ferme and Ferme de Riqueval, advancing 4,200 yards, defeating two enemy divisions of average quality (the 75th Reserve Division and the 185th Division), taking as prisoners 47 officers and 1,434 men.

On October 1-2 the 30th Division was relieved by the Fifth Australian Division and moved to back area with division headquarters at Herbecourt. The division scarcely reached this area when it was marched back and took over the front line in the same sector from the Second Australian Division near Montbrehain on the night of the 4th-5th.

On October 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th the 30th Division attacked each day, advancing 17,500 yards and capturing le Tilleul d'Archies, le Petit Cambresis, Becquigny, Mon. Sarasin, le Trou Aux Soldats, Busigny, Gloriette, le Vert Donjon, Escaufort, le Rond Pont, Vaux-Andigny, Vallee, Hasard, la Haie Menneresse, la Rochelle, le Vent de Bise, St. Souplet, St. Benin, Malassise, Geneve, half of Montbrehain, Brancourt, Premont, Vaux-le-Pretre, Brancoucourt, Faircourt Ferme, Bois Mirand, Butry Ferme, la Sabliere Bois, Becquignette Ferme, Bois de Malmaison, Malmaison Ferme, Bois de Busigny, Bois l'Ermitage, Bois Proyart, Imberfayt and Du Guet Fassiaux Fermes, taking prisoners 45 officers and 1,889 men. The 59th Brigade began this attack on October 8th and captured all their objectives, including Premont and Brancourt. During this operation from October 8th to 11th, the 30th Division encountered units from 14 German divisions, classified by the British high command as follows: Thirty-fourth Division, average; 20th Division, very good; 24th Division, very good; 21st Division, average; 21st Reserve Division, average; 38th Division, very good; 119th Division, average; 121st Division, average; 187th Sharpshooting Section, very good; 204th Division, average; 208th Division, average; Third Naval Division, very good; 15th Reserve Division, average.

Relieved by Twenty-seventh

The 30th Division was relieved by the 27th Division on October 11th-12th, but returned on October 16th and took over a part of the same line

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at the same place, being the right half of the sector temporarily held by the 27th. The next attack was launched on October 17th, 18th and 19th against the 221st Division, average; 243rd Division, average; 29th Division, very good, advancing 9,000 yards and capturing 6 officers and 412 men and the towns of Molain, St. Martin Riviere, Ribeauville, Ecaillon, Mazinghein and Ribeaucourt Ferme.

During much of the fighting from October 8th to 11th and from 17th to 19th, difficulties of the terrain were very great, with the country greatly broken by small patches of woods and villages, with uneven terrain and occasional large towns admirably added to the machine gun defense of which the Germans took every advantage. The La Selle River with high banks beyond was obstinately defended. In spite of these difficulties the advance continued, often without artillery support, and was made possible only by the determination of the men and the skillful use of all arms combined with clever utilization of the diversified terrain. The Third German Naval Division of the crack German divisions was hastily thrown in in an attempt to stop the advance.

The division was then withdrawn to the Heilly training area, near Amiens, for replacements and a well-earned rest; division headquarters at Querrieu. Two weeks later, when orders for an immediate return to the front were expected daily, the armistice with Germany was signed November 11, 1918. The fighting being over, the Second American Corps was released from the British expeditionary force with which it had been associated since its arrival in France, and transferred to the American expeditionary force in the Le Mans area, where the first units of the 30th Division arrived and division headquarters opened at Ballon on November 21st.

During the above operations the advance was so rapid and the troops withdrawn so soon, there was no opportunity to gather up and salvage a great number of guns and supplies captured, which were left for the salvage troops of the Fourth British Army. Upon a partial check by the units of the division, it is known that at least 72 field artillery pieces, 26 trench mortars, 426 machine guns and 1,792 rifles were captured in addition to the great mass of material. This represents but a portion of the captures. In many instances field guns taken from the Germans were turned over to the supporting artillery and used by them upon the retreating enemy.

Total number of prisoners captured by this division from September 29th to October 20th: Ninety officers, 3,750 men. During the same period we lost three officers and 24 men as prisoners; 44 officers and 4,823 men wounded (including slightly wounded and slightly gassed).

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HISTORY OF THE 81st DIVISION

I

After a period of training and active service on the battle fronts of France extending over almost two years the 81st Division of the National Army, U. S. A., was returned to the United States during the month of June, 1919, and mustered out of the military service. During the long period of its service in the war against Germany and her allies the 81st, officially known as the Stonewall Division, earned an enviable reputation for itself, both in the training camps and in the trenches. The sobriety and high morale, as well as the stubborn fighting qualities, of the entire personnel were the subject of considerable comment among men and officers of the American Expeditionary Forces.

While the division's arrival in France was rather too near the time of the signing of the armistice to enable it to see much of the fighting, the official records show that during the weeks it was on the firing line, and especially during the fighting at Meuse-Argonne, it gave an excellent account of itself. Had not the signing of the armistice with the enemy called a halt to operations, the division would undoubtedly have seen some heavy fighting during the days following the cessation of hostilities, for it had already begun what was intended to be its active participation in the fighting, and was definitely assigned to certain operations in the vicinity of Metz, the strongest and supposedly impregnable fortress of the Germans. While it was in the vicinity of the Meuse-Argonne that the 81st saw its heaviest fighting, there were numerous other operations in which its officers and men were engaged which are worthy of far more than passing notice.

The division, which was more popularly known as the "Wildcat" Division, although this was not its official name, was organized at Camp Jackson, near Columbia, S. C., August 29, 1917, and was made up of drafted men. Major General French was assigned to the command of the division, but on account of his illness at the time, Brigadier General Barth, who was the senior officer present, was given command temporarily until Major General Charles J. Bailey, who was ordered to take command of the division in the stead of General French, arrived and assumed charge. General Bailey remained in command of the division throughout its long period of training and its active service on the battle lines, finally returning with it to the United States, where it was demobilized.

While in the division were officers from practically all over the United States, the majority of them were from North and South Carolina, and received their training at the first officers' training camp at Fort Oglethorpe. While some changes were necessitated from time to time, the greater part of these remained with the 81st throughout the war.

The division was made up largely of men of the first draft, the majority of whom came from North and South Carolina, and Tennessee, though numbers of them were from other states. In fact, practically every state in the Union was represented.

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Though the heat of the August sun was greater than many of the men had been accustomed to, the work of whipping these thousands of raw and inexperienced men into soldiers was begun at once. The morale and esprit de corps of the organization were excellent from the start, and the work went off with a snap. Officers and men seemed to enter into the spirit of the thing naturally, and bent every effort to make their training thorough. It is worthy of mention here that the division had remarkably few cases of petty delinquencies, a reputation which it has kept throughout the war. Drunkenness, absence without leave, and other unsoldierly conduct was comparatively negligible in the division, both in the training camps and in France.

There was no relaxing of the heavy routine of drills and instruction, though many of the men were sent as specialists to other organizations to help in training other men throughout the army which was being trained at that time. The ranks of the 81st were further depleted during the course of training by having a number of its men sent to Camp Sevier, at Greenville, S. C., to fill out the 30th Division, which was made up largely of state militia units, and was prepared to sail for France much earlier than were the "Wildcats."

The process of training was kept up throughout the autumn and winter months until May of the spring of 1918, when the division was moved to Camp Sevier at Greenville to have its ranks filled out preparatory to going to a port of debarkation. For the most part the men who were transferred to this division at Camp Sevier came from Alabama, Florida, and New York, with a few from Chicago. From the time of its arrival at Camp Sevier until July the division was put through an intensive course of training, the last it received before sailing for England.

In the early part of July the organization was again moved, this time to Camp Upton, where it received overseas equipment and made final preparations for sailing. After being fully equipped here for sailing, the division was split and part of it went to Philadelphia for debarkation, while the other section went to New York to sail. From these two ports it sailed for Southampton, England, during the latter part of July, 1918, from which place all units of the division were transported to La Havre and from there it was ordered on to the training area around Tonnere, France.

II

The first taste of actual war experiences the division gained was here. The matter of billeting the men was a knotty problem, necessitating the use of numerous cow barns and like structures. However, if retrospective comment of the men counts for anything, which it does, these "Yanks" took to the situation like ducks to water, after the first few grim grimaces, and made the best of the worst, thereby helping to earn the reputation the American soldiers got overseas of being equal to any occasion.

After something less than a month spent in more intensive training and other activities at Tonnere, the division started on its way to the front in the Vosges mountains sector, in the vicinity of St. Die. Later it moved from the St. Die sector to the Rambervillers area, where it remained from October 20th to October 31st, awaiting transportation. During this period daily training was kept rigidly up.

Orders having come, the division was entrained during the days of October 31st and November 1st and 2nd at Charmes, Thaon, Chatel, and Rambervillers, and started on the way to the Meuse sector, where the last of the units detrained on November 3rd, detraining at Sorcy, Le Rouville, Sampigny, and Bannoncourt. From these points it was marched into the Sommedieue sector,

In the Sommedieue sector the 81st relieved the 35th Division, taking over the line from Besonvaux to Fresnes, which extended over a length of about 24 kilometers. It was necessary here to place all four infantry regiments in the line, with two battalions of each occupying the center of resistance and one being held in reserve. The 60th Field Artillery Brigade of the 35th Division remained in the sector and came under the command of the 81st Division. The division post command moved to Dieue on November 2nd and on to Sommedieue on the seventh, the command of the sector passing to Major General Bailey on that date, the relief having been completed on the night of November 6th.

JUST ARRIVED IN ENGLAND THESE "WILDCATS" ARE RESTING AT THE RAILROAD STATION AT KNOTTY ASH, LIVERPOOL, FOR THE TROOP TRAIN WHICH CARRIED THEM TO SOUTHAMPTON

The division was here greatly handicapped by not having full transport equipment, and movements were made with the greatest difficulties. Only fifteen per cent of the authorized motor equipment and forty per cent of the authorized draft animal equipment was in the possession of the division. This condition continued to exist up until the cessation of hostilities, and was greatly to be deplored as it worked an increased hardship on both officers and men and hindered badly the movements of the division.

On November 7th the division passed from the 17th French Corps, with which it had been operating, to the Second Colonial Corps, French.

III

It was here that the already hardened and well-trained troops received their first real baptism of fire. Warning had been given to the 31st Division of a possible impending offensive. In view of this plans were drawn up in this division and issued on November 8th, and all troops going into the sector were cautioned to patrol carefully and vigorously, and to obtain all possible information as to the enemy's movements and operations. In addition to this an intelligence memorandum giving all pertinent data available was published and distributed.

Two conditions at the time of the advance were very favorable to the enemy and consequently made the advance of the troops of the 81st very difficult. One of these was the condition of the territory where the engagement occurred. The land was low and marshy, and had been flooded in places, making the going of troops extremely hard. During the period of four years preceding this the enemy had constructed elaborate defensive works here.

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Concrete machine gun and trench mortar emplacements dotted the landscape, and deep dugouts were everywhere. In addition to this it was impossible for the command of the 81st to obtain sufficient artillery support to cover the advance properly. For some reason neither the necessary artillery itself nor a sufficiently large supply of ammunition for it were obtainable. A rolling barrage was entirely out of the question, and all that could be done was to direct the 60th Field Artillery Brigade, which was commanded by Brigadier General L. R. Berry, to cover the advance and to do everything possible to destroy the barbed wire entanglements of the enemy, while two battalions of 75's were prepared to advance behind the infantry waves.

Orders to begin the advance as early as possible after the break of day on the morning of November 9th were received from the Second Colonial Corps on the day before, and everything was gotten in readiness to carry them out. Everywhere that the word had been whispered could be seen faces tense in determination, for it was to be the first time over the top for many a man. Though they had trained hard they had not yet been given the actual fire test, and doubtless many of them wondered how his mettle would prove, and there is still less doubt that there was a man among them all who was not still more eager to get at the Hun and prove what he inwardly felt was the quality of his own mettle. Though their blood may have been racing madly through their veins, no excitement was apparent among either officers or men. Every man went coolly about his duties with an air of eager, though grim, determination.

The liason officer from the division on the 81st's left, the 10th French Colonial Division, also reported with the plan of attack of that division, which included a passage of the lines of the 81st's three left centers of resistance. This shortened the sector of attack about six kilometers, leaving a frontage of about twelve kilometers on which the attack would have to be made.

It was necessary to assemble brigade and separate organization commanders as the time was too short for the ordinary distribution of orders. The attack orders were issued as soon as possible after assembly of the officers. Plan of liason had already been issued.

Little time could be given for reconnaissance and issuing of orders by subordinate units. There was barely time to move the attacking regiments into place before the zero hour.

The whole plan of action was based on the assumption that the enemy was withdrawing and would not greatly oppose the 81st's advance. It was not the case in this particular sector, however, as patrols had found the enemy's defensive system manned in the usual manner.

To avoid moving through heavy timber, the advance had to be in two eschelons, one on each side of the Bois de Manheulles. One brigade was assigned to each. A battalion of 75's and two companies of engineers were attached to each brigade.

The artillery opened fire at 7:30 o'clock on the morning of November 9th, and the advance began on time, the troops in the northern part of the sector moving into reserve behind the left attack as their lines were passed by the Tenth Colonial Division.

The division post command moved at 8:15 o'clock on the morning of the 9th to Beirupt, where it was more centrally located with respect to the troops. It remained there through the action, General Bailey and staff officers making several trips to the lines.

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A detailed account of the movements follows:

At the beginning of the operations, this disposition of the units of the 81st were as follows:

Three hundred and Twenty-first Infantry (mostly North Carolina troops) were in divisional reserve in the woods west of Chatillon.

Two battalions of the 322nd Infantry (mostly South Carolina troops) were in line, each with two companies as support; and one battalion in reserve in the Verdun-Etain road sector to Ronvaux, inclusive.

The 323rd Infantry was in defile at the western edge of Haudiamont, as divisional reserve.

Two battalions of the 324th Infantry were in line, and one battalion in reserve in the Bonzee ot Ronvaux sector.

The 316th Machine Gun Battalion was in divisional reserve in the vicinity of Haudiamont.

The 317th Machine Gun Battalion had one company with the 322nd Infantry, and three companies in brigade reserve near Chatillon.

Two companies of the 318th Machine Gun Battalion were with the 324th Infantry, and one company with the 323rd Infantry, one in brigade reserve.

The disposition of the 60th Field Artillery Brigade was behind sector of attack.

The attack started at 8 o'clock on the morning of November 9, after artillery preparation of a half-hour. Artillery and heavy machine gunfire was encountered by all units, almost immediately on starting the advance. At 10:30 o'clock a line 600 meters west of Moranville had been reached by the 322nd Infantry where heavy machine gunfire made further advance impossible. At 12:30 noon, Noire-Baies was taken and Claires-Chenes cleared of a machine by the first battalion of the 324th Infantry.

At 1:25 p. m., developments were started against Ville en Woevre, but continuation of the advance was rendered impossible on account of the 33rd Division on the right failing to advance; the flank was thus left exposed by heavy fire. The first battalion was forced to withdraw, where it remained in readiness until 1:25 o'clock the following morning. The reserve battalion was moved against the line of trenches running north from which machine gunfire was coming. By verbal orders of the regimental commander the first and third battalions were withdrawn at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 10th to the line of prolongation of the Fresnes-Manheulles road. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th, the line running northwest from Chateau d'Aulnois had been reached by the second battalion of the 324th Infantry. At 4:30 o'clock heavy machine gunfire forced the withdrawal of this battalion to the ridge 700 yards northeast of and parallel with the Fresnes-Manheulles road. Moranville was taken by the 322nd Infantry at 5:15 o'clock on the afternoon of the ninth after American artillery fire had silenced most of the machine guns located in the town.

Being exposed to heavy fire in this position at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 10th, the second battalion of the 324th Infantry retired to form a continuation of the line of the first and third battalions on its left. At 6:30 o'clock the 322nd Infantry resumed its advance on Grimaucourt. This town was entered at 9 o'clock in spite of stubborn resistance from the enemy machine guns. Company C, of the 322nd Infantry, reached the vicinity of Abaucourt at 11 o'clock and was soon followed by B and D companies of the same regiment, which went into the line beside it. At 1 o'clock that

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afternoon Grimaucourt was passed and an advance started against the enemy's main line of resistance, 1,500 meters east of that town. On account of intense artillery fire on Grimaucourt the second battalion of the 322nd Infantry retired at 4 o'clock to the old German trenches, just west of the town.

At 8:30 o'clock on the night of the 10th, the relief of the 322nd Infantry units by the 321st Infantry was completed, except that B, C and D companies of the 322nd, on the extreme left, remained in position. The second battalion of the 321st was held in reserve at Chatillon. At 9 o'clock the second battalion of the 324th Infantry was relieved by the first battalion of the 323rd Infantry. The third battalion of the 324th had moved back to the vicinity of the post command at Bordeaux.

The movements of the units of the division on the morning of fateful November 11th from 6 o'clock to 11 o'clock, when fighting ceased, follow:

At 6 o'clock, after preparation of one hour by the artillery, the attack, mentioned above, was resumed by the 321st Infantry with three battalions in line, the second battalion having been moved up to Moranville. At 7:30 o'clock Grimaucourt was passed by the third battalion of the 321st Infantry. Bois-de-Petite Cognon was reached by the first battalion of the 321st at 8:30 o'clock; heavy machine gunfire was met at that point. At 9 o'clock the first battalion of the 324th was relieved by the second battalion of the 323rd Infantry, the third battalion of the 323rd being held in reserve.

At 10:30 o'clock after heavy shelling with high explosive, gas, shrapnel and continuous machine gunfire, which resulted in heavy casualties, the advance was resumed by the 323rd Infantry. At 11 o'clock after artillery fire on Grande and Petite Cognon, the first battalion of the 321st Infantry was able to march through the gap between the woods, and reach the main defenses of Hautecourt. The second battalion had advanced between the first and third battalions.

During the afternoon of the 9th it was seen that the advance could not be pushed further without additional troops and the reserve regiments were put at the disposition of the brigade commanders and the divisional machine gun battalion placed in the rear of the gap between the two brigades. Two companies of the 306th Ammunition Train (armed as infantry) were also ordered up on the 10th to assist the engineers with the left column. One company of engineers had been withdrawn from the reserve and sent to the corps and the last reserve company of engineers was sent to assist in the road work.

Orders were issued that evening to continue the advance next day. The 33rd Division of the Second Army, on the right of the 81st, had not received orders to advance. It had, however, sent strong patrols to its front.

These were driven back by heavy enemy fire, finally uncovering the right flank of the 81st and making it necessary to bend back the line to the Manheulles-Fresnes road, where liason with the 33rd Division was maintained. There was evidently some misunderstanding about the advance of the 33rd division as the liason officer sent from that division to the 81st stated that that advance was ordered.

Colonel C. D. Roberts, chief of staff of the 81st, telephoned the First Army regarding the matter and was informed the division was to advance. He also, at 11 o'clock telephoned to the chief of staff, 33rd division, and told him of the 81st's advance east of Haudiamont. As it had been proven impossible for the 81st's right to advance without the movement of the 33rd Division, orders were given in the evening to the commanding general of the 162nd Brigade not to advance his right until the 33rd moved.

November 10th was largely employed in relieving the fighting line regiments, supplying food and ammunition and preparing for a further advance next day. The enemy's artillery was very active and every attempt to patrol to the front was met by machine gun and artillery fire, causing severe losses.

The enemy's aviators were very active throughout November 9th and 10th, directing his artillery fire, and their machine guns were used with telling effect upon the forces of the division. An enemy airplane was hit by rifle fire from the "Wildcats" and fell within the French lines near Verdun. Although repeated requests were made for aircraft support for the 81st, it was impossible to obtain such until late in the afternoon of the 10th, the second day of the battle, when several airplanes appeared on the scene.

The next day, November 11th, was the day on which an armistice was declared, and up until 11 o'clock, the hour at which it had been ordered that hostilities cease, a heavy fog had prevented the aviators from operating to any appreciable advantage.

IV

It was decided, after a consultation with the brigade commanders on the evening of November 10th, to strike hard on the left, and, in accordance with this plan, the 324th Infantry, minus one battalion, was held in divisional reserve, while the 316th Machine Gun Battalion was placed at the disposition of the left column. This column was ordered to advance to the attack to the south of Hautecourt, while the right was given instructions to attack Villeen-Woevre. However, this column was ordered not to begin the advance until it had received assurance that the 33rd Division was advancing.

An offer of artillery assistance, which was much needed, was made by a staff officer of the 151st Artillery Brigade.

With a preparatory artillery fire, which was reported as being very effective, the attack was launched at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 11th. A dense fog enveloped everything and greatly retarded movements, but it also undoubtedly served to prevent heavier losses than were actually sustained. In spite of the difficulties presented by the weather, and the natural and artificial obstacles which hindered the advancing columns greatly the troops pushed ahead steadily at many points, and the advance was kept up to 11 o'clock in the morning, when firing was stopped, orders having been received at 7:40 that morning from the Second Corps headquarters to cease firing at that time. Upon the receipt of these orders, warning instructions were sent to each organization. These instructions were later confirmed by orders stating that hostilities would stop at 11 o'clock on all fronts.

No instructions had been issued for a let-up in the advance until the appointed hour; consequently the attack was pushed determinedly until that time, with the result that the progress of the advancing columns was good. This was especially true of the left. When the last shot was fired at the stroke of 11 the 321st Infantry was in the last line of the enemy's entanglements, and had already captured and made prisoners of a few of the opposing forces.

The advance up until the time of the cessation of hostilities had reached a depth of from two to five and a half kilometers, and five of the enemy's

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officers together with 89 of his men had been taken. Two of the officers and nine of the men were turned over to the Tenth French Colonial Corps.

The total losses of the 81st Division during the three days of fighting on this front in killed, wounded and missing were 1,023. Of these 11 officers and 158 men were killed; 31 officers and 746 men were wounded, while one officer and 76 men were reported as missing. The losses of each organization were as follows:

Three Hundred and Twenty-first Infantry: Killed, 3 officers and 45 men; wounded, 5 officers and 175 men; missing, 3 men.

Three Hundred and Twenty-second Infantry: Killed, 5 officers and 52 men; wounded, 8 officers and 209 men; missing, 10 men.

Three Hundred and Seventeenth Machine Gun Battalion: Killed, 2 men; wounded, 1 officer and 17 men.

Three Hundred and Twenty-third Infantry: Killed, 16 men; wounded, 5 officers and 114 men; missing, 4 men.

Three Hundred and Twenty-fourth Infantry: Killed, 2 officers and 54 men; wounded, 5 officers and 145 men; missing, 18 men.

Three Hundred and Eighteenth Machine Gun Battalion: Killed, 3 men; wounded, 2 officers and 14 men; missing, 1 officer and 37 men.

Three Hundred and Sixth Engineers: Killed, 2 men; wounded, 2 officers and 37 men; missing, 1 man.

Three Hundred and Sixteenth Machine Gun Battalion: Killed, 1 officer and 2 men; wounded, 2 officers and 24 men; missing, 3 men.

Three Hundred and Sixth Ammunition Train: Wounded, 3 men.

Three Hundred and Sixth Field Signal Battalion: Killed, 1 man; wounded, 7 men.

Sixtieth Field Artillery Brigade: One officer and 1 man wounded.

V

Immediately after ceasing fire, the enemy's troops showed a disposition to fraternize, but this was not permitted. A few prisoners, taken by the 321st Infantry, just after 11 o'clock, were released.

The work of the supply and sanitary services were satisfactory, and ammunition and rations were provided in ample quantities and a large surplus was placed in the forward dumps before the movement was terminated.

During the entire operation, the enemy units engaged were the Fifth Guard Division and the Third Bavarian Infantry Division, and also a part of the 13th Landstrum Division. Three units seemed to have excellent morale and discipline up to the last.

Artillery support: The Sixth Field Artillery Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General R. L. Berry, furnished as efficient support as was possible under the circumstances. The two battalions used with the infantry brigades were efficiently used. The enemy's artillery constantly outranged that of the American division's supporting guns and counter-battery work therefore was not very effective, and there was an entire lack of airplane observation on the Americans' side until late in the day of November 10th, while the enemy's air service was very active and efficient. On November 9th, when the clouds were low, the enemy planes dropped down through the clouds close to the lines of the 81st Division, using their machine guns with the result that a number of Americans were killed and wounded. They also directed a very accurate fire on the Americans. The appearance of more allied planes next day served to improve the morale of the Americans. Repeated requests were heard for more airplane and artillery assistance, and the French artillery authorities showed a disposition to refuse even the necessary ammunition for the 60th Brigade and the sector artillery. The American losses were declared mostly due to artillery fire to which the Americans' support could not make effective reply.

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The attack of this position was evidently decided upon by higher authority under the assumption that the enemy was retreating, but this proved not to be true. However good progress was made and the strong points of Abaucourt, Moranville, Crimaucourt and Blanzee were taken and the line at the end of hostilities was the last line of enemy wire of the German main line, which would have been penetrated in a short time.

It was the first severe engagement of this division and the small losses that were suffered from enemy machine gunfire showed the excellent progress that had been made in training. The division was fortunate in having two able brigade commanders, Brigadier General G. W. McIver, 161st Brigade, and Brigadier General Monroe McFarland, 162nd Brigade, and four excellent infantry regimental commanders: Colonels L. T. Richardson, 322nd Infantry; T. A. Pearce, 323rd Infantry; G. W. Moses, 324th Infantry, and Frank Halstead, 321st Infantry.

The infantry regiments went into action with about 3,000 men each and the 306th Engineers with about 1,550 men. The machine gun battalions, 306th Field Signal Battalion, sanitary train and ammunition train were almost at full strength.

While the operations of November 9th, 10th and 11th were not extensive, as compared to those of previous fighting in the Argonne and to the north, it is believed they demonstrated to no small extent the soldierly qualities of officers and men, and that both training and discipline were a credit to the division in this, its only fighting in the line of the advancing First Army. The troops were continually subjected to intense artillery fire, to which no response could be made, yet the troops kept their organization and morale and suffered a minimum of losses.

The retirement of the troops of the 324th Infantry on the night of November 9th was due to the lack of support from the Second Army, and was made with skill, and the men, although exposed to heavy artillery, moved as their officers reported, as though at an ordinary drill.

During the attack, it was a notable fact that serious gassing was exceptional, and that few were reported missing, showing that there was almost no stragglers.

Most of those reported missing were killed and the fatalities were almost 200, including those who died from wounds, of whom there were many. Out of the approximately 18,000 present, one in 18 was a casualty, and of the 1,023 casualties, some 200 were fatalities, or one death in each five casualties.

During this operation, the troops were directed with skill and good judgment, and the officers and men maintained the high standard expected of American troops.

VI

Soon after the declaration of an armistice at the enemy's request the "Wildcats" were ordered to Chatillon-sur-Seine and began immediately to

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prepare for the long hike. Weary and footsore from one of the hardest of its marches the division arrived here during the second and third of December and was billeted, with headquarters at Mussey-sur-Seine.

In spite of rain and snow which fell almost every day from the time of the division's arrival here until the first of May, regular drill and instruction were resumed and kept rigidly up until the first of April, when these exercises were cut in half in order that the remaining half day might be devoted to athletics. The order which brought this about met with the instant approval of almost every one, for the officers and men were weary and eager to return home, and the time dragged slowly. This, coupled with the natural love of the American soldier, resulted in a great deal of interest being manifested in outdoor games, particularly baseball, and helped to make the time pass more pleasantly for officers and men until sailing orders came.

On the sixth of May orders transferring the division from the 8th Army Corps to the S. O. S. were issued and on the twelfth the first train of troops left for Le Mans. Again the division was split, part of it going to St. Nazaire, while the other part went to Brest, from which ports it sailed for the United States in the early part of June, 1919. The majority of the division was debarked at Newport News, Va., and Charleston, S. C., and from these ports officers and men were sent to various camps to be finally deloused and discharged from the military service.

The work going through this process was accelerated as much as possible, with the result that these hardy Americans who had served their country and humanity so well, were not long delayed in receiving their honorable discharges and returning home to eagerly awaiting loved ones, and to peace and happiness.

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YANKS LAUNCHED OFFENSIVE WHICH DECIDED THE WAR

Drive on St. Mihiel Salient Initial Effort of American Boys in War and Resulted in First Allied Victory in Over Three Years

PARIS, Sept. 12.—One year ago, September 14, 1918, at exactly 5:30, began the first offensive launched by the American Army in France.

At that hour eight American divisions with some 15,000 French Colonials in their centre, "went over the top" in a drizzling rain, after four hours' violent battering of German positions from Verdun to Pont-a-Mousson by Allied artillery. Less than 24 hours later the famous St. Mihiel salient had been completely wiped out, more than 15,000 prisoners bagged and the American Army had won the first complete victory scored by any Allied army in a large offensive since the Germans were hurled back from the gates of Paris in 1914.

"In one swoop," wrote Marshal Foch, "they reduced the famous salient which during so long we did not know how to approach."

Nearly 250,000 American soldiers were engaged in the attack, the greatest from the standpoint of numbers, ever conducted by any American Army in history up to that time. The greatest number of aeroplanes ever concentrated for any offensive were behind the American lines when the artillery began its crashing crescendo. French Colonials and American Doughboys, Americans, French, British, and even Italian aviators, fought under command of General John J. Pershing. When the operation had been completed more than 150 square miles of French territory had been freed of the Germans, including the city of St. Mihiel, home of President Poincare, of France.

The St. Mihiel offensive had long been planned as the first big operation of the American Army in France. Rushing down from the north in the early days of the war the Germans had thrust a deep wedge into the French line east of Verdun and had strengthened their position until it held against repeated French attacks.

Holding St. Mihiel, the nose of the great salient, the Germans not only rendered useless the great railway line from Verdun through Commercy to Toul and Nancy, but constantly threatened toward the great fortress of Metz.

It was originally planned that the First American Army should be organized under direct command of General Pershing and should try to squeeze the Germans out of St. Mihiel early in the summer of 1918. The success of the German spring offensives disrupted these plans, sent American units rushing to various threatened sectors and prevented the organization of the First Army as a compact unit until late in August.

But in the meantime plans for the St. Mihiel attack had been going steadily ahead. Roads leading to the front were being improved, new light railways were constructed and the German positions carefully mapped.

Late in August, the Meuse and Vosges country behind Toul began filling with American troops. The Second Division came down from the Marne fight. The First Division, the 26th, 42nd and other veteran divisions began

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moving in the night and presently new organizations, some of them fresh from America, put in an appearance in the hilly Vosges department.

Two general orders went out from General Pershing's headquarters threatening court martial to any officer who discussed troop movements or speculated on General Staff plans. First Army headquarters moved forward to the town of Ligny-en-Barrios, but all staff cars entering Ligny had their staff insignia removed by sentries as they approached the town. Every effort was made to conceal the army's plans from the enemy.

On the right, near Pont-a-Mousson, was the First Corps under then Major General Liggett. It was the business of Dickman's divisions and of the center and left divisions of Liggett's corps to crash against the south side of the salient while the 26th was attacking from the west, thus crushing it in. Liggett's extreme right division, the 82nd, composed largely of Southern troops, was to make a local attack north of Pont-a-Mousson simply to confuse the enemy as to the real nature of the operation.

On the south side of the salient were the First and Second and 42nd Divisions, all veterans of the Marne fight; the Fifth, a regular army division which had done training in a quiet Alsace sector; the 89th from Camp Funston, and the 90th, which were to receive their baptism of fire. The big thrust was to be toward Vigneulles-les-Hattonchattel, where it was planned that the First and 26th Divisions should join hands, cutting off the salient.

The artillery attack was due to start at 1 a. m. At nightfall of September 11th long trains of trucks filled with troops and ammunition began streaming toward the front in a steady downpour of rain. The roads were jammed; traffic was permitted to move in only one direction, toward the German lines; trucks that went off the road in the blackness were pitched over on their sides so that they would not impede the progress of others behind, and not a light of any kind was permitted to be shown on any road for a distance of fifteen miles from the front.

A deathly silence seemed to settle over the battlefront as midnight approached and passed. There was not a sound save the patter of rain and the cursing of some luckless truck driver who had gone off the road. Doughboys, wet to the skin, huddled close together in the trucks, or marched silently along the roads. Officers in trench coats, with the rain pinging against their steel helmets, drew up for a few words at some brigade or regimental headquarters and then went galloping away in the darkness.

At a few minutes before 1 o'clock the blackness was pierced by a stab of light away down toward Mont Sec, the tall peak behind the enemy lines from which the Germans for four years had observed all Allied troop movements for many miles and from which their batteries had dominated the salient. There was a wait of thirty seconds and then two more stabs of light away off to the right toward Pont-a-Mousson.

The lone gun crew down by Mont Sec came back with another flash as the minute hand leaned against 1 o'clock. Then suddenly all the artillery in creation seemed to speak at once. The northern sky became a great line of light and red and yellow fire, and back came a steady "crump," "crump," "crump," in an unending roar as thousands of shells from American batteries thickly planted close behind our lines rained down upon the German first, second and third lines, machine gun nests and battery positions, and reached back for the roads over which the enemy might seek to retreat or bring up reserves.

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For four long hours and a half the din continued on the thirty-mile curving front from Verdun to Pont-a-Mousson, while the streams of trucks kept pressing forward in the darkness and the rain. As dawn began breaking whole squadrons of aeroplanes, invisible in the mist and rain and semi-gloom, hummed overhead, en route for the German lines.

Promptly at 5:30 lines of Doughboys picked their way through their own barbed wire and the great attack to squeeze the Germans out of St. Mihiel was on. There were none of the dashing charges that war painters like to portray. Private Bill Jones, from Kansas, and many thousands of his comrades, went strolling leisurely across No Man's Land smoking a cigarette or munching a bit of chocolate and stepping gingerly out of the way of shell holes filled with water, while the artillery kept laying an intensive barrage fire just ahead. The German gunners hardly answered at all.

The resistance was surprisingly feeble in those first few hours. Our artillery fire had blown great gaps through the German barbed wire and had badly damaged machine gun emplacements. Squads of Doughboys, coming upon German dugouts, yelled to their occupants to surrender and the Germans, for the most part, came out willingly enough and started back toward the American lines.

In and behind the third line the German defense stiffened and enemy machine guns began cracking away in an effort to stay our advance until the Germans caught in the pocket of the salient at St. Mihiel could escape. More wounded began streaming back to the first aid posts and the field hospitals, but, on the whole, the casualties were so unexpectedly light that some of the medicos attached to mobile hospitals found nothing to do and hopped trucks up to the battle front to get a sight of the show. At noon one advancing regiment reported that it had not had a single casualty.

The rain stopped falling early in the afternoon and the sun tried to break through the mists. Back at corps headquarters reports were coming in of steady progress everywhere. At 3 o'clock a French liason officer rushed in with reports that Mont Sec had been completely surrounded and that scouting parties had failed to locate any German resistance on the famous hill.

The 26th Division, commanded by General Edwards, decided upon a daring coup. Learning that the enemy troops were fleeing from St. Mihiel in some disorder, General Edwards determined to rush a column through the woods at night and enter Vigneulles before morning, cutting off those Germans still in the nose of the salient. In executing this maneuver he ran some slight risk of having this extended thin line of troops attacked on both sides by the Germans and its communications with the main body cut, but it proved entirely successful. Before daybreak an advance party from the New England division entered Vigneulles, and two officers in a flivver and armed only with pistols held up and captured a German supply train. A few hours later troops from the First Division joined hands with the 26th and the task of reducing the St. Mihiel salient was ended.

The remainder of the 13th and the days that followed were spent in rounding up Germans attempting to flee through the woods, straightening out the line, repulsing weak counter-attacks and making feints in the direction of Metz to conceal our plans to swing the entire army immediately over to the Argonne offensive. On the afternoon of the 13th General Pershing and

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President Poincare entered St. Mihiel and were acclaimed by the inhabitants who had lived for four years under German rule.

The entire operation had been a complete and spectacular success that revealed not only to our Allies but to the German people the power of the new force from across the Atlantic. To the Americans it revealed the ability of a hastily trained American staff to plan and carry out a big operation, and, furthermore, that green troops, like the 89th and 90th, composed of draft men for the first time under fire, were fully capable of handling themselves in a big attack.

POST COMMAND OF THE 161ST BRIGADE DURING THE FIGHTING AROUND CHATILLON-SUR-SEINE. IT WAS FROM HERE THAT BRIG.-GEN. G. W. McIVER, WHO IS SHOWN STANDING BESIDE HIS AIDE, CAPT. WHITELEG, DIRECTED HIS BRIGADE

EIGHTY-SECOND DIVISION "ALL-AMERICAN"

No story of the operations of war will be complete without the 82nd Division in the Argonne. It is often said that the infantry is the backbone of any division; it is the Doughboy that bears the brunt of the attack. He is the main cog in the machine.

But were it not for many other cogs—the artillery laying down the rolling barrage that prepares the way for the Doughboy's advance; the machine gunners, going over the top with him, shoulder to shoulder, and holding the captured ground till the last; the field signal battalion, keeping communications going at the risk of their lives; the runners daring shellfire and bombs to take messages from one P. C. to another; the engineers repairing roads and building bridges; the supply train and the ammunition train bringing up food for the guns over roads blasted by shells; the ambulance drivers, the stretcher-bearers, the doctors and the men of the medical outfits, never pausing in their tireless work of life saving—were it not for these the Doughboy would find himself tied hand and foot, powerless to fight.

Of the auxiliary outfits of the 82nd Division nothing too praiseworthy can be said. They were on the job day and night and to them and their wonderful work the Doughboy himself attributes fifty per cent of the success the division attained.

The Doughboy, for one thing, will admit that if he had his choice between standing up and shooting and standing up and being shot at, he would take the former every time. But that is exactly where the auxiliary outfits had no choice. One and all, they were shot at and not a man of them had the chance to shoot back. Theirs it was to hear the constant who-e-e-e! of the big shells rushing over, never knowing when one of them would make mincemeat out of themselves and everything around them. Oftentimes the German barrage in the areas immediately behind the front lines was much heavier than the machine gun fire the infantry encountered going over the top, and always there was the awful nerve strain of having to twiddle your thumbs and take it without making any effort at retaliation.

The 157th Artillery Brigade was one outfit whose work did not stop when the rest of the 82nd Division was relieved on November 1st. The brigade had gone all through the Argonne fighting, bringing the guns up over muddy, shell-shot roads sticky with mud, to fill rush orders for a barrage in the least possible time and launch the protecting fire for the infantry attacks. Shelled by the "Boche" guns, beset by gas, officers and men sleeping out in the open in fox holes, the brigade had few casualties, but went through a perfect hell of suffering. Only one officer was killed, Lieutenant Findley B. Durrett, of Tuscaloosa, Ala. A number were wounded, including Colonel Earl D'Arcy Pearce, of Atlanta, commanding the 319th Regiment, who was painfully, but not seriously, wounded when a shell exploded in the top of his dugout.

When the division was finally relieved, the artillery was attached to the 80th Division to take part in the renewal of the big American drive toward Sedan. Stationed toward Grand Pre, the brigade laid down a terrific barrage at 1 o'clock in the morning of November 1st, for the Doughboys of the new division to go over the top.

Then for a week there was, as one officer expressed it, "one grand and merry chase." The Germans, finally driven out of the protection of the Argonne, were falling back in a veritable rout. The artillery was put to it to keep up with the infantry, but keep up the brigade did. In fact, part of the

time the light artillery was ahead of the Doughboys, with the heavies right behind them. Horses began to fall from exhaustion, guns stuck in the rotten roadbeds, officers and men were haggard-eyed and drawn from the continued drive, but the brigade kept up the lick to the finish.

When it was finally relieved on November 6th, its good work drew the following commendation from the commander of the 80th Division to the commander of the 82nd Division:

"1. I desire to convey to you recognition of the excellent service done by the 157th Field Artillery Brigade while serving with the division east of the Argonne, November 1st to 6th, 1918.

"2. The efficient co-operation with the infantry, extending to its close support by guns, batteries and battalions pushed well to the front, contributed the full artillery share to the successful operations of the division, and maintained the high standard of the 82nd Division and of the field artillery.

"3. It is a pleasure to acknowledge this service.

"S. D. STURGIS, Major General."

"The division commander notes with pride the excellent work of the brigade," was the notation from Major General Duncan, in forwarding this recommendation to Colonel Pearce, commanding the brigade. And Colonel Pearce had another notation as follows:

The Grave of Capt. E. L. Bolan

"1. In forwarding an official copy of the above letter to the organization commanders, the brigade commander wishes to add his appreciation of the splendid zeal and fighting spirit of the 157th throughout the Meuse-Argonne offensive. His pleasure and pride in the above commendation is increased by his knowledge that although the brigade had been in the line without an hour's relief since October 6th, it found no difficulty in matching the energy and determination to advance of the fresh division it was called upon to support."

The 307th Engineers, which were under command of Colonel J. L. Schley, of Savannah, Ga., until he left for the states on October 26th, and the regimental command was taken over by Lieutenant Colonel H. C. Mower, not only performed one hundred per cent service throughout the Argonne, but part of the time fought as infantry.

The engineers, constantly under shellfire and suffering equal hardships with the Doughboys in exposure to cold and rain, located ferries for the infantry to cross the Aire, built bridges for the machine guns and artillery to cross, prepared posts of command and strove to keep the roads in some semblance of repair.

On the night of October 15th, when the German counter-attack north of Sommerance was imminent, the second battalion of the engineers was ordered into the line as infantry support. On the night of October 16th, the

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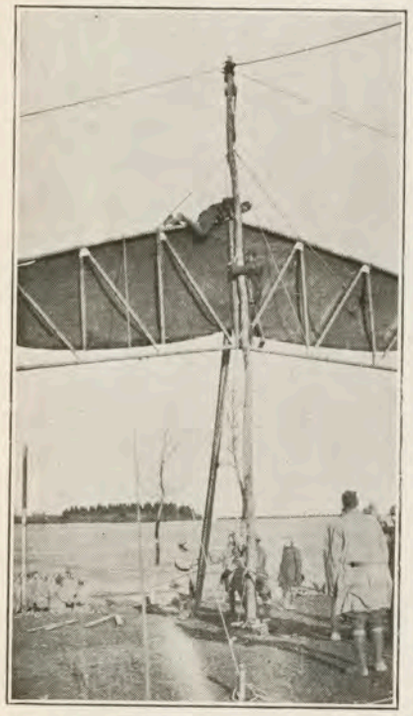
first battalion also took its place with the badly thinned ranks of the Doughboys.

The engineers lost one officer killed, Lieutenant James H. Claxton, of Montezuma, Ga., who was slain by shellfire north of Sommerance and is buried in Floville. Lieutenant S. H. Andrews was wounded in an exciting fight north of Apremont on September 29th, when D Company, commanded by Captain H. B. Baird, went forward to organize a "strong point" in an old quarry. The Germans attacked, but the engineers took to rifles and machine guns and beat them off, captured eleven prisoners and killed about two hundred of the enemy.

The only other Georgian wounded with the engineers was Lieutenant I. F. Witherington, of Atlanta, formerly a star backstop for Georgia Tech, who was hit by a piece of high explosive shell in the Boucq sector, when he led fifty picked men of the regiment on a raid accompanying infantry in the German lines.



With the 306th Engineers in France

Other Georgians with the regiment are First Lieutenant Walter R. Boyd, of Savannah; First Lieutenant W. W. Moore, of Decatur; First Lieutenant Robert A. Clay, of Monroe, and First Lieutenant Henry Newton, of Gabbettville. Major Eugene Kelly, of Atlanta, was with the regiment through most of the fighting, but has since been transferred to the First Division, which is with the American Army of Occupation in Germany.

The regiment is now commanded by Colonel H. A. Finch.

Ranking on a par with the work of the infantry in the Argonne was that of the machine gunners, the boys who "never retreat." Besides a machine gun company with each regiment, the division has three machine gun battalions, the 319th, 320th and 321st. When Colonel Pike, division machine gun officer, was killed in the Argonne, he was succeeded by a Georgian, Major I. C. Holloway, of Atlanta, who was formerly with the old Fifth Georgia National Guard Regiment.

The way in which the machine gunners went over the top with the infantry, poured round after round into the Germans, set up their guns right in the open and continued the advance under all obstacles, is such that any Doughboy in the division will say: "Buddy, my tin hat's off to you!"

Officers like Captain Fonville McWhorter, Captain Alec Cunningham, Lieutenant "Si" Hawkins, Lieutenant Kirk Smith, Lieutenant Howard Stearnes, Georgians all, and a score of others, to say nothing of the enlisted men, fought with that never-say-die spirit which is ever the motto of the machine guns.

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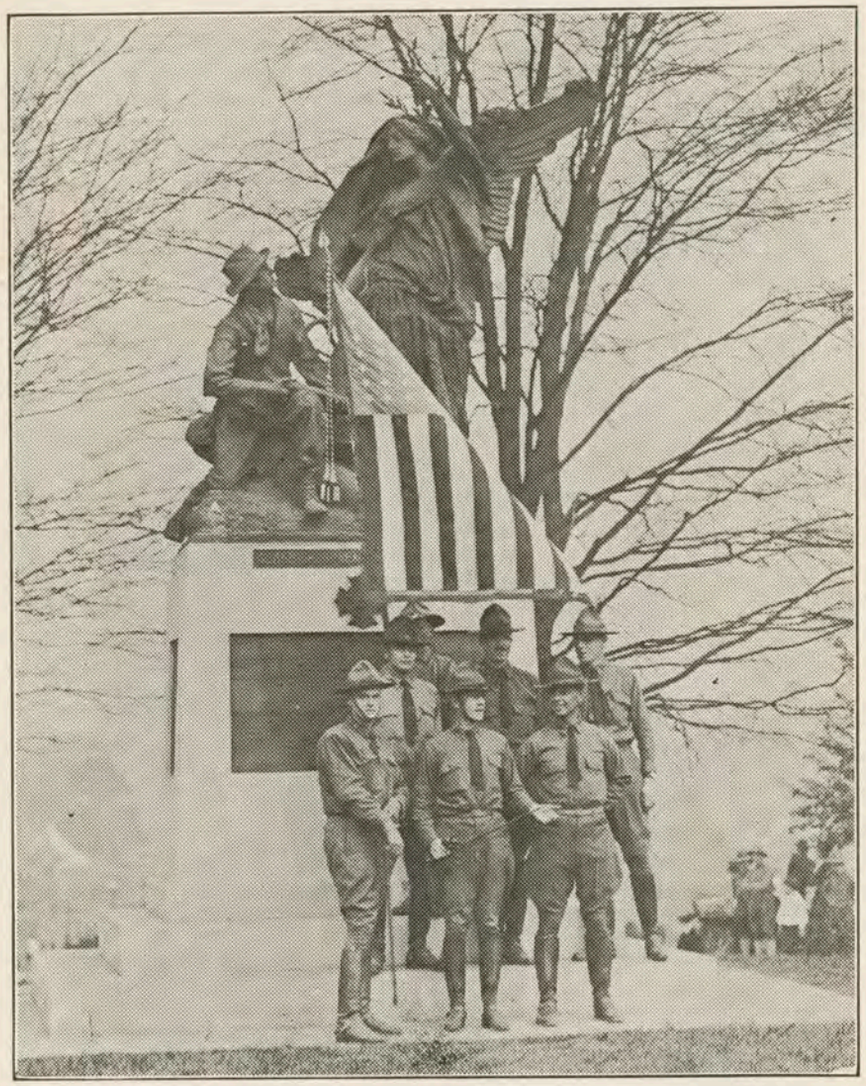
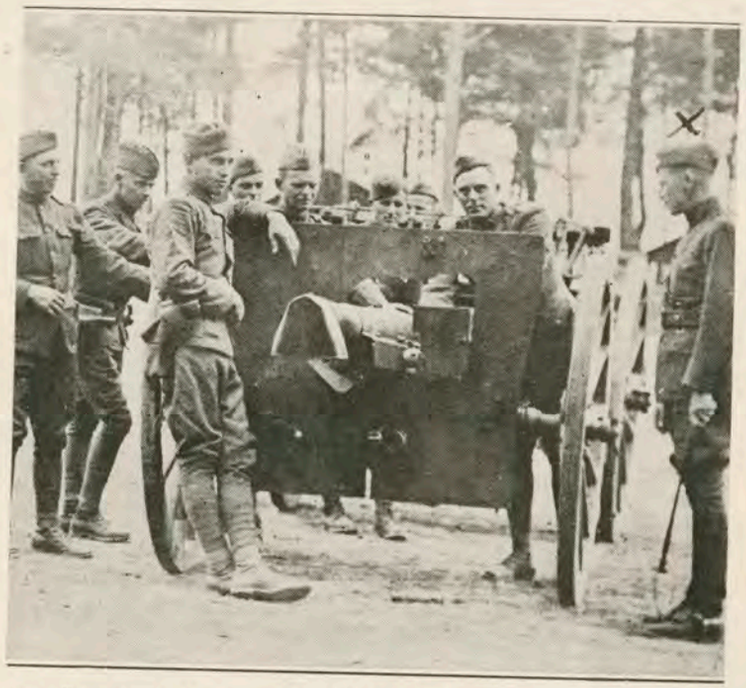


COLONEL W. M. WHITMAN, COMMANDING 325TH INFANTRY, AND STAFF

Their spirit was exemplified by Sergeant Buler T. Strickland, of the 321st, who, when he was only a corporal at Norroy, formed a machine gun section of three men and himself and held back the "Boche" with but two guns. "Come on, let's go to the rear with the rest; they're retreating!" somebody yelled at Strickland. "Retreat hell!" Strickland yelled back. "I'll just be damned if I'll retreat!" And he didn't.

Another non-com in this same battalion, Sergeant Simpson, won the distinguished service cross for gallantry at Sommerance. The 327th Infantry, goes the story, had advanced as far as the enemy's line and finding its posi-



THIS IS A PICTURE OF ALABAMA BOYS TAKEN NEAR THE BATTLE FRONT IN FRANCE JUST BEFORE THE ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED. MOST OF THE MEN SHOWN WERE EITHER KILLED OR WOUNDED BEFORE THE WAR ENDED. THE PICTURE IS ONE OF THE FEW SPECIAL LOCALITY GROUPS MADE IN FRANCE

tion untenable, was compelled to withdraw. Sergeant Simpson seized an abandoned German machine gun and remaining behind alone, covered the retirement of the infantry until the last shot of German ammunition had been fired.

The importance of the work done by the 307th Field Signal Battalion can only be estimated when it is remembered that the telephone is just as essential to modern warfare as it is to any business. Members of the battalion went over the top with the second wave of infantry carrying wires with them and uncoiling them as they went so that, scarcely had a position been taken and consolidated, when communication was established with the posts of command to the rear.

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It was necessary, too, for the battalion to keep the communications going at all times, a tremendous job when the shells and bullets were falling so thick that any moment a wire was likely to be severed, and then it was up to the repair man, no matter how heavy the bombardment, to get out in the hail of lead and fix the leak without delay.

Many instances of heroism are related of members of the battalion. Thus, Corporal Louis Sorrow, who has been recommended for the distinguished service cross, continued to repair an important line after one helper had been killed and two others wounded. Private George Coumas, himself wounded by shrapnel, helped place five wounded comrades in a trench and continued his work, although suffering greatly, until it was completed.

The devotion and courage of the ambulance drivers, evacuating the wounded from the front line trenches under heavy fire, driving their cars over roads well nigh impassable from mud and shellfire alike, when the night was so black that a man could not have seen his hand before his eyes, when the German planes were "zooning" overhead scattering bombs at every cross-roads—this courage was such that no tribute is too strong for the men of the 325th, 326th and 327th Ambulance Companies.

That goes, too, for the doctors and enlisted men of the 325th, 326th and 327th Field Hospitals, which, with the ambulance companies, compose the 307th Sanitary Train. Working for twenty-four and forty-eight hours and longer without a wink of sleep, often under bombardment, surrounded by such bloody and tragic scenes as are past description, they saved lives that seemed past saving and brought many a lad through the valley of the shadow who today might be sleeping in the Argonne.

The supply train and the ammunition train drove truck and transport night after night through the inky blackness along the death-haunted roads, so that never once, in all the twenty-five weary days, did the division lack for anything in ammunition or food, when either could be gotten to the beleaguered units in the front lines.

Since the 82nd Division marched out of the Argonne on November 1, 1918, and proceeded by easy stages back to the training area in which it is located as this is written, there has been just one picture dancing in the heads of every man, and that, of course, is home.

For the division the war was over. Full well its had done its part, and whether peace came soon or not, its members knew that for them a rest, at last, was ahead. And when, while they were still on the march to the rear, they received the news that the armistice had been signed—well, there wasn't much shouting and there wasn't much cheering, but the picture in the head and heart of every man became clearer than ever.

And so the division dreams today. True, there isn't much time for dreaming for the high command sees to it that, having won the war, the army shall continue to fight it. The result is that you never saw a busier place than Prauthey, Champlitte and the two-score towns and villages where the division is billeted today. Motorcycle riders dash madly from town to town with orders, typewriters click in offices, telephones buzz, and day after day the green hills between the villages swarm with men in khaki going through maneuvers and sham battles galore.

And yet the division dreams. On clear days a private standing in the streets of Larrett can see the snowy pinnacle of Mont Blanc, many miles away across the Swiss border. But it is not Mont Blanc he sees as he stands there, dreaming. On cold, drizzly nights, when fires are very necessary in chilly billets, the officer gazes into the flames, but it is not the fire he sees. There is just one picture in the vision of all, and that is home.

THE END.

HERE WE REST

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