Company B

26th Machine Gun Battalion

CAMP SHERIDAN, ALABAMA

THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 28, 1918

We Don't Want The Bacon,
We Don't Want The Bacon,
What We Want Is A Piece Of The Rhine.

Menu

Oyster Stew and Oysterettes

Roast Turkey — Sage Dressing

Cranberry Sauce — Giblet Gravy

Mashed Potatoes — Candied Sweet Potatoes

Asparagus Tips and Cream Sauce

Sweet Pickles — Dill Pickles

Celery — Olives — Piccalilli

Mince Pie — Apple Pie

Chocolate Layer Cake — Jelly Roll

Ice Cream

Oranges — Apples

Coffee — Root Beer

Bread — Butter

Mixed Nuts — Mixed Candy

Cigars — Cigarettes

ROSTER OF COMPANY B

26th Machine Gun Battalion

CAPTAIN

LEWIS A LIST

First Lieutenants

Alexander McC. Craighead — Harold B. Alexander

Second Lieutenants

William C. Hauber — Darwin A. Hindman
Carl S. Stebbins

1st Sergt. Richard B. Davidson — Mess Sgt. Dock Evans
Supply Sgt. Wood Dixon — Stable Sgt. Ling George

Sergeants

Samuel T. Clark
John F. Zuravitz
Gurbern E. Fritz
Fred D. Jones
Robert Spencer
Ragnar E. Kalen
August Glovatzke
Merle B. Holt
Thomas C. Watts
Nat Mellon

Corporals

Glen W. Tenant
Park W. Daywalt
Frank C. Trego
Russell J. Dean
Oliver R. Bailey
Richard A. Briggs
Hobert E. Marsh
Roy M. Orebaugh
George W. Bowling
Thomas E. Bell
Albert Brechtl
Eugene M. Dodson
John H. Vest
Stanley A. Church

Cooks

William H. Harvey — George A. Maxwell — Miles Lipscomb

Horseshoer

Zack Campbell

Saddler

John H. Carlberg

Mechanics

George W. Hogue — Edgar E. Sluder — Chas. L. Ellenbrand

Buglers

Henry B. Todd — Peter Ormstad

Privates, 1st Class

Brandes, Dale L.
Butler, Frank
Butler, Jones F.
DuBois, William
Duffy, Thomas F.
Drummond, James J.
Elliott, Thomas
Euskcki, Frank
Floody, Charles P.
Francisco, Joe J.
Genska, August
Gilbertson ,Gunvell
Gingras, Wilfred L.
Hadley, Charles S.
Hadley, George W.
Hand, William T.
Hennessee, Samuel F.
Lambin, George J.
Lassiter, John V.
Lewis, Robert R.
Marr, Maurice S.
McCarthy, Martin
McCullough, Claude R.
McMurtry, Harold J.
Oppenheimer, Geo. H.
Reed, Raymond
Robinson, John L. S.
Ruff, Willis
Rusk, Francis L.
Truitt, Jesse

Privates

Armstrong, Alonzo M.
Ashby, Samuel C.
Blevins, Glen
Boggs, Hughie
Bone, Leamon L.
Bowker, Richard J.
Brinley, Corbett E.
Brown, Herbert S.
Calvert, Arthur T.
Chadwick, William M.
Churchwell, Arlie E.
Conoway, John W.
Cooksey, Kay
Devlin, Charles R.
Dixon, Haska
Duncan, Arthur L.
Empson, Dock
Felts, James R.
Fite, John H.
Fletcher, Benj. S.
Foster, Martin L.
Garabedian, Richard
Gilles, Joseph
Glenn, Elijah B.
Green, Claude L.
Green, Leslie A.
Griffith, John E.
Habiger, Hubert F.
Harrington, Wm. P.
Ham, Robert H.
Harrison, Ernest
Hartley, Watt S.
Hopper, Charles C.
Hatley, Lawrence
Hopper, Earnest W.
Hudson, Frank E.
Hunter, Cyrus M.
Jordon, Austin C.
Joyner, William L.
Kirckland Thos. W.
Leming, Jim O.
Lowery, George E.
Mahaffa, Willie H.
Mayfield, Robert J.
McFarland, Gertye
Melbusch, Joe C.
Moore, Laud
Moore, Milford
Moore, Solomon
Nelson, John H.
Owen, John W.
Oxford, Colonel
Pinkley, Connie
Pope, Gran M.
Reckley, Gordon H.
Reinholdt, George J.
Sanders, William F.
Shoemaker, Dave
Snyder, Howard C.
St. Clair, Noah
Sullivan, Isaac S.
Theising, Joseph C.
Varble, Homer F.
Walden, Charlie R.
Watt, Sidney H.
Wheeler, Samuel L.
White, William E.
Williams, Wm. H.
Wilson, Clyde
Womack, John B.
Womack, John H.

THROUGH THE WAR WITH "B" COMPANY

While the 17th Infantry Brigade were wintering in the Taylor Sector, it was decided that Machine Gun Battalions should be formed, and this Battalion was organized December 19, 1917. It was originally composed of picked men from the 45th and 46th Infantry. (Picked from the AWOL and SC column.) Lieut. Slackford was assigned to command Company B.

No engagements of importance occurred during the winter, although several minor trench battles were fought. Under the command of Lieuts. Craighead and Remington, we emerged victorious in all of these and suffered no casualties. The Spring Offensive started about April 1, 1918, with the Battle of Germantown. At the outset, the battle was against us, but as soon as our shock troops came into action the tide turned and we won a notable victory. Too much praise cannot be given the population of the Taylor Sector for the way they encouraged our troops and kept the **spirits** of the men up.

Shortly after the Battle of Germantown, we received orders to move Southward, and we entrained April 16, 1918, under the command of Lieut. Remington. After many days of hardship we arrived at the Gordon Front and under the most trying conditions we pitched camp. The natives near the Gordon Front were very hostile and as a result, many raiding parties came to grief. We suffered our first casualty on the morning of April 19, 1918, when Private Ferber was injured by an explosion of dynamite. He was so seriously injured that it was necessary to remove his right lung to save his life. Owing to the increasing demand for experienced and qualified officers in the nearby Atlanta Sector we were constantly changing company commanders. We had in turn Lieut. Thurman, Capt. Beller and Lieut. Slackford. Shortly after Captain Beller assumed command, he received his majority and much against his will was ordered back to the States to assume command of a Battalion that was to be formed there.

About the first of June we received orders that we were to go to the support of the Alabama troops and on June 14, 1918, we again moved Southward, arriving at the Sheridan Sector, a few days later. Here we faced the most trying conditions encountered during the war. The heat was unbearable ,the natives moreso and prices soared 100% upon our arrival. It was absolutely impossible to get reliable information from other Sectors or the United States.

Many important battles were fought in this Sector, and it was here that the turning point, which brought about our great victory, occurred. About July 16, 1918, we were recruited to full war strength by a detachment of Tennessee volunteers, and immediately afterwards we encountered some of the worst obstacles that ever confronted any organization. Small detachments were frequently cut off from our company and some of them have never returned. We understand that a few of them are with the Development Battalion and others are scattered amongst the other units of this Sector.

About Aug. 10, 1918, a small detachment under the command of Corporal Bell was attacked while on patrol duty in Woods No. 20, North of our Camp. One of his detachment reported back immediately, and an ambulance with a relief detachment was dispatched to his assistance. Corporal Bell bravely refused help and two days later he staggered into camp, completely exhausted. He was mentioned in dispatches for bravery while under fire. (Two weeks restriction to Camp.)

While in this Sector, this organization performed every duty required of it, in a very noteworthy manner. For several weeks they guarded the Detention House, where dangerous women spies of all nationalities were confined. On one occasion, a spy of international fame, used her wiles on one of our men, and would have escaped except for the vigilance of the Sergeant in charge of the Detachment. About September 10, 1918, Corporal Bell was again the victim of circumstances. He had been out on a scouting expedition and was returning to our lines when he came upon a patrol commanded by Lieut. Hendershott. Corporal Bell, believing them to be an enemy patrol, and heedless of the fact that they outnumbered him twelve to one, attacked them, and a brief but sharp engagement ensued. However, superior numbers gained the day. Lieut. Hendershott, not recognizing Corporal Bell, had him confined in the stockade with other desperate prisoners but upon learning his prisoner's identity and taking into consideration Corporal Bell's heroic conduct of attacking a patrol, unaided, he immediately released him and Corporal Bell was again mentioned in dispatches. (One month's confinement to camp.) Corporal Bell was recently released from the Hospital where he was recovering from wounds received in action.

About August 17, 1918, we were re-enforced by troops from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and a few from Australia, judging from their manner of speech. A short time later Lieut. Slackford was relieved from command of the company and Captain List assumed command. Immediately our organization came into fame. Hardly a day passed that we were not given special mention in dispatches, particularly about the sanitary condition of our camp and the military precision with which our men saluted. Inspectors appeared from everywhere and they all had something to say, some complimentary and some otherwise. Such fame did Captain List bring to the organization that his name soon was before Congress and he, together with Lieut. Alexander, Sergeants Mellon, Clark and Spencer, all veterans of the campaigns fought in the Taylor Sector and on the Gordon Front, was sent to the Mills Sector on very important business, the details of which were not allowed to leak out at the time. It is now understood that their mission was to collect equipment of troops going overseas and from latest reports they have been so successful that they are at a loss as to the disposition of the property now on hand.

When Captain List was relieved from command of the company, Lieut. Craighead, the hero of the trench battles in the Taylor Sector, took command. Owing to the pressing demand for men on the other fronts, a number of members of this organization, noted for their leadership, were transferred to other units of this Sector, the majority of them to the Development Battalion. Shortly afterwards, news of the armistice being signed was received in this Sector. There was great rejoicing, especially among the natives who reside around the Southern Hotel Sector where Mechanic Hogue, K. P. of the B. L. A. of A., holds forth.

Now that the war is over, many of the men are looking forward to the time when they can return to their homes. Few, if any, will re-enlist, as this organization is composed of men who cannot be spared from civil life, especially at this time, when there is a great demand for farm products. But few of them will ever forget the memorable events of the Pickett Springs Campaign.