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New Year Greetings

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THE LAST DAY'S FIGHTING

Captain Alan R. Anderson of Statesville Tells About It-81st Division Plays Conspicuous Part In The Battle-Many Killed.

the last battle participated in by I shall bring it home.

Sercoeur, a little town in the ing up on us. Vorges, where I had been billetgoing over the top at 8 o'clock. been slaughtered. By 8 we were on our way with "How did I feel? Hardly at happy prospect of moving in but during the five hours' morn in the woods.

afternoon. This regiment had attacked in an oblique direction without much preparation by artillery. We moved up that day to the roar of German artil lery and machine gun fire all day. We ate dinner in our old front lines, and at 3:30 p. m., left for a two kilometer walk to relieve the front line battalion.

"The town we were approaching was Moranville, about due southeast of Verdun. The battalion deployed under heavy shell fire west of town and we moved to our position north of moved to our position north of the town just before dark, and just then our experiences started. When your blood is not in a healthy condition and does not circulate properly, your system is unable to withstand the Winter cold. We walked to the town-A Co. on the right in the front line and B Co. on the left. We caught the Blood. nearly all the artillery fire on the right, and it was fearful. I cannot describe the terrible shell fire we walked through. I lost eleven men that night-two were killed outright and one died later. I was knocked down once by the great explosion near me and I can hear now the frag ments as they go humming overhead. That night was awful. I won't try until I come back to tell you of it. Two of my officers had to go to the rear on account of wounds. We were ordered over the top at 6 a. m. All morning we moved forward under heavy artillery and machine gun fire. I have a mess can to show you when I come home with a machine gun bullet through it. I felt my pack raise up on my back as the bullet tugged its way through. Iwo prongs of the fork were broken off, the knife was cut in half and spoon badly

The following is an account of bent. It's a great souvenir and

the 81st division, as related in a "We advanced perfectly one letter, dated November 20, to his and one half kilometers by 11 mother, Mrs. T. E. Anderson, by o'clock. We found then that Capt. Alan R. Anderson, Co. A, half of B Co. was held up and 321st Infantry, which letter we only the right half was was with are permitted to publish, know us. I held up on the reverse ing that our readers will be glad slope of the hill and stood fast to hear from one of our boys until I could get some word from who bore a conspicuous part in the rear. And always that fearful German barrage a few yards "On the 31st of October, I left to our rear and constantly creep-

"Honestly, I did not see much ed after returning from a month hope for us. The Germans had at the Vosges front. We took machine guns all through the the train at Chatel sur-Moselle fields-the heavy fog had saved and rode all night to Sampigny, us so for-but by 11 it was just a little town which Poincare has lifting I was lying behind my some interest in. We were de lines to get liaison with Capt. trained there, marched north Angel, our new battalion comward through shell ridden St. mander. And just then as I was Mihiel, where the Americans waiting again to advance, here made their drive. After three came the welcome news of peace. days' hard marching we arrive! I can never tell you the experat Faubourg Pave, on the out lience-the feeling as I and all skirts of the most historical bat | my men rose from the battlefield tlefield of France-Verdun. There and looked around us. The Germy footsore outfit stayed in old mans came out and we met just French barracks for two days between the lines. And then I Then we were shoved into re thought how unspeakably foolish serve positions behind the 2d and -at 10:30 killing each other and 31 battalions at an old powder at 11:15 talking quite peaceably mid-the deepest dugouts I have And it seemed horribly useless ever seen. We were fairly well to me as I went back over the housed there and expected to field and saw one of my men stay for two weeks at least. lifeless with a machine gun bul Suddenly at 4 a. m., November let through his forehead. I had 9th, Saturday-we were jacked sent at least 12 to the rear dur out of our position, packed up ing the fighting. The great fog and moved to a support position saved us, saved us all. If it had for two regiments, who were been a clear day we would have

every gun along the line firing at all. I don't think I thought one full capacity. It was a crisp time during the whole night or morning, and every man on his day of any danger. All we were, toes-we were expecting the interested in was going over and heaviest sort of German artillery doing a good day's work. And against us. Not a shell reached we did. The first battalion and the back area, however, and we especially my company came moved to our reserve position back like a million dollars. And unharmed. Saturday night we now we seem to be veterans; old spent in miserable woods near a soldiers who have been under little town, Chatillon, with the fire. I don't see how we did it, relief. We slept miserably cold ing fight we had only one man slightly hurt from those hundreds "Next morning, Sunday Nov. of shells. It was due to two 10th, we left the woods with things-steady advance and skill orders to relieve the 322d that ful handling of men by platoon leaders. Here's another remark able fact-not a message that was started in my company failed to come through. Every man performed his duties remarkably well Our battalion made the best advance in the whole arm. corps attack and made a slight salient in the line The action was fine "-The Statesville Land

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