

BOTH 30 AND 27 DIVISION BROKE HINDENBURG LINE

New York, March 30.—The New York World in its issue this morning has a comprehensive story of the operations of the 30th division composed of southerners and the 27th division, composed largely of New Yorkers, and the part they took in helping to break the Hindenburg line. The story in part follows: "North and south? Hell! There ain't none. It's all American now. No Yanks! No Johnny Rebs. All Americans."

He was a mountaineer of Tennessee, one of the rangy, springy lanklimbed chaps of the south who through this war forgot the spirit of sectionalism that three decades persisted in the hearts of many rabid ones and fought alongside the men of the north in the common cause against Germany.

From official data supplied by officers of the famous organization, the World is able today to present a history of the career and battle achievements of the 30th (Old Hickory) division.

Advance detachments of the 30th division are now approaching Charleston, S. C. on the transport Huron.

To New Yorkers the record of the organization is of unique and important interest. For—and it is not commonly known—the 30th is the only American division that 27th of this state ever came in direct contact with in Europe. Except for unimportant moments when the 27th happened to greet some other Yankee unit, there was no American division other than the 30th that was aligned with the 27th New York. Both trained and fought as parts of the British forces in Belgium and France.

Hacked and Sawn Through

Both hacked and sawed thru the Hindenburg line, each supporting the other, these two American divisions, one from the north, the other from the south, of differing temperament, of opposite mold, banded and plugged and plunged and scrapped side by side in the common business of beating the Germans.

Perhaps it is because the 27th was only other American unit it ever saw that men of the 30th who have returned in past weeks as casuals have been unanimous in praising the 27th to reporters as the best outfit in the world—outside of Old Hickory. Likewise, that may be the reason the 27th thinks so splendidly of the 30th that a New York soldier will hold you by the hour to relate to you the deeds of the southerners at the Hindenburg line.

A hasty yet effective insight into the vigorous combativeness of the 30th may be obtained from the record, which shows that from September 29 to October 30 the 30th captured 98 officers and 3,750 men, and in the same period lost three officers and 2 men as prisoners, 41 officers and 1,011 men killed and 113 officers and 4,823 men wounded or gassed total casualties in that period, 160 officers and 5,857 men.

Its First Offensive

Old Hickory's first offensive was a hammer. In conjunction with the 27th of New York on the right and the 14th British on the left, the southern men on August 31 and September 1 went at the Germans hammer and tongs. All objectives were bagged—Lock No. 8, the Lankhof farm and city of Voormezeel itself. The total advance was 1,500 yards. Fifteen prisoners, two machine guns thirty-five rifles were taken, and to the great advantage of our intelligence service, the victory identified the opposing unit as the 236th division, an average body.

Incidentally, it may be pointed out here that for six week previous the British and our own troops had made many futile attempts to identify the opposing division.

The 30th was withdrawn September 4 and placed in reserve with the British at Roelcourt, training in tank attacking. On September 17, the 30th division was moved toward Tincourt taking over a front line sector from the Australians on the night of

the 23rd. In a few days was to begin the famous push, in conjunction with the 27th, that was to make the gallant work of Old Hickory a thrilling tradition in our military history. The Hindenburg line was about to be attacked. In the preliminary days of waiting there was no doubt in the minds of the doughboys of the south that they would make the famous German system not only sag, but actually crumble. They knew the price that would be exacted. But they had shown their mettle and gameness, and fairly raised themselves on their toes for the jumpoff on September 29.

The Hindenburg Line

The official history of the division says on this score: On September 29 this division with the 27th American 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 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 skilfully 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 Bellecourt 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.

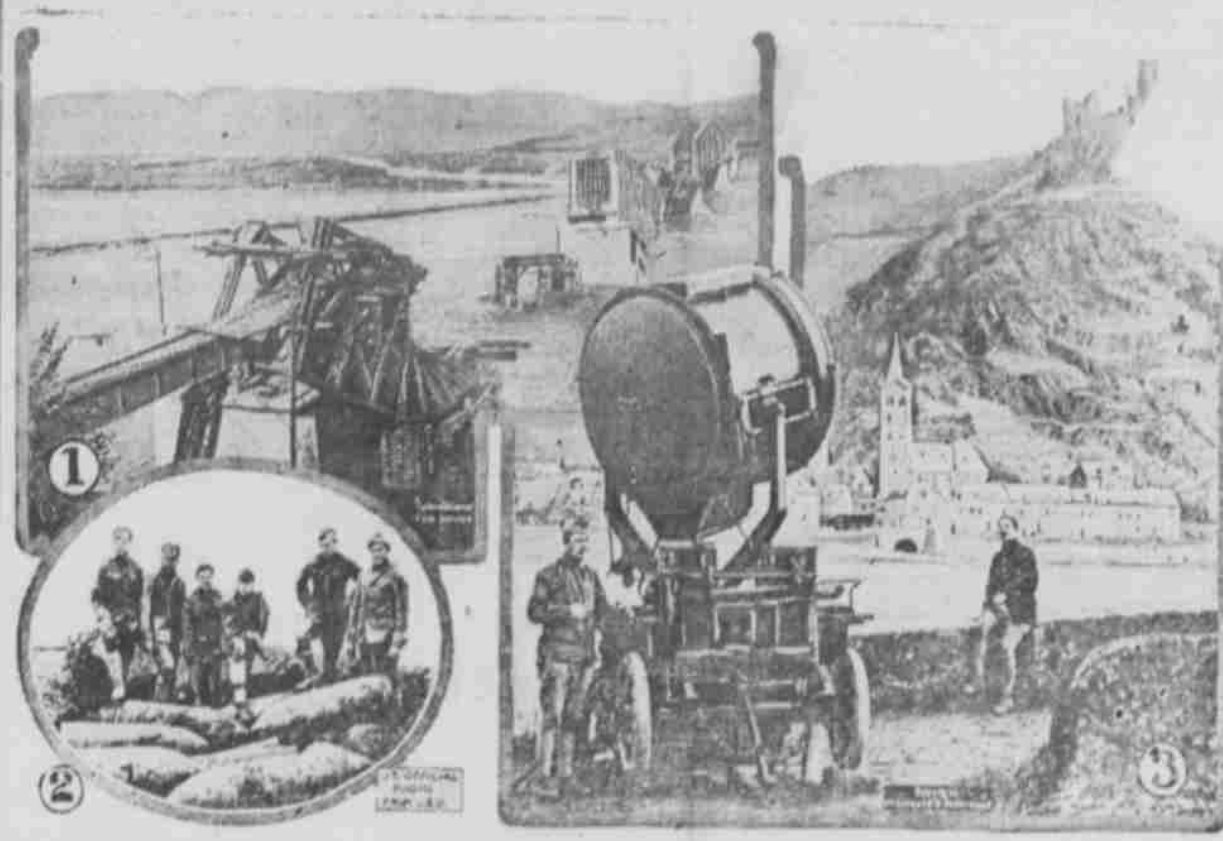
"Old Hickory" and 27th. The 30 division 60th brigade attacking, augmented by units of the 117th infantry, attacked this line at 5:50 a. m., September 29, on a front of 3,000 yards. They faced, as did the 27th at the other end of the Hindenburg system, a hurricane of machine gun bullets, a battering deluge of light artillery shells. Men fell in groups. Wave followed wave. But there was no faltering among those lads of the south.

Where the enemy ripped a gap the Old Hickory boys jumped in to plug it. The first line sank in heaps. The second line reeled. It, too, paid heavy toll. But from somewhere, every where, there swept on the steady masses of Americans, just as, further along the line, the staggering masses of New Yorkers were being steadily supplied with new masses.

They cleaned out those machine guns, did the boys of the south. They overrode the pillboxes. They cut through the barbed wire. And where the meshes, at not infrequent points proved so thick and closely entwined as to have baffled a dog, the southerners blew up the barbed wire posts with grenades and hand torpedoes.

In their sector they captured the entire Hindenburg stretch, and advanced further, capturing the tunnel and the troops it contained. They took the cities of Bellecourt, Nauroy, Riqueval, Variere, Etrecourt, Guillaume, Ferme and Ferme de Diequeval, advancing 4,200 yards defeating two enemy divisions and taking as prisoners 47 officers and 1,434 men.

On October 1 and 2, the 30th division was relieved by the fifth



1—Railway bridge near Uff, France, which was blown up by the hot-sherki, cutting the town off from the outside world. 2—German 15-inch shells about to be exploded by the reclamation and demolition men of the American 6th ammunition force. 3—Great French searchlight on the Rhine facing the historic village of Wellen and the famous Old Mainz castle.

Australians and was sent to the back area at Herbécourt. It had scarcely arrived there when orders were received to march back and take over a sector in the same region from second Australians, near Montbrehan.

Attacked Four Successive Days. On October 8, 9, 10 and 11 the 30th division attacked each day, advancing by the end of the 11th a total of 17,500 yards and capturing Le Tillen d'Archies, Le Petit Cambresis, Bequigny, Sarasin, Le Trou aux Soldats, Busigny, Gloriette, Le Vert Donjon, Ecauffort, Le Rond Pont, Vaux Andigny, Vallee Hasard, La Hale Meneresse, La Rochelle Le Vent de Bise, St. Souplet, St. Benin, Mallassie Geneve, half of Montrehain, Brancourt Prement Vaux le Pretre, Brancocourt, Fralécourt Ferme, Bois Mirand, Butry Ferme, La Sabliere Bois, Bequignette Ferme, Bois de Malmaison, Malmaison Ferme, Bois de Busigny, Bois l'Ermilage, Bois Propart, Imbarfay and Du Guet Fassiaux Fermes, taking prisoner 45 officers and 1,589 men. The 59th brigade began this attack on October 8 and captured all their objectives including Prement and Brancocourt. During this operation from October 8 to 11 the 30th division encountered units from 14 German divisions, classified by the British high command as follows: 34th division, average; 20th division, very good; 24th division, very good; 21st division, average; 38th division, very good; 119 division, average; 121 division, average; 187th shap-shooting section, very good; 204 division, average; 298th division, average; 3rd naval division, very good; 15th reserve division, average.

The 30 division was relieved by the 27 division on October 11-12, but returned on October 16 and took over a part of the same line at the same place, being the right half of the sector temporarily held by the 27th.

Over Rough Terrain. The next attack was launched on Oct. 17, 18 and 19 against the 221st division, average; 243 division, average; 29th division, very good; advancing 9,000 yards and capturing 6 officers and 412 men, and the towns of Molain, St. Martin Riveveir, Ribcauville, Escaillon, Mazinghein and Ribcaucourt Ferme.

"During much of the fighting from Oct. 8 to Oct. 11, and from the 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 add to the machine gun defense, of which the Germans took every advantage. The 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 3rd German naval division of the crack German divisions was hastily thrown in in an attempt to stop the advance."

Resting Near Amiens at Finish. The signing of the armistice

found the 30th division in the Heilly training area, near Amiens, for replacements and a well earned rest.

In its last advance the 30th did not have time to gather up and salvage the great quantity of guns, ammunition and supplies abandoned by the fleeing enemy. The stuff was left for the salvage troops of the 4th British army. However, a partial check by the 30th division showed that it had caused the foe to relinquish at least 72 field artillery pieces, 26 trench mortars, 426 machine guns and 1,792 rifles. This represents only a portion of the booty. In many instances field guns taken from the Germans were turned over to the supporting artillery and used by them against the retreating Germans.

FOUR PRISONERS BEAT JAILER AND GET AWAY.

Durham, March 29.—Tonight at about 7:30 o'clock Jailer Cat Belvin was overpowered by four prisoners, who beat him and finally overcame him in the county jail.

These prisoners, all negroes, were Hubert Merritt, who has been sentenced to be electrocuted May 2 for the murder of his sister-in-law, Lucy Jones, in December, Buck Bass, who was under a sentence of two years for shooting and cutting his wife; Ben Dominicker, being held for the Superior court on a minor charge, and Russell Wright, who was being held on a small charge.

According to Belvin, he went up to the county jail in the courthouse building to lock in Buck Bass, who was a trusty, in the large cell for the night. After he had unlocked the cell door Bass attacked him from behind, then the other three jumped on him. Belvin stated that the first thing they did was to get his pistol. After Bass had secured the pistol the jailer, in the struggle, managed to get possession of it again and when he tried to use it Merritt got it away from him and tried to turn the gun on him, in fact, he managed to fire it but Belvin grabbed his hand and the hammer came down on the thumb of his right hand.

The struggle was waged up and down the passage outside of the cells and finally into the elevator. There they got Belvin in such a condition that they carried him back and locked him in the cell.

While the struggle was going on Willie Wade, negro that was brought here from Person county for safe keeping gave the alarm by yelling at the top of his voice, and made no attempt to escape himself.

Sheriff Harvard, who was in his office, stated that he heard the cries but some one said that it was the Salvation army holding service on the street. He stated that he thought that Belvin had gone home for his supper. The cries from the jail finally attracted more attention and when persons went up they found that the prisoners had escaped.

MACHINE GUNNERS ARE GUESTS OF WILMINGTON.

Wilmington, March 29.—The 115th machine gun battalion of the 30th division, which arrived at Newport News from overseas last week, was the guest of Wilmington today and received a great welcome and ovation at the hands of the people of this city and many visitors from surrounding towns and sections. The machine battalion arrived soon after midnight this morning from Goldsboro, where they spent a brief time last night, and were met by many hundreds of people anxious to see the boys and shake hands with the returning soldiers. Wilmington was particularly interested in the 115th machine battalion by reason of the fact that one of the companies composing the battalion is made up largely of Wilmington men and relatives and friends of these boys, though they had to wait a long time for the train to arrive, stuck it out at the station in order to receive their own.

The scene when the soldiers reached the station here and detained was an inspiring one. There were numerous reunions of relatives or friends and soldiers while some of the mothers with sons in the battalion gave way to their feelings and wept with joy.

In addition to the machine gunners here more than 100 artillerymen, the majority of them of battery A, 113th arrived in the city during Friday night and this morning, remaining here until the afternoon train for the Craven capital.

The parade was the first big event of the day. It formed at Fifth and Market streets at 11 o'clock and in its route the procession passed a reviewing stand at Front and Market, occupied by Col. F. M. Hinkle and staff, Mayor and Mrs. Moore, Congressman-elect S. M. Brinson, of New Bern, who made an address of welcome, and others.

The parade concluded at the city hall, where addresses of welcome were made by Mayor Moore and Mr. Brinson and replied to by Maj. W. W. Pierce, commander of the 115th.

In a very forceful manner Major Pierce told how the 27th and 30th divisions pushed thru the Hindenburg line last autumn and started the Hun on the run toward the Rhine.

Particular interest was manifested in his account of the death of Lieut. David Worth, who died from wounds received while making an effort to get aid to some of his men who were under shell fire. Sergt. Harry Hubbard, Sergt. D. J. Devane, Private B. G. Davis and Private Silas V. Sneed under heavy fire rescued the officer from his perilous position, but he soon died in the hospital. He had been asked by his men not to go out, but had insisted because of his interest in the welfare of his men.

Seventeen members of the battalion and 102 were wounded while in the fighting although the official records show that only four were killed and a dozen casualties sustained. The visiting soldiers were

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in the occupation of Germany.

Other units aboard the Aquitania included the 145th infantry, companies S, F, H, I, K, L, and M, 14 officers and 1,077 men medical and camp detachments of the 146th infantry, six officers and 342 men; field and staff headquarters and supply company, 337th infantry, five officers and 311 men; 85 division headquarters and headquarters troop, 28 officers and 241 men; 166th field artillery brigade headquarters, eight officers and 61 men, 169 infantry brigade headquarters, three officers and 19 men and detachments of the 134th and 135th field artillery regiment, 112 ammunition train and 112th engineers.

Major General Charles W. Kennedy commander of the 85th division was in command of the troops on the Aquitania. The 85th consists chiefly of first draft men from Michigan and Wisconsin.

Officers on board included six brigadier generals: Beverly E. Browne, Chas. Cole, George D. Moore, William L. Westervelt, William P. Ennis and Marlborough Churchill.

E. H. Sothern and Julia Marlowe, who have been working with the Young Men's Christian association in overseas embarkation camps, were among the passengers.

About 3,400 more troops of the 37th division came home on the steamships Santa Olivia and Maui, both from Brest, which arrived here today. The Santa Olivia brought a detachment of one officer and 91 men of the 147th infantry for Camp Taylor and five detachments, totaling five officers and 662 men, of the 146th infantry for Camp Denvers, Gordon, Pike Dodge and Taylor.

On the Maui were 63 officers and 2,617 men of the 147th infantry—the field staff, headquarters, machine gun and supply companies, medical detachment and companies A to M, inclusive—assigned to Camp Sherman, Dix, Dodge, Custer and Bowie, and four officers and 19 men of the 73rd infantry brigade headquarters in command of Brig. Gen. Sanford B. Stansburg, for Camp Sherman.

On the Santa Olivia, which carried 1,337 troops, were also nearly 1,200 casuals—officers and men of Texas, Maryland, Alabama, Michigan, Indiana, Oklahoma, Iowa, California, Illinois and Connecticut, and of the regular army and the marines.

Among the 3,647 officers and men on the Maui were 632 sick and wounded, three naval officers, civilians and casuals, the latter including negro officers and men of New Jersey, South Carolina and Illinois.

The steamship Pearl Shell arrived today and La Palaise with three officers and 18 enlisted men, including casual company No. 53, of Iowa.

served dinner at the Y. M. C. A. at 2 o'clock and a buffet lunch at the Red Circle Club in the early evening, following which dancing and other past times were engaged in.

The machine gun battalion left this afternoon on the last leg of its journey from Newport News to Camp Jackson, where the battalion will be demobilized next week and the men will then return to their homes and to civilian life.

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WILL BE REPLACED FAST AS POSSIBLE.

Coblenz, Friday, March 28.—Announcement by the war department of its intention to send from the United States volunteers enlisted for use in replacing members of the "permanent army of occupation" who desire to leave the service reached third-army headquarters today. The announcement was made by the department to allay unrest among the allied army divisions which are due for replacement and which contain a large percentage of men who volunteered for the duration of the war and among national guardsmen who are eager to return home as soon as possible.

A plan is also being worked out for the segregation into the regular army divisions of the army of occupation of regular officers and such other officers as desire to remain in the regular army service. The department by this means contemplates relieving as soon as feasible those reserve and national guard officers who desire to return to the United States for business or other reasons.

The leaders of the Centenary movement in the Methodist church in the United States have requested the members to observe next Saturday as a day of fasting and prayer. The Epworth League will hold a sunrise prayer service in the Methodist church here at six o'clock, to which everybody is invited.