

My Experiences in the World War

By General John J. Pershing

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W. N. U. Service

CHAPTER XLV

The Second Division assumed the attack June 6, 1918, and began a series of attacks which culminated some weeks later in the capture of the last German position in the Meuse valley, the Bois de la Roche, by the 28th Infantry Brigade, led by Vanuxem, its regular brigade commander.

The fighting during this period was of peculiar intensity. The German line was favorably placed on commanding ground and very well made, more formidable by the extensive use of machine guns, especially in Belleau Wood.

In the 38th advanced Harbord marine brigade, captured Beaureches, and Lewis, regular brigades took Triangle farm and Bois de la Roche. During the next few days the troops progressed successively. June 15 the Second Division, Third Division arrived to reinforce the main line, which was engaged in the wood. This reinforcement relieved the situation on that date, and the marines rested for a week, when they again entered the line. Against stubborn resistance they drove the enemy from the wood June 25th.

Regular Capture Vanuxem

Meanwhile the regular brigade continued its attacks intermittently, and July 1, with great dash, captured Vanuxem and Bois de la Roche. The operations of the division in this vicinity were practically at an end when the new lines were established on the high ground captured from the enemy.

The casualties in the division were about 4,500. More than 1,500 prisoners were captured from the enemy.

The tanks of the Second Division were won with little aid as they were flanked by the French units, which were still in poor shape and were made against an enemy determined to crush this early American effort. The success of this division and of the First at Cantigny and Third on the Meuse following as they did the crisis of May 27, were loudly acclaimed by the French, and for the time being had a very stimulating effect upon French morale.

With the transfer of activities to the French front northwest of Paris, our plan to build up an American corps near Amiens had become impracticable, and as I had offered General Petain the services of our divisions wherever they might be needed it now appeared possible to form at least a corps and possibly an army somewhere along the Meuse salient.

I had suggested that we should have other divisions to form the Second and Third for that purpose, and accordingly the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh were relieved from the inactive Vosges front, and the American divisions from the British line were designated to be sent to this quiet sector to relieve French divisions. The assembly of four American divisions in aid of the French on that front would more than offset their recent losses.

General Petain, in his letter accepting my offer, said in part:

"I most express my deep gratitude for the prompt and very important aid you are bringing in the present crisis. The American troops already engaged in the battle are the enthusiastic manifestation of the whole French army. The power of the effort which your country is at present showing as well as the pre-eminence and generous spirit with which you enter the struggle is for the allies—and above all for France—a comfort in the grave times through which we are passing, and a pledge of hope for the future."

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What if Paris Should Fall?

Let me take expression with General Petain, without further discussion, I returned to Paris, arriving June 8. The next morning I called on Premier Clemenceau, and on that morning the fourth phase of the great German offensive started between Montdidier and the Oise. Reports indicated that it was meeting considerable success.

Mentioning this to M. Clementeau, I asked him what he thought would be the result if Paris should fall.

M. Clementeau replied that he had seen Lyautey, who had considered the possibility, and had reached the conclusion that they would do everything in their power to save Paris, but if it should be lost they would go on fighting.

"Above Paris is France," he added, "and above France is civilization."

As I was leaving he came to the door with me, and I said: "It may not look encouraging just now, but we are certain to win in the end." He clung to my hand and in a tone that showed the utmost solicitude he replied: "Do you really think that? I am glad to hear you say it."

This was the first and only time that I ever sensed any misgiving in the mind of this resolute man. Notwithstanding our occasional rather heated discussions on the use to be made of American troops, I admired him greatly. It always seemed to me he represented the true spirit of confidence and courage of the French people.

I then returned to General Foch's headquarters at Reims. We considered my proposal to form an American corps near Chateau Thierry, to which he readily agreed. He spoke especially of the fine work of our troops.

I asked how a German drive which penetrated or perhaps captured Paris would affect the armies and the people. His reply was almost word for word like M. Clemenceau's. They had evidently discussed the possibility of losing Paris. He, too, was certain the armies would go on with the war. Foch spoke so positively and with such evident feeling that I was moved to get up and shake his hand.

Meanwhile the Fourth and Twenty-eighth divisions, on route from the British front to the northeast of France, were stopped at General Foch's request in the vicinity of Villers Cotterets, the object being to concentrate several of our divisions on the west of the Meuse salient, primarily as a precaution against another German offensive there, but ultimately for possible use on the offensive. The Second, Third, Twenty-sixth and Forty-second were in that area and with the Fourth and Twenty-eighth there was a force equivalent to twelve French divisions.

An encouraging circumstance at the moment was the success of the French in holding Vor. Hatier's attack on the Montdidier-Nevon front. This fourth phase of the German offensive was an effort not only to widen the vulnerable Meuse pocket but to secure the railway between Compiègne and Soissons and open the way to Paris.

CHAPTER XLVI

The demands for American divisions were pressing. The First, Second and Third had already become actively engaged, the First being slated to go to the reserve near the Chateau Thierry salient when relieved from Cantigny. The Second was still in line at Belleau Wood, and the Third south of the Meuse.

General Foch had asked for five of the divisions recently arrived that were training with the British. Of these the Fourth and Twenty-eighth, while en route to the quiet Vosges sector to relieve French divisions, had been diverted to the reserve near the western face of the Meuse salient.

The Twenty-fifth had moved to the vicinity of Epinal and the Seventy-seventh was about to enter the trenches in the Baccaret sector to replace the Forty-second, which was to reinforce Gouard's army east of Rheims. The Eighty-second had started for the Loust sector to relieve the Twenty-sixth, which in turn was soon to relieve the Second.

Thus there were three American divisions in quiet sectors and seven either in the battle line or held in readiness to meet any eventuality which might result from further activity of the Germans in the great wedge they had driven toward Paris.

British Displeased

The British were displeased at the transfer of our divisions from their area, claiming priority to retain them by reason of having brought them over. When General Foch inquired of the conditions under which these troops were serving the British, my reply made it clear that he had en-

tire authority to direct where they should go in the emergency, as with- out it the theory of a supreme command would fall.

The rapid succession of German offensives had seriously crippled the allies, and not only materially reduced their powers of resistance but had depressed their morale and caused the darkest misgivings among them. They grew more and more fearful lest the enemy might still have untold reserves ready to swell his forces. That the morale of the allies was low was shown by the criticisms of many of their soldiers returning from the front to the rear areas.

Reports from the British front were no better. Their troops consistently told our men who were with them by training that we had done well and that our entry into the battle could only postpone allied defeat. This attitude seemed so alarming that I took steps to prevent such a split from affecting our army by promptly reporting the facts to British authorities. The presence of such sentiments was another important reason for opposing any form of amalgamation.

Vastness of Request Unrealized
Far short had we fallen of the expectations of the preceding November, when Foch, General Robertson of the British, and I had joined in a common appeal for twenty-four trained American divisions by the following June. It is small wonder that the allies were now so insistent in urging increased and continuous shipments of men, trained and untrained.

So serious was the situation regarded that it was no longer a demand for twenty-four divisions but for 100. It is probable that the vastness of this request was not fully realized, or else the allies had greatly exaggerated ideas of our power of accomplishment, surprising as it actually proved to be.

A brief calculation of these demands of the prime ministers showed that they were asking more than 2,500,000 combatant troops by the following spring, which augmented by those required for the services of supply, conservatively calculated for a well-balanced force situated in a foreign country under the circumstances that surrounded us, would amount at least to 4,000,000 men.

The American combatant force would thus have equaled 20 divisions.

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(Please turn to Page 4)

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLES BANK & TRUST COMPANY

At Boone, North Carolina, to the Commissioner of Banks at the Close of Business on the 30th Day of June, 1931.

RESOURCES	
Loans and Discounts	\$180,975.82
All Other Stocks and Bonds	308.00
Furniture and Fixtures	3,578.00
Cash in Vault and Apts. Due from Approved Depository Banks	5,040.22
Due from Banks (Not Approved Depositories) and Collection	
Items	6,821.69
Cash Items (Items Held Over 24 Hours)	158.75
Other Real Estate	4,875.00
Expenses	2,803.01
TOTAL	\$188,361.50

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock Paid In	\$ 20,000.00
Surplus Fund	6,000.00
Other Deposits Subject to Check	56,304.93
Cashier's Checks Outstanding	2,478.08
Time Certificates of Deposit (Due on or After 30 Days)	47,301.98
Savings Deposits (Due on or After 30 Days)	9,771.22
Due Banks	1,966.90
Bills Payable	28,821.00
Christmas Club	30.30
TOTAL	\$188,361.50

State of North Carolina, County of Watauga: Avery Y. Howell, Cashier, T. H. Coffey, Director, and W. H. Gragg, Director of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company, each personally appeared before me this day, and being duly sworn, each for himself, says that the foregoing report is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

AVERY Y. HOWELL, Cashier
T. H. COFFEY, Director
W. H. GRAGG, Director
Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 30th day of July, 1931.
D. BRINKLEY, Notary Public.



Grandmother's BREAD

Full Pound Wrapped Loaf **5c**

A & P Fancy

Apple Sauce No. 2 Can **10c**

Our Own Tea 1-2 lb. Pkg. **25c**

Rajah Brand

SALAD DRESSING

3 Sm. Jars **25c** Pint Jar **19c**

Cheese Fine Flavor lb. **19c**

Rajah Brand

Sandwich Spread

3 Sm. Jars **25c** 2 8 1/2 oz. Jars **25c**

VINEGAR 12 oz. Bottle **9c** Gal. Jug **55c**

Scottissue 3 rolls **23c**

Rinso 3 Pkgs. **25c** Lifebuoy Soap 3 Cakes **20c**

P & G Soap 3 Cakes **10c**

FINEST GRANULATED SUGAR 10 Lbs. **.49** 25 Lbs. **1.22**

Lucky Strike, Chesterfield, Camel **CIGARETTES** Carton **1.29**

HONEYDEW MELONS Each **25c**

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.

SAVE with SAFETY at your Rexall DRUG STORE

Have you tried the \$1.00 size Shari Face Powder?

If you have there's no need of continuing it further, you're all using it. But if you haven't you'll find it well worth your while to put it to a test soon.

SHARI FACE POWDER

\$1.00—\$2.50

It, with its base of pure, refined Italian talc and with delicate tints, will harmonize perfectly with individual complexions.

Found only at Rexall Drug Stores.

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STATEMENT CENTRAL MANUFACTURERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, Van Wert, Ohio—Condition Dec. 31, 1930, as shown by Statement filed.

Amount Ledger Assets Dec. 31st previous year	\$1,127,942.88
Income—From Policyholders, \$1,183,378.00; Miscellaneous, \$102,707.70; Total	3,318,088.70
Disbursements—To Policyholders, \$1,223,075.30; Miscellaneous, 1,308,908.67; Total	3,162,093.97
Fire Risks—Written or renewed during year	\$842,679.50
In Force	339,635.87
All Other Risks—Written or renewed during year, \$7,931,419	
In Force	96,539,828.00

ASSETS

Value of Real Estate	193,271.63
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	302,156.36
Value of Bonds and Stocks	3,135,000.00
Cash in Company's Office	7039.26
Deposited in Trust Companies and Banks not on interest	500.00
Deposited in Trust Companies and Banks on interest	296,374.62
Agents' balances, reports of business written subsequent to October 1, 1930	379,850.12
Patents and Licenses and other intangible assets	39,416.20
All other Assets, as detailed in statement	27,191.00
Total	4,367,332.61

LIABILITIES

Net amount of unpaid losses and claims	273,332.41
Unearned premiums	2,973,181.17
Salaries, rents, expenses, bills, accs., fees, etc., due or accrued	5,000.00
Estimated amount payable for Federal, State, county and municipal taxes due or accrued	37,000.00
All other liabilities, as detailed in statement	219,599.89
Total amount of all liabilities except Capital	3,568,113.47
Surplus over all liabilities	\$1,809,219.14
Surplus as regards Policyholders	1,809,219.14
Total Liabilities	4,367,332.61

BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1930

Fire Risks written, \$2,633,115; Premiums received	25,544.50
All other Risks written, \$488,375; Premiums received	4,169.76
Losses incurred—Fire, \$17,206; Paid	20,378.00
Losses incurred—All other, \$5,595; Paid	6,687.60
President, C. A. L. Purnott; Treasurer, C. M. Purnott; Home Office, 129 W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio. Attorney for service, Dan C. Boney, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.; Manager for North Carolina, Home Office.	

(SEAL) State of North Carolina, Insurance Department, Raleigh, February 17th, 1931.

I, Dan C. Boney, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the statement of the Central Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company of Van Wert, Ohio, filed with this Department, showing the condition of said Company, on the 31st day of December, 1930.

Witness my hand and official seal, the day and year above written.
DAN C. BONEY, Insurance Commissioner.

STATEMENT COMMERCE CASUALTY COMPANY, Glens Falls, N. Y.—Condition December 31, 1930, as Shown by Statement Filed.

Amount of Capital paid up in cash	\$ 750,000.00
Amount of Ledger Assets December 31st of previous year	1,590,231.13
Income—From Policyholders, \$1,339,451.34; Miscellaneous, \$302,705.40; Total	1,640,156.74
Disbursements—To Policyholders, \$204,643.06; Miscellaneous, 691,333.73; Total	886,546.79

ASSETS

Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	408,400.00
Value of Bonds and Stocks	1,295,114.79
Deposit in Trust Companies and Banks on interest	230,319.21
Premiums in course of Collection	388,816.39
Interest and Rents due and accrued	8,925.96
All other Assets, as detailed in statement	13,610.78
Total	2,332,587.04

LIABILITIES

Less Assets not admitted	37,144.33
Total admitted Assets	2,295,442.88

LIABILITIES

Unpaid Claims	275,811.98
Expense, Investigation and Adjustment of Claims	4,727.00
Unearned Premiums	665,959.97
Commission, Brokerage and other charges due	76,920.89
Salaries, Rents, Expenses, Bills, Accounts, Fees, etc., due or accrued	5,000.00
Estimated amount of Federal, State, county and municipal tax	20,648.39
All other liabilities, as detailed in statement	106,538.76
Total amount of all liabilities except Capital	1,153,132.88
Capital paid up	\$750,000.00
Surplus over all liabilities	400,000.00
Surplus as regards Policyholders	415,000.00
Total Liabilities	2,295,442.88

BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1930

Accident	367
Health	106
Auto Liability	8,802
Liability other than auto	2,815
Workmen's compensation	3,375
Fidelity	1,654
Surety	1,516
Plate glass	707
Burglary and theft	1,042
Auto property damage	4,972
Auto Collision	1,102
Property damage and collision other than auto	2
Totals	25,120

President, E. W. West; Secretary, A. J. Reed; Treasurer, R. C. Carter; Home Office, 191 Glen St., Glens Falls, N. Y. Attorney for service, Dan C. Boney, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.; Manager for North Carolina, Home Office.

State of North Carolina, Insurance Department, Raleigh, February 20th, 1931.

I, Dan C. Boney, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the statement of the Commercial Casualty Company of Glens Falls, N. Y., filed with this Department, showing the condition of said Company on the 31st day of December, 1930.

Witness my hand and official seal, the day and date above written.
DAN C. BONEY, Insurance Commissioner.

STATEMENT CONNECTICUT GENERAL LIFE (Accident Dept.) INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford, Conn.—Condition December 31, 1930, as Shown by Statement Filed.

Amount of Capital paid up in cash (See Life Statement)	
Increase of Capital during year (See Life Statement)	
Income—From Policyholders, \$2,878,512.36; Miscellaneous, \$116,877; Total	\$2,878,629.72
Disbursements—To Policyholders, \$1,335,339.88; Miscellaneous, \$1,187,456.74; Total	2,502,796.62

ASSETS

Premiums in course of Collection	227,189.68
Reinsurance recoverable on Paid Losses	10,732.23
Total	(See Life Statement)
Less Assets not admitted	(See Life Statement)
Total admitted Assets	(See Life Statement)

LIABILITIES

Unpaid Claims	1,723,276.41
Expense, Investigation, and Adjustment of Claims	51,998.29
Unearned Premiums	1,227,812.70
Commission, Brokerage and other charges due	51,336.13
Salaries, Rents, Expen., Bills, Accets., Fees, etc., due or accrued	1,135.61
Est. amt. for Federal, State, County, and municipal taxes	57,018.74
All other liabilities, as detailed in statement	1,706,001.77
Total amount of all liabilities except Capital	4,828,659.96
Surplus as regards Policyholders	(See Life Statement)
Total Liabilities	(See Life Statement)

BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1930

Accident	14,099
Health	26,143
Non-cancellable accident and health	9,780
Totals	50,022

President, Robert W. Huntington; Secretary, Frazar B. Willie; Treasurer, Frank C. Parker; Home Office, 55 Elen St., Hartford, Conn. Attorney for service, Dan C. Boney, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.; Manager for North Carolina, Home Office.

State of North Carolina, Insurance Department, Raleigh, May 25th, 1931.

I, Dan C. Boney, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the statement of the Connecticut General (Accident Dept.) Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., filed with this Department, showing the condition of said Company on the 31st day of December, 1930.

Witness my hand and official seal, the day and date above written.
(SEAL) DAN C. BONEY, Insurance Commissioner.