

HISTORY OF "THE OLD HICKORY DIVISION" TOLD BY OFFICERS—SPLENDID TRIBUTE TO MEN WHO FOUGHT, BLED AND DIED

(Continued from last week.)

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 Bellcourt 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.

Attacked September 29. The Thirtieth division, the Sixth brigade, augmented by units of the One Hundred Seventeenth infantry, attacking, assaulted this line at 5:50 a. m., September 29, on a front of 3,000 yards, 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 Bellcourt, Nauray, Rigueval, Carriere, Etricourt, Guillaime, Ferme and Ferme de Rigueval, advancing 4,200 yards, defeating two enemy divisions of average quality (the Seventy-fifth reserve division and the One Hundred Eighty-fifth division), taking as prisoners 47 officers and 1,434 men.

On October 1 and 2, the Thirtieth 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 Montbrein, on the night of October 4 and 5.

Attacked Four Days. On October 8, 9, 10, 11, the Thirtieth division attacked each day, advancing 17,500 yards and capturing le Tillard d'Arches, le Petit Cambresis, Beaucouque, Mon, Sarasin, le Trou Aux Soldats, Busigny, Gloriette, le Vent de Hise, St. Souplet, St. Benin, Malassane, Geneve, half of Montbrein, Ferme, Bois de Busigny, Bois l'Ermitage, Bois Preyart, Imberfay and Du Gue Fassiaux Fermes, taking prisoners 45 officers and 1,889 men. The Fifty-ninth brigade began this attack on October 8 and captured all their objectives, including Fremont and Brancourt. During this operation from October 8 to 11, the Thirtieth division encountered units from fourteen German divisions, classified by the British high command as follows: Thirty-fourth division, average; Twenty-fifth division, very good; Twenty-fourth division, very good; Twenty-first division, average; Twenty-first reserve division, average; One Hundred Nineteenth division, average; One Hundred Twenty-first division, average; One Hundred Eighty-seventh Sharpshooting section, very good; Two Hundred Fourth division, average; Two Hundred Eighth division, average; Third Naval division, very good; Fifteenth reserve division, average.

The Thirtieth division was relieved by the Twenty-seventh division on October 11-12 but returned on October 16 and took over part of the same line at the same place, being the right half of the sector temporarily held by the Twenty-seventh. The next attack was launched on October 17, 18 and 19 against the Two Hundred Twenty-first division, average; Two Hundred Forty-third division, average; Twenty-ninth division, very good, advancing 9,000 yards and capturing six officers and 413 men, and the towns of Molain, St. Martin Be-

viere, Ribeuville, Ecaillon, Maringheim, and Ribeaucourt Ferme.

Fighting Was Hard. During much of the fighting from October 8 to 11 and from 17 to 19, difficulties of the terrain were very great, with the country greatly broken by small patches of woods, and villages, with uneven terrain and an occasional large own 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 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, the armistice was signed November 11, 1918. The fighting being over, the Second American corps was released from the British expeditionary forces, with which it had been associated since its arrival in France, and transferred to the American Expeditionary Forces in the Le Mans area, where the first units of the Thirtieth division arrived and division headquarters opened at Ballon on November 21.

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 units of the division, it is known that at least 72 field artillery pieces, 25 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.

Many Prisoners Taken. Total number of prisoners captured by this division from September 29 to October 20: 98 officers, 3,750 men. During the same period we lost three officers and 24 men as prisoners; 44 officers and 1,011 men killed; 113 officers and 4,823 men wounded (including those slightly wounded and slightly gassed.)

The following messages speak for themselves: Headquarters, Thirtieth division, American Expeditionary Forces, France, October 1, 1918.

General Orders No. 33. 1. The division commander wishes to congratulate the Thirtieth division upon the success of its first divisional action, and to express appreciation of the courage, fortitude and devotion displayed by its personnel.

2. To be given the task, in its initial effort, to play an important role in breaking through the Hindenburg line, the strongest defense on the western front, was a great honor, and the fact that the breakthrough was actually made on the divisional front is ample evidence that the honor was not misplaced, and it is a credit to the fighting efficiency of the division, of the command of which the undersigned has every reason to be proud.

3. The division retires temporarily for reorganization and a well-earned rest, but with feeling of satisfaction that a task well done and with augmented faith in itself.

4. There is deep and keen regret for the gallant comrades who have gloriously died, and an earnest intention of further perfection as a combat organization in order that the division may do to the fullest extent possible its share in bringing about the early success of the great cause in which they have fallen.

5. This order will be ready to every organization at its first formation and be posted on bulletin boards.

E. M. LEWIS, Major General Commanding.

Australian Corps Headquarters Second October, 1918.

My Dear General: As the Second American corps has now been withdrawn from the lines and my official association with you and your troops has been, for the time being, suspended, I desire to express to you the great pleasure that it has been to me and to the troops of the Australian army corps who have been so closely allied to you in the recent very important battle operations which have resulted in the breaking through of the main Hindenburg line on the front of the Fourth British army.

Now that further details of the work done by the Twenty-seventh and the Thirtieth American divisions have become available, the splendid gallantry and devotion of the troops in these operations have won the admiration of their Australian comrades. The tasks set were formidable, but the American troops overcame all obstacles and contributed in a very high degree to the ultimate capture of the whole tunnel system.

I shall be glad if you will convey to your division commanders my appreciation of and thanks for the work done, and to accept my best wishes for every possible success in the future.

JOHN MONASH, Commanding Australian Corps, Major General G. W. Read, Commanding Second American Corps.

October 9, 1918.

On this first occasion on which the Second American corps has taken part in battle on its own (account), I desire to convey to you, General Read, and all members of your staff, as well as to all other ranks of the Thirtieth division, my hearty congratulations on your victory today. The gallantry of your infantry and the precision with which all staff arrangements have worked has filled me with admiration and it has given me pleasure to report your unqualified success to Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

HENRY RAWLINSON, General, Commanding Fourth British Army.

October 12, 1918. Major General G. W. Read, Second American Corps.

The commander-in-chief desires you to convey to the officers and soldiers of your corps his appreciation of the magnificent qualities which have enabled them, against powerful resistance, to advance more than 10 miles and to take more than 6,000 prisoners since September 27.

ANDREWS.

October 20, 1918. Major General G. W. Read, Second American Corps.

I wish to express to you personally and to all the officers and men serving under you my warm appreciation of the very valuable and gallant service rendered by you throughout the recent operations with the Fourth British Army. Called up to attack positions of great strength, held by a determined enemy, all ranks of the Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth divisions, under your command, displayed an energy, courage and determination in attack which proved irresistible. It does not need me to tell you that in the heavy fighting of the past three weeks you have earned the lasting esteem and admiration of your British comrades in arms whose success you have so nobly shared.

D. HAIG, Field Marshal, Headquarters, Thirtieth Division American Expeditionary Forces France, October 20, 1918.

General Orders No. 38. 1. The Thirtieth division again retires for rest and reorganization after adding another chapter to its already glorious record.

2. With the exception of three days—October 12, 13 and 14—when it was in reserve, the division attacked every day from October 8 to October 19, inclusive, defeating the enemy and making material gains every day. During this period, 45 officers and 1,889 other ranks were taken prisoners and nearly 40 cannon, a large number of machine guns and an immense amount of stores of all kinds were captured by the division.

3. The skill, courage, fortitude and endurance displayed by the division have won the admiration of all and the commendation of high commanders.

4. Holding in affectionate memory the comrades who have fallen, justly proud of its glorious achievements already accomplished, the division will devote itself untiringly to reorganization and rehabilitation in the confidence that when again called upon it will, as in the past, be found equal to any task that may be assigned to it.

E. M. LEWIS, Major General Commanding.

October 22, 1918. Second Army Headquarters.

Now that the American corps has come out of the lines for a well-earned period of rest and training, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the gallantry and the fine soldierly spirit they have displayed throughout the recent hard fighting.

The breaking of the great Hindenburg system of defense, coupled with the capture of Brancourt, Busigny, and St. Souplet, and, finally, the forcing of the passages of the Selle river, constitute a series of victories of which each officer, N. C. O. and man has every reason to feel proud.

The corps has been very well supported by the artillery of the Australian corps, to whom I desire to offer my best thanks for their skill and enduring during the long months they have now been in action.

The efficiency with which the staff work of the corps has been carried out on this, their first experience as a fighting corps in the line of battle, has filled me with admiration, and I attribute it largely to the zeal and unity of purpose which has throughout animated the whole corps.

The outstanding feature of their recent victories has been the sur-

"Makes 4 Cylinders Pull Like 6!"

Is the way one motorist described the effect of Mot-o-lene. If carbon has taken all the "pop" out of your motor, and she refuses to pull hills "on high" the way she used to, get a \$1.50 bottle of

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You don't have to lay up the car and take down the motor—just add a little to each tankful of gasoline. In a few days you'll have the carbon on the run and you'll open your eyes to the power you'll get. Try it to-day at your dealer.

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Doesn't hurt! Lift any corn or callus off with fingers



Don't suffer! A tiny bottle of Freezone costs but a few cents at any drug store. Apply a few drops on the corns, calluses and "hard skin" on bottom of feet, then lift them off.

When Freezone removes corns from the toes or calluses from the bottom of feet, the skin beneath is left pink and healthy and never sore, tender or irritated.

passing gallantry and self-sacrifice of the regimental officers and men. I congratulate them on their prowess and offer them one and all my warmest thanks for the leading part they have taken in the recent operations.

It is possible now to give the corps a period of rest, during which special attention should be paid to the training of the smaller units in minor tactics, such as the attack of strong points and machine gun nests. The experience they have had of actual combat will assist them to improve their fighting efficiency in this respect.

In thanking the corps as a whole for the great service they have rendered to the allied cause, I desire to wish all ranks the best good fortune in the future.

RAWLINSON, Commanding, Fourth British Army.

Busigny, October 27, 1918. Commanding General, Thirtieth Division.

Acting as a representative of the commune and in its name, consequently in the name, too, of a part of France, I take the liberty to come and express to our liberator and to the gallant troops under your command, our feelings of deepest and eternal gratitude.

For those who have not been submitted as we have, for four years, to the intolerable and abhorred German yoke, it is difficult to realize how great was the relief, the joy, the well-being, in a word, the inexpressible happiness we all felt when the first allied troops made their way through our village, and this great event has been for us like the dawn of a resurrection.

I should be very thankful to you if you would convey to all your officers, N. C. O.'s and men under your command our deep feeling of admiration and eternal gratitude.

Please, sir, accept the expression of my highest consideration, and believe me, Yours most devotedly,

The Mayor of Busigny, E. MAIRIS.

November 15, 1918. Commanding General, Thirtieth Division.

1. Referring to the telegram from the commander-in-chief of appreciation of the sacrifice and service of the troops of the American expeditionary force, I feel that it should be impressed upon the men of our command that they, and the organizations to which they belong, have played an exceptional part in bringing about the magnificent results which the commander-in-chief has so warmly eulogized, and that every advantage should be taken of this expression of what has been done in the past and confidence as to the future by those in command to inspire their men with pride in the service they have had as soldiers in the army of the United States, and to keep alive this "proud consciousness of a new Americanism born in sacrifice."

2. I would request that you convey to your command my appreciation of the part they have taken in our great victory, and my thanks for their heroic devotion to duty; and that I share with them their sorrow for fallen comrades, and their pride in the high achievements of the men of this corps.

G. W. READ, Major General, Commanding Second Corps.

November 16, 1918. Commanding General, Second Army Corps.

Now that the American Second Corps is leaving the British zone I wish once more to thank you and all officer, non-commissioned officers and men under your command on behalf of myself and all ranks of the British army, in France and Flanders, for the very gallant and efficient service you have rendered during the period of your operations with the Fourth British Army.

On the 29th of September you took part with distinction in the great and critical attack which shattered the enemy's resistance in the Hindenburg line and opened the road to final victory. The deeds of the Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth American divisions, who on that day took Bellcourt and Nauray, and so gallantly sustained the desperate struggle for Bony, will rank with the highest achievements of this war. They will always be remembered by the British regiments that fought beside you.

Since that date, through three weeks of almost continuous fighting, you have advanced from one success to another, overcoming all resistance.

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Inter-Connection of Competing Telephone Systems in Asheboro

(Statement made by the Asheboro Telephone Company.)

Both the Bell and Independents are to retain their franchises and to continue operation at every place, and the plan does not contemplate that either company will retire from the field at any place; but whichever company operates toll stations at a given place will naturally reduce their number of telephone stations. For instance, at Asheboro the Bell toll lines will be accessible to all subscribers of the Asheboro Telephone Company, and therefore the need of Bell stations in this city will no longer exist. However, one public pay station of the Bell Company may be retained at Asheboro.

The connection will be made March 1st, and after this is done all patrons of the Asheboro Telephone Company may reach from their own telephones the same identical connections as Bell subscribers. Our rural subscribers may get this service by signing the contract furnished by the Bell Company.

666 cures malaria, chills and fever, or bilious fever, by killing the parasite causing the fever. Fine strengthening tonic.

If you would be successful in saving Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps will give you a start.

attacks, and capturing several thousands prisoners and many guns. The names of Brancourt, Fremont, Busigny, Vaux Andigny, St. Souplet and Meisinghem testify to the dash and energy of your attack. I rejoice at the success which has attended your efforts and I am proud to have had you under my command.

D. HAIG, Field Marshal, Headquarters, Thirtieth Division, American Expeditionary Forces, France, Nov. 26, 1918.

General Orders No. 49:

1. The following named division staff officers, brigade and regimental commanders, are mentioned for their stirring zeal and entire devotion to their responsible duties of their respective positions during the operations of the Thirtieth division from September 29 to October 20:

- Col. John K. Herr, chief of staff.
Lt. Col. F. B. Kobes, A. C. of S. G-1.
Major Burton Y. Read, A. C. of S. G-2.
Lt. Col. Charles Burnett, A. C. of S. G-3.
Col. A. M. Whaley, division surgeon.
Col. H. B. Springs, acting division surgeon.
Lt. Col. James G. Taylor and Major Frank A. Montrose, division signal officers.
Major J. Shapler Caldwell, acting division adjutant.
First Lieut. Frank E. Barber, A. C. of S. G-4.
Brig. Gen. L. D. Tyson, commanding Fifty-ninth brigade.
Brig. Gen. S. L. Falson, commanding Sixtieth brigade.
Col. Joseph H. Pratt, commanding 105th engineers.
Col. Cary F. Spencer, commanding 117th infantry.
Col. Orrin R. Wolfe, commanding 118th infantry.
Col. J. Van B. Metz, commanding 119th infantry.
Col. Sidney W. Minor, commanding 130th infantry.
2. The division commander desires to express his appreciation of the loyalty and able assistance rendered by him by the officers above mentioned as well as by all other officers of the divisional staff, remarkable for its harmony, industry and efficiency.
By order of Major General Lewis.
Official:
ANDREW J. WHITE,
Lieut.-Col. Inf., U. S. A., ADJT.
JOHN K. HERR,
Chief of Staff.
It is interesting to note the following tabulation which shows the number of civilians liberated by the division during its advance: Busigny 1,800; Brancourt, 5; Montbrein, 40; Ecaillon, 350; Maringheim, 21; St. Benin, 178; St. Souplet, 480; Molain, 5; La Halle Montrebecq, 24; Ribeuville, 2; Meisinghem, 1.
Official: JOHN K. HERR, Chief of Staff.

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