

Chapter IV

AMERICAN OPERATIONS IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE REGION

ONE of the most far-reaching effects of the rapid increase of American troops in Europe, and the resulting Allied and American successes during the summer of 1918, was that it became possible to undertake in September a gigantic convergent offensive movement against the German forces on the Western Front. The final plans for this movement were agreed upon and as a formality of coordination were promulgated by the Allied Commander-in-Chief on September 3. Under these plans the American Army was to advance northward between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest, supported on its left by the French Fourth Army west of the Argonne. Northeast of Paris the center of the French Armies was to renew its efforts to force the Germans back from the Aisne, while farther north the British were to continue operations in the direction of St. Quentin and Cambrai, and the Allies were to attack near Ypres to free the Belgian coast.

The significance of the American Army's part in the general plan lay in the fact that its attack was to be directed against a most vital point of the German system of railroad communications.

Within the German lines were two important railways which ran to the northwest from the area around Metz and roughly paralleled the battle front. These railroads were practically the Germans' only lateral communications between their forces east and west of the Meuse, and were therefore essential to their supply system and for the transfer of troops back and forth along the front. Northwest of Mézières these railways were rather widely separated and were at a considerable distance from the front lines, but in the vicinity of Sedan and to the southeast of that city they converged

and ran through a narrow strip of territory lying within 35 miles of the battle line.

To the north of Sedan, as far as Liège, the country, including the Ardennes Forest, was of a wooded and difficult character, and no important east and west railways had been built through it.

The network of railways which radiated to the west and southwest from Liège passed through a restricted zone near that place, which was bounded by the rough terrain on the south and neutral Holland on the north. These railroads were the principal lines of supply and evacuation for the German troops along the entire front northwest of Reims.

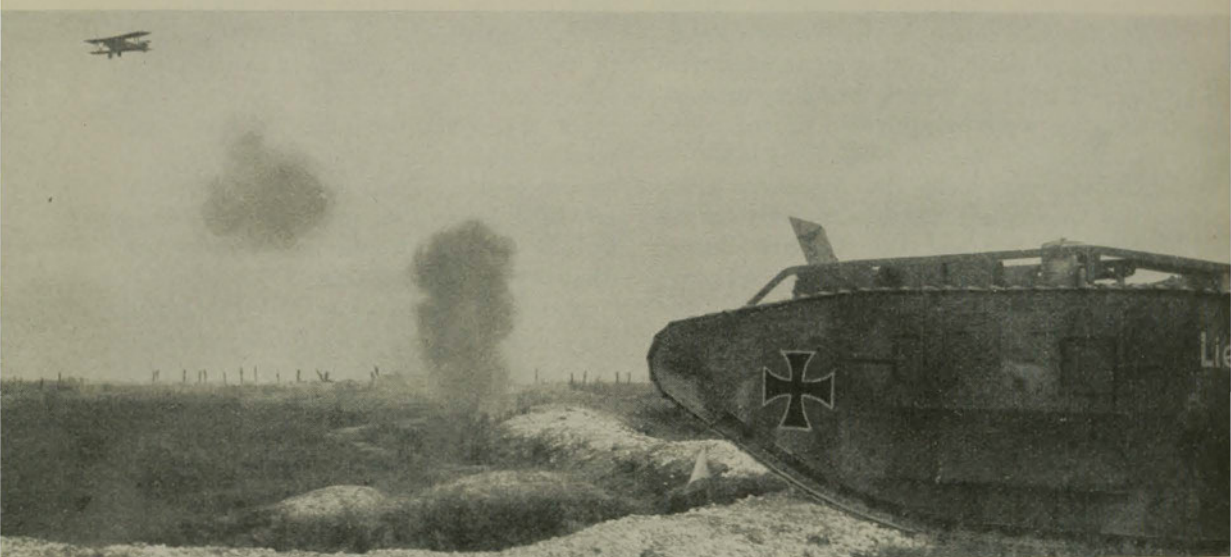
It was apparent that an Allied attack in the vicinity of the Meuse River, if carried far enough to gain control of the lateral railways, would divide the German Armies. Once this was accomplished Germany would be unable to maintain her forces in France and Belgium because communications between the two wings would be practically impossible except by the long and circuitous route through Liège and the Rhine River valley.

Furthermore, the capture or defeat of the German northern armies would be practically certain because, under the stress of the powerful attacks which the Allies were then prepared to deliver, these armies could scarcely effect an orderly withdrawal through the congested bottle neck at Liège. It was evident, therefore, that in the sector covering the communications near Sedan, and to the southeast of that place, the German forces could least afford to lose ground. This was clearly appreciated by the German High Command which had made elaborate preparations to prevent any Allied advance on that part of the battle front.

Along most of the Western Front the



German Tank Attack, October 1918. © G



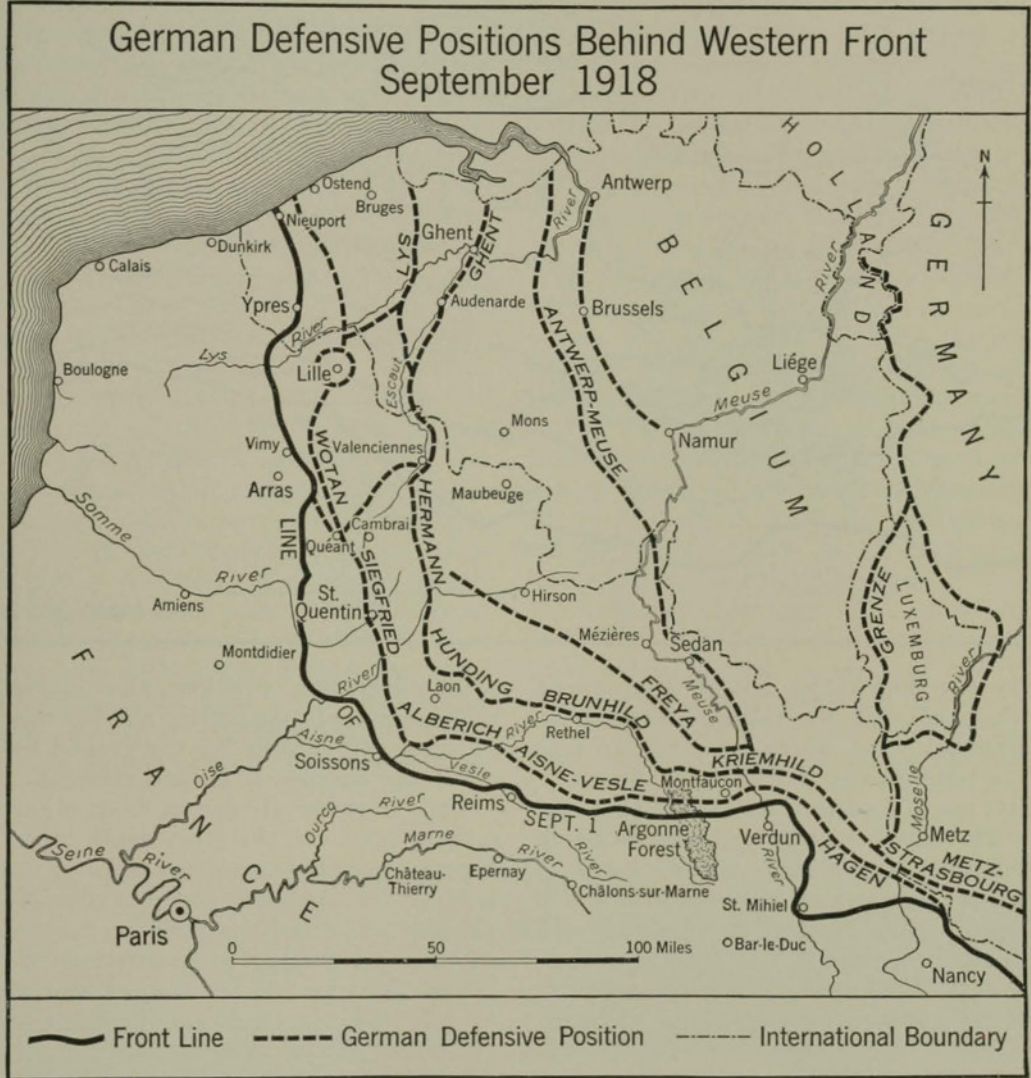
German Tank and Observation Plane Cooperating in an Attack, September 1918. © G



German Troops Mopping Up a Trench, October 1918. © G

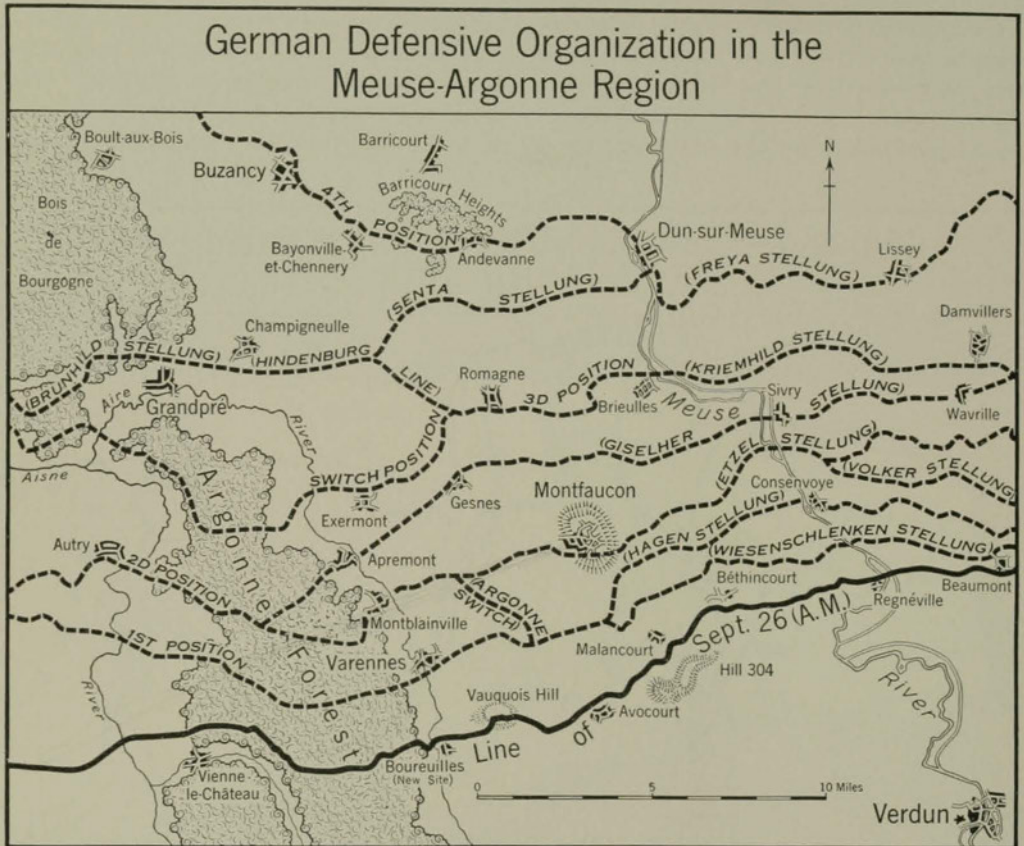
Germans had prepared several defensive lines in rear of their first position. West and northwest of the Meuse-Argonne region, where loss of ground would have no decisive effect on the situation, these

about 10 miles in rear of the front lines. The nature of this region was such as to make it ideal for defensive fighting. The heights just east of the Meuse River constituted not only a formidable natural



different positions were separated by relatively great distances. In the Meuse-Argonne region, however, where the important railways lay comparatively close to the battle line, the second and third lines were very close to the forward position, forming a practically continuous zone of trenches, barbed wire and other field fortifications extending for a depth of

barrier but furnished splendid sites from which the country to the east and west could be observed and covered by artillery fire. These heights and the broken hills of the Argonne Forest had been organized into almost impregnable positions by the addition of machine guns, artillery, trenches and obstacles of all kinds. Between these two great natural bulwarks



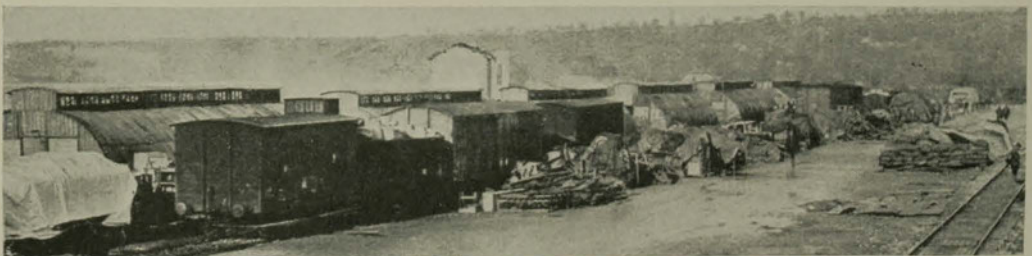
lay the dominating hill of Montfaucou which afforded the Germans perfect observation, and whose inherent strength had been greatly increased by the elaborate use of field fortifications of all kinds.

The numerous east and west ridges in this area lent themselves admirably to the construction of defensive lines which connected the Heights of the Meuse with the Argonne Forest. In organizing these lines the Germans had made elaborate use of barbed-wire entanglements, trenches, concrete machine-gun emplacements and

prepared artillery positions, all so placed as to be mutually supporting and to cover by cross and enfilade fire the ground between the features of natural strength.

The comparatively narrow front of this natural defile and the great depth of the German defensive organization made the task of the American Army extremely difficult. The only feasible method of advancing was to drive salients into the enemy lines by frontal assaults and to exploit these penetrations by attacking the flanks of the salients thus created.

American Supply Dump During the Meuse-Argonne Operation



While the difficulties to be encountered in an offensive on the Meuse-Argonne front were clearly appreciated by the Allied High Command, it realized that an advance there would have far-reaching effects and that it would be essential to the success of the general plan.

In view of the strength of the German positions, the stubborn opposition that would undoubtedly be met with at that point and the vital importance of the front, the American Army could well feel that in the coming combined Allied offensive it had been given the place of honor.

When the decision was made to attack in the Meuse-Argonne region the American First Army was busily engaged in preparations for the St. Mihiel offensive, planned for September 12. However, because of the limited time available, the assembly of American divisions not scheduled for the St. Mihiel attack was begun immediately and detailed plans for the larger battle were at once prepared.

Two of the American divisions designated for the attack west of the Meuse, the 33d and 79th, were sent to that front before the middle of September and took over large sectors. Soon thereafter other American units were sent to the region and secretly concentrated behind them.

The movement of men and matériel

was made entirely under cover of darkness, all activity being suspended and the men kept in concealment during daylight hours. Consequently, at night the roads leading into the area were the scenes of great activity as troops and artillery, ammunition and supplies moved steadily forward. On most of the Meuse-Argonne front French soldiers remained in the outpost positions until the last minute to prevent the Germans from seeing or otherwise securing information of the presence of large numbers of American soldiers in the region and thus receiving advance warning of the impending offensive.

In all, about 220,000 Allied soldiers were moved out of the area and approximately 600,000 Americans were moved into it. The planning and execution of this gigantic movement of concentration was an intricate and arduous task. The fact that it was done with smoothness and precision, and without the knowledge of the enemy, is in itself a striking tribute to the ability of the American Army and to the skill of its staffs.

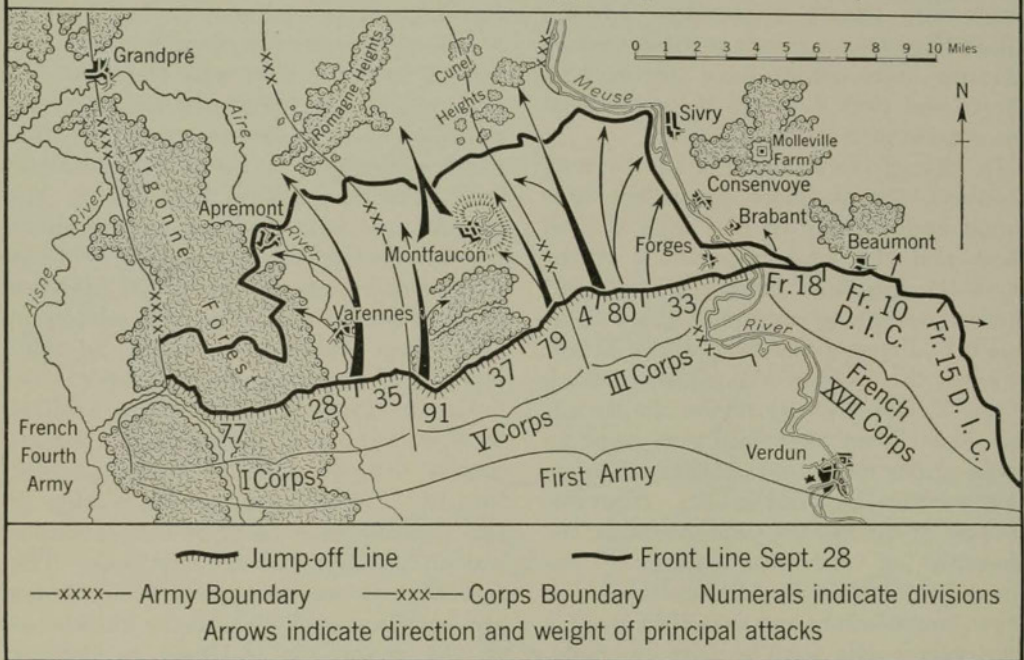
Finally, on the night of September 25-26 the First Army stood on its new front ready for the momentous battle that was to begin at dawn the next day.

The American corps and divisions in line were in position as shown on the

Road Scene at Esnes, an Important Road Center,
During the Meuse-Argonne Operation



Plan of Attack of First Army, September 26, 1918



above sketch. The III Corps was on the right with the 33d, 80th and 4th Divisions in line, in that order from right to left, and the 3d Division in reserve. The V Corps was in the center with the 79th, 37th and 91st Divisions in line and the 32d Division in reserve. The I Corps was on the left, with the 35th, 28th and 77th Divisions in line and the French 5th Cavalry Division and the American 92d Division, less one regiment, in reserve. The 1st, 29th and 82d Divisions composed the Army reserve. Opposing the American First Army were the German Fifth and Third Armies.

The general plans provided first for an advance of 10 miles which would break through the hostile first, second and third positions and force the Germans to give up the Argonne Forest. This was to be followed by a further penetration of about the same distance which would outflank their defenses in the Bois de Bourgogne¹ and along the Aisne in front

¹ In this text the name Bois de Bourgogne has been used to designate the entire large continuous wooded area which lies to the north of the Argonne Forest.

of the French Fourth Army, and thus open the way toward Sedan and Mézières. These attacks of the First Army were to be coordinated by General Pershing and General Pétain with those of the French Fourth Army west of the Argonne.

The difficulty of capturing Montfaucon was fully realized, and it was planned to drive deep salients into the German lines on each side of that stronghold and then, by threatening its rear, to force the retirement of the garrison. By these tactics the troops in front of the hill would be enabled to carry it without encountering too severe opposition.

The V Corps, whose zone of action included Montfaucon near its eastern boundary, was to drive vigorously forward to the left of that place and without waiting for the adjacent corps was to penetrate the German third position near Romagne. The main mission of the III Corps was to support the advance of the V Corps by turning Montfaucon from the east and by protecting the right flank of the advancing troops. The I Corps was to protect the left of the V Corps and

flank the Argonne Forest from the east. The artillery of the III Corps was especially charged with suppressing the enemy guns located on the dominating heights east of the Meuse, while the artillery of the I Corps was to silence the German guns firing from the Argonne Forest.

A brigade, under French command, which included the 368th Infantry, 92d Division, and one French regiment, had the mission of maintaining contact between the flanks of the American First Army and the French Fourth Army.

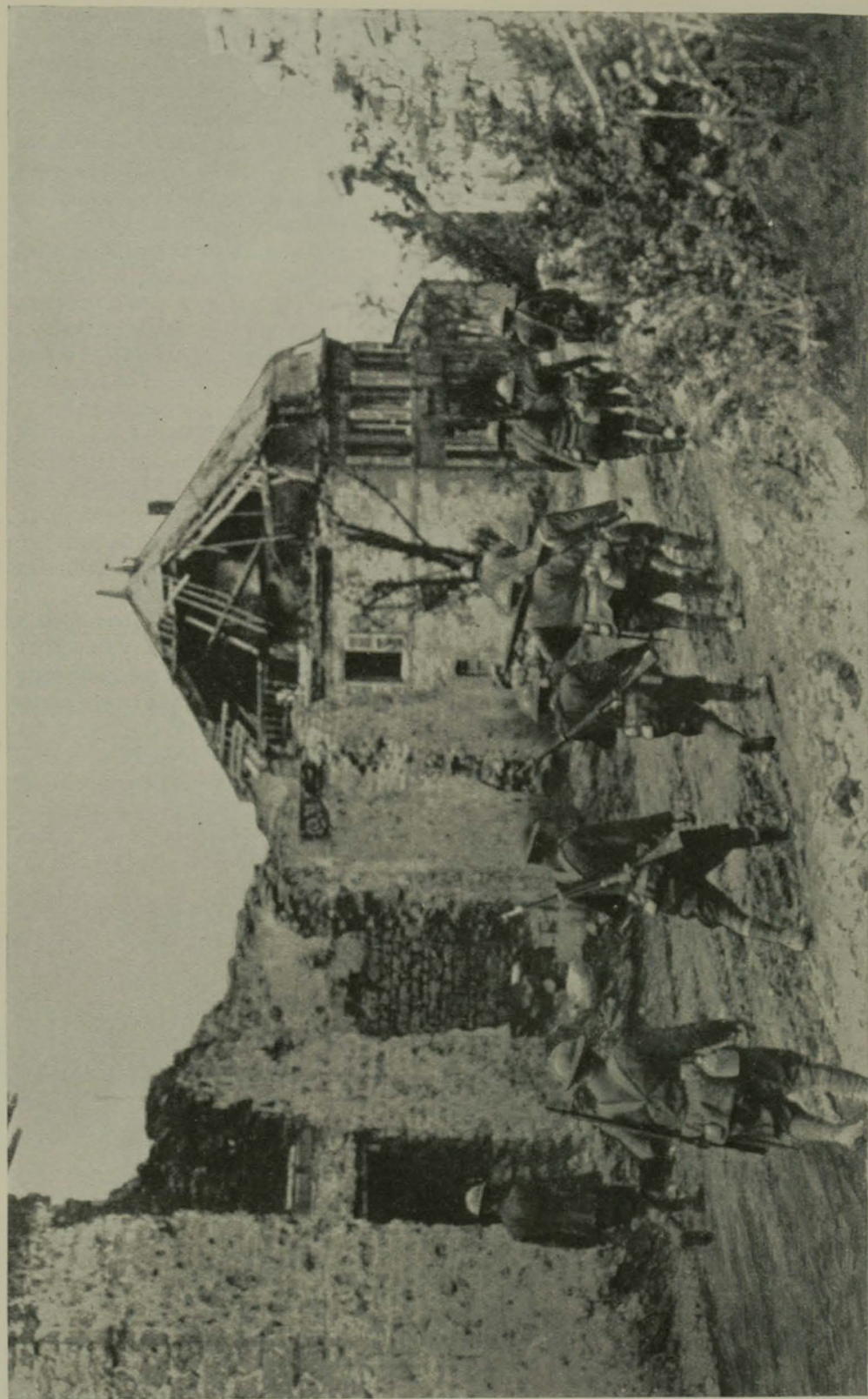
Of the nine American divisions which took part in the initial assault only five had seen service in offensive combat and four of the nine were supported by divisional artillery with which they had never served. Moreover, time had not been available in which to train the many units of the First Army in the teamwork so essential to success in battle. Despite these handicaps, however, the ability of the commanders and their staffs, and the unbounded strength, courage and will-to-win of the soldiers, carried the Army rapidly forward from the very beginning.

The artillery preparation for the attack began in full force at 2:30 on the morning of September 26. Two thousand seven hundred guns kept up an intense bombardment of the hostile positions until 5:30 a.m., at which time the assaulting infantry jumped off, protected by a rolling barrage. The dense fog during the morning, the networks of wire, myriads of shell craters, deep ravines and thick woods presented great difficulties, but, except in front of Montfaucon, the progress made that day was considered entirely satisfactory.

In the center, the left of the V Corps made a splendid advance to the west of Montfaucon but its right was held up in front of that place. The III Corps drove forward vigorously to the east of Montfaucon and by early afternoon its left flank was a mile beyond that hill. During the advance its right flank wheeled toward the Meuse and took up a defensive position along the bluffs of the river. The I Corps, on the Army's left, made a deep penetration along the Aire River while its left flank fought its way forward about one mile in the Argonne Forest.

German Narrow-Gauge Railroad Equipment Captured in the Argonne Forest



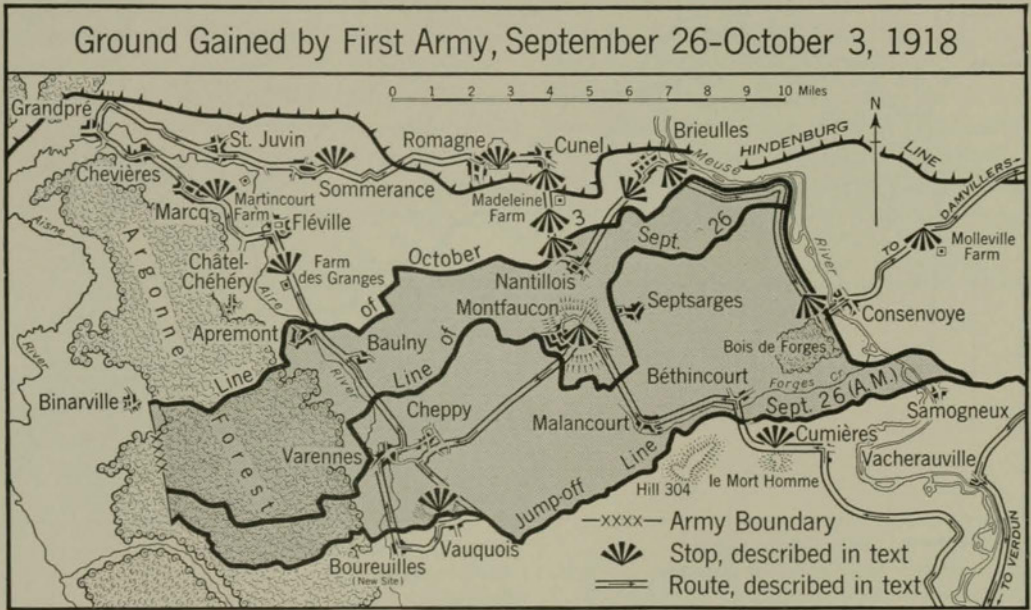


American Troops Marching Toward the Front, Montfaucon, October 2, 1918
The house with the peaked roof contained a concealed concrete observation post used at one time by the German Crown Prince

On the evening of September 26 the strong German first position was all in American hands. Montfaucon, in the German second position, had held out, but deep salients driven into the German lines on both sides of that hill made its capture a question of merely a few hours.

On the second day the infantry assaults were continued vigorously, Montfaucon being carried about noon. The Germans' brief stand there, however, had enabled them to reinforce their strong positions north of the hill, and as the American advance of the day before had

by severe artillery concentrations and strong counterattacks by fresh German troops. Gains were made by the Americans at a number of places but most of these were isolated and had to be given up. As a result of the increased resistance and of conditions incident to the deep and rapid advance, the First Army on September 29 ordered that the positions then held be organized for defense and that vigorous preparations be started for a prompt renewal of the battle. During this period certain of the inexperienced divisions which had been in the initial



been so rapid as to outrun much of its artillery support, the amount of ground captured and held by the First Army on September 27 was not as great as that secured on the preceding day.

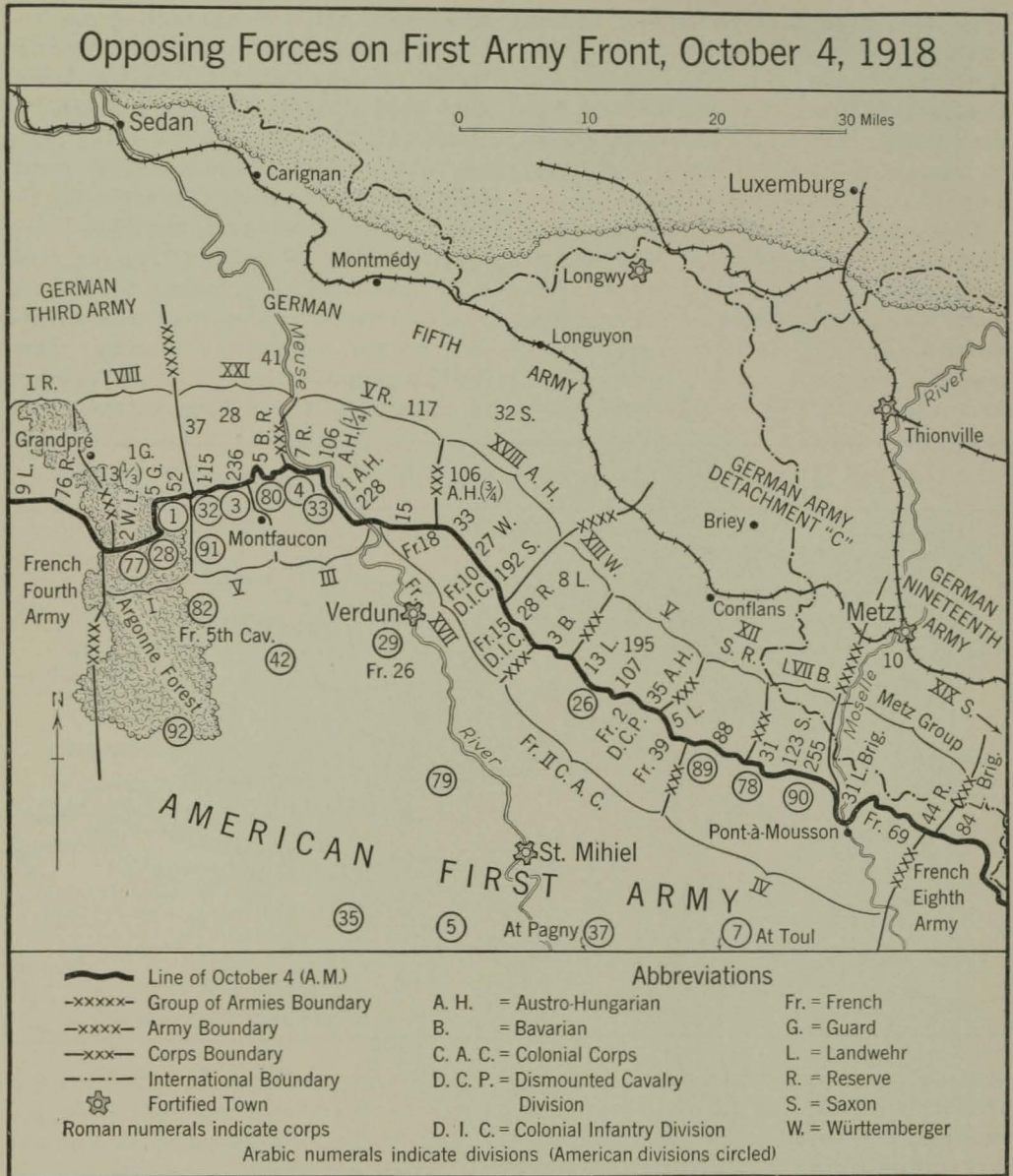
On September 28, however, with more artillery and tank support, the American units again surged forward, gaining about 1½ miles all along the front of attack. Except in the Argonne Forest, the line held that evening was beyond the German second position and the III and V Corps faced the outpost defenses of the German third position in this region, commonly known as the Hindenburg Line.

During the next day the determined efforts of the Army to advance were met

assault were replaced in line by other divisions with previous battle service.

During the initial stages of the offensive the Army had under its control 821 airplanes, which rendered valuable service. The Army keenly felt the need of tanks. The total number with the Army was reduced during the first two weeks of the offensive from 415, of which 141 were operated by Americans, to about 94.

While the attack on the first day had surprised the Germans and resulted in important gains at comparatively small cost, the fighting all along the front from that time on was of the most desperate character. Each foot of ground was stubbornly contested, the hostile troops



taking advantage of every available spot from which to pour enfilading and cross fire into the advancing Americans.

In their efforts to stop the progress of the American units, the Germans quickly began drawing reinforcements from other parts of the Western Front to strengthen their forces in the Meuse-Argonne region and by the end of the fifth day seven more German divisions had been rushed to this crucial region and had entered the battle.

The great progress of the First Army

attack and Allied pressure on other parts of the front caused the German High Command on September 29 to urge its Government to forward immediately an offer of peace to the Allied Governments and this was done on October 6.

The area near the former front lines had been torn to pieces by shellfire during the preceding four years and the few roads leading across it were almost entirely obliterated in what had been no man's land. In order to move troops, food and

ammunition forward, and the wounded to the rear, these roads had to be practically rebuilt while in use. The difficulty of the task was increased by inclement weather, frequent hostile artillery bombardments, and the limited number of engineer and pioneer troops available.

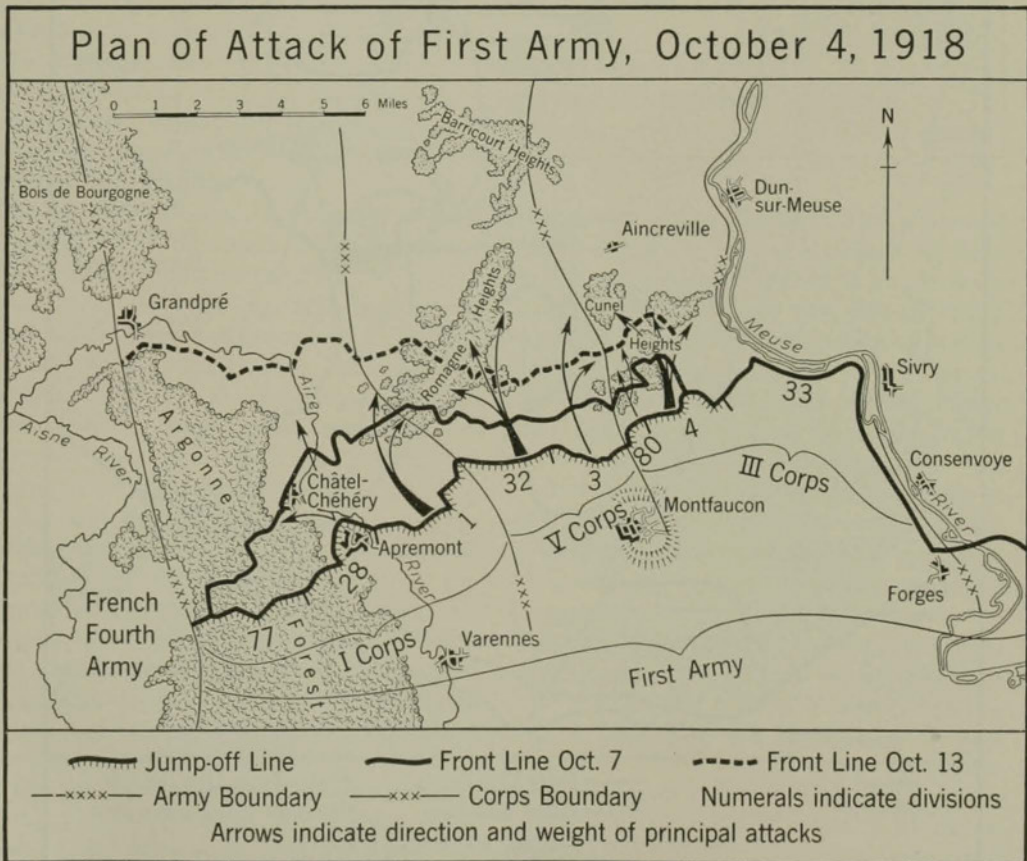
The resumption of the attack was ordered for October 4. At that time, on most of its front east of the Argonne, the Army faced the outpost zone of the Hindenburg Line. That line, which included the Bois de Forêt, Cunel Heights and Romagne Heights, had been organized with great skill so as to take full advantage of the natural defensive features of the ground. In the Argonne Forest the First Army was in front of the German second position which extended across it to the west from Apremont.

The III and V Corps were to attack the Bois de Forêt, Cunel Heights and Ro-

magne Heights, while the I Corps was to assist the V Corps by capturing the western end of Romagne Heights, neutralize the hostile artillery fire from the Argonne Forest and maintain liaison with the French Fourth Army.

Many changes had been made in the front-line divisions and on October 4 the Army order of battle from the Meuse River to the west was as follows: the 33d, 4th and 80th Divisions in line in the III Corps; the 3d and 32d Divisions in line and the 91st Division in process of withdrawal from line to reserve in the V Corps; and the 1st, 28th and 77th Divisions in line with the 82d, 92d (less the 183d Brigade) and French 5th Cavalry Divisions in reserve in the I Corps. The 35th and 42d Divisions and the 183d Brigade of the 92d Division were in Army reserve.

The attack was launched with great force about daybreak. The resistance

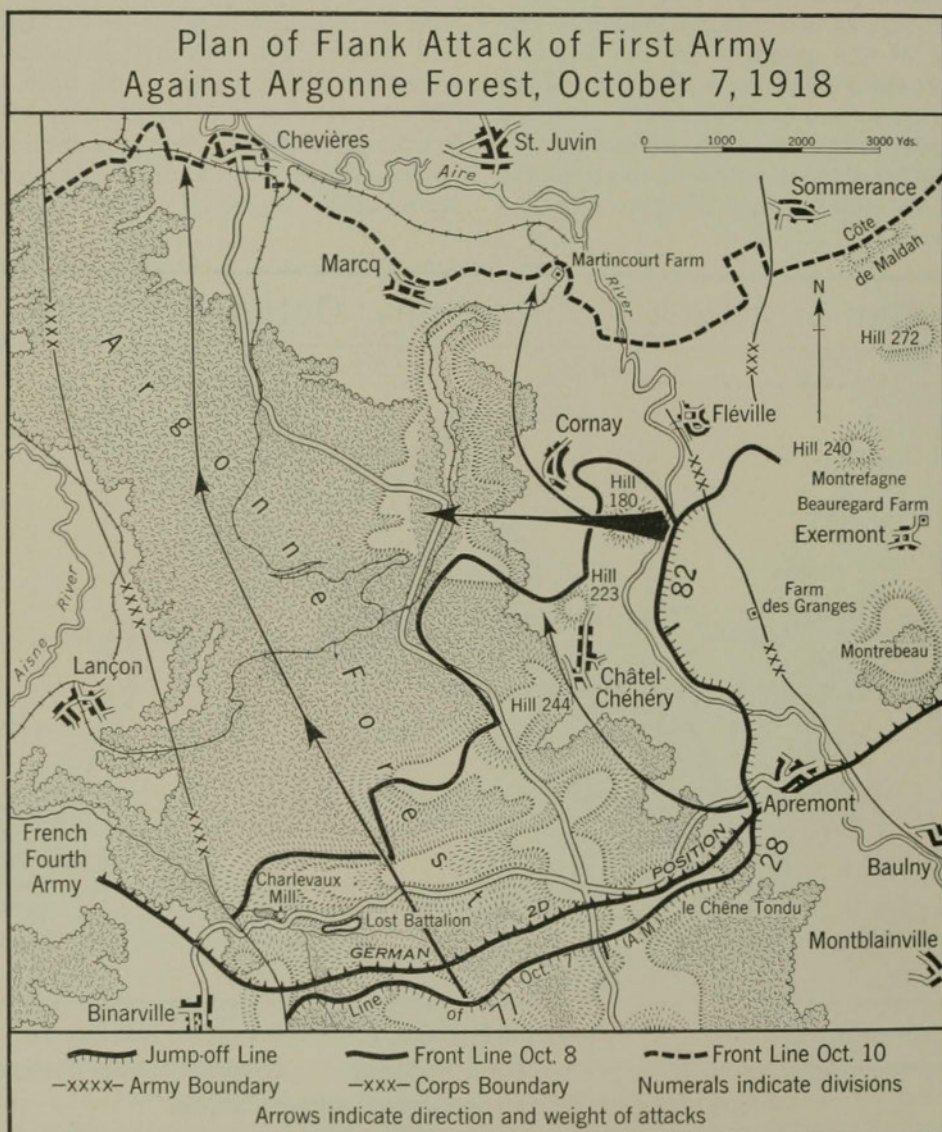


encountered was desperate in the extreme as the Germans were rapidly pouring their best troops into this battle. Not all the assigned objectives were taken, but important gains were made, outstanding among them being the capture by the 4th Division of the Bois de Fays in the Hindenburg Line southeast of Cunel and a deep advance immediately east of the Aire River by the 1st Division.

To exploit this latter gain it became necessary to make a flank attack against the Heights of the Argonne, near Châtel-Chéhéry, from which the fire of in-

creasingly large concentrations of hostile artillery was causing severe casualties and hampering the American operations to the east of the forest. Consequently on the morning of the 7th an assault was made by the 28th and 82d Divisions against Châtel-Chéhéry, in rear of and near the left flank of the German second position in the Argonne. At the same time the 77th Division advanced from the south. The flank attack was successful and freed the heroic survivors of the "Lost Battalion". (See Chapter V.)

The advance was continued on the 8th



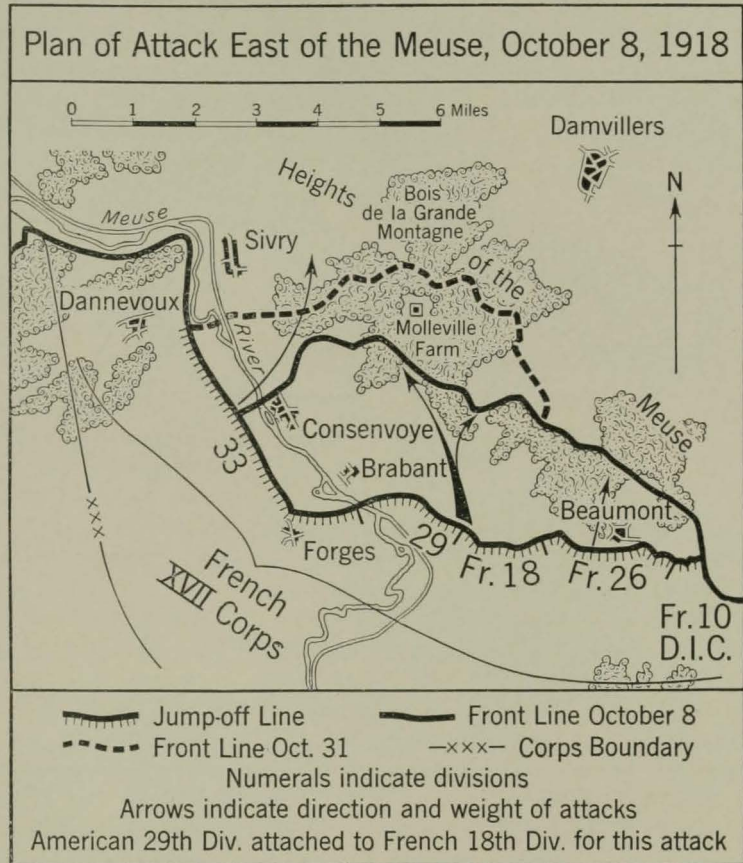
with further valuable gains. As a result the Germans on October 9 started a withdrawal from the Argonne, and the menace to the First Army of their presence in the forest was removed.

The success in the Argonne Forest on October 7 was followed on October 8 by an attack east of the Meuse by the French XVII Corps of the American First Army. The Corps was composed of three French divisions reinforced by the American 29th and 33d Divisions, making it almost two-thirds American in strength. It cleared the enemy from an important part of the heights

east of the Meuse, captured approximately 3,000 prisoners and eliminated much of the serious flanking fire which had been directed against the troops west of the river. This operation created a new threat against the enemy main lateral line of communication through Sedan and caused the Germans to increase the number of their divisions engaged in the active fighting.

To reap the full advantage of the two successful attacks in progress on the flanks, the V Corps, at the center of the Army, on October 9 again vigorously resumed the offensive, and on that day the 3d and 80th Divisions penetrated the Hindenburg Line in and near the Bois de Cunel and the 32d Division penetrated it to the south of Romagne.

On the 10th the attacks were general along the Army front from Beaumont, east of the Meuse, to the Argonne. By

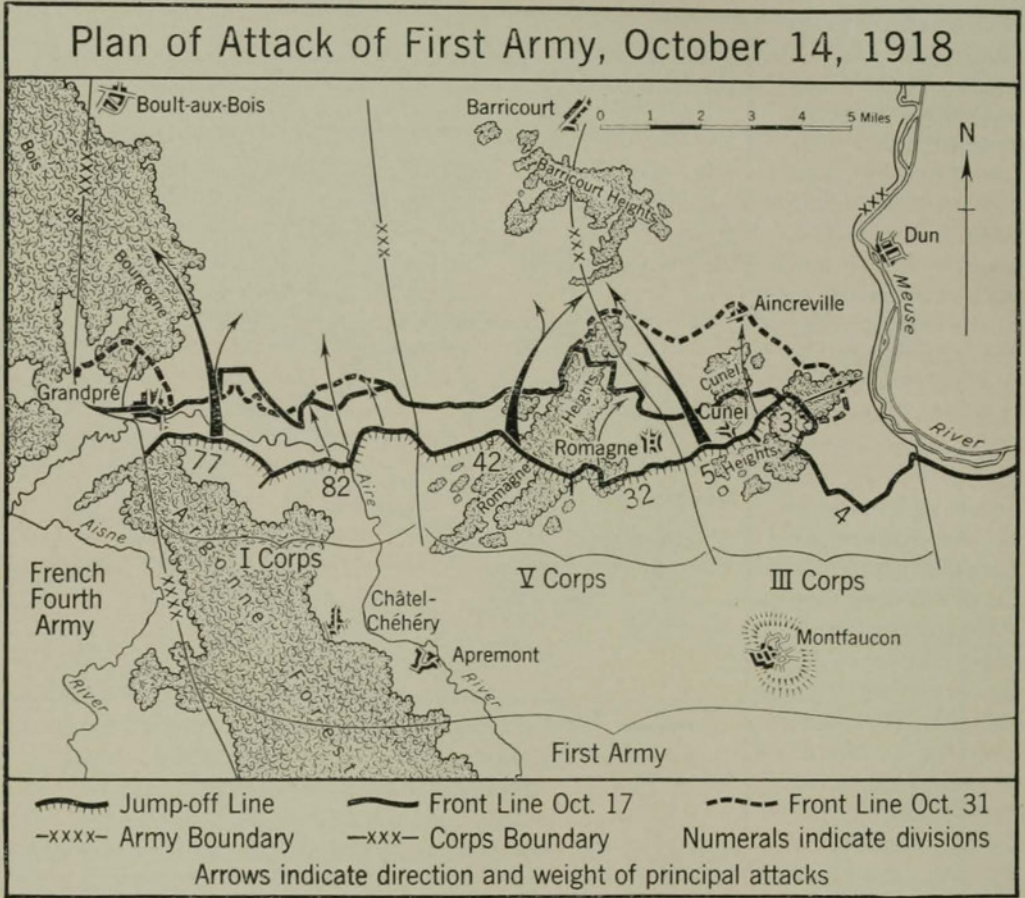


the 11th the 4th Division had deepened its penetration in the Hindenburg Line and had gained a foothold in the Bois de Forêt. On that day the 82d Division came in close contact with the outpost of the Hindenburg Line east of St. Juvin. These operations involved fighting of the most vicious sort, many places changing hands several times in a single day.

The battle died down on the 12th as the First Army again drew its breath preparatory to a resumption of the offensive on October 14. At that time the Army faced the Hindenburg Line, the last fully-prepared German position, along most of its zone of attack and had penetrated it on a front of about 3 miles.

The plan of attack for October 14 and the units which took part are shown on the sketch on the following page.

For this attack the order of battle on the Meuse-Argonne front was, from right



to left, as follows: east of the Meuse—the French XVII Corps with the French 10th Colonial, 26th and 18th Divisions and the American 29th and 33d Divisions in line and the American 26th Division in reserve; west of the Meuse—the III

Corps with the 4th, 3d and 5th Divisions in line, the V Corps with the 32d and 42d Divisions in line and the 89th in reserve, and the I Corps with the 82d and 77th Divisions in line and the 78th and French 5th Cavalry Divisions in reserve. The 1st, 80th, 90th and 91st Divisions were in Army reserve. Opposing this front the Germans had 17 divisions in the front line and 6 in reserve.

German Trench Mortar Used for Anti-Tank Defense, October 1918. © G



It was hoped that the III and V Corps could drive salients through the Hindenburg Line and then force the enemy from the ground between the salients. The I Corps was to protect the left of the V Corps. The French XVII Corps was to continue its offensive east of the Meuse.

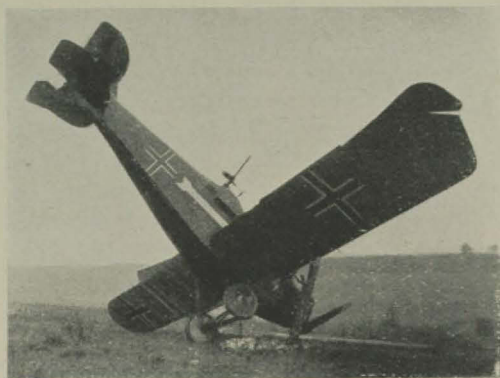
The offensive was to be started at the same time as one by the French Fourth Army, in an attempt to advance simultaneously on both sides of the difficult ground in the dense Bois de Bourgonne.

The attack was launched with great vigor on October 14 and met with violent resistance. Its weight, however, proved overwhelming and positions of tremendous strength in and near the Hindenburg Line were carried, the most notable being the Bois de la Pultière taken by the 3d and 5th Divisions, the dominating Côte Dame Marie seized by the 32d Division, St. Juvin captured by the 77th, and the ridge to the east of it taken by the 82d.

The offensive was pushed on the 15th and 16th, resulting in the capture of the Côte de Châtillon, a stronghold in the Hindenburg Line, by the 42d Division and the hill north of St. Juvin by the 82d. Although the ground gained in these three days was not so great in area, it was of exceptional importance as it opened the way for further advances.

East of the Meuse, in the French XVII Corps, both the 29th and 33d Divisions gained some ground during this period.

On October 21 General Pershing directed the First Army to prepare for a general offensive, the date for which was tentatively set as October 28. Prior to the day of the attack, local assaults were



German Plane Forced Down Near Cierges,
October 4, 1918

to be made to secure favorable jump-off lines and operations were to be initiated on the left of the Army to clear the wooded area north of Grandpré.

The local attacks were highly successful in spite of severe opposition. The 3d, 5th, 26th (which had entered the line east of the Meuse), 29th and 32d Divisions and the 89th and 90th (which had entered the line near Romagne) were all engaged. By the 22d of the month the 3d Division had completed the capture of the Bois de

Supply Train Passing Through Cuisy, October 11, 1918

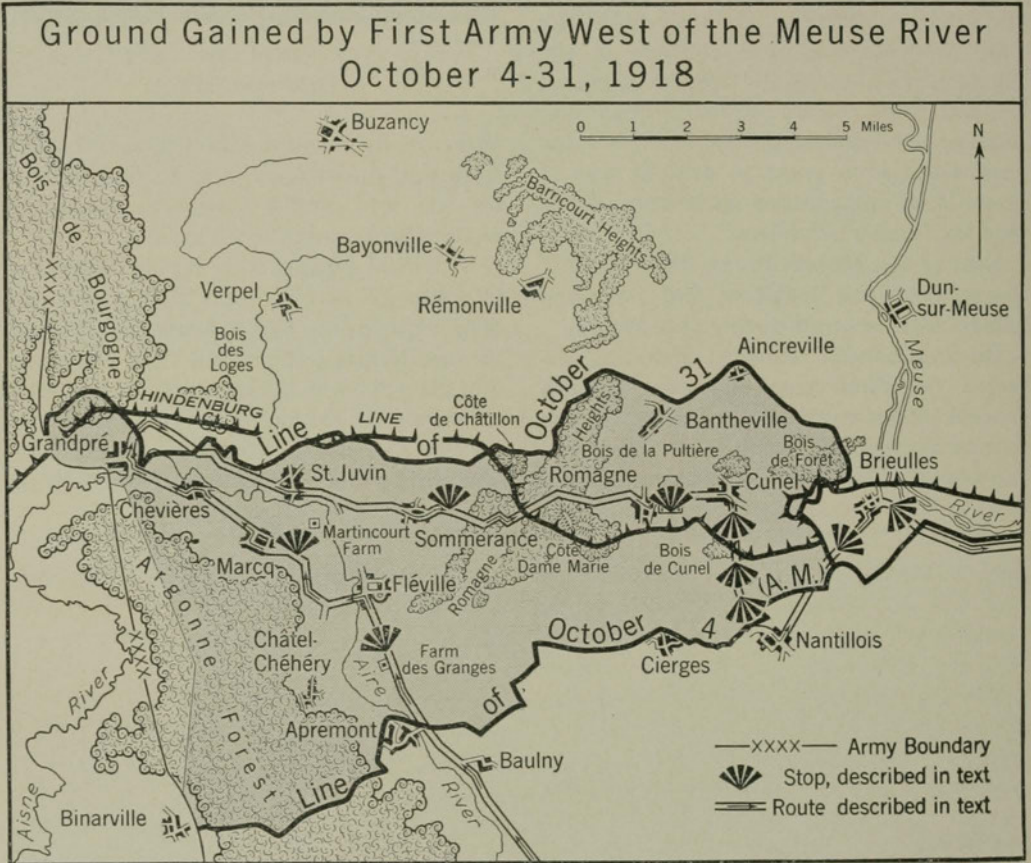


Forêt; the 5th Division, Cunel Heights; and the 89th, the northern and eastern part of Romagne Heights. The American troops on the heights east of the Meuse River gave the enemy no respite and continued to advance despite the opposition of fresh German divisions.

The operations at Grandpré were pushed with great resolution, the 78th Division attacking almost continuously. Important ground was gained and by

American Second Army was formed in the Woëvre. After the reapportionment of the American front between the two Armies, the First extended from Fresnes-en-Woëvre to the western edge of the Argonne, a distance of about 49 miles. The French XXXIII and XVII Corps, and the American III, V and I Corps were in line from right to left.

General Pershing relinquished personal command of the American First Army on



October 27 sufficient progress had been made on that flank to enable the right of the French Fourth Army to advance. This activity had a material effect on the success of the final offensive, as it drew the hostile attention away from the center of the First Army at which point the main attack was finally delivered.

During the severe fighting in October several events of importance to the First Army occurred. On October 12 the

October 16 to Major General Hunter Liggett, and from that time on became Commander of the American Group of Armies, in addition to his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the A. E. F.

In his report, covering the period of the Argonne battle from its beginning to October 16, he paid a glowing tribute to the enlisted men and junior officers of the American Expeditionary Forces. He said in part: "... attended by cold



American Airplanes Ready to Start on Patrol Duty

and inclement weather and fought largely by partially trained troops: the battle was prosecuted with an aggressive and heroic spirit of courage and fortitude which demanded eventual success despite all obstacles. The morale of the American soldier during this most trying period was superb. Physically strong and virile, naturally courageous and aggressive, inspired by unselfish and idealistic motives, he guaranteed the victory and drove a veteran enemy from his last ditch. Too much credit cannot be given him; his patriotism, courage, and fortitude were beyond praise.

“Upon the young commanders of platoons, companies, and battalions fell the heaviest burden. They not only suffered all the dangers and rigors of the fight but carried the responsibility of caring for and directing their men, often newly arrived and not fully trained . . . quick to learn, they soon developed on the field into skilled leaders and inspired their men . . .”

Although a pressing need existed during

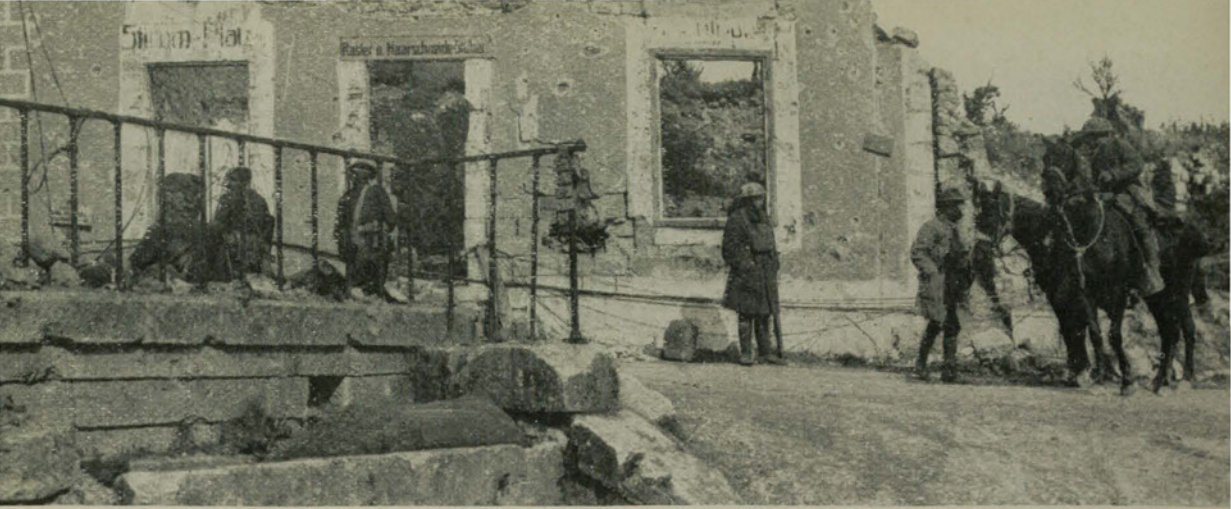
the offensive for additional combat troops on the Meuse-Argonne front, the Allied Commander-in-Chief made many demands on General Pershing for American divisions to assist the attacks at other points. While reluctant to have his divisions operate away from the American Army, General Pershing nevertheless gave his consent in certain cases where he felt that by so doing the general situation would be improved.

The divisions which served with the Allies during this period had a very favorable effect upon the morale of the Allied soldiers, and the military accomplishments of these American divisions were outstanding. The 2d and 36th were assigned to the French Fourth Army west of the Argonne and early in October vitally assisted it to advance at a critical period. (See Chapter V.) The 27th and 30th Divisions operated with the British Army throughout the entire duration of the Meuse-Argonne operation. Their most striking achievement was on September 29 when, as part of the American



Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett
Commanding General of the
First Army from October 16, 1918,
to April 20, 1919

the Meuse-Argonne operation. Their most striking achievement was on September 29 when, as part of the American



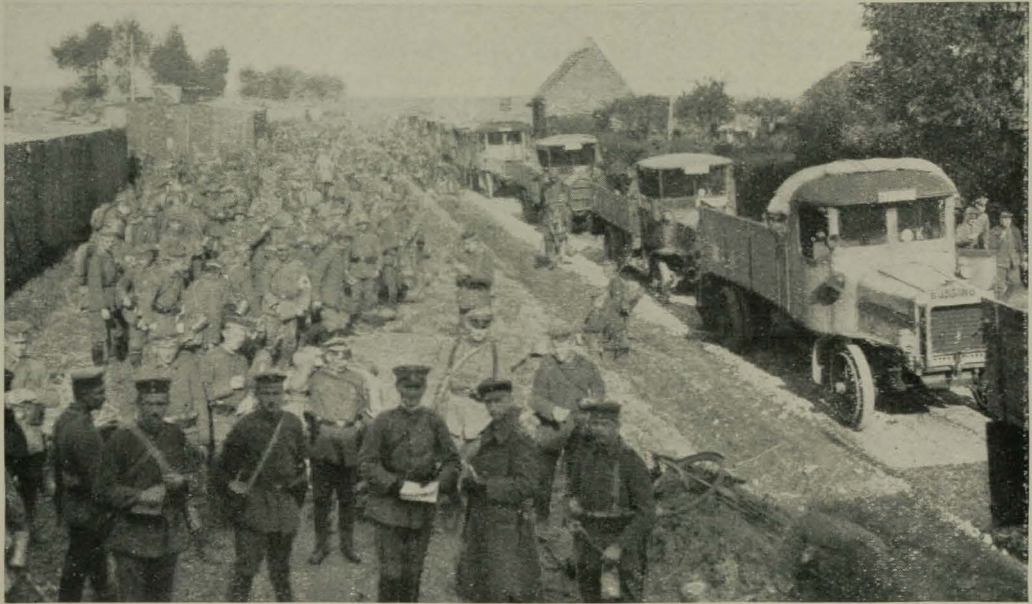
First Aid Station at Main Road Junction in Montfaucon, October 1918



German Prisoners, Headed by Their Officers, Being Conducted to the Rear



German 21-Centimeter Mortar Being Withdrawn From Position, October 1918. © G



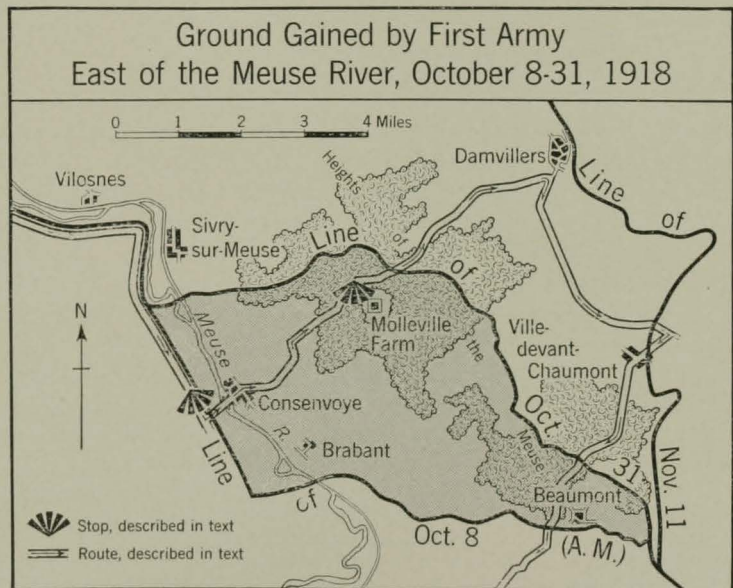
German Reserves Being Moved to the Front, October 1918. © G

II Corps, they broke the Hindenburg Line north of St. Quentin. (See Chapter VI.) The 37th and 91st Divisions were sent to Belgium during October to assist the Group of Armies of Flanders, and late in the month attacked near Audenarde and made important gains. (See Chapter VI.) The four infantry regiments of the 93d Division fought with great credit as integral parts of French divisions, and three American divisions, the 6th, 81st and 88th, held sectors for a time with the French Seventh Army in the Vosges Mountains, thus releasing French troops for service elsewhere.

On the Meuse-Argonne front a number of changes were made in the front-line units between October 22 and 31 as the worn-out divisions were relieved for rest and

recuperation and other divisions in better condition were placed in the battle line.

The American Army during this period was for the first time able to prepare for an offensive under reasonably normal conditions. It was already on the front from which the assault was to be made and sufficient time for careful and deliberate planning was available. Other favor-





able factors were that the majority of the Allied artillery and aviation units had been replaced by Americans and that the weather in the preparatory period took a turn for the better thus greatly relieving the hardships of the troops.¹

Upon the request of the French the date of the attack was postponed until November 1, at which time the divisions of the First Army were in line as shown on the accompanying sketch. The order of

battle, from the Meuse River to the west, was: the III Corps with the 5th and 90th Divisions in line and the 32d in reserve, the V Corps with the 89th and 2d Divisions in line and the 1st and 42d in reserve, and the I Corps with the 80th, 77th and 78th Divisions in line and the 6th and 82d in reserve. The 42d Division was transferred to the reserve of the I Corps soon after the beginning of the attack. The 3d, 29th and 36th Divisions in the rear areas composed the Army reserve.

The general mission of the First Army remained the same, to cut the Metz-Sedan-Mézières railroad. The detailed plan for the attack contemplated a deep

¹During the course of the Meuse-Argonne operation, rain was reported in the official reports by at least one American division of the First Army on every day from September 26 to November 11, except for seven days, which were October 2, 3, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29.

penetration by the V Corps in the center to secure Barricourt Heights, followed by a drive by the I Corps to connect with the French near Boult-aux-Bois. The capture of Barricourt Heights, which constituted a formidable natural obstacle, would compel a German retirement across the Meuse, so the III Corps, while assisting the main attack in the center, was directed to be prepared to force a crossing of the river if the enemy withdrew. There was to be no attack by the French XVII Corps then on the heights east of the Meuse until this crossing was started. The eastern edge of the Bois de Bourgogne was to be neutralized by heavy artillery concentrations of persistent gas.

With conditions generally favorable, it was a splendid force of veteran American soldiers which jumped off west of the Meuse at daybreak on November 1.

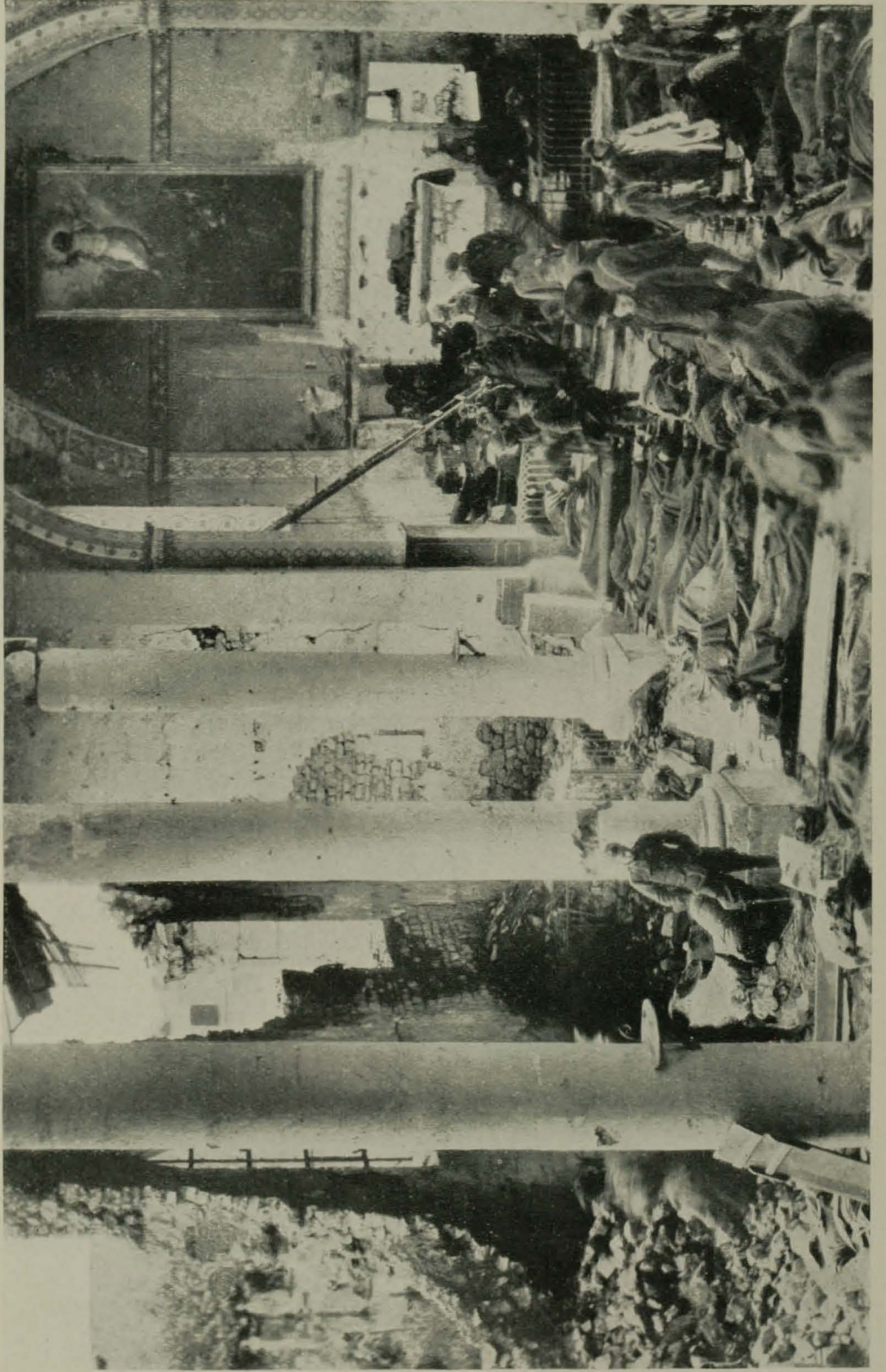
The assault was preceded by a terrific two-hour artillery preparation which effec-

tively bombarded the sensitive points of the enemy positions. The progress of the attack exceeded all expectations. In the center, the V Corps crushed all opposition and by early afternoon had advanced about 6 miles and captured Barricourt Heights, thus assuring the success of the whole operation. On its right, the III Corps made a deep advance, wheeling toward the Meuse River to protect that flank of the Army. On the left, the I Corps, which faced the unbroken Hindenburg Line on most of its front, attacked and made an average gain of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Its extreme right flank made a rapid and deep advance, keeping up with the left flank of the V Corps.

This deep penetration of the hostile lines, which overran the enemy artillery positions, caused the German High Command to issue orders on the night of November 1 for a withdrawal from the First Army front west of the Meuse.

Buzancy on the Day After Its Capture





American Wounded in a Wrecked Church, Neuville, September 26, 1918

The decision was a momentous one as such a withdrawal required a general retirement along the whole battle line as far as Holland, if the Germans were to avoid a decisive military defeat.

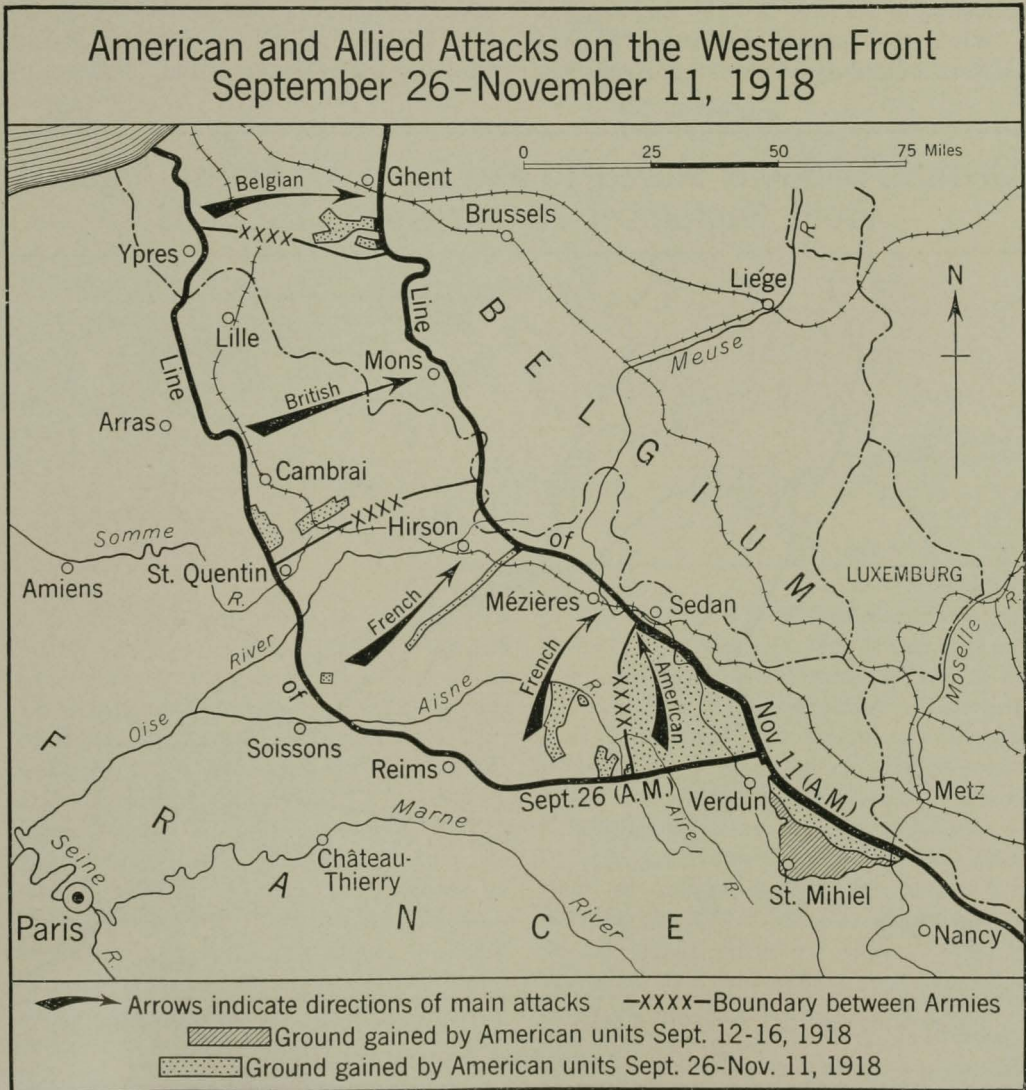
The First Army continued to drive forward on November 2 and 3. The III Corps forced the enemy across the Meuse River, the V Corps made a maximum advance of 7 miles, and the I Corps gained 10 miles. By November 4 the Germans were in full retreat west of the Meuse, although still vainly trying to check the rapid advance of the First Army by means of rearguard actions and the use of machine guns

placed in strong commanding positions.

The pursuit continued until November 7, when units of the I Corps reached the heights overlooking the city of Sedan. The occupation of these heights effectively cut the lateral railroad through Sedan, which was the main objective of the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

During the period from November 4 to 7 the 1st Division relieved the 80th and the 42d Division relieved the 78th.

Between September 26 and November 6 the French, British and Belgians to the west and north had gradually increased the vigor and strength of their attacks



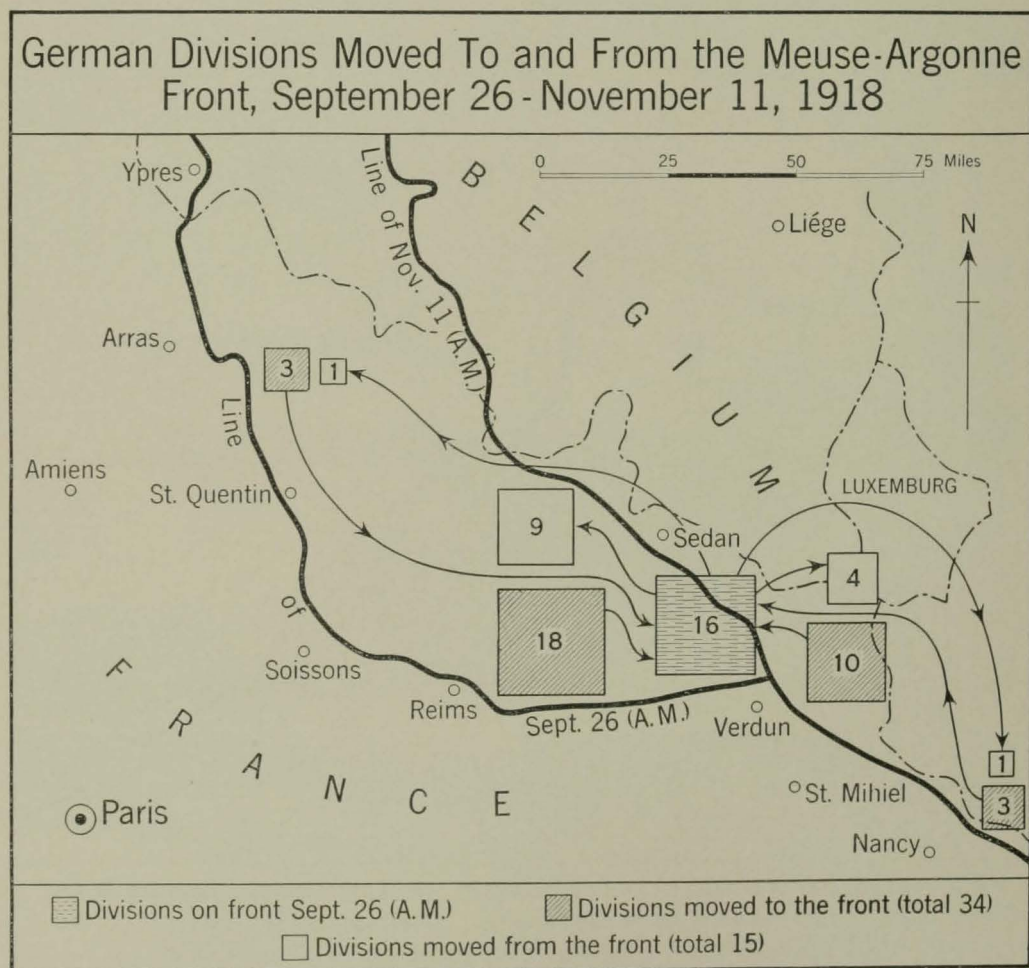
and had made substantial inroads into the hostile positions. Damaging as these drives were to the German cause, and valuable as they were in the Allied plan for victory, such was the importance to the Germans of protecting their main railroad at Sedan that they brought reserves from almost every portion of the Western Front to throw in the path of the American advance. (See the sketch below.)

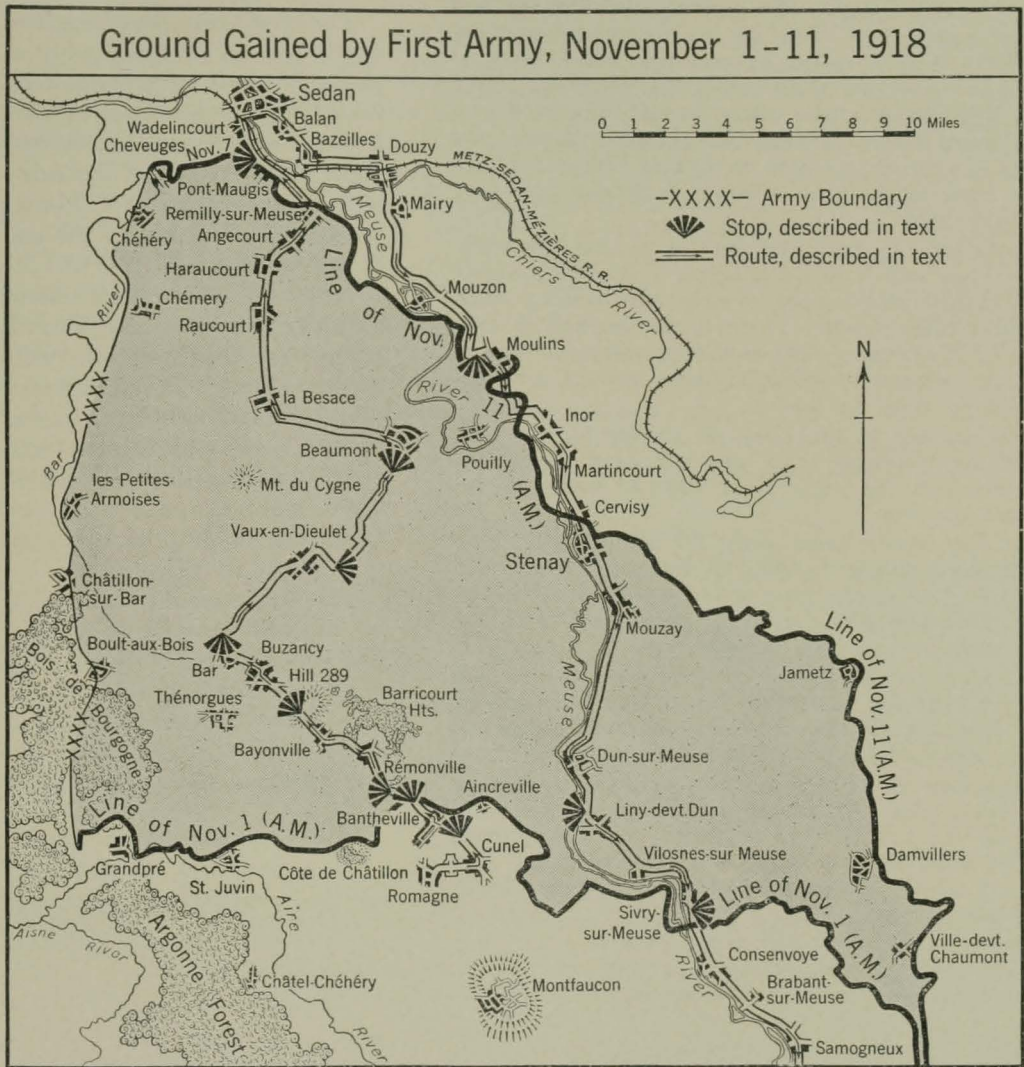
When the American Army, in spite of increasing enemy reinforcements and a well-nigh impregnable hostile defensive system, had driven forward to a position dominating the German railroad communications in the vicinity of Sedan, the termination of the war in 1918 was assured.

While the pursuit was going on, the western boundary of the First Army was

shifted several times by the Allied Commander-in-Chief, the notice of the last change being received on November 7 when the American troops were on the heights south of Sedan preparing to attack the city. It limited the left of the Army to Mouzon instead of to near Sedan. The topography of the ground and these modifications in its boundary caused the gradual withdrawal of the I Corps from the battle line on the left flank of the First Army and a change from north to east in the general direction of advance of the American Army.

Meanwhile the crossing of the Meuse by the III Corps began on November 4, when bridgeheads were established by the 5th Division south of Dun-sur-Meuse. These gains were exploited, assisted by





a northward movement of the French XVII Corps which was farther up the river on the heights to the east of it. This fighting gradually cleared the enemy from the heights east of the Meuse as far as Stenay. All divisions of the III Corps and French II Colonial Corps, which latter corps had relieved the French XVII Corps on November 6, were involved. These attacks, participated in by the 26th, 79th, French 15th Colonial, 32d, 5th and 90th Divisions, in order from right to left were so successful that by November 10 an excellent line of departure for an advance in the direction of Montmédy had been secured.

The American Commander-in-Chief issued instructions on November 5 directing both American Armies to prepare for an advance in the direction of Longwy and the Briey iron basin, and for the First Army to conduct an offensive with the object of driving the enemy beyond Theinte Creek and the Chiers River.

Late on November 9 Marshal Foch, then in conference with the enemy concerning the Armistice, issued instructions to all armies directing that attacks be initiated and sustained along the whole front in order to take full advantage of the demoralization of the German forces.

The First Army executed these attacks

HOW TO STOP THE WAR

Do your part to put an end to the war! Put an end to your part of it. Stop fighting! That's the simplest way. You can do it, you soldiers, just stop fighting and the war will end of its own accord. You are not fighting for anything anyway. What does it matter to you who owns Metz or Strassburg, you never saw those towns nor knew the people in them, so what do you care about them? But there is a little town back home in little old United States you would like to see and if you keep on fighting here in the hope of getting a look at those old German fortresses you may never see home again.

The only way to stop the war is to stop fighting. That's easy. Just quit it and slip across «No Man's Land» and join the bunch that's taking it easy there waiting to be exchanged and taken home. There is no disgrace in that. That bunch of American prisoners will be welcomed just as warmly as you who stick it out in these infernal trenches. Get wise and get over the top.

There is nothing in the glory of keeping up the war. But think of the increasing taxes you will have to pay the longer the war lasts the larger those taxes at home will be. Get wise and get over.

All the fine words about glory are tommy rot. You haven't got any business fighting in France. You would better be fighting the money trust at home instead of fighting your fellow soldiers in grey over here where it doesn't really matter two sticks to you how the war goes.

Your country needs you, your family needs you and you need your life for something better than being gassed, shot at, deafened by cannon shots and rendered unfit physically by the miserable life you must live there.

The tales they tell you of the cruelties of German prison camps are fairy tales. Of course you may not like being a prisoner of war but anything is better than this infernal place with no hope of escape except by being wounded after which you will only be sent back for another hole in your body.

Wake up and stop the war! You can if you want to. Your government does not mean to stop the war for years to come and the years are going to be long and dreary. You better come over while the going is good.

German Propaganda Dropped Behind the American Lines

on November 10 and 11, making assaults along most of its front. These resulted in substantial gains, including, in addition to those mentioned above, the forcing of a crossing of the Meuse River south of Mouzon by the 2d and 89th Divisions of the V Corps, and a 1½-mile advance east of Verdun by the 81st Division, the right division of the French II Colonial Corps.

On the morning of November 11 word was received and sent to the American troops as quickly as possible that the Armistice had been signed, and that hostilities would cease at 11:00 a. m.

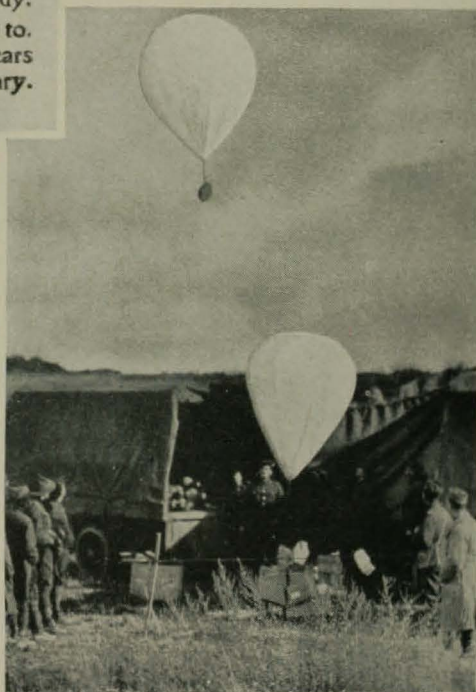
Thus ended the Meuse-Argonne battle, the greatest one in American history.

The First Army, which reached a strength in early October of about 900,000 Americans, reinforced by more than 100,000 French, was approximately eight times the size of the army with which General Grant opposed General Lee at the end of the American Civil War.

Its total losses from all causes, excluding those of the French troops serving with it, were about 117,000. It had inflicted approximately 100,000 casualties on the enemy and had captured 26,000 prisoners, 874 cannon, 3,000 machine guns and vast quantities of supplies, ammunition and other matériel.

The American First Army in 47 days of continuous fighting had advanced steadily in spite of all obstacles, and the most desperate resistance, and had played a vital part in bringing the war to a successful conclusion.

Allied Propaganda Being Floated to German Lines



A VISIT TO THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELDS
IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE REGION

THIS itinerary of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield is divided into two tours, each requiring a day. The first, which is the shorter, traverses the area that was fought over between September 26 and November 1, 1918; the second covers principally that part where the fighting occurred between November 1 and the Armistice. The first day's tour is recommended to all tourists who can spend but one day on this battle front.

For those who have not sufficient time to follow the first day's tour, it is recommended that a special effort be made to

visit the American memorial at Montfaucon and the American cemetery near Romagne-sous-Montfaucon and that pages 203-214 and 247-253 of the first day's tour be read while there. Besides being objects of great sentimental interest to Americans, these places are in areas of severe American fighting and afford excellent observation points. The combat operations described at the monument and cemetery in the first day's tour, to which the above page references refer, give a good résumé of all the fighting of the American Army in the Meuse-Argonne region.

No Man's Land South of Malancourt



FIRST DAY'S TOUR OF THE AMERICAN
MEUSE-ARGONNE BATTLEFIELDS

THIS tour begins and ends at Verdun and is about 95 miles (153 kilometers) long. It can be completed in eight hours. To save time lunch should be carried.

The data given on pages 520-521 will be helpful to those following this tour.

The narrative at the beginning of the chapter should be kept in mind and the map at the end consulted, so that the operations described in this chapter will be more clearly understood.

When following this tour of the battlefields, unless contrary road instructions are given, continue straight ahead.

EN ROUTE RAILROAD STATION VERDUN TO
NORTHERN SLOPE OF LE MCRT HOMME

Speedometer distance is measured from the plaza in front of the railroad station.

(0.0 m 0.0 km) At railroad station, with the station on right-hand side, set speedometer at zero. Proceed by the road seen straight ahead.

(0.3 m 0.5 km) A short distance farther on, bear right and cross the viaduct which runs over the railroad tracks.

(0.6 m 1.0 km) At the road junction beyond viaduct, bear to the right and continue on the road toward Montfaucon.

(1.2 m 1.9 km) Near far side of town, at large barracks passed on the left, to the right front can be seen glimpses of the open field in which three American 14-inch naval guns, mounted on railway carriages and manned by personnel of the United States Navy, went into action on October 13, 1918. These guns fired at important enemy communication centers about 20 miles away. Two of them were later moved to positions near Charny, several miles ahead, where they joined a third that had been on duty with the French near Soissons. As a result of direct hits made by these guns on their targets, the movement of enemy troops and supplies was considerably hampered.

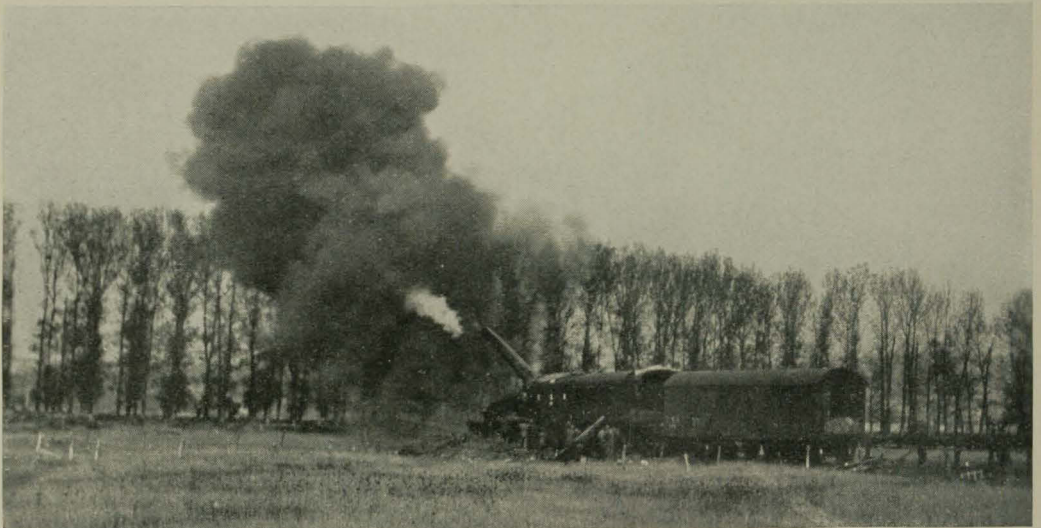
(2.9 m 4.7 km) Beyond town, about 1½ miles, at the first road junction, turn to the right toward Charny.

To the left on top of the hill is seen one of the ring of forts constructed around Verdun about 1880 for its defense.

(4.7 m 7.6 km) In next village, Charny, at first road junction, turn sharp left.

This road was an important supply route for the American First Army in the fall of 1918. During the first part of the Meuse-Argonne battle it was seldom used in daylight hours because of the incessant

United States 14-Inch Naval Gun Firing From Railway Mount Near Charny, October 1918





33d Division Troops Passing Through Chattancourt,
October 1918

activity of hostile airplanes and artillery. Consequently, during the hours of darkness it was filled to capacity as men, ammunition and supplies were moved to the front and wounded were carried to the rear. Motor trucks, ambulances, wagons and troops had to move without lights, and much confusion and many traffic jams occurred here in spite of all precautions and constant supervision. The difficulties were greatly aggravated by the enemy artillery which at night periodically shelled the important road crossings.

(7.5 m 12.1 km) **At church in the next village, Marre, bear to the right.**

(8.7 m 14.0 km) **Near the next cross-road, a 33d Division dressing station, which gave first aid to the wounded, was located during the early days of the American operations on this front.**

(9.4 m 15.1 km) **A short distance farther on, the monument seen on the right alongside the road marks the site of the former village of Cumières. This village was literally blown away by shellfire during the fighting in the vicinity.**

(9.7 m 15.6 km) **Where the road starts to climb the hill ahead, turn sharp left on the narrow road which leads off from it.**

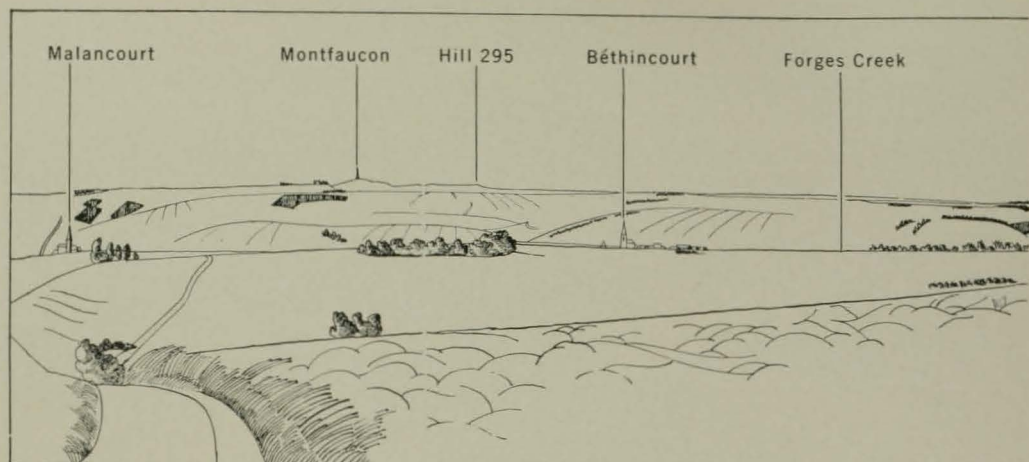
If narrow road is closed continue straight

ahead and stop on far side of next ridge where a good view of the valley to the left front is obtained. At this point read itinerary to paragraph 1 of the second column on page 200. From here can be identified most of the places seen from the stop at Le Mort Homme if the map is consulted and it is remembered that the wood on the hill across the valley to the left front is the Bois de Forges. After reading itinerary, continue straight ahead. At next road fork turn left, cross bridge and again turn left. The described route is rejoined at the road crossing just beyond the next village, Béthincourt. Reset speedometer at that point.

(10.5 m 16.9 km) **Beyond the first hill, a sign is seen (1937) on the right which indicates a path to a tunnel built by the Germans during the war. In this region were constructed many such elaborate tunnels which afforded shelter and a means of transferring troops and supplies from one place to another underground, free from hostile observation and fire.**

(10.6 m 17.1 km) **The monuments seen to the left front are French monuments on the hill called Le Mort Homme.**

(10.8 m 17.4 km) **At the top of the hill which the road is climbing, where a good panorama to the right is obtained, STOP.**



Panorama From Trench

This point is on the northern slope of Le Mort Homme. Forges Creek runs in the valley to the right front and right. The large wood seen to the right on the hill across the valley is the Bois de Forges. The left portion of it is to the north.

Face north.

Along the slopes in front of here ran part of the battle line from which an army of 600,000 American soldiers, on the morning of September 26, 1918, started a great drive that finally reached the vicinity of Sedan, 35 miles away, after 43 days of continuous fighting.

This area at that time was a scene of indescribable desolation. Thousands of shells had churned up the surface of the

ground and the autumn rains had made it a sea of mud, littered with battlefield wreckage. Innumerable bands of barbed wire zigzagged their way across the hills and valleys, while the few shattered trees that remained stood lonely sentinels over the bleak landscape. Nature has done much to heal this battle-scarred area but even now (1937) the marks of trenches and shell holes are plainly visible.

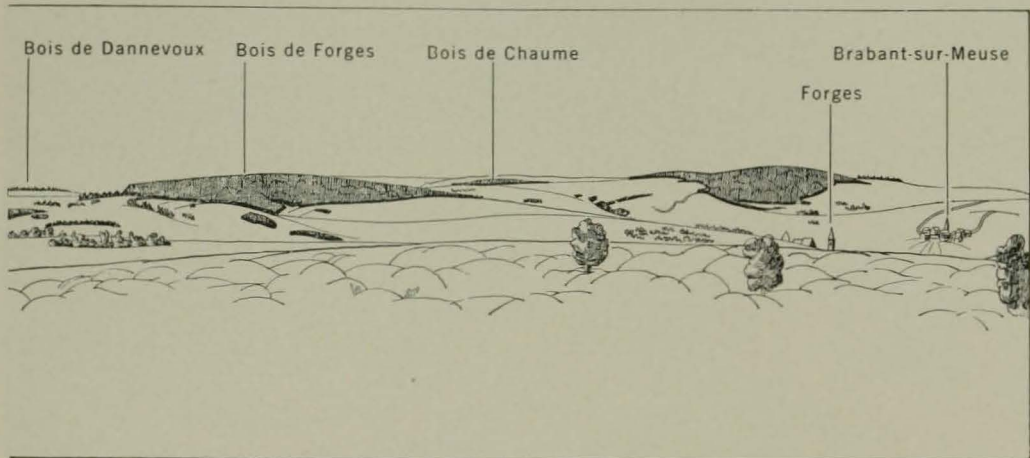
The assembly of troops and supplies for the attack commenced early in September when the American 33d Division arrived in this region and on September 10 took over a large sector of the line. It was followed by the 79th, which on September 16 occupied an adjoining sector. Soon thereafter numerous other American units secretly concentrated behind this front and made preparations for the assault.

The front of attack of the American First Army ran from the Meuse River on the right, along the forward slopes of the low ridge seen directly ahead, and passed just this side of Béthincourt, whose church is plainly visible to the left front beyond the ridge. It continued on, passing to the left of Malancourt, seen on a clear day down the road to the left over the second ridge, and ended about 16 miles from here near the far edge of the Argonne Forest.

This point lay in the sector of the III Corps which had the 33d, 80th and 4th Divisions, in that order from right to left, in the initial assault. The 79th Division

33d Division Troops in Front-Line Trench
Near Forges, October 3, 1918





on Le Mort Homme

of the V Corps was next in line with the commanding hill of Montfaucon, marked by the monument on the sky line to the left, in its zone of action.

Beyond the 79th Division, and also in the V Corps for the initial assault, were the 37th and 91st Divisions. The I Corps was on the left of the Army with the 35th, 28th and 77th Divisions in line.

The German positions on this front were extremely formidable, having been strengthened to the highest degree during the preceding years of fighting. In rear of their front line, they had constructed a series of positions, one behind the other, which formed a continuous defensive zone for a depth of about 10 miles. Progress here was considered so difficult that General Pétain, the Commander-in-Chief of the French Army, gave it as his opinion that the American advance would not get farther than Montfaucon before winter.

The battle began at 2:30 a. m. on September 26 when approximately 2,700 pieces of artillery opened fire on the German trenches, strong points, wire entanglements, observation posts and communication centers on the front of attack. This bombardment lasted continuously until daybreak when the infantry, protected by a dense barrage of shellfire, began its assault. A thick fog aided in concealing the movements of the American troops from the enemy but also made more difficult their tasks of

mopping up, keeping contact with adjoining units and advancing in the proper direction through the myriads of trenches, mazes of barbed wire and tangled masses of trees and underbrush.

On this part of the front, the divisions of the III Corps crossed the swampy Forges Creek valley and broke into the strong German positions to a depth of 5 miles on the first day. The 33d Division, starting from this vicinity, quickly captured the Bois de Forges, and before noon had established a line along this side of the Meuse River valley beyond the Bois de Forges as a protection for the flank of the advancing forces. The 80th Division to the left of this point took Béthincourt,

Camouflaged Road Near Forges,
October 1918





Shell Holes and Mine Craters

Good illustration of type of ground in no man's land on the Meuse-Argonne front

drove ahead several miles and by midnight had reached the Meuse River in the right part of its zone of action. The next day in severe fighting it captured the Bois de Dannevoux, the wood seen on the sky line to the right of and beyond Béthincourt. The 4th Division, passing just this side of Montfaucon, made a rapid and spectacular advance which will be described at the next stop.

The successes here were largely due to the courage and fighting spirit of the individual American soldier. Illustrative of these are the exploits of Captain George H. Mallon, First Sergeant Sydney G. Gumpertz and Sergeant Willie Sandlin of the 33d Division. All of these men were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor, the highest decoration for bravery given by the American Government, for the important part they played in the capture of the Bois de Forges.

Becoming separated from his company in the fog, Captain Mallon, with nine men, pushed forward and attacked nine hostile machine guns, capturing them all without the loss of a man. Continuing, he led his men against a battery of howitzers in action and captured the guns and their crews. Captain Mallon personally attacked one of the enemy with his fists. Later, in assaulting two other machine guns he sent his men to the flanks, while he himself rushed directly forward in the face of the fire and silenced the guns. The exceptional gallantry and determination displayed by Captain Mallon resulted in the capture of eleven machine guns, four 155-millimeter howitzers, and one anti-aircraft artillery piece.

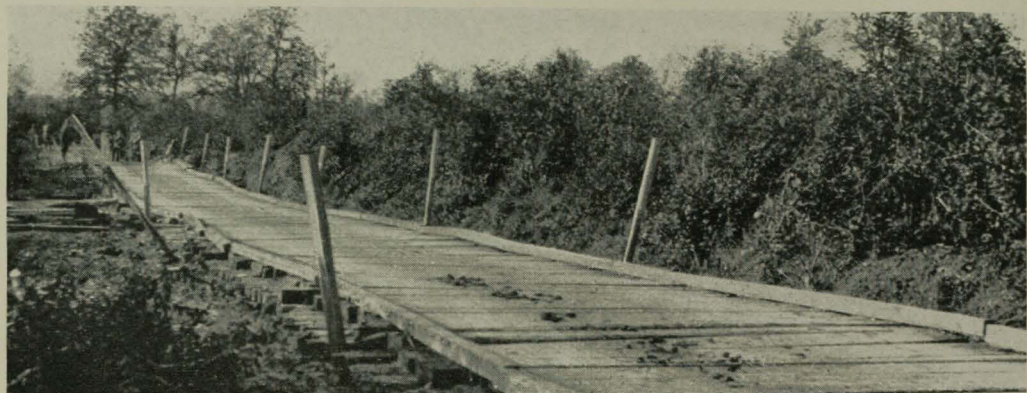
When the advancing lines were held up by severe machine-gun fire First Sergeant Gumpertz left the platoon of which he was in command and started with two other soldiers through a heavy barrage toward the machine-gun nest. His two companions soon became casualties from the bursting shells, but Sergeant Gumpertz continued on alone in the face of direct fire from the machine gun, jumped into the nest and silenced the gun, capturing nine of the crew who were manning it.

Sergeant Sandlin showed conspicuous gallantry by advancing alone on a machine-gun nest which was holding up the progress of his unit. He killed the crew with a grenade and enabled the advance to continue. Later in the day he attacked alone and put two other machine-gun nests out of action, setting a splendid example of coolness and bravery.

Before leaving this stop the reader should fix in his mind the general appearance of the tall shaft of the monument on Montfaucon, which is visible from many places on this tour. Because it is located near the center of the area fought over by the American Army between September 26 and November 1, 1918, it will be pointed out from time to time as an orientation aid to the tourists who are following the described route.

Cumières-Forges Road, 1918





Section of Avocourt-Montfaucon Road Showing Plank Construction

EN ROUTE NORTHERN SLOPE OF LE MORT
HOMME TO MONTFAUCON

(11.5 m 18.5 km) **Beyond next hill, while descending long slope, to the left front the high wooded hill marked by a monument is Hill 304. Severe French and German fighting occurred there in 1916. It was within the American lines before the attack of September 26.**

(12.0 m 19.3 km) **When Béthincourt comes into plain view to the right front, a small marker is seen alongside the road. This is a type of marker that has been placed throughout France and Belgium to indicate the farthest advance of the German Armies in 1918. The center of the jump-off line of the 80th Division, which attacked on the morning of September 26 in the direction of Béthincourt, was approximately at this point.**

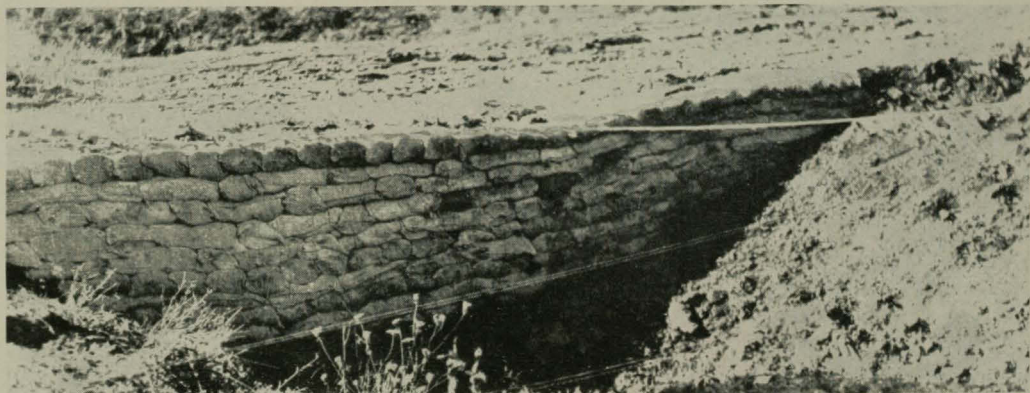
(12.7 m 20.4 km) **After crossing the bridge over the creek, at the next road**

junction, turn left toward Malancourt.

(13.3 m 21.4 km) **Beyond first crest, where road crosses center of shallow valley leading off to the right the zone of action of the 4th Division is entered. It was from this part of the American front that one of the deepest and most rapid advances of the attack was made.**

The valley of Forges Creek, which the road now follows, was in no man's land when the American Army arrived on this front. These slopes were covered with thick bands of barbed wire which protected the main German trenches located near the crest of the ridge to the right. The Allied trenches were close to the top of the ridge across the valley, with an enormous area of wire entanglements and other obstacles in front of them. The whole countryside was a white, desolate waste covered with interlocking shell craters and great quantities of débris.

Road Constructed With Sandbags Across No Man's Land

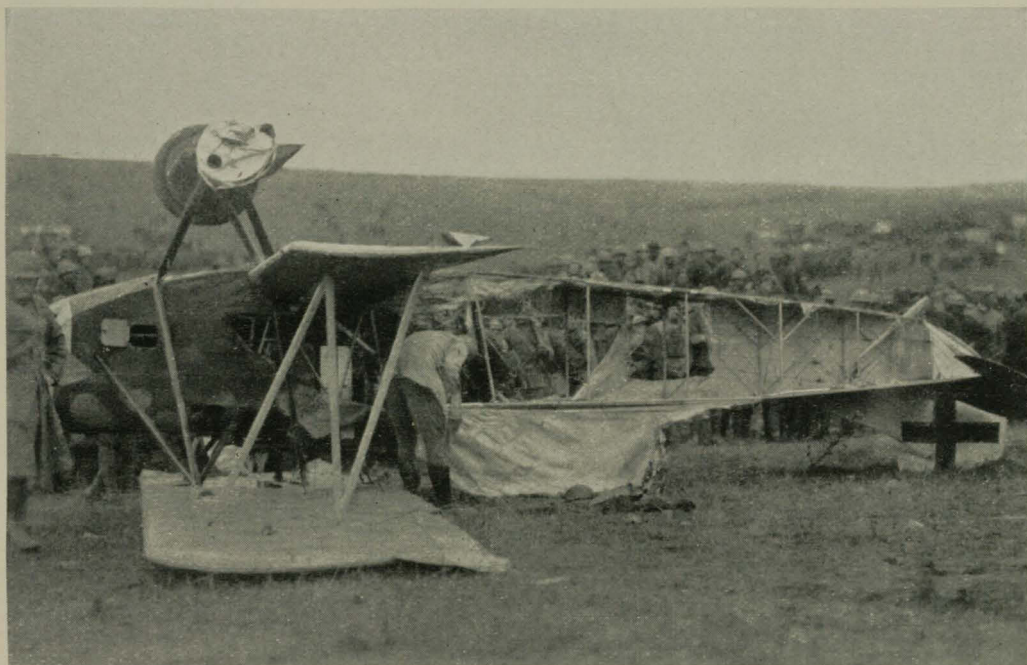


On September 26 the center of this valley was a spongy shell-torn morass. The infantry crossed it on boards which were carried from the American trenches and laid end to end across the mud. Later the engineers and pioneer infantry units accomplished the colossal task of building roads and bridges over it for the artillery and supply trains. To give an idea of the magnitude of the task, it may be stated that the construction of but one of these roads required the use of 40,000 sand bags.

(14.5 m 23.3 km) **Beyond place where road passes through a cut, in the next**

in advancing up the valley which the road follows beyond Malancourt. This was due to the uneven character of the ground and the fact that the first waves of the division attack passed by many German strong points in the thick fog.

(16.4 m 26.4 km) **About 1½ miles farther on, at top of first hill,** was a large, powerful field fortification called on French war maps the "Ouvrage du Démon" (Strongpoint of the Devil). By looking to the rear from the road near the top of the hill, its commanding position is evident. Heavy machine-gun fire from



German Plane Brought Down by Machine-Gun Fire Near Malancourt, October 3, 1918

shallow valley, the zone of action of the 79th Division during the attack is entered.

(14.9 m 24.0 km) **Straight through Malancourt,** which was a heap of ruins in 1918. It was captured by the 79th Division early on the morning of September 26. The town was the III Corps Headquarters, October 26–November 3.

The tour from this point on to Montfaucon generally follows the direction of advance on September 26 of the attacking units of the American First Army.

The 79th Division had great difficulty

it stopped the advance of the 79th Division troops during September 26.

(16.5 m 26.6 km) **To the left front** is seen a fine view of the American monument on top of Montfaucon.

(16.8 m 27.0 km) **To the right front considerably beyond and to the right of Montfaucon** was located the line reached by the 4th Division on the first day of the attack. The line of the 37th Division at that time was just to the left of the hill.

(18.0 m 29.0 km) **At monument in the ruined town of Montfaucon, STOP.**



The Meuse-Argonne American Memorial at Montfaucon
The shaft is 180 feet high

This imposing monument, rising from the ruins of the former village of Montfaucon, commemorates the brilliant victory of the American First Army in the Meuse-Argonne offensive and the heroic services of the Armies of France before that time on this important battle front. It was erected by the United States Government and is the largest of the American war memorials in Europe.

Montfaucon is supposed to date back to the 6th Century when it grew up as a market town around a monastery. Numerous battles have taken place in its vicinity. In one, fought against the Normans about 888 A. D., 19,000 dead are said to have been left on the battlefield. During the Hundred Years' War the district was frequently ravaged by bands of robbers; during the Religious Wars of the 16th Century, it was taken and burned; while in 1636 the town was again destroyed. In 1792, it was captured by Prussian troops taking part in the Valmy campaign.

While making excavations for the foundations of the monument, an old underground passage, hollowed out of the soft rock, was found running from the ruins behind the monument to the foot of the hill. To the left of the shaft as seen from the parking plaza, about 12 feet underground, was found a cemetery probably dating from the Middle Ages, and under the front end of the wall on the right side of the main terrace were three old cellars, one below the other, the lowest one evidently having been used as a dungeon. A small pot containing a few gold and silver pieces dated about 1750 was also discovered on the site.

The monument has the form of a Doric column surmounted by a figure representing Liberty. It faces the First Army jump-off line of September 26. From the observation platforms at the top, a large portion of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield is plainly to be seen.

Across the front of the monument appear in large letters the names of the four most important areas, from a military point of view, in the territory captured

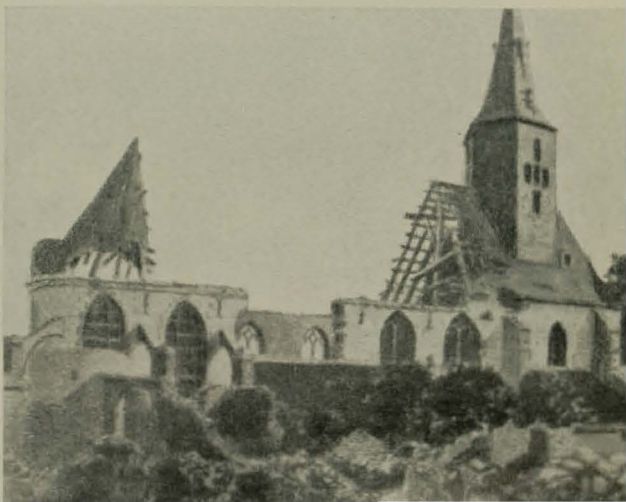


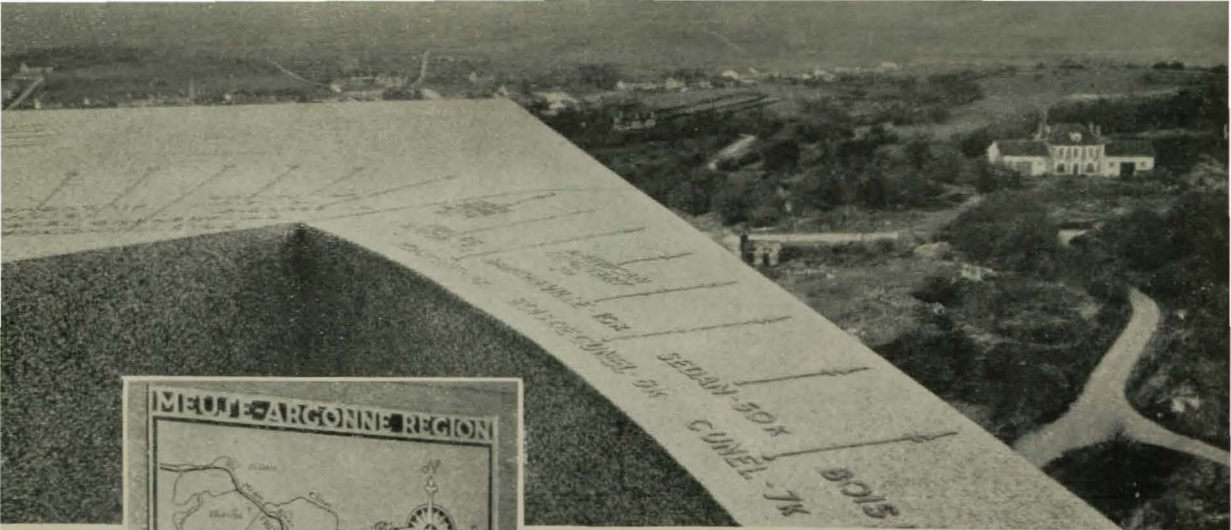
Interior of Church at Montfaucon in 1914

by the American troops. The two large words at the sides, Meuse and Argonne, were placed in that order as the American fighting in this vicinity is officially known as the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

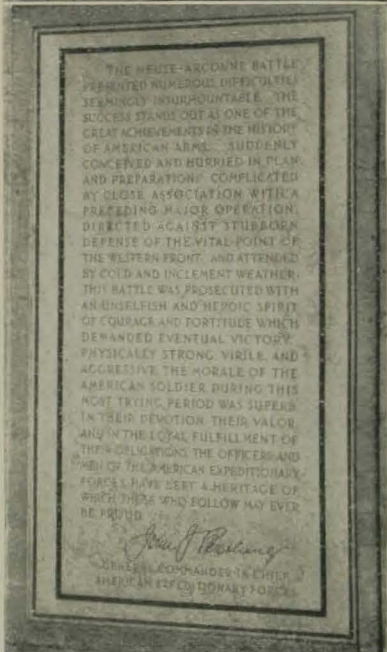
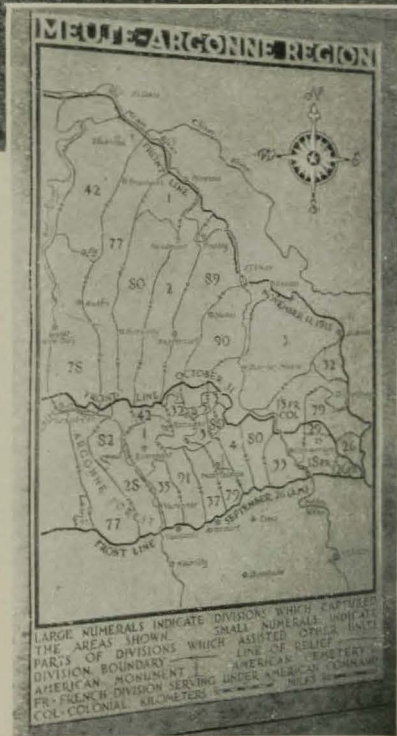
On the wall around the main terrace are listed the divisions which formed the First Army and under each name are given three places, now famous in American military history, where hard fighting of the division concerned occurred.

Church at Montfaucon in 1917





Corner of Observation Terrace, Meuse-Argonne Monument, Showing Direction Arrows



Map and Inscription Carved on Interior Wall

Inside the entrance door is a small vestibule, decorated with flags of the United States and France. Carved on its walls are a brief description in French and English of the American operations, a colored map illustrating the American offensive in this region, and a tribute by General Pershing, the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, to his officers and men who served here.

The observation platforms, from which superb views are obtained, are reached by the circular stairway leading up from the base of the shaft. It is a climb of 234 steps. Eleven of the thirteen landings are provided with benches where those ascending the tower may stop to rest.

The following is written to be read from the observation platforms. Those not climbing the tower should read Part I from the terrace in front of the monument and Part II from the large crucifix, on the other side of the hill, 400 yards from here along the road toward the village of Nantillois.



Church at Montfaucon in 1927

PART I

Climb tower, go to platform overlooking plaza in front of monument and face so as to look along the center of the approach steps, which direction is south.

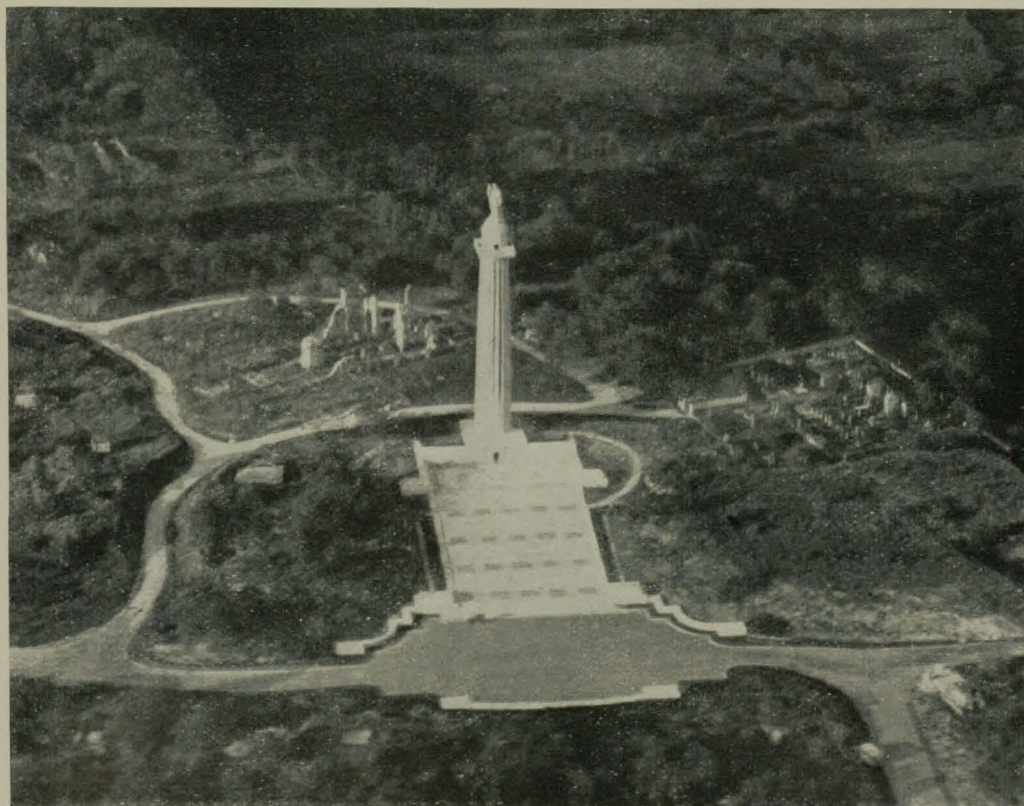
Spread out below the observer in a magnificent panorama is the ground over which the American Army attacked on the first day of the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The trenches and fields of barbed wire that criss-crossed this area are no longer visible, the shell holes and concrete emplacements that gave it the appearance of a desolate waste are gone, but the woods, hills and streams are still here and the names of the farms and towns, which have been rebuilt, recall the glories and sacrifices of the troops who fought near them.

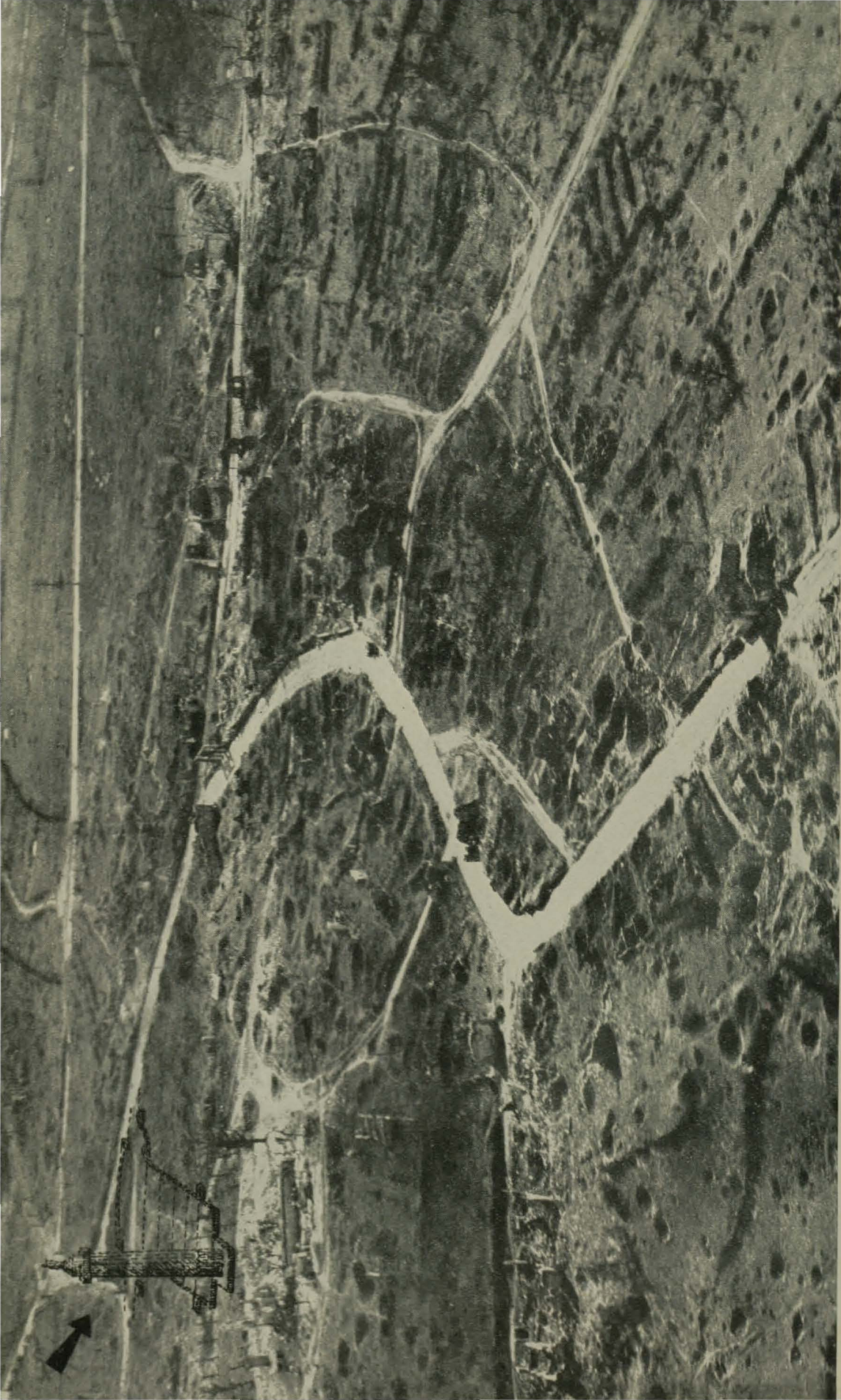
This hill, an extremely important feature in the German second position, had looked down upon the fighting in front of here since 1914. Located as it is, mid-

way between the Meuse River (6 miles to the left of here, just beyond the large wood, Bois de Forges, seen on the long hill in the near distance) and the Argonne Forest (the wooded plateau near the sky line to the right), its dominating height afforded the enemy excellent observation. Inherently strong, it had been carefully prepared for defense and was a veritable fortress organized with deep shelters, concealed observation posts and obstacles of all kinds. Its strength, almost a legend to those who had served in the region, constituted a formidable mental as well as physical obstacle to any advance. In view of the strength of the German position on this front, it was perhaps fortunate that it was assigned to the young and virile American Army.

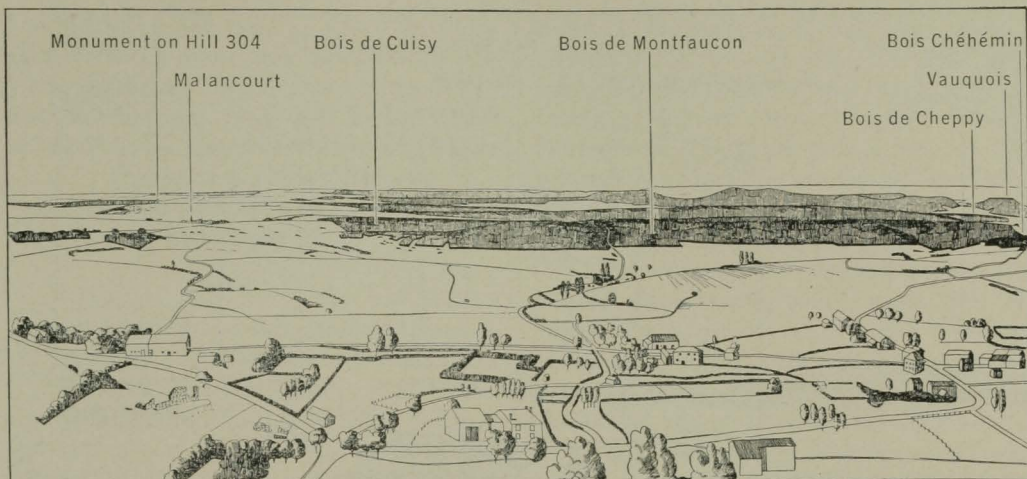
The direction arrows on the parapets of the observation platforms should be used to aid in locating the places mentioned in the following description of the operations.

American Memorial at Montfaucon Viewed From an Airplane,
Looking North





Airplane Photograph of Montfaucon, Looking South, Taken During the War
Arrow indicates sketched-in position of Meuse-Argonne American Memorial



Panorama Looking South From Upper Platform,
Montfaucon Monument

The line taken over by the First Army in September and from which it jumped off on the morning of September 26 was generally parallel to the front of this monument. It ran from a point on the Meuse River beyond the right edge of the Bois de Forges; passed this side of Hill 304, the hill with a monument on its summit to the left front just beyond the first town, Malancourt; and over Vauquois Hill, the large isolated oval-shaped hill 6 miles away to the right front.

The III Corps, whose operations were described at the last stop, jumped off on the front from the Meuse River to Hill 304; the V Corps from Hill 304 to Vauquois Hill; and the I Corps, whose operations will be described further at the next stop, from Vauquois Hill to near the far edge of the Argonne Forest. Each corps had three divisions in line for the attack. In order from the observer's left to right, they were the 33d, 80th and 4th of the III Corps, the 79th, 37th and 91st of the V Corps, and the 35th, 28th and 77th of the I Corps. Montfaucon was in the zone of action of the 79th Division.

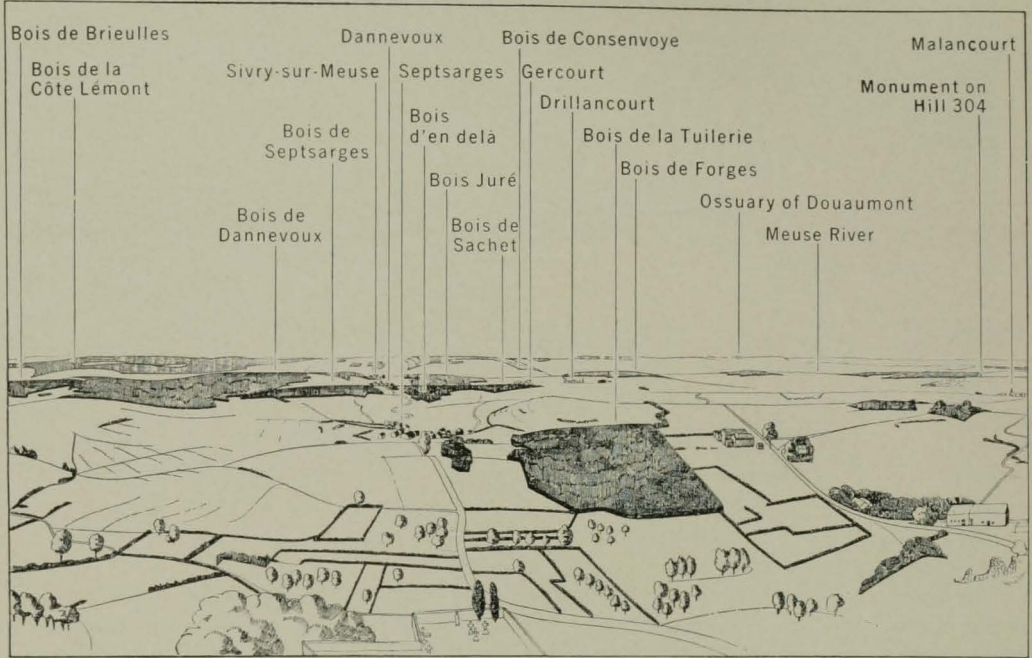
The preparations for the attack here had necessarily been hurried, as the offensive of the First Army in the St. Mihiel region had been completed only ten days before. In spite of the short time, however, on the evening of September 25 the

American troops were in place on this front and the Army was ready for battle.

At 2:30 a. m. on September 26, the horizon in front of here lit up with a flash as thousands of cannon blazed into action. Explosions of all sorts followed each other with deafening noise like continuous peals of thunder. About 5:30 a. m. the noise slackened somewhat as most of the cannon prepared to fire on new targets. Some of the heavier guns had already started to shell with high explosives this hill and other known observation points. Now, just before dawn, the smaller ones were set to perform the new mission of creating a barrage of exploding shells, which would move forward in front of the infantry who, at this time, were tensely watching and waiting for the coming hour of attack in their jump-off positions.

Soon thereafter a new note was added to the din as innumerable machine guns, automatic rifles and rifles along the front went into action. This was evidence to the surprised Germans on this hill that a general offensive had started.

It was not long before the rifle and machine-gun fire to the left front was heard getting closer and closer. About 10:00 a. m. the fog lifted and small groups of khaki-clad soldiers of the 4th Division were observed moving near Septsarges, the nearest village seen to the



Panorama Looking East From Upper Platform,
Montfaucon Monument

left, where they captured an undamaged battery of German artillery which was later used effectively against its former owners. (See picture on page 211.)

Farther away to the left, troops of the 80th Division could be seen near the Bois de Sachet, the large wood beyond and to the right of Septsarges, and still farther away those of the 33d Division near Drillancourt, the village on the open ground to the right of that wood.

About 11:00 a. m., to the front and right, the leading lines of the 37th Division emerged from the Bois de Montfaucon, the large wood in that direction. They crossed the open ground this side of the wood and after capturing a German trench system in the field near the road, seen running to the right front from this hill, started changing it into an American position. Still farther to the right, soldiers of the 91st Division were on the open ground to the right of the large wood, Bois Chéhémin, seen to the right front, having made an advance of more than 3 miles.

The 79th Division promptly captured Malancourt, seen to the left front, but had

difficulty in advancing in this direction up the valley from that village, as well as through the left part of the large wood in front of here. Consequently, no assault was made by that division on Montfaucon until about 6:00 p. m., when the 79th and 37th Divisions launched an attack across the machine-gun-swept ground on this side of the wood, seen to the front. Assisted by tanks, but without artillery support, the slopes of this hill were reached in the face of heavy fire, but as night was coming on, the attack was given up.

Although Montfaucon remained in German hands, the achievements of the American Army on September 26 were more than had actually been expected. Advances of about 5 miles from the jump-off line had been made on both sides of this hill and its capture was almost a certainty within a very short time. The highly-organized German forward positions were all in American hands, in addition to thousands of prisoners, many cannon and vast stores of supplies and ammunition.

The battle for Montfaucon was renewed in a rainstorm at dawn on September 27,

the hill being attacked by the 37th Division from the observer's right and by the 79th Division from the front. The last machine-gun nest was finally wiped out and the hill cleared of the enemy about noon by troops of the 79th Division.

Henceforth Montfaucon served as an American observation point.

PART II

After visiting the side platforms,¹ go to the rear one and read the following:

The assault on September 26 surprised the Germans and disrupted their defense, but this situation was only momentary. From that day on the fighting was probably unsurpassed during the World War for dogged determination on both sides. Each foot of ground was stubbornly contested and the hostile troops took advantage of every available spot from which to pour enfilade and cross fire into the advancing American troops.

The line reached on the first day of the attack included Dannevoux, seen to the right about 5 miles away in the cup-shaped valley, and the Bois de Septsarges, the long narrow wood to the right front, about

¹ The panoramic sketches on these pages show most of the ground seen from the side platforms.

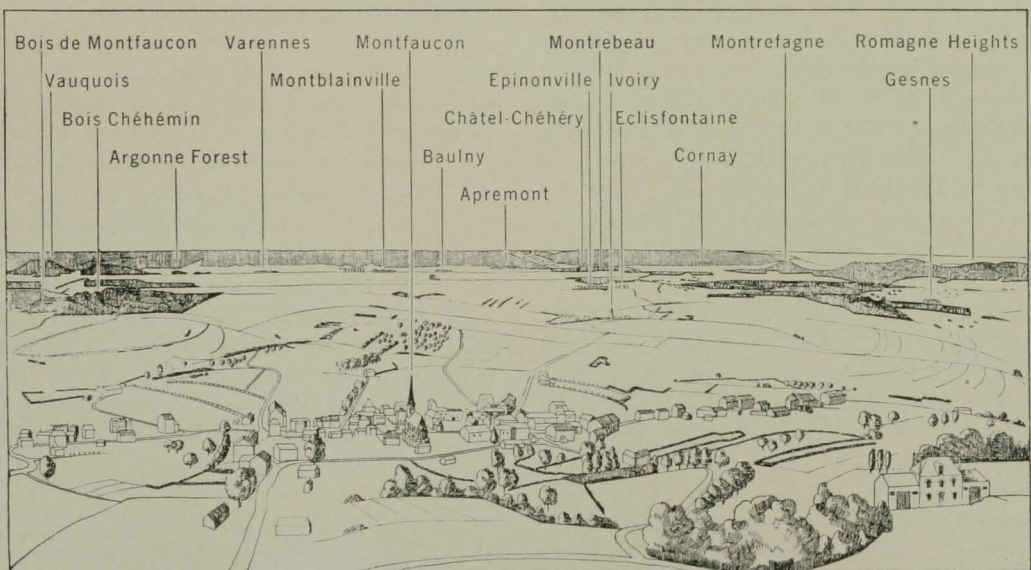
halfway between here and the nearest large wood in that direction. It then bent back sharply, passing the other side of this hill, curved forward again to near Epinonville, the third village seen to the left, and continued on to include Varennes, the village seen to the left rear below the wooded heights on the sky line.

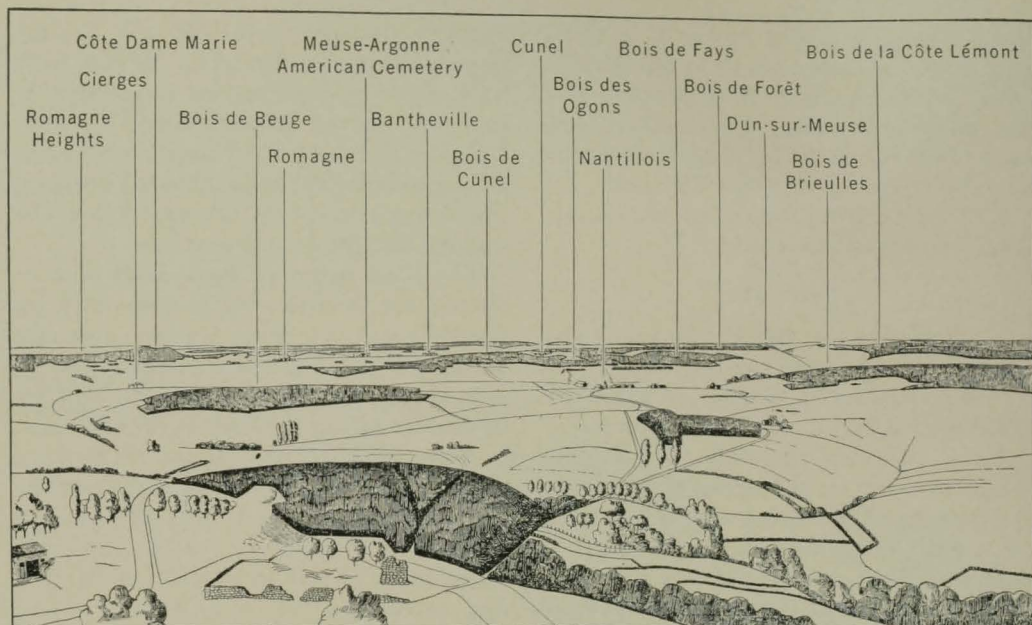
The First Army on September 27 continued its assaults, which were met by frantic resistance from German infantry and machine gun units that had taken up new positions during the night and by unusually heavy artillery concentrations.

A large part of the American artillery had been unable to move forward because of the absence of roads over the torn-up ground of the old no man's land and, therefore, was not in a position on that day effectively to support the initial infantry assaults or to keep down the enemy shellfire. In spite of this and the shortage of tanks, the assault units attacked energetically and substantial gains were made during the day although many of them could not be retained.

On September 28, with better artillery support, the Army surged forward about 1½ miles. After severe fighting it reached that day a line marked generally by

Panorama Looking West From Upper Platform, Montfaucon Monument





Panorama Looking North From Upper Platform,
Montfaucon Monument

the far edges of the Bois de la Côte Lémont and the Bois de Brieuilles, the two nearest adjoining large woods to the right front; the slopes beyond Nantillois, the nearest town to the front; the Bois de Beuge, the first isolated wood to the left front; and Apremont, the village seen to the left in the distance near the foot of the heavily wooded heights.

On September 29 the attacks of the First Army were energetically pushed against stiffer resistance, as the enemy had reinforced his front line near here by six fresh divisions. This fighting was exceptionally bitter, the Germans making many severe counterattacks and concentrated artillery bombardments. During the day the ground gained and lost on this front by both sides was about equal.

For a few days after these attacks the Army devoted its efforts toward preparing for a renewal of the offensive. Its troops in the line were worn out by four days of terrific fighting and the advance had been so rapid that much of the heavy artillery and many of the supplies could not be brought up until the roads were rebuilt. During this pause, which was normal in every general attack, the 35th,

37th and 79th Divisions were replaced by the 1st, 32d and 3d, while the 33d extended its front and relieved the 80th Division. In all, a movement of more than 125,000 officers and men in and out of the line was made. As the roads and transportation facilities on the newly captured ground were improved, the wounded were taken to hospitals in the rear and large quantities of supplies, ammunition and artillery were moved forward.

The American casualties up to this time had totaled over 23,000. The First Army had penetrated the formidable hostile positions for more than 6 miles and included among its captures 9,000 men and 100 pieces of artillery.

The progress on this front threw consternation into the German High Command, who realized that the American Army here could not long be held in check. It urged its Government, therefore, to make peace at once before disaster overcame the German forces in the field.

The First Army on October 1 faced the outpost zone of the famous Hindenburg Line along a considerable part of its front to the east of the Argonne Forest.

The Hindenburg Line in front of here

included the long high wooded area, Bois de Forêt, to the left of and just this side of Dun-sur-Meuse, which is seen on a low pointed hill to the right of front in the distance; a large portion of the wood, Bois de Fays, seen on this side of the right part of the Bois de Forêt and apparently connected with it; the open ground just this side of Cunel, the village to the front in the distance between the woods; and Côte Dame Marie, the prominent hill to the left front. It ran through the large wooded area dotted with hills, called Romagne Heights, seen in the near distance to the left front, and continued on to the North Sea. In advancing to and gaining a foothold in that line, the First Army had its hardest fighting and the officers and men passed through their most terrific ordeal.

The battle was renewed with full vigor on October 4. The attacking divisions of the III Corps were: the 4th Division in line to the right of Nantillois, the first village seen on the open ground directly ahead, and the 80th, which had reentered the line, just beyond that town. In the V Corps, the 3d was in front of and to the right of Cierges, the nearest village to the left front; and the 32d Division, which had relieved the 91st, jumped off from a line which included the wood seen to the left of Cierges. In the

I Corps, the 1st Division faced the large isolated wooded area called Montrebeau, visible in the distance to the left well beyond the nearest towns seen in that direction; the 28th was to the left of the 1st with its left flank in the Argonne Forest; and the line of the 77th Division was entirely within the forest. The initial assault was a success and splendid advances were made all along the front, including a foothold in the Hindenburg Line in the Bois de Fays.

The progress of the First Army from October 5 to October 22 was slow but steady. In spite of the fact that it was fighting against an enemy with his back to the wall, who fully realized that this front must be held at all costs, and over terrain favorable for defense, almost daily gains were made. In the face of all obstacles and hardships and the most desperate resistance, the American Army during this period doggedly and persistently fought its way forward.

On October 7 a flank attack was launched against the Argonne Forest by the 28th Division and the 82d Division, which had entered the line for that purpose. This attack was directed against Châtel-Chéhéry and Cornay, the two villages seen to the left in the distance on the wooded heights beyond and to the right of Montrebeau, and was made in

Battery of German Guns Being Used by the 4th Division
Near Septsarges, October 1918



the direction of the reader's line of vision when facing those places. The maneuver was unusually effective and within the next three days the enemy had been driven from the Argonne Forest, which ends at the gap on the sky line to the left of the isolated peak, Montrefagne, seen in the distance to the left front.

On October 8 an attack was made on that part of the Army front beyond the Meuse River. The American 29th and 33d Divisions and two French divisions drove forward a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles on that day, capturing a large part of the heights from which German artillery had been firing on the flank and rear of the troops on this side of the river. The 29th Division captured the wedge-shaped wood, Bois de Consenvoye, seen beyond Gercourt, the village to the right of and beyond Septsarges, and the 33d Division reached the Bois de Chaume, the line of woods extending down to the left from near the Bois de Consenvoye. The attacks there were pushed vigorously for several days and additional substantial gains were made, including the capture of the Bois de Chaume.

On October 9 the V Corps in front of here attacked with great force and the next day all divisions on the Army front from Beaumont, beyond the Meuse River,

to the Argonne Forest launched powerful assaults. This fighting was extremely bitter, positions of the Hindenburg Line being carried on a front of 2 miles just this side of Cunel and Romagne, the village seen to the left of Cunel and about the same distance away. The general attacks were continued on the 11th and that day the Army, along most of the remainder of its front on this side of the Meuse, fought its way forward much closer to the Hindenburg Line.

Another general attack was made on October 14, and after fighting of the most desperate character on that and on the days immediately following, many more strong positions in or beyond the Hindenburg Line were torn from the enemy. Among these were the Bois de la Pultière, just beyond Cunel, captured by the 3d and 5th Divisions, and the dominating Côte Dame Marie taken by the 32d Division. By October 22, all of the Bois de Forêt, Cunel Heights and Romagne Heights were in American possession and the First Army was well beyond the last prepared German position at the center of its front. At that time the units of the Army started careful preparations for a finishing blow.

During the fighting between October 1 and 31, the American losses totaled

German Guard Division Returning From Hard Fighting, September 1918
This division opposed the American attack on September 26, 1918. © G





German Reserves Being Brought Up for a Counterattack,
October 1918. © G

over 75,000 officers and men. The 5th, 26th, 42d, 78th, 82d, 89th and 90th Divisions, in addition to those previously mentioned, joined in the battle, relieving tired divisions. During this period 36 different German divisions were employed on this front west of Fresnes-en-Woëvre, several having been engaged twice. The area of this fighting will be visited later, when a more detailed account will be given.

The last great American offensive of the war was launched on November 1, completely breaking through the enemy lines. All troops of the Army in front of here pushed forward. The formidable Barri-court Heights, the wooded heights seen on the horizon just to the left of the observer's front, were carried on the first day and by November 6 the American light artillery was firing on the Metz-Sedan-Mézières railway, the primary objective of the First Army. On the morning of November 7 American units were on the hills overlooking Sedan, 31 miles away. On that very day, the German representatives crossed the battle lines to ask for an immediate armistice.

From November 7 on to the Armistice at 11:00 a. m., November 11, the First Army advanced in the direction to the right front from here. By the Armistice it had forced its way across the Meuse River, captured the heights on the far

side and had progressed about 10 miles beyond the river onto the Woëvre Plain.

Thus the war ended. The German Army had been driven back 35 miles on this the most vital part of its front. The natural energy, ability and efficiency in battle of the American soldiers and officers had prevailed against one of the finest military forces of the world. Although the Germans were fighting with desperation and all the skill they possessed to deny any progress whatsoever to the American forces, and were throwing onto this front fresh reserves drawn from many other parts of the Western Front, the tremendous thrusts of the First Army at this point could not be withstood.

The battle here was the greatest in American history. Its successful conclusion is a great tribute to the American soldiers, their leaders and those behind the lines and at home who so wholeheartedly and efficiently supported the combat armies in the field.

Before leaving this observation platform, the long gray stone building to the left front in the near distance should be noted. It is the chapel of the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, which stands on a hillside above the graves of more than 14,000 American soldiers whose final resting place is there. No more fitting site could have been chosen for

these battle dead than the gentle slopes of the valley joining Cunel and Romagne, where deeds of daring, devotion and heroism were unsurpassed.

Montfaucon was the 3d Division Headquarters, October 3-14 and October 26-31. The 79th Division Headquarters was located 600 yards south of Montfaucon from September 27 to October 1.

The ground surrounding this monument is being maintained as far as practicable in its wartime state. Many relics of the war, including machine-gun posts, concrete shelters and dugouts still exist. A walk over it will prove most interesting.

Beyond the ruins of the church, about 300 yards from this monument, on the road to Nantillois are located the foundations of a house with several inscription plaques on the posts of the front fence which is still standing. In this house, which was repaired from time to time by the Germans, was built a heavy concealed concrete tower, equipped with a large periscope. It is said that in 1916 the German Crown Prince watched his troops battle for Verdun from that observatory. The periscope is now in the United States Military Academy Museum at West Point, New York.

EN ROUTE MONTFAUCON TO VAUQUOIS

Leave plaza at same side as entered, turn right immediately; 80 yards farther turn sharply to the right toward Cheppy.

37th Division Engineers Repairing Road
Near Montfaucon, September 28, 1918



37th Division Memorial at Montfaucon

In the new village of Montfaucon is an almshouse constructed for this community by the State of Ohio as a memorial to the 37th Division, many of whose soldiers came from that state. To visit, turn right at next crossroad and go to main square of town. Time of side trip—15 minutes.

(18.3 m 29.5 km) **Just before reaching road crossing at foot of hill, the zone of action of the 37th Division is entered.**

In the fighting near here on September 27, First Lieutenant Fred Kochli, Sergeant Orum B. Lee and Corporal Ernest R. Rumbaugh, 37th Division, took an important part, for which each was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. When the right of the division was held up by machine-gun fire early that morning, two combat patrols were sent to clean out the machine guns on the slopes of Montfaucon to the right of this road. One patrol was unsuccessful and the other was stopped by heavy fire soon after it started. Lieutenant Kochli then asked for and received permission to lead the latter patrol which comprised 24 men. Under his bold leadership the patrol attacked and captured 14 heavy machine guns, 3 officers and 23 enlisted men. He put most of his patrol on guard over the prisoners and continued on over 200 yards farther up the hill with Sergeant Lee and Corporal Rumbaugh, under heavy fire. These three then captured three 77-millimeter field guns and two light machine guns in the orchard close

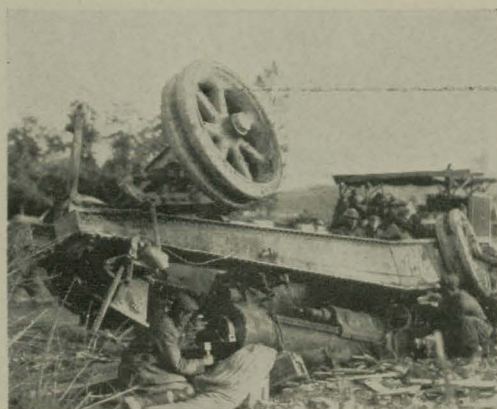
to the near edge of the old town. The hostile fire was so heavy that the three Americans were forced to take cover in a shell hole, where they held out practically surrounded by the enemy for a considerable time until reinforcements arrived.

(18.7 m 30.1 km) **Beyond road crossing, at first crest, to the rear** is seen a fine view of the hill of Montfaucon.

(18.9 m 30.4 km) **To the right, near top of ridge beyond the wide valley**, was located a strong German trench line which was captured by the 37th Division on September 26. The next morning an attack was launched from there against Ivoiry, beyond the ridge. That town was captured and the front line was moved forward about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in spite of heavy hostile fire and a determined German counterattack. During the afternoon the ground gained was given up because of heavy enemy shelling and the failure of the rest of the division to advance.

During the fighting there Second Lieutenant Albert E. Baesel, 37th Division, was killed while trying to rescue a wounded comrade lying about 200 yards in front of the assault line. Working his way through severe artillery, rifle and machine-gun fire and a deluge of gas, he had just placed the wounded man on his shoulder when both he and the man were killed by the enemy fire. For this brave exploit he was posthumously awarded

155-Millimeter Tractor-Drawn Gun of the First Army After Being Hurlled 40 Feet by a Direct Hit Near Charpentry



A Typical Scene in the Argonne Forest, Southwest of Varennes

the Congressional Medal of Honor.

(20.4 m 32.8 km) **In next wood, Bois Chéhémin, just this side of road junction**, the zone of the 91st Division is entered.

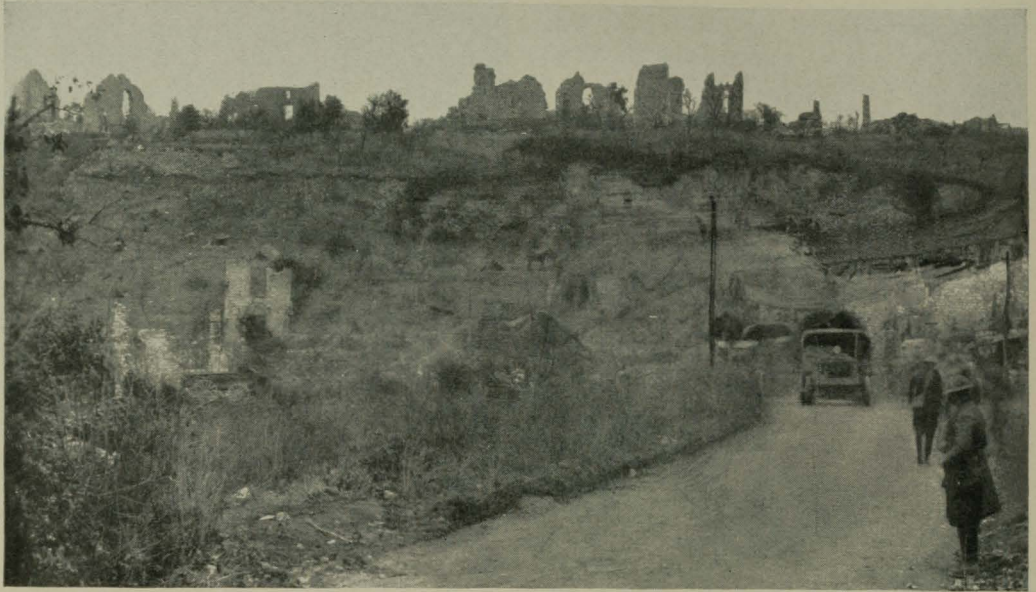
(20.6 m 33.2 km) **After leaving wood, in the distance to the left front** is seen La Neuve Grange Farm, which was captured by the 91st Division on the morning of September 26 after a hard fight. Near that farm Sergeant Chester H. West of the 91st Division dashed through the fire of two German machine guns that had suddenly opened up on his company and killed the crews in hand-to-hand combat. By this prompt and decisive action his unit was enabled to advance without losses. For it he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

(20.7 m 33.3 km) **To the left front in the distance** is seen Vauquois Hill.

(21.0 m 33.8 km) **In the vicinity of this road** the 91st Division encountered strong resistance from enemy machine gun groups on September 26. It overcame them before noon and drove forward about 2 miles farther that day.

(22.3 m 35.9 km) **Immediately after the road starts to descend into a valley, at the first small ravine leading off to the right from it** the zone of action of the 35th Division during the attack is entered.

The 35th Division, which jumped off from near Vauquois, reached the German main line of resistance on top of the hill



Street in Cheppy, October 6, 1918

to the left of this road about 8:30 a. m. There a severe struggle took place and it was not until 12:30 p. m. that, with the assistance of tanks, the strong enemy positions on that hill were captured.

(23.1 m 37.2 km) **In the next village, Cheppy**, the troops who had stormed the powerful main line of resistance of the German first position near here assembled and reorganized before renewing their attacks at 3:30 p. m.

It was during the fighting in this vicinity that Captain Alexander R. Skinker, 35th Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. When his company was held up by terrific machine-gun fire from "pillboxes" in a strong German position, he personally led an automatic rifleman and a carrier in an attack on the guns. The carrier was killed instantly, but Captain Skinker seized the ammunition and continued through an opening in the barbed wire, feeding the automatic rifle until he, too, was killed.

A former German command post in town was used as the 35th Division Headquarters, September 28–October 2; the 1st Division Headquarters, September 30–October 13; the 42d Division Headquarters, October 11–19; and the V Corps Headquarters, October 21–November 6.

A monument erected by the State of Missouri in honor of her sons who died in the World War is located at the road

Missouri Monument Near Cheppy



junction beyond town. Many Missouri-ans served in the 35th Division, which had very hard fighting near here.

(23.4 m 37.7 km) **Beyond bridge, at road junction near monument bear left.**

The tour now goes to Vauquois Hill, 1 mile away, from the top of which can be obtained a fine view of the Aire River valley and where unusually large mine craters can be seen. The climb up the steep hill must be made on foot. Those who can not make such an ascent may turn sharp right at next road junction and rejoin the described route at the church in Varennes. That part of the itinerary not followed should be read.

(23.6 m 38.0 km) **Beyond next road junction, to the left front on far side of small valley,** is seen the locality of the heroic exploits of Private Nels Wold, 35th Division. Assisted by one other soldier, he silenced several machine-gun nests and captured 11 prisoners. He then gallantly risked his life to aid a comrade, after which he himself was killed in an attempt

to capture a fifth machine-gun nest. For his great courage and devotion to duty he was later posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

(24.1 m 38.8 km) **To the right front** is Vauquois Hill. Openings of underground passages dug by the Germans can be seen (1937) on its near slopes.

(24.8 m 40.0 km) **At first junction where a road enters sharply from right, turn right on it towards Vauquois.**

(25.3 m 40.7 km) **At the next road fork, turn to the right.**

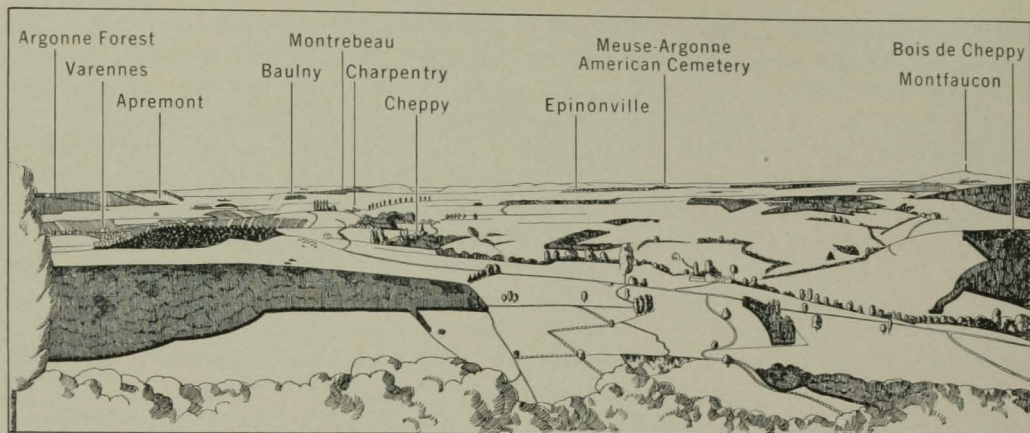
(25.8 m 41.5 km) **In next village, Vauquois, 60 yards beyond church, just before reaching road junction, STOP.**

Follow path, 300 yards, to summit of hill. For most of the way the path is in an Allied communication trench. It is a hard climb but well worth while.

The monument on top of the hill is a French one in memory of the soldiers who fought in the vicinity and of the soldiers of Vauquois who died during the World War.

Vauquois Hill From the Air, Looking Northeast





Panorama Looking North From Vauquois Hill

Cross craters to rim of hill opposite monument and face Cheppy, the nearest village marked by the scattered houses. (Note the above panoramic sketch.) The direction faced is approximately north.

Montfaucon is seen to the right front. The first large village which is plainly visible to the left front is Varennes.

In 1914 the village of Vauquois stood on this hill. It was of great military importance because of its dominating height and the facilities afforded by it for viewing the surrounding country.

Before the United States entered the war, this place was the scene of large-scale military mining operations by the French and the Germans, during which the town located here was blasted away. In these operations, deep tunnels were built under the opposing lines and vast quantities of explosives were set off in them. The huge craters thus formed are still to be seen behind the reader.

The First Army front line on the morning of September 26 ran across this hill and through the Argonne Forest, the large wooded area seen to the left. The I Corps with the 35th, 28th and 77th Divisions in line from right to left, attacked from this part of the front.

The German front line at the time of the attack was on this part of the hill, the line held by the 35th Division being on the opposite side of the crater. Five hours before the infantry assault, all American trenches on the hill were aban-

doned and a heavy concentration of artillery fire, including gas and smoke shells, was placed on it. This forced the German troops here to remain in their bomb-proof shelters and so blinded their observers that when the attack took place the 35th Division was able to make rapid progress in the valleys to the right and left. Those advances isolated the hill which was then cleared of the enemy by units especially designated for the purpose. After severe fighting the division front line was established that night about 1 mile beyond Cheppy.

The 35th Division continued its attacks during the next three days. By noon of September 28, after having repulsed a German counterattack that morning, it had captured Charpentry, the first village beyond Cheppy; Baulny, the village immediately to the left of Charpentry; and the large wooded area called Montrebeau, seen beyond and between them in the distance, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. That night it dug in on the far edge of that wood. The next day the division attacked twice and had made further substantial gains when a vicious German counterattack by fresh troops, supported by large artillery concentrations from the Argonne Forest, forced it back to Baulny. Its lines were there on October 1 when the division was relieved by the 1st Division.

The 28th Division, whose zone of action was half in the Argonne Forest, jumped off on the other side of the Aire River, which

runs in the valley to the left of here. On September 26 the division drove forward vigorously and captured part of Varennes. In the Argonne it made an advance of about 1 mile. It continued to advance during the next few days and by September 29, after severe fighting, had reached a line beyond Apremont, the second village seen in the distance to the right of and beyond Varennes.

The zone of action of the 77th Division, which was the left flank unit of the I Corps and of the First Army, was entirely within the Argonne. That forest is a formidable natural obstacle, almost impossible to walk through, with deep abrupt-sided ravines, heavy underbrush and many rock outcrops. During the preceding four years on this front, the Germans had skillfully prepared it for defense with concealed bands of barbed wire, machine guns placed so as to fire down lanes cut through the undergrowth, machine-gun nests in trees, and many ingenious traps to impede the progress of or inflict death on an advancing enemy.

In spite of all obstacles, the 77th Division drove forward in the initial assault about 1 mile. From then on it continued to push its way forward, each day's close

finding hard-won ground behind it, until by October 1 the division was practically abreast of the other divisions of the I Corps, having made a total gain of 4 miles over the difficult ground on its front.

Outstanding among the deeds of valor in the Argonne Forest, were those of First Lieutenant Dwite H. Schaffner of the 77th Division on September 28. On that day he led his men in an attack against St. Hubert's Pavilion, about 5 miles to the left front from here, captured a strongly entrenched position after severe hand-to-hand fighting and by his bravery and contempt of danger inspired his men to hold fast in the face of three determined enemy counterattacks. He personally discovered and put out of action a machine gun that was causing heavy casualties in his company. The third counter-attack made by the enemy was initiated by the appearance of a small detachment calling "Kamerad", the word used by German soldiers when they wanted to surrender. When they were almost within reach of the American front line, the attacking wave behind them appeared and assaulted vigorously, causing heavy casualties in the American platoon holding the advanced position. Lieutenant

Tanks Manned by Americans Going Forward Near Boureuilles, September 26, 1918





American Artillery in Action Near Varennes

Schaffner mounted the parapet of the trench, killed a number of the enemy and finally reached and shot the captain leading the attack. Dragging this wounded officer back into the company trenches, Lieutenant Schaffner secured valuable information about the enemy strength and position. As his company was surrounded on three sides for five hours by strong enemy forces, the undaunted bravery, gallant soldierly conduct and leadership displayed by Lieutenant Schaffner undoubtedly saved the survivors of his company from death or capture. For these acts he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

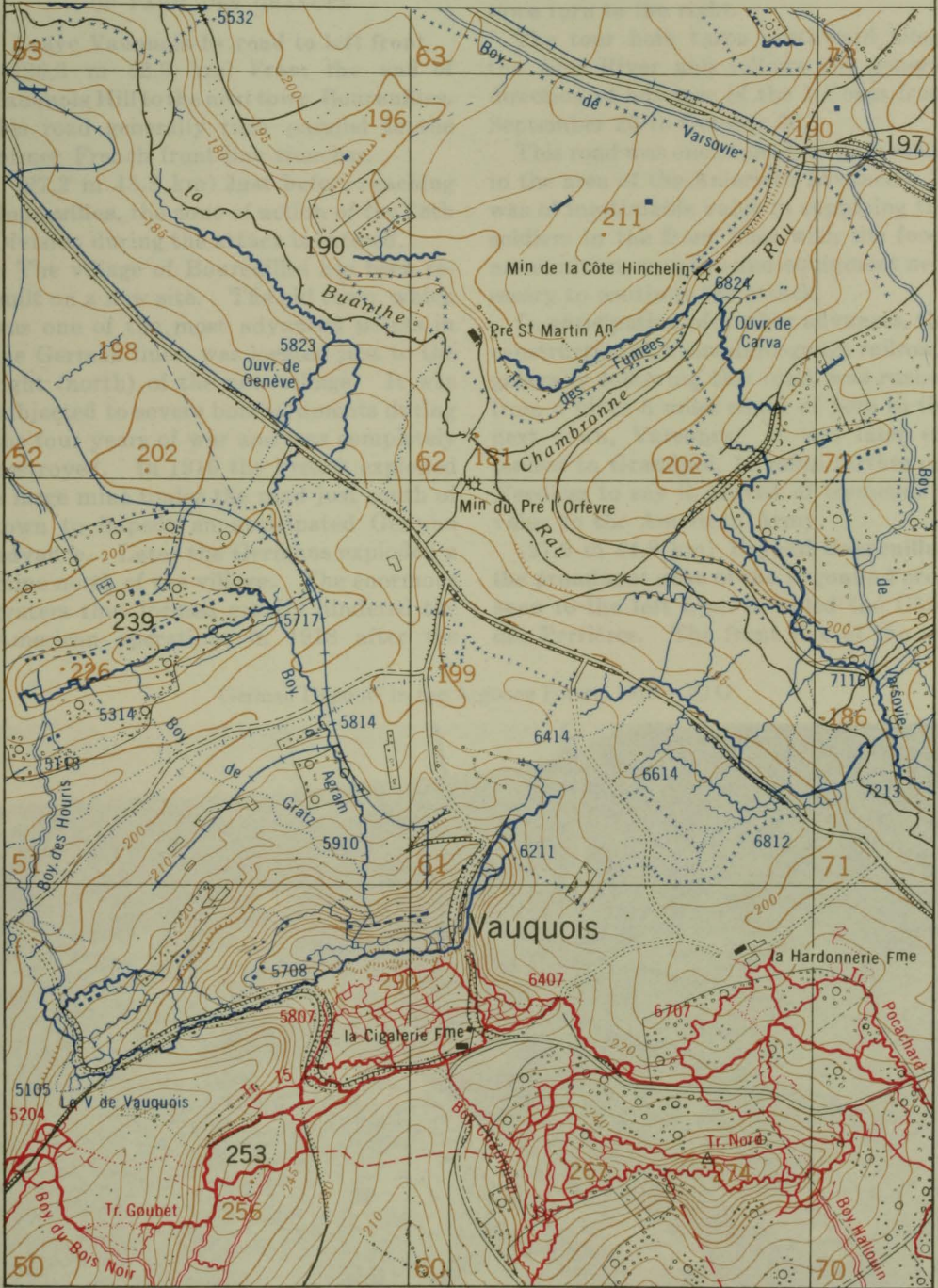
The rapid advance made on the first day by the 91st Division of the V Corps to just this side of Epinonville, the village seen to the right of and beyond Cheppy;

by the 35th Division to beyond Cheppy; and by the right of the 28th Division to the other side of Varennes partially outflanked the Argonne Forest and greatly helped the American troops to advance through that difficult area.

During this fighting the airplanes under control of the American Army to a large extent kept down the German aircraft and secured valuable information concerning the enemy. The Army badly needed tanks which in the first two weeks of the offensive, due to casualties and the transfer away of some French units, were greatly reduced in number.

On the following page is reproduced a section of a wartime map, scale 1/20,000, showing Vauquois and its vicinity. This type of map was the one generally used by American front-line units during the war.

SECTION OF WAR MAP SHOWING TRENCH SYSTEM NEAR VAUQUIOS



Before leaving Vauquois Hill a walk to the left around the top of it will disclose many large craters, additional evidences of the war and interesting panoramas.

EN ROUTE VAUQUOIS TO NORTH
OF FARM DES GRANGES

Leave Vauquois by road to left front.

(26.3 m 42.3 km) **From the end of Vauquois Hill to the next town, Boureuilles,** this road generally runs parallel to the former French front-line trenches.

(27.2 m 43.8 km) **Just before reaching Boureuilles,** the zone of action of the 28th Division during the attack is entered.

The village of Boureuilles has been rebuilt on a new site. The old town, which was one of the most advanced points in the German lines, was located just to the right (north) of the new village. It was subjected to severe bombardments during the four years of war and was completely destroyed. In 1916 the French exploded a large mine under the road just south of town to impede an anticipated German advance. Later the Germans exploded a mine north of the village. The enormous craters thus formed greatly hindered the American operations in 1918 after the

town was captured by the 28th Division. Temporary roads were first built around the craters by American Army engineers and as soon as possible thereafter bridges were constructed across them.

(27.5 m 44.3 km) **At the church in the town turn to the right.**

The tour here turns northward along the Aire River and follows the general direction of advance of the I Corps from September 26 to October 30.

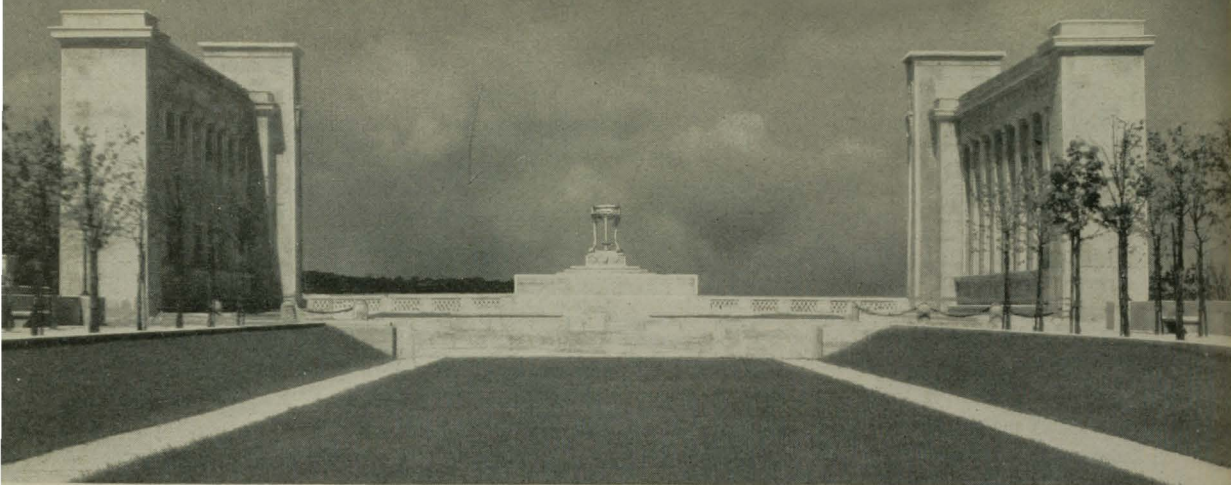
This road was one of the few main roads in the area of the American advance. It was of inestimable value in supplying the soldiers in the front lines with the food, ammunition, supplies and equipment necessary to continue the attack.

In anticipation of further advances, the construction of a standard-gauge railroad, generally following this road, was rushed from a place 5 miles south of here to the next town, Varennes. It was later extended to Grandpré, 11 miles farther on. Needless to say it proved of tremendous value to the American Army.

(27.9 m 44.9 km) **Beyond Boureuilles, the prominent nose of the Argonne Forest seen to the left front** is called the Côtes des Perrières. The front line of the left

German Dugouts in the Argonne Forest, 1918. © G





Pennsylvania Memorial at Varennes, 1927

brigade of the 28th Division on September 26 and 27 was along the near side of that nose and on September 27 the 77th Division was abreast of the 28th Division farther over in the forest.

A large German wartime headquarters named "Champ Mahaut" on French war maps and now (1937) indicated on road signs as the "Abris du Kronprinz" is located 2 miles to the left front. Excellent examples of German concrete dugouts are preserved there. To visit, turn left at entrance to Varennes on road to Le Four de Paris. About 2 miles farther on turn right and follow small road for 800 yards. Length of side trip—5 miles. Time required—30 minutes. (See page 316.)

(29.7 m 47.8 km) **After entering the next village, Varennes,** a memorial park is seen to the left. This park was improved by the State of Pennsylvania in honor of all of her soldiers who served in the World War, a large number of whom were members of the 28th Division.

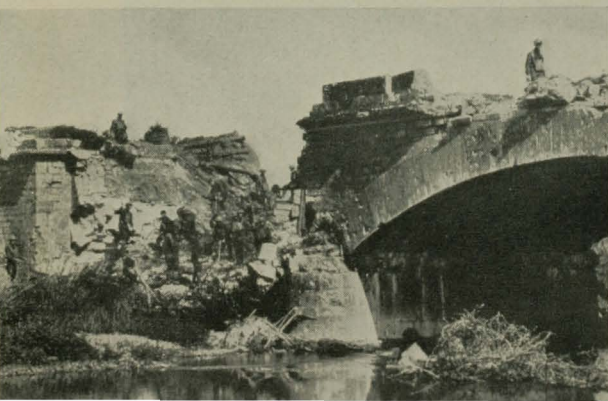
During the fighting at Varennes on September 26, Corporal Donald M. Call, Tank Corps, won the Congressional Medal

of Honor. He was driver of a tank, operating against enemy machine-gun nests on the western edge of the town, when half of the tank turret was knocked off by a direct artillery hit. Choked by fumes from the high-explosive shell, he left the tank and took cover in a shell hole 30 yards away. Noticing that the other member of the tank crew, an officer, had not followed him, and thinking that he might be alive, Corporal Call returned to the tank under intense machine-gun and shell fire and gallantly assisted the officer to reach a place of safety.

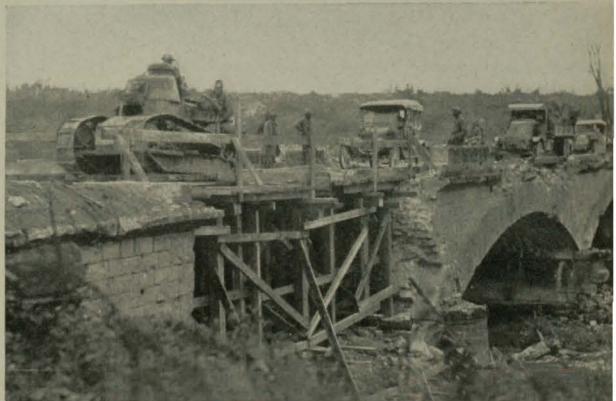
Varennes is famous in French history as the place where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were captured in their attempt to escape into Belgium at the beginning of the French Revolution. The house in which they spent the night prior to their capture is the last one of the row on the right beyond the Pennsylvania monument.

This part of Varennes was captured by the 28th Division about noon on September 26, shortly before the troops of the 35th Division captured that part of the village on the other side of the river.

28th Division Engineers Repairing a Destroyed Bridge at Boureuilles, September 26, 1918



Bridge at Boureuilles After Repairs Had Been Made, September 28, 1918



The 28th Division Headquarters was located here, September 27-30, and the 82d Division Headquarters, from October 4 to 9.

(29.9 m 48.1 km) At bottom of hill turn right and cross the Aire River.

(30.4 m 48.9 km) Beyond town, at first road junction, turn to the left.

(32.0 m 51.5 km) After ascending hill, beyond next main roadfork, at second small crest, the line reached by the 35th Division on September 26 is crossed. The 28th Division was across the valley from it.

(32.2 m 51.8 km) The first village seen to the left front on the other side of the river is Montblainville, captured by the right brigade of the 28th Division early on the morning of September 27. The division was held up by heavy machine-gun fire during that entire day on the slopes beyond the town. It repulsed a hostile counterattack at that place about noon.

(32.5 m 52.3 km) After passing Montblainville, the village seen on the hill down the road is Baulny, taken soon after dark on September 27 by troops of the 35th Division.

(33.4 m 53.8 km) Beyond Baulny, at first road junction, in the little valley leading off to the right was located the front line upon which troops of the 1st Division relieved the 35th Division on October 1.

(33.6 m 54.1 km) To the left is seen a projecting ridge of the Argonne Forest plateau, called Le Chêne



28th Division Troops in Varennes, September 26, 1918



Varennes, Looking West Across the Aire River, September 27, 1918



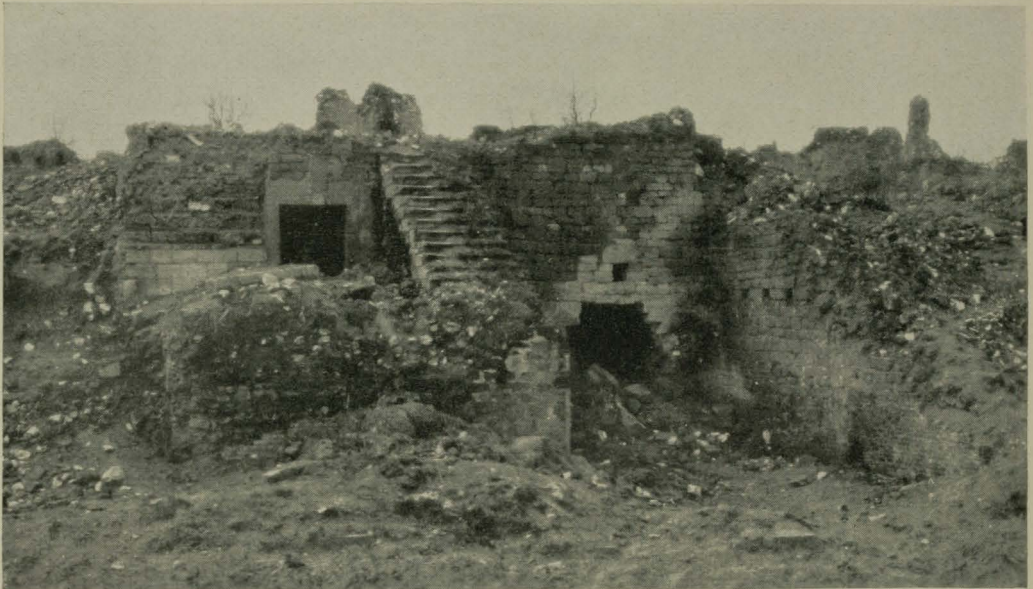
35th Division Artillery Near Varennes, September 27, 1918

Tondu. The strong German second position had been organized along that ridge and across the Argonne in a direction approximately at right angles to this road. Le Chêne Tondu was the scene of prolonged and intense fighting by the 28th Division for ten days from September 28, the date the division first obtained a foothold on the ridge, until its capture was finally completed in an attack on the morning of October 7.

The position held by the so-called "Lost Battalion" was in the Argonne Forest to

was driven back after bitter fighting.

During the fighting there Major Joseph H. Thompson, 28th Division, performed the heroic acts for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. When his battalion was counterattacked on September 29, although wounded, he encouraged his men by constantly braving the heavy fire of machine guns and artillery. His courage was largely responsible for the severe repulse of the enemy. Again on October 1, after his battalion once more had met a strong



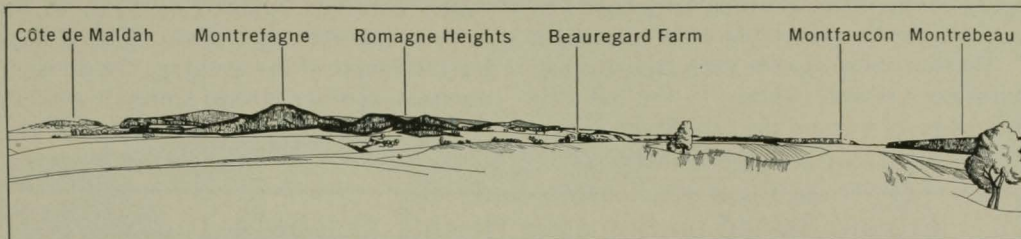
An American Brigade Headquarters Was Located
in These Ruins in Apremont

the left of here. To visit that area, at next road junction turn left to Apremont. At far edge of Apremont bear right on narrow road toward Binarville. Length of side trip—8.4 miles. Time required—1 hour. (For exact location and description of the position, see pages 362 to 365.)

(34.0 m 54.7 km) **The next village across the valley is Apremont.** It was captured by the 28th Division on September 28, the division line that night being established around the hill seen extending to the right from the town. Twice on September 29 strong German attacks penetrated the American lines near Apremont but each time the enemy

German counterattack, the advance of his assaulting companies was held up by fire from a hostile machine-gun nest. All but one of six accompanying tanks were disabled when Major Thompson, with great gallantry and coolness, rushed forward on foot three separate times in advance of the assaulting lines and under heavy machine-gun and anti-tank gun fire led the one remaining tank to within a few yards of the enemy where it was successful in putting the machine-gun nest out of action. This brave deed permitted the infantry to advance.

(35.5 m 57.1 km) **At top of next hill, the Farm des Granges is passed on the left.**



Panorama Looking Northeast From Stop Near Farm des Granges

(35.7 m 57.5 km) **Beyond the farm, at the next small crest, where a clear view is obtained to the front and right, STOP.**

If the trees along the road obstruct the view walk off from the road sufficiently to see the places pointed out in the following text.

Face down the road, which direction is approximately north.

The American monument on Montfaucon is on the sky line to the right rear.

The area around this point was the scene of prolonged fighting in late September and early October 1918 during which the Germans were driven from carefully prepared defensive positions, constructed with the idea that they would be impregnable. All ground within the range of vision was captured by the First Army.

The wooded hills to the right front, which were known collectively as Romagne Heights, are a natural terrain feature that had been organized by the Germans into a powerful fortified area.

The Argonne Forest, seen across the valley to the left, had been similarly prepared

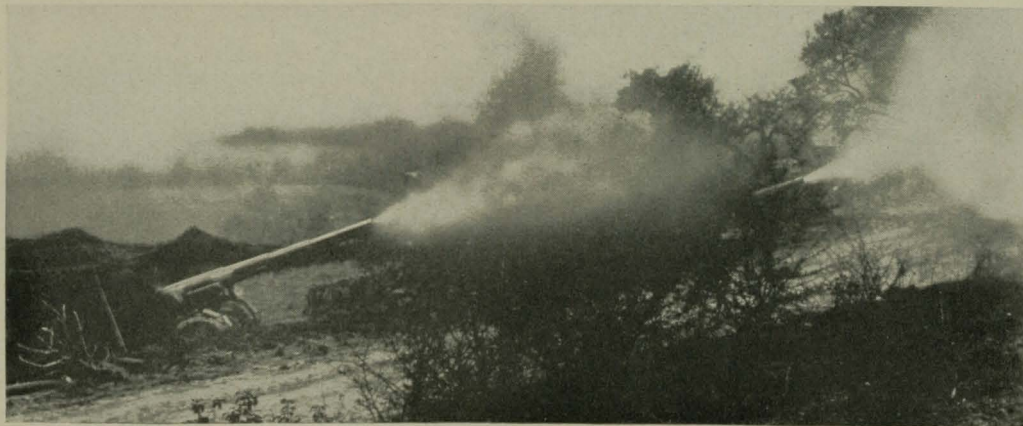
for defense so that troops who attempted to advance down the valley of the Aire in the direction the observer is facing, or over the open ground in front of this point, were not only subjected to frontal fire but were caught by enfilade fire from these two strong positions on their flanks.

On the hillside about a mile to the right are seen the buildings of Beauregard Farm. The most prominent peak to the right front is called Montrefagne.

Montrebeau, the large timbered area to the right rear, was captured on September 28 by troops of the 35th Division.

On September 29 the division attacked from the edge of Montrebeau under extremely heavy hostile fire and succeeded in occupying Beauregard Farm and the southern slope of Montrefagne as well as Exermont, which, invisible from here, lies in the valley near Beauregard Farm. A severe counterattack on that afternoon by fresh German troops, supported by a heavy and well-directed artillery fire from the Argonne Forest, forced the

Battery of 155-Millimeter Artillery of the First Army in Action Near Baulny, October 7, 1918

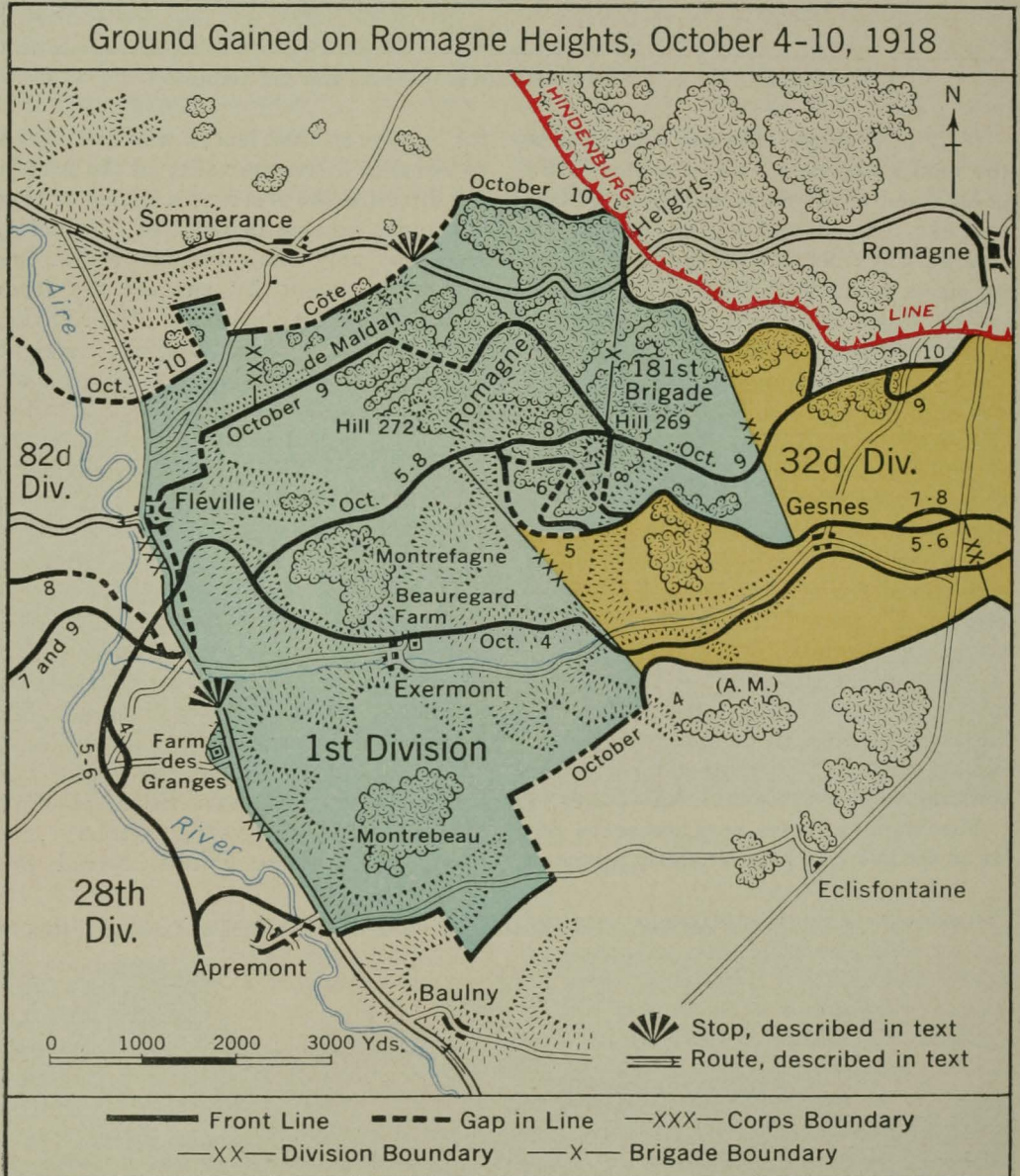


units of the 35th Division back again to a position the other side of Montrebeau.

On that same day the 28th Division had unusually severe fighting to the left rear of this point beyond the Aire River. Early in the morning it advanced about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile

which were too exposed to hold, to its former lines near Apremont. There, during the course of the evening, the division repulsed another strong German attack.

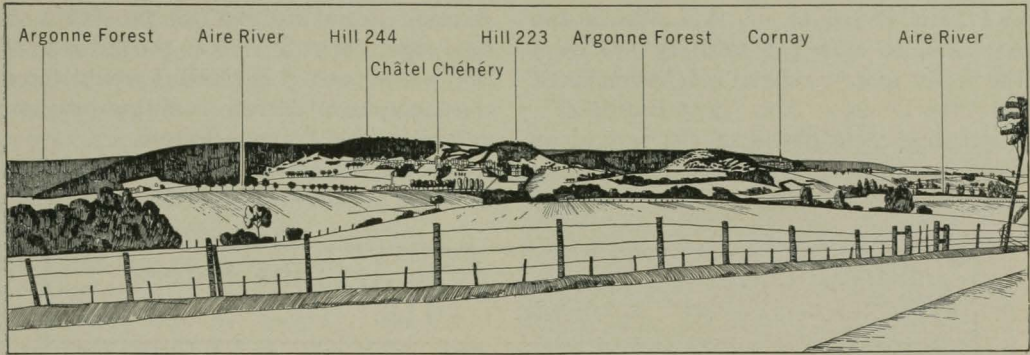
After September 29 the efforts of the First Army to advance ceased for a few



along the river toward Châtel-Chéhéry, the village seen to the left across the valley, and on the open fields near the river to the left of that place beat off a severe German counterattack. That afternoon it withdrew from its advanced positions,

days, except for local attacks in the Argonne Forest, as it prepared for a renewal of the offensive on a larger scale.

After repulsing a German counterattack on the 30th, the 35th Division, which in four days had fought its way forward



Panorama Looking West From Stop Near Farm des Granges

approximately 6 miles, was relieved from the line on October 1 by the 1st Division.

The First Army resumed the offensive by a general attack on October 4. The 1st Division on that day advanced in this direction from beyond Montrebeau, while the 28th drove forward along the near bank of the river. The boundary between the two divisions ran along this road.

Supported by tanks and a concentrated artillery fire, the 1st Division in a vigorous advance captured Montrebeau, Farm des Granges, Exermont and Beauregard Farm, after which it attacked Montrefagne, but was unable to take and hold that hill until the following morning. The 28th Division pushed forward about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile beyond this point, driving the enemy from most of the ground between

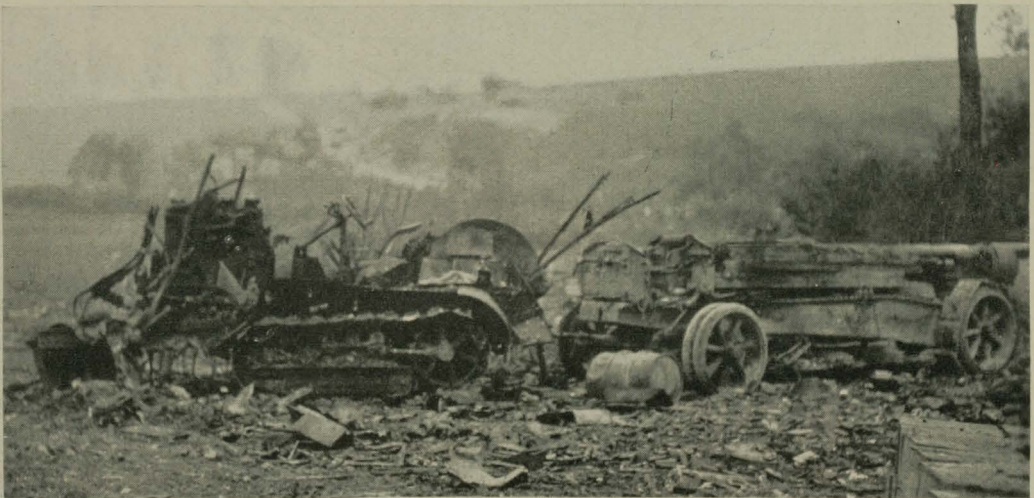
this road and the river. The fighting during October 4 and 5 on the terrain near here was terrific, the 1st Division alone losing nearly 3,500 men.

The hill rising above the town of Châtel-Chéhéry across the valley is Hill 244. The high, round peak seen immediately to the right of the town is Hill 223. The village which is plainly seen to the left front is Cornay.

After the deep advance of the First Army near here on October 4 and 5, the Germans continued to hold the edge of the Argonne Forest in this vicinity and from it kept up a continuous artillery fire directly along and in rear of the lines of the American units on this side of the river, inflicting heavy casualties.

In order to exploit the gains of the 1st

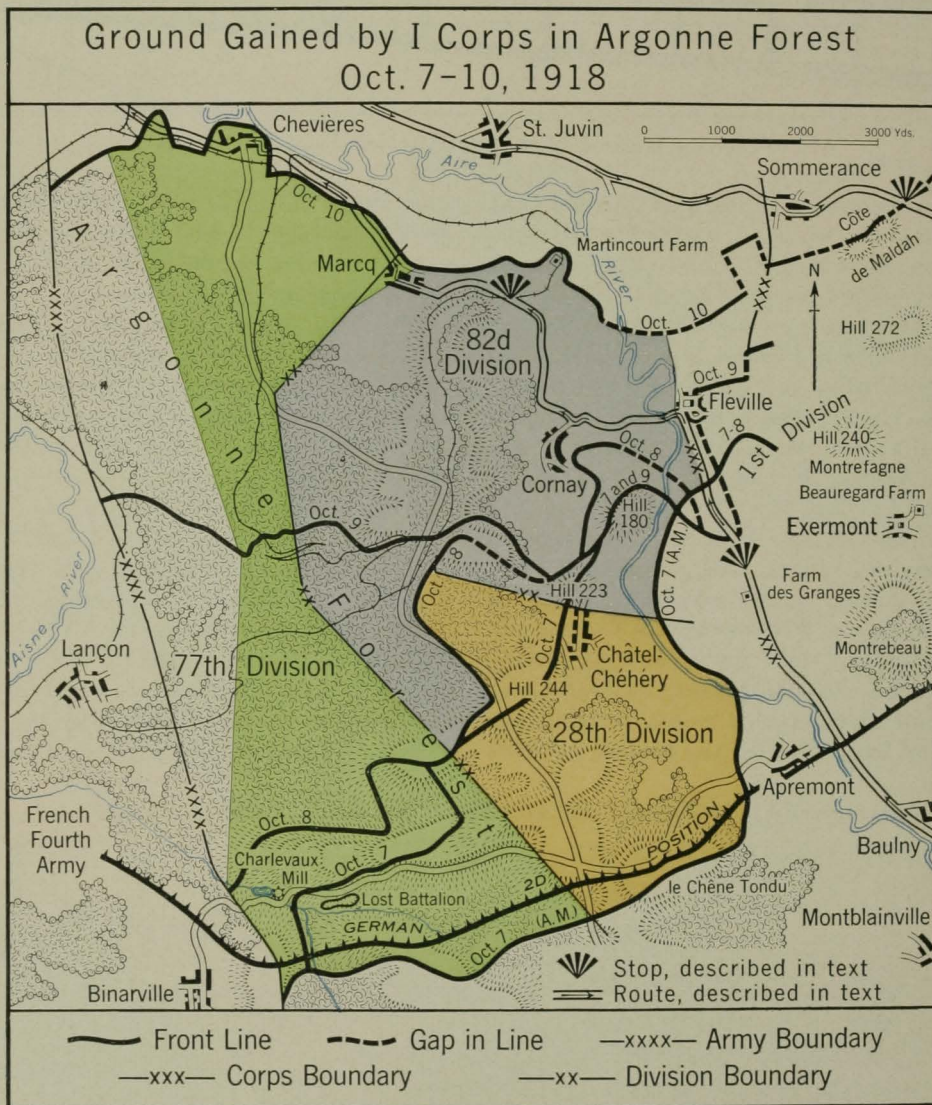
Tractor and 155-Millimeter Gun Put Out of Action by a Direct Hit Near Epinonville



and 28th Divisions on this side of the Argonne, to stop the artillery fire from the forest and to relieve a detachment of the 77th Division (the "Lost Battalion") which had gone ahead of the rest of its division on October 2 and had been surrounded for several days in the Ar-

German second position (see the sketch on this page) about 3 miles to the left rear of this point, and if successful would force the enemy to withdraw from that position and all of the Argonne Forest.

On the night of October 6 the 82d Division took over a portion of the 28th



gonne Forest to the left rear of here, it was decided to launch an attack from this vicinity straight at the German positions near Châtel-Chéhéry and Cornay. An attack in that direction would threaten the flank and rear of the hostile forces which were then holding the strong

Division line along the river, to the left front of here. The next morning both divisions attacked toward the Argonne Forest, the boundary line between them passing just north of Châtel-Chéhéry.

This daring attack was remarkably successful in spite of desperate resistance.

The 28th Division promptly captured Châtel-Chéhéry and Hill 244, and the 82d Division took Hill 223 and the high ground beyond the river between here and Cornay. Because of this advance the Germans in the Argonne Forest began a retirement during that day to a line extending to the reader's left from Cornay, approximately at right angles to the line of vision when facing that place. While the attack was progressing, the 77th Division advanced from the south and effected the rescue of the survivors of the "Lost Battalion", whose prolonged defense of an isolated position entirely within the enemy lines was an extraordinary and thrilling exploit. (See pages 337 and 362.)

On October 8 the 28th and 82d Divisions again attacked. They reached and held against a vicious counterattack positions controlling a road and light railway at the top of the ridge beyond Hill 223, thus cutting the most important north and south communications available to the German Army in the forest. That night the 82d Division took over the front of the 28th, and in the next two days pushed the retreating Germans from the wooded heights seen just beyond and to the right of Cornay, while the 77th Division, on its left, advanced rapidly northward, meeting slight opposition.

In the course of the fighting on October 8 occurred the extraordinary exploits of Private First Class Alvin C. York, 82d Division. The advance of his regiment across the valley beyond Hill 223 being held up by heavy fire from machine guns on the wooded slope at the left end of the valley, Private York was one of a patrol of 17 men who were sent out to get behind and silence the machine guns.

Carefully working their way through the woods behind the enemy line, the patrol surprised a battalion commander and a large group of men in a clearing. The Americans attacked and most of the Germans had thrown up their hands to surrender when a number of German rifles and machine guns, on a hillside a short distance away, opened fire killing and wounding nine of the patrol. From



28th Division Artillery Firing While Under a Gas Bombardment

this time on, Private York, who was nearest the firing, assumed command. The other members of the patrol took cover and fired only a few shots in the fighting which followed, as they occupied themselves in guarding the German soldiers who had previously surrendered.

Sheltering himself to some extent behind the prisoners who were flat on the ground Private York, in the face of the



Sergeant Alvin C. York,
82d Division, February 7, 1919

terrific fire, opened rapid fire with his rifle and later with his pistol. He maintained this fire until he, alone, had killed more than 15 of the enemy and had forced the remainder of them to surrender.

Forming the prisoners in a column Private York distributed the seven remaining men of his patrol along it and started back to the American lines with the German battalion commander in front of him. More Germans were encountered on the way and were forced to surrender. Private York brought back to the American lines three wounded members of the original patrol and 132 prisoners, including five German officers. Largely on account of Private York's exceptional coolness, skill with firearms, bravery and leadership his regiment was able to continue its advance on this day. For his exceptional exploits he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Meanwhile, the 1st Division had consolidated its gains made on October 5 and had carried on active patrolling. It was assigned to the V Corps on October 7 preparatory to making a general attack

with that corps. On October 8 considerable fighting took place on the hills seen to the right of Montrefagne, one of the hills, Hill 269, being captured on that day by a battalion of 1st Division engineers.

In the fighting there the next day, Sergeant Wilbur E. Colyer, Engineers, 1st Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Volunteering with two other soldiers to locate machine-gun nests, Sergeant Colyer advanced on the hostile positions to a point where he was half surrounded by the nests, which were in ambush. He killed the gunner of one machine gun with a German grenade and then turned this machine gun on the other nests, silencing all of them before he returned to his platoon. He was later killed in action against the enemy.

On October 9 the 1st Division attacked with the V Corps and stormed the long wooded ridge seen to the left of and beyond Montrefagne. On the next day it seized Côte de Maldah, the double-crested ridge seen to the left of the wooded ridge. The taking of these ridges completed the capture of this end of Romagne Heights.

1st Division Infantry on Montrefagne, North of Exermont,
October 11, 1918





1st Division Artillery in Fléville, October 12, 1918

During these two days the 181st Brigade of the 91st Division was attached to the 1st Division and fought on its right flank, gaining considerable ground.

In the desperate fighting near here the 1st, 28th, 77th and 82d Divisions and the brigade of the 91st Division suffered a total of almost 18,000 casualties. Constantly attacking, undaunted by almost insuperable obstacles and the incessant demands on their strength, the American soldiers on these fields rose to supreme heights of sacrifice and heroism.

Illustrative of these characteristics are the deeds performed by Private Michael B. Ellis, 1st Division, on October 5 on the slopes to the north of Exermont. During the entire day's engagement he operated in advance of the first wave of his company, voluntarily undertaking most dangerous missions, attacking and reducing machine-gun nests singlehanded. Flanking one emplacement he killed two of the enemy with rifle fire and captured 17 others. Later he advanced under heavy fire and captured 27 prisoners, including two officers, and six machine guns. Soon thereafter he captured four other machine guns and their crews, at all times showing marked heroism and fearlessness. For his outstanding bravery and great accomplishments he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

EN ROUTE NORTH OF FARM DES GRANGES
TO NEAR MARTINCOURT FARM

(35.9 m 57.8 km) While descending the hill, to the right in the valley, the town of Exermont can be seen.

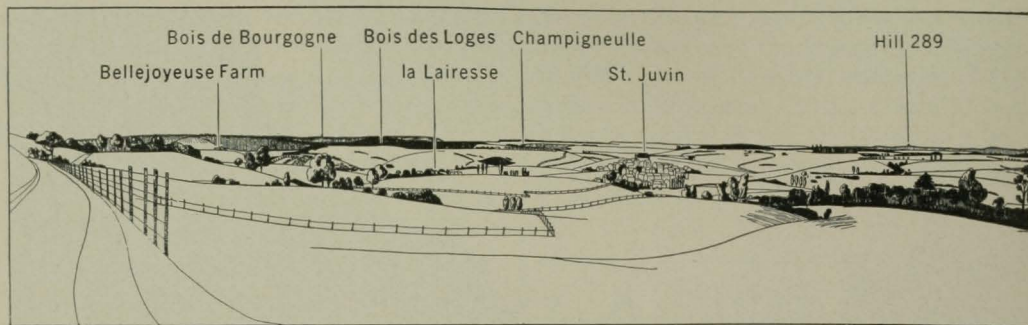
The next village, Fléville, after having been taken but not held by units of the 1st Division on October 4, was finally captured by the division on October 9.

(37.1 m 59.7 km) In town turn to the left and cross the Aire River valley.

(37.6 m 60.5 km) While ascending the next hill, Cornay is seen ahead. Troops of the 82d Division entered that town before dark on October 8 and after mopping up part of it withdrew about midnight. On October 9, after a hard fight, they drove the Germans from the village about 11:00 a. m. Shortly after noon the enemy launched a counterattack with artillery preparation and recaptured Cornay, surrounding in it a small force of Americans who fought desperately from house to house before being killed or captured. The town was finally taken and held during October 10.

(38.0 m 61.2 km) At the top of the hill, turn sharply to the right.

(39.1 m 62.9 km) Beyond the next road junction at the top of the first crest, where an extensive panorama is obtained to the right front and right, STOP.



Panorama From

The nearest village is St. Juvin which is on the other side of the Aire River.

Face that town, which direction is approximately north.

Montfaucon is visible to the right rear, just to the left of Montrefagne, the wooded peak in that direction.

Note that the Aire River, which the tour has been following in a general way since leaving Boureuilles, changes direction not far from St. Juvin and runs approximately west in front of here, toward the left directly across the line of vision of the observer. (See sketch on page 234.)

The Hindenburg Line in this region was just to the observer's right of Côte de Châtillon, the conspicuous isolated wooded peak with the abrupt side seen to the right; passed just this side of Champigneulle, the village seen on top of the hill to the left of St. Juvin; and extended along the heights seen to the

1st Division Artillery, With Machine Gun
Mounted for Anti-Aircraft Defense,
Moving Toward the Front

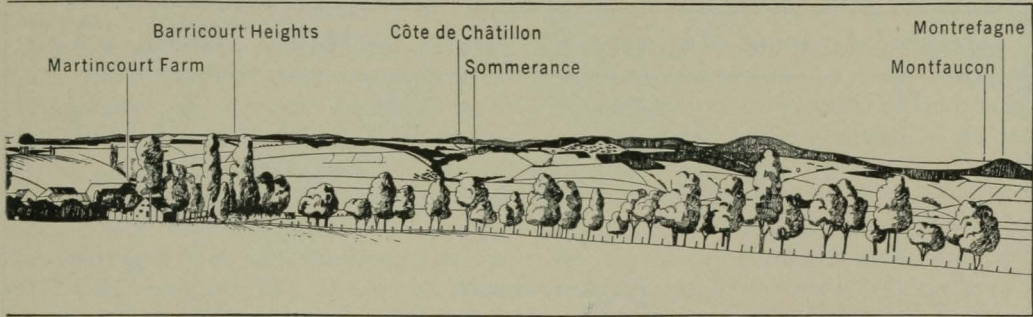


left of that place. That position had been thoroughly studied and surveyed earlier in the war, and locations for artillery and machine guns had been carefully selected and indicated on the ground. Some shelters and trenches had been constructed, others were traced, and much barbed wire had been laid before October 1918. The great strength of the position lay, however, not so much in the works constructed on it as in the natural features of the ground and the thorough coordination of the fire power of all weapons, planned in accordance with the highest art of defensive warfare perfected by the German Army during their previous four years of intensive fighting.

St. Juvin was included in the outpost position of the Hindenburg Line which had also been strongly organized for defense.

When the I Corps arrived in this vicinity on the afternoon of October 10, its attempt to cross the Aire River disclosed that the bridges had been destroyed and that the enemy was strongly holding the Hindenburg Line and its outpost line on the far side of the valley. The corps was therefore faced, in front and to the left of here, with the almost impossible task of crossing the valley and storming the formidable positions there.

The front line established by the Army on October 10 was to the reader's right of Côte de Châtillon; just to the right of Sommerance, the village seen to the right across the valley; included Martincourt Farm, seen in the trees to the right front; and continued to the left on this side of the Aire River for approximately 4 miles.



Stop Near Marcq

On October 11 the 1st Division, the left division of the V Corps, sent patrols into Sommerance. The 82d Division, whose zone of action ran from that town to just beyond the nose of the hill seen to the left, launched determined attacks that same day. The right of its line, which was beyond the river, was advanced to the open ground seen just over the roof of Martincourt Farm. The left of the division started from this vicinity in an attempt to capture St. Juvin. The assault units crossed the river in a fog on bridges which the engineers had repaired. Unfortunately the fog lifted while they were still close to the far bank and they were caught on open ground by severe machine-gun fire. After suffering heavy casualties, they were forced to return to their lines on this side of the river.

There were no American attacks in this vicinity on October 12 and 13 as the units reorganized and consolidated their positions. During that period of time the 42d Division relieved the 1st. On the afternoon of October 13 a strong German counterattack against that part of the 82d Division line to the right front across the river was driven back.

On October 14, in conjunction with the French Fourth Army on its left, the First Army launched a vigorous assault. On this part of the front the I Corps attacked with the 82d and 77th Divisions in line, the boundary between the divisions passing just to the right of St. Juvin.

The 82d Division, on the right, in a dashing attack advanced about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, reaching the Hindenburg Line to the

right of St. Juvin and holding most of its gains in spite of a counterattack. Some of its units fought in the right part of the town. The 77th Division captured St. Juvin and many prisoners in the town but all its efforts to cross the river in force to the left front were unsuccessful until after dark. Then it reached and held as a salient in its line the last building, named La Lairesse on wartime maps, seen in the valley to the left of St. Juvin. That night the front line of the division was on the other side of St. Juvin and close to it.

The next day the assault planned for early in the morning was delayed by a strong German attack with heavy artillery preparation, made about 6:45 a. m., in the vicinity of St. Juvin. This was beaten off, the American troops, particularly a machine gun company of the 82d Division which had seized a part of the

Tank and Supply Wagon Blown Up by a German Road Mine North of Fléville, October 12, 1918



another assault on October 19 reached Bellejoyeuse Farm, seen to the left front just below the near edge of the Bois de Bourgogne. By October 20, however, it had been proved that the German defenses across the river were too strong to be taken without further preparations so, on that day, the 78th Division was ordered back from its advanced positions and established its line to the left front along the road across the valley marked in places by the row of trees. The line of the 82d Division remained beyond St. Juvin, and on October 21 that part of it to the right of St. Juvin was advanced about 500 yards with little opposition.

Although the battle died down in front of here on October 22, the 78th Division attacked continuously in the vicinity of Grandpré until the 27th, advancing its lines in bitter fighting more than 1 mile. Because the American efforts to advance there were so persistent and the place on the front was such an important one, the Germans opposed the attacks with their best troops. Consequently, the success of the last major offensive of the First Army on November 1 was greatly aided as the German attention in this region had been drawn to the front near Grandpré, rather than that near Côte de Châtillon at which point the vital thrust of the Army was actually made.

The casualties of the 77th, 78th, 82d and 42d Divisions in this region from

October 11 to the end of the month were in excess of 13,000 officers and men.

The Army prepared for its attack of November 1 with great care and made full use of the lessons learned in its previous fighting in this region. The various combat organizations which composed it were by that time well-coordinated fighting units, fully tested in battle, and formed together a superb fighting force.

All three corps of the First Army on this side of the Meuse River were involved in the attack. The V Corps, in the center, which was already beyond the Hindenburg Line, was expected to make the greatest advance. Its immediate objective was Barricourt Heights, the high ground seen on the sky line just over and to the right of Martincourt Farm. The III Corps on the right was to pivot toward the Meuse River. The I Corps on this flank was to protect the left of the V Corps and to move forward as rapidly as possible. Its objective for the first day was the high ground 4 miles away, seen just over the center of St. Juvin.

The attack was launched at 5:30 in the morning and was an outstanding success from the start. The V Corps, with the 2d Division in line on this side of Côte de Châtillon and the 89th on the other side of it, drove forward rapidly and by early afternoon had captured the Barricourt Heights, thus making certain an extensive German retirement in this region.

Champigneulle After Its Capture by the 77th Division, November 2, 1918

Note destruction caused by American artillery fire



The I Corps, in front of here, jumped off with the 80th, 77th and 78th Divisions in line from right to left, the 80th and 77th having relieved the 82d to take part in the attack. The 80th Division was on that part of the front located in the area seen over Martincourt Farm, the 77th Division was beyond St. Juvin, and the front of the 78th ran from the building, La Lairesse, previously pointed out in the valley to the left front, on to the left for approximately 4 miles.

On November 1 the I Corps met stubborn resistance. The 80th Division was held in the left of its zone of action but its right drove forward rapidly in conjunction with the 2d Division and captured part of the wooded hill, Hill 289, seen on the sky line halfway between St. Juvin and Martincourt Farm. That hill can be easily identified (1937) by the high isolated tree on its summit. The 77th Division gained some ground on the ridge to the right of Champigneulle while the 78th captured Bellejoyeuse Farm and a small section of the nearest part of the Bois des Loges.

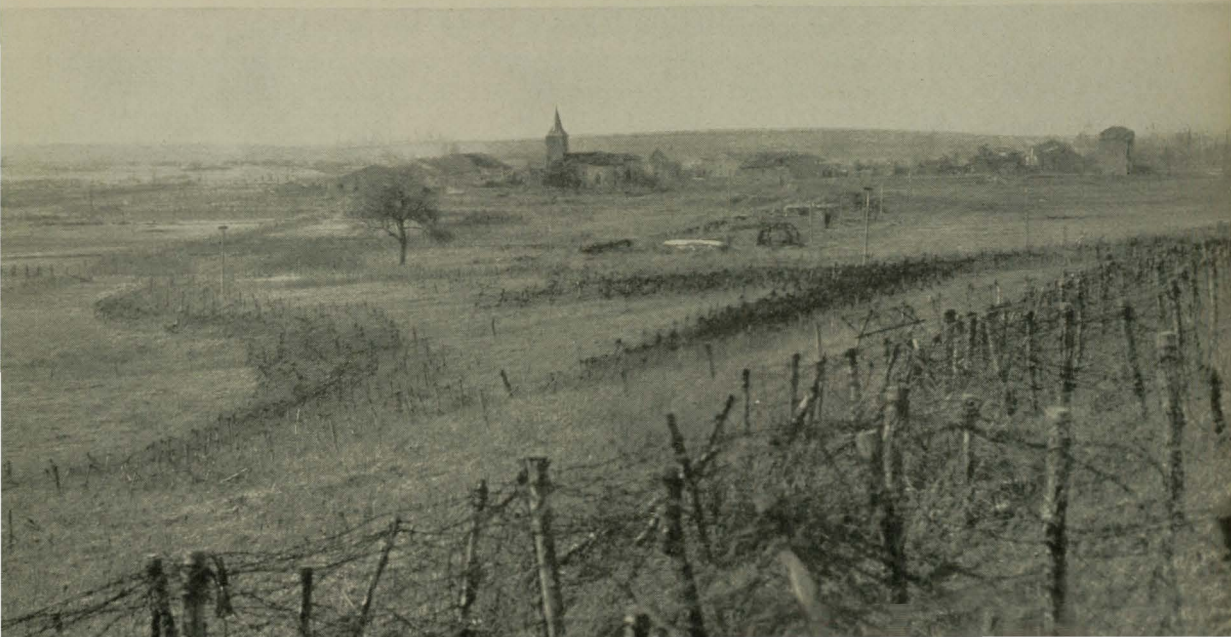
Due to the deep penetration by the V Corps, the Germans withdrew most of their troops on this part of the front during the night of November 1-2, leaving behind machine gun units to delay the American advance. On November 2 that resistance was overcome and all divisions of the I Corps moved rapidly northward.

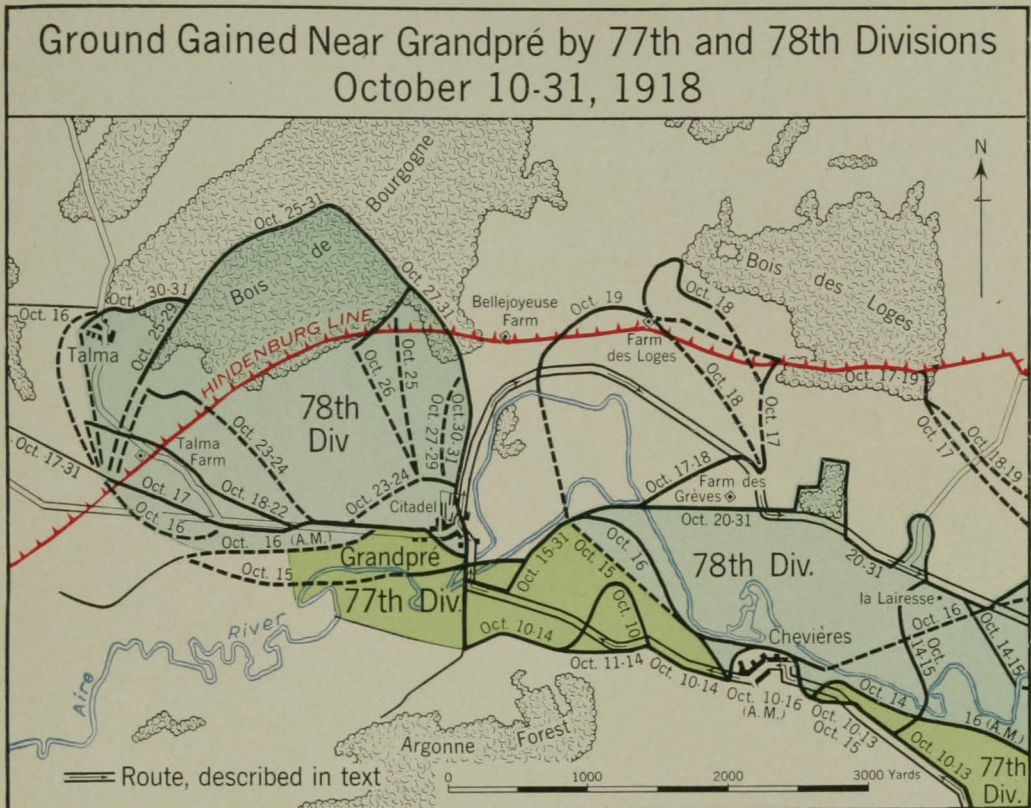
The Bois de Bourgogne and the adjoining woods form a large forest area similar in character to the Argonne. On November 1 strong attacks were not made against that area but its eastern edge was heavily shelled with persistent gas. Its evacuation was forced by the advance in front of here and the advance of the French Fourth Army on the other side of it. From the time when, on November 3, the 78th Division made contact with a French division at Boultaux-Bois, about 9 miles to the left front from here, the Bois de Bourgogne was definitely in Allied hands.

The Army continued to push forward vigorously until November 7 when American troops were on the hills dominating Sedan, 24 miles directly to the front of here. It then changed the direction of its attacks and on November 11, the day of the Armistice, it was driving forward to the reader's right beyond the Meuse River.

The tour now goes west to Grandpré and at that place reverses its direction and turns to the east along the far bank of the Aire River, traversing as far as the Meuse River ground captured during the month of October. The tourist must be careful from now on to note the dates of the various events as at this stop the operations on this part of the Army front have been described up to the end of the war.

Terrain Near Marcq; Note the Barbed Wire





EN ROUTE NEAR MARTINCOURT FARM
TO EAST OF SOMMERANCE

(39.9 m 64.2 km) Continue through the next village, Marcq, which was captured on October 10 by soldiers from both the 77th and 82d Divisions.

(40.2 m 64.7 km) At the far edge of the village the zone of action of the 77th Division during its advance is entered.

(41.1 m 66.1 km) While approaching the next village, Chevières, to the right front on the ridge across the valley is seen the road, marked by the row of trees, from which the 78th Division jumped off for the attack on November 1.

(41.6 m 66.9 km) Continue through Chevières, which was captured on October 10 by troops of the 77th Division.

(42.6 m 68.6 km) Beyond the next hill, the village seen ahead is Grandpré. It was the scene at different times of stubborn fighting by the 77th and 78th Divisions, the 77th entering the town just before its relief by the 78th on October 16.

Most of the town is situated against a steep bluff upon which was located a citadel of great strength. This citadel, which was part of the outpost position of the Hindenburg Line, was captured by the 78th Division on October 23, after it had been attacked on previous occasions by troops of that division as well as by those of the 77th Division.

It was for deeds performed on the 23d while a member of the assaulting party which stormed and captured the citadel, that Private Edward Rischmann, 78th Division, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He scaled the wall and alone entered a dugout in which he captured 45 Germans, holding them prisoners until assistance arrived.

The Germans clung desperately to the remainder of the bluff for the next four days. It was finally captured after sufficient ground had been gained to its left and rear (as seen from here) to permit an assault to be made from the rear.



Captured German Machine Gun on the Citadel at Grandpré
Note the excellent field of fire

On October 26 during the operations at Grandpré, Sergeant William Sawelson, 78th Division, performed the heroic act for which he was given the Congressional Medal of Honor. Hearing a wounded man in a shell hole some distance away calling for water, Sergeant Sawelson, upon his own initiative, left shelter and crawled through heavy machine-gun fire to where the man lay, giving him what water he had in his canteen. He then went back to his own shell hole, obtained more water, and was returning to his wounded comrade when he was killed by a bullet from a machine gun.

(43.2 m 69.5 km) **In the center of the village of Grandpré, turn to the right.**

(43.3 m 69.7 km) **While proceeding to exit of town, to the left on the high bluff may be seen glimpses of the massive walls of the citadel. Its extreme strength and that of the German positions near by are more evident from this point.**

(44.0 m 70.8 km) **To the left front is seen the Farm des Loges, captured by the 78th Division on October 19 after severe hand-grenade fighting. It was given up the next day as the position was too isolated to hold without excessive losses.**

Rising above the farm is the Bois des



A Street in Grandpré, October 1918

Grandpré is on one of the two main passes traversing the plateau upon which are located the Argonne Forest and the Bois de Bourgogne. Throughout the ages these passes have been natural routes of travel. Grandpré itself is reported to have been founded by followers of Clovis about 500 A. D. The village has been subjected to much severe fighting during its long and eventful history.

(42.9 m 69.0 km) **After crossing the railroad near Grandpré turn to the right.**

Loges which was an ideal defensive position for the Germans. The smooth regular slopes on the lower part of the hill afforded an excellent field of fire and the wood at the top served to give fine protection and concealment for the German movements. The hill was attacked by the American forces on a number of occasions but was never captured until after the German troops had started their withdrawal from this part of the front during the night of November 1-2.



80th Division Marching Through St. Juvin After Relief From the Front Line

(45.5 m 73.2 km) **Beyond crest of next hill, to the right front across the valley is seen Marcq and to its left Martincourt Farm.** These were just within the American lines on October 10. The difficulty of advancing across the valley and up these steep slopes in the face of rifle, machine-gun and artillery fire is better appreciated from here.

(46.4 m 74.7 km) **While approaching the next village, St. Juvin, extending to the left from it is seen the hill, in the outpost position of the Hindenburg Line, which was captured by the 82d Division on October 15 after a hard fight.**

(47.1 m 75.8 km) **Continue through St. Juvin, captured on October 14 by the 77th Division after a severe struggle.**

(47.4 m 76.3 km) **Beyond town, the railroad seen to the right crossing the valley was not there during the war.**

At road junction mentioned in the next paragraph is located a monument erected by the 1st Division listing those of the division who were killed in the fighting in its zone of action which was near here.

(48.0 m 77.2 km) **At the next road junction, turn to the left.**

This road and the next village, Sommerance, were captured by the 82d Division on October 11. The division front line from that date to October 13 was along the top of the ridge seen to the left.

(49.4 m 79.5 km) **At main road junction in town, bear right toward Romagne.**

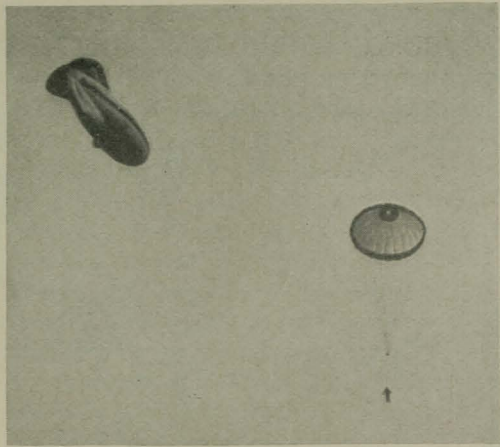
After the battle had progressed beyond Sommerance, the partially destroyed church in the village was used by the Americans as a first-aid station.

(50.4 m 81.1 km) **Beyond town, at the crest where a clear view is obtained of the ground to both sides, STOP.**

Face to the left, which direction is approximately north.

Landres-et-St. Georges, invisible from here, is in a valley $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the front.

The 1st Division, the left division of the V Corps, fought its way forward to this point on October 10, the same day that the 82d Division of the I Corps reached the vicinity of Martincourt Farm, the place near which we have recently stopped.



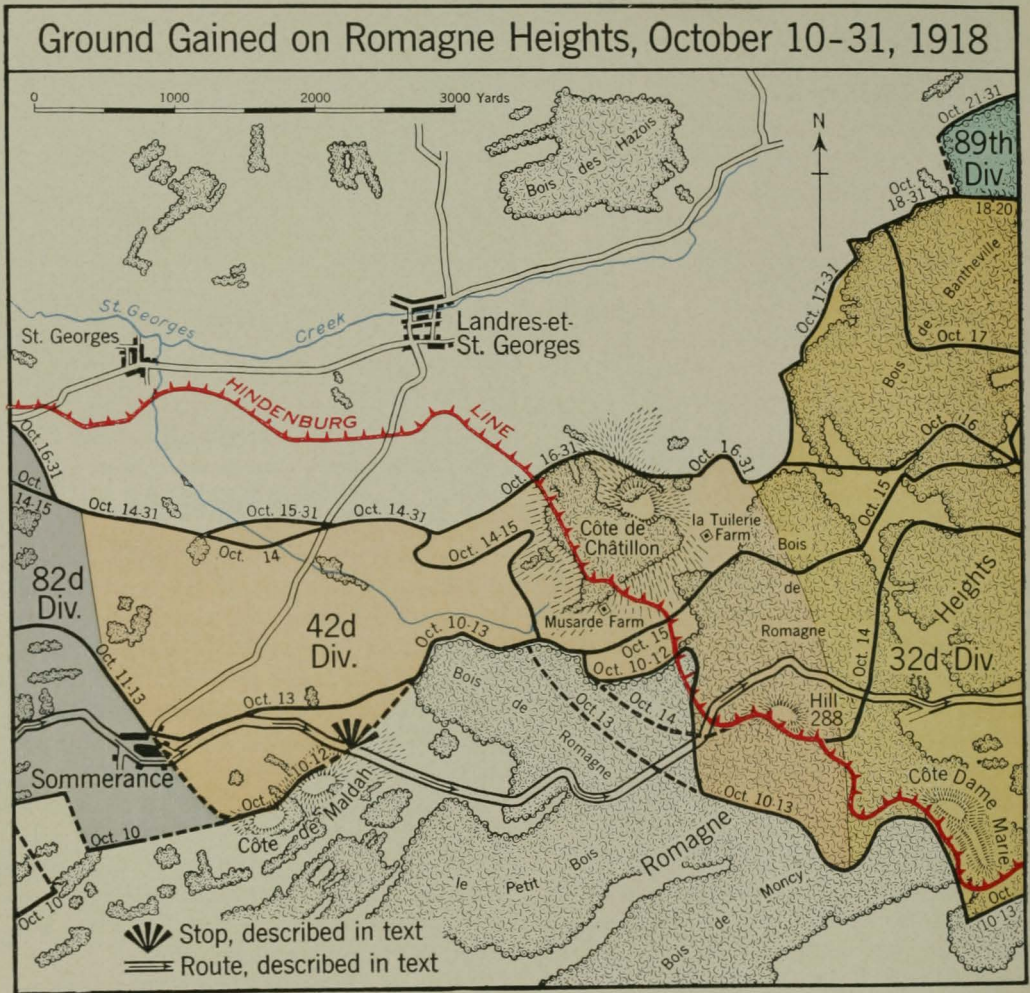
American Observer Jumping From
Captive Balloon

The high ground immediately in rear of here, which is part of the west end of Romagne Heights, was captured by the 1st Division in a series of well executed attacks. The fire of all available artillery of the division was concentrated upon each hill individually, while the infantry pushed close up, prepared to assault. At a fixed time the artillery shifted to a new target and the infantry charged the hill, occupying it before the remaining Germans had time to leave their shelters and offer sufficient resistance to stop the progress of the American troops.

Côte de Maldah, the ground sloping up to the left rear from here, was taken on October 10, about the same time that the division advanced through

Machine Gun Unit in Position at St. Juvin,
November 1, 1918





the nearest part of the Bois de Romagne, the large wood seen to the right front.

The 1st Division was relieved by the 42d Division on October 12. In its 12 days of battle near here it had driven forward more than 4 miles through the difficult terrain of Romagne Heights. Its casualties, to some extent a measure of its exceptional accomplishment, reached the heavy total of over 8,200 men, the greatest casualties of any division in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

When the 42d Division took over the 1st Division sector it faced the Hindenburg Line which on this front included Hill 288, the left one of the three hills seen to the right; Côte de Châtillon, the prominent oval-shaped hill to the right front;

and the low bare ridge sloping off to the left from the woods on Côte de Châtillon. The task of the division was to penetrate that line; and this, after repeated attempts, it successfully accomplished.

In the general attack of the First Army on October 14, the 42d Division jumped off all along its front. On the right, after overcoming stubborn resistance, it reached the crest of Hill 288. Determined assaults made against Côte de Châtillon from the far edge of the Bois de Romagne were stopped at the thick bands of barbed wire located on the open slopes below the wood seen on that hill. In front and to the left front from here, the division advanced in spite of heavy artillery fire and dug in that night at the

far side of the shallow valley, marked by the few scattered trees, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away.

During the fighting on October 14 Private Michael A. Donaldson, 42d Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. The advance of his regiment having been checked by intense machine-gun fire of the enemy, who were entrenched on the open ridge beyond the valley in front of here, his company retired to reorganize, leaving several wounded near the enemy lines. Of his own volition, in broad daylight and with utter disregard for his own safety, he advanced to the crest of the hill, rescued one of his wounded comrades, and returned under intense fire to his own lines. He repeated this heroic act until he had brought in all the men, six in number.

On October 15 the attacks were continued. On the right the division front line was advanced through the woods to a point about midway between Hill 288 and Côte de Châtillon. Substantial gains were made in front of here but the ground captured was so exposed to hostile fire that it had to be given up. The fighting on that day was very bitter, the enemy making many counterattacks.

During the attacks on October 14 and 15 in the direction of Landres-et-St. Georges, Lieutenant Colonel William J. Donovan, 42d Division, personally led the assault wave of his regiment. When his troops were suffering heavy casualties he encouraged all near him by his daring example, moving among his men in exposed positions, reorganizing decimated platoons and accompanying them forward in assaults. When he was wounded in the leg by a machine-gun bullet, he refused to be evacuated and continued with his unit until it withdrew to a less exposed position. For this gallant action Lieutenant Colonel Donovan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On the next day, October 16, as a result of persistent efforts and skillful maneuvering, the formidable defenses of Côte de Châtillon were penetrated and the hill was captured and held in spite of the most desperate efforts on the part of the Ger-

mans to retake it. Taking that dominating strong point marked the climax of the splendid services of the 42d Division on this particular battle front.

In this fighting Private Thomas C. Neibaur won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic exploits. Soon after the crest of Côte de Châtillon was reached he was sent out with an automatic rifle squad to enfilade enemy machine-gun nests. Just as he set up his gun he was shot through both legs by fire from a machine gun supporting a German counterattack. The German wave came on, all but surrounding the squad, and although every man in it was either killed or wounded, Private Neibaur continued to operate the gun. Due to his fire and that from the skirmish line of his company, 100 yards behind him, the Germans halted and took cover. Four of them, who attacked Private Neibaur at close quarters, he killed. Then moving out alone among the enemy lying near by, he captured 11 men at the

German Machine Gun and Observation Post
Near Grandpré



point of his pistol and brought them into the American lines. The defeat of this counterattack was due to a large extent to the individual efforts of Private Neibaur, whose exploits greatly improved the morale of his battalion as they took place against the sky line in full view of it.

Among the men who were awarded Distinguished Service Crosses for their bravery at Côte de Châtillon on this day was Corporal Joseph E. Pruett of the 42d Division. After a daring dash with his platoon across open ground swept by machine-gun fire, he saw an enemy machine gun crew preparing to open fire upon the flank and rear of his position. Singlehanded he attacked, using enemy grenades, drove the crew into a dugout and by bombing the entrance to the

A Trench of the Hindenburg Line in the Bois de Bantheville, November 3, 1918



dugout, he effected the capture of four German officers, 64 men and four heavy machine guns. With remarkable gallantry this soldier had thus put out of action an enemy force that would have critically threatened a success already gained.

After October 16 the positions captured were consolidated and no further efforts to advance were made by the 42d Division. Its front line then extended from the far side of Côte de Châtillon to a point about the same distance away from this point to the left front.

Early on the morning of November 1 the 2d Division passed through the 42d Division, and taking part in the Army offensive of that date attacked straight ahead. Supported by heavy artillery fire, it quickly overcame the German resistance in front of here, captured Landres-et-St. Georges and by nightfall had advanced approximately 6 miles.

The road followed from here to Romagne runs generally east and west and was entirely within the front lines of the American Army before October 15.

EN ROUTE EAST OF SOMMERANCE TO THE MEUSE-ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETERY

(52.2 m 84.0 km) **After entering large wood, at second abrupt right bend in road,** the tour is passing over the northern slope of Hill 288, whose crest lies to the right. On October 14 the summit of the hill was reached by the 42d Division which, on the next day, advanced about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the left of this road in the general direction of Côte de Châtillon.

(52.6 m 84.7 km) **Beyond next sharp right bend in road,** the zone of action of the 32d Division is entered.

(53.2 m 85.6 km) **After entering first clearing, to the right** is seen the rear side of Côte Dame Marie, a highly-organized and important strong point of the Hindenburg Line. It was encircled and captured by the 32d Division in severe fighting on October 14. During that day the division fought its way forward to a line about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the left of the road we are now traveling. Its signal victory here is described at the next stop.



Top: Romagne, October 1918

Right: Romagne Church Set on Fire by an Artillery Bombardment, October 29, 1918

(54.3 m 87.4 km) While descending the next steep hill, to the right front may be obtained glimpses of the chapel and flagpoles located in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, which is the next stop.

Beyond village cemetery at entrance to next town is a large German military cemetery. To visit, bear left at road fork at village cemetery. Rejoin tour at church in Romagne, which can be seen from cemetery entrance. Time of side trip—10 minutes.

The next town, Romagne, was captured by the 32d Division before noon on October 14. A large German supply depot located there fell into the hands of the advancing Americans. The town was the 90th Division Headquarters, October 31–November 3, and III Corps Headquarters from November 3 to 10.

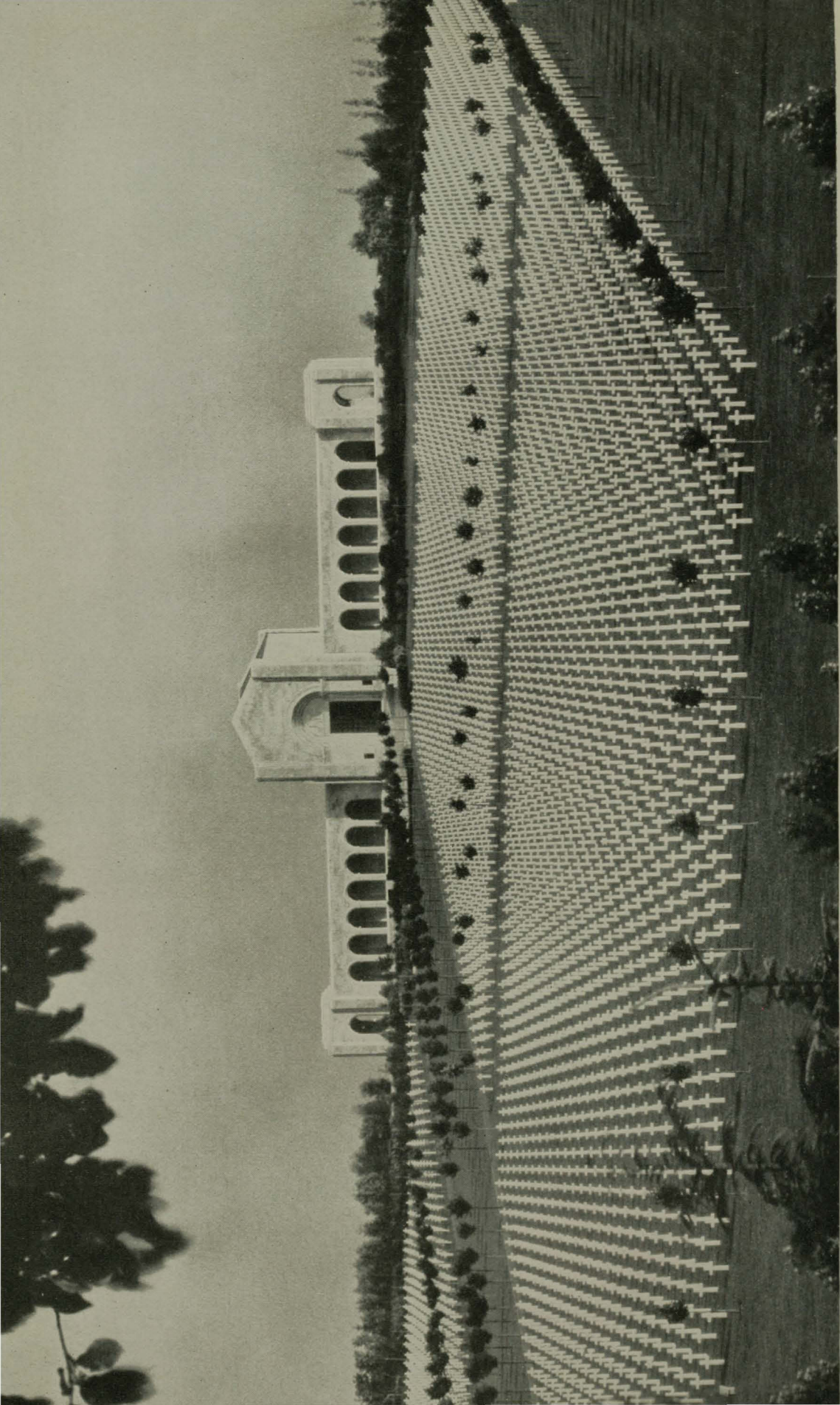
(54.6 m 87.9 km) At the church in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, turn to the left.

(54.7 m 88.0 km) Beyond the bridge in the center of the town, turn to the left.

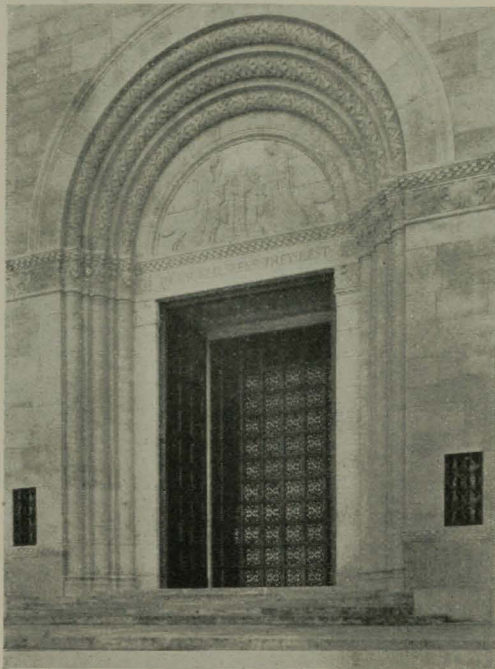


American Cemetery at Romagne,
May 1919





The Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery Near Romagne-sous-Montfaucon



Entrance to the Meuse-Argonne
Cemetery Chapel

(55.6 m 89.5 km) Enter the cemetery, proceed slowly to far entrance, turn right, ascend hill to chapel and STOP.

This is the largest of the American military cemeteries in Europe. It is fittingly located near the center of the area where the hardest American fighting of the war occurred. More than 14,200 soldiers are buried on this hillside, most of whom fell during the operations of the First Army between September 26 and November 11. In 1922 bodies were brought here from the Vosges Mountains, from the area on the other side of the Argonne Forest, and from occupied Germany. Many of those who died at Archangel, Russia, were later moved to this place. Almost every unit of the American Expeditionary Forces is represented by one or more burials in this cemetery.

The permanent improvements of the cemetery were completed in 1931. The buildings across the valley from the grave area contain a reception room for the convenience of visitors, the office of the superintendent, where inquiries concerning the location of a particular grave and for

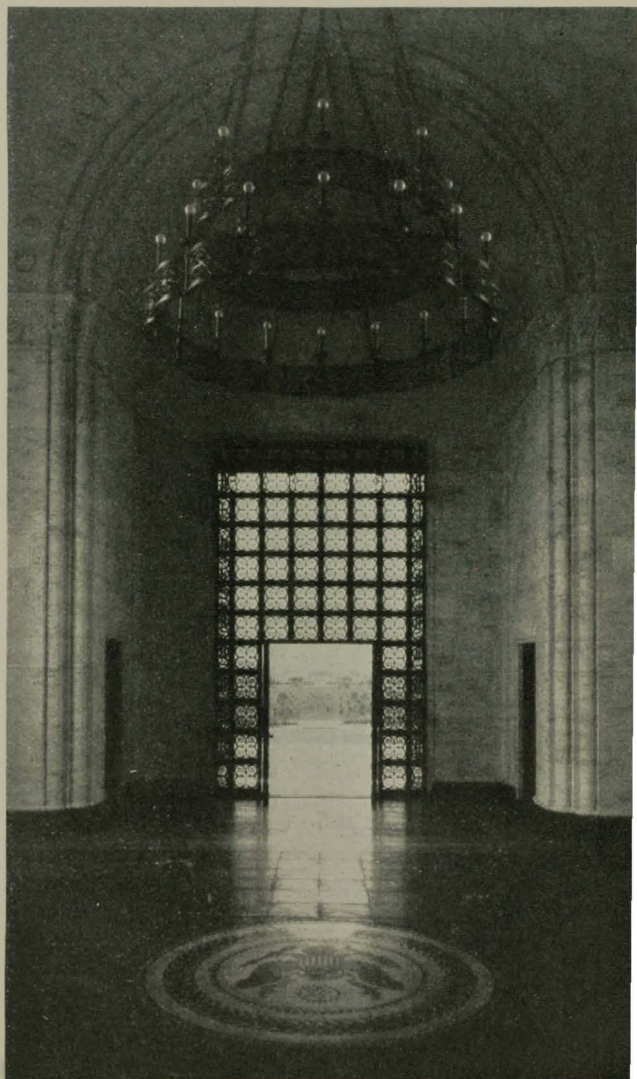
other information may be made, and a few rooms which have been furnished so that the relatives of those buried in the cemetery can spend the night.

An attractive development has been made at the center of the cemetery, and the pools there with their flowers and goldfish are a never-failing source of interest to visitors from the surrounding region.

An idea of the size of the cemetery is obtained when it is realized that the distance between the two main entrances is 600 yards and that the stone wall around the cemetery is more than 1½ miles long.

The chapel is a splendid example of modern architecture of the Romanesque style. The imposing main entrance is surmounted by a sculptured bas-relief in which the figures represent Grief and

Interior View of the Meuse-Argonne
Cemetery Chapel





Chapel at the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery

Remembrance. Carved heads of American soldiers are included in the design of the column capitals alongside the door and at the same height across the front of the building are names of places famous in the history of the American fighting in this general region.

The chapel is entered through doors of unusual size. Within, the attention is first attracted to the apse, in the center of which is the altar, backed by a semi-circle of flags of the United States and the principal Allied nations.

The insignia of the American divisions and higher units which served in Europe are worked into the patterns of the stained glass windows. Through these a soft and subdued light, which blends with the deep colors of the marble floor, is diffused throughout the interior. The impression made upon the visitor is such that he can not help but feel that this beautiful and holy place is fittingly appropriate "as a sacred rendezvous of a grateful people with its immortal dead".¹

On the walls of the loggias are carved the names of all American soldiers who fought in this region and who now rest in unknown graves. The unknown dead of the

¹ This quotation is from the dedicatory inscription which is carved on the interior walls of the chapel.

Services of Supply are recorded on the front panel of the east loggia and the corresponding panel of the west loggia displays an ornamental map in colors showing the ground captured by each of the American divisions during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The names of the unknown dead of the American expedition to Northern Russia are also carved on a panel of the west loggia.

On the floors of the pavilions at the ends of the loggias are direction arrows pointing out the prominent features of the landscape. After enjoying the visit to the chapel and its surroundings, go to the pavilion nearest Romagne and read the following description of the fighting which took place in this vicinity.

The reader should make use of the direction arrows on the floor, and move in and around the pavilion so as to identify the various features of the landscape as they are mentioned in the text.

In the description of the operations all designations, such as right, left, front and rear, are with reference to the direction the chapel faces, which is north.

The famous German defensive position known as the Hindenburg Line ran along the ridge seen behind the chapel. It included the high wooded hill, Côte Dame

Marie, the highest hill seen to the left rear over the buildings of the town of Romagne.

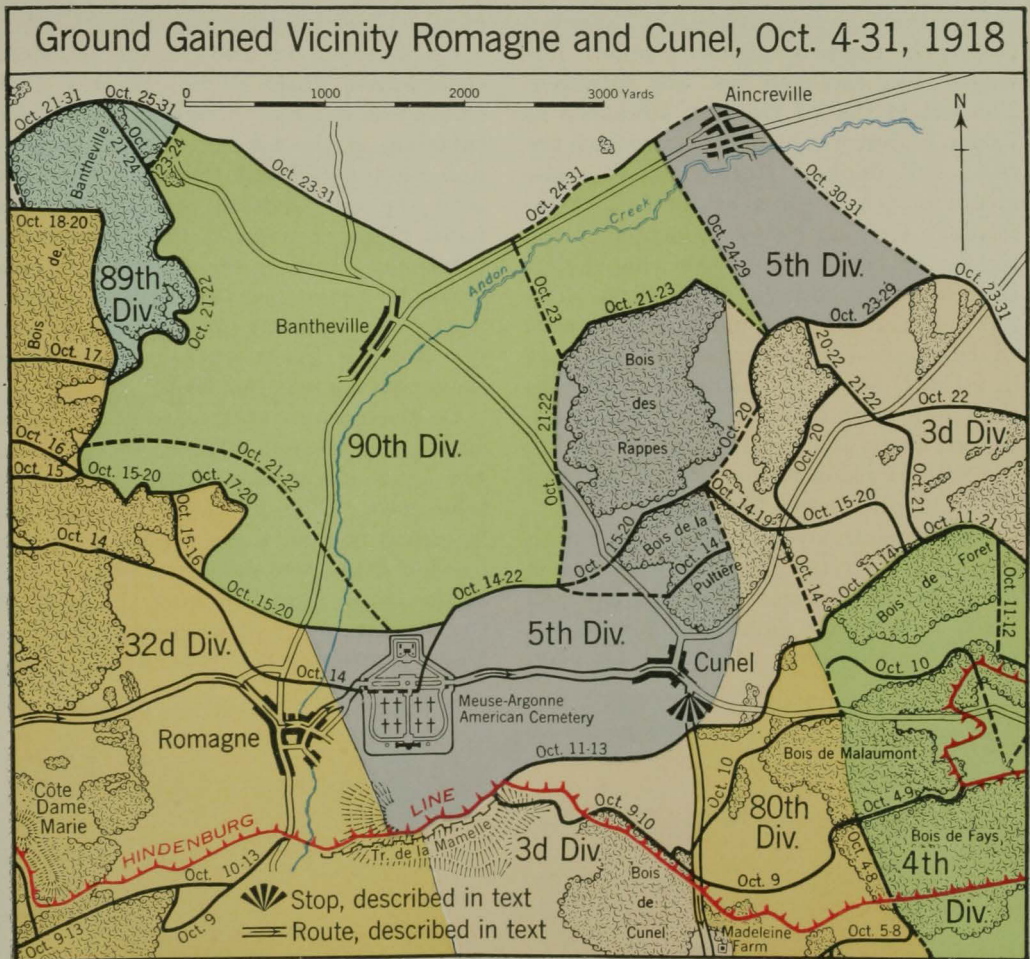
The jump-off line of the American First Army on September 26, 1918, was about 10 miles from here, beyond Montfaucon, seen in the distance to the right rear. By the end of the third day the Germans had been driven back in this direction to the outlying defenses of the Hindenburg Line, which were located about midway between here and Montfaucon.

On October 4 a second general attack was launched by the First Army and vigorously pushed, during the course of which many important gains were made.

On October 7 the flank attack against the Argonne Forest near Châtel-Chéhéry was started and the next day the drive east of the Meuse was begun. These

were so successful that the Army ordered the V Corps on this immediate front to join in and to attack on October 9. This it did and, after some of the most heart-rending fighting of the war, it gained a foothold in the Hindenburg Line.

The 32d Division on October 9 pushed forward part way up the slopes of Côte Dame Marie and to the ridge in rear of the chapel, where it established itself in a trench of the Hindenburg Line, called on French wartime maps the Tranchée de la Mamelle. Romagne was reached in that attack but a strong German counterattack drove the advancing forces back. Isolated groups of the 3d Division, whose zone of action included the ground upon which this cemetery stands, entered the valley which runs



through the cemetery and also entered Romagne. The hostile fire was so severe, however, that these groups did not attempt to hold on but took up a position in the Tranchée de la Mamelle alongside the 32d Division. The remainder of the 3d Division, to the right rear from here, made a substantial advance also, and after dark the 80th Division on the right of the 3d entered Cunel, the village seen to the right when looking along the front of the chapel. Elements of the division were fighting in the town at midnight but it was not captured on that night.

The First Army ordered a general attack on the 10th and the fighting continued fiercely on that day all along this front. The 32d Division penetrated the trenches of the Hindenburg Line near the top of Côte Dame Marie. A counter-attack caused some withdrawal but at the end of the day the division had made a total gain there of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Romagne was attacked but not captured. The left of the 3d Division advanced at 7:00 a. m. but was held up by fire from the front and flanks. During the day elements of the division established themselves in German trenches, located to the right rear not far from this chapel, but they were withdrawn after dark. The right of the division made two attacks which resulted in no permanent gains but in a third, begun at 9:45 p. m. and continued through most of the night, it advanced about 600 yards. During the day the 80th Division pushed its line forward about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile nearer to Cunel.

The general attack was pressed with great vigor on the 11th, all divisions in line here taking part. The 32d Division made only minor gains which were not held. The left unit of the 3d Division

attacked at 7:15 a. m. but was stopped by hostile machine-gun fire from that part of this ridge to the right rear of the chapel. Shortly after 1:00 p. m. it advanced as far as the valley in the cemetery and established a position about 100 yards to the right rear of the site of the chapel but withdrew after dark. The right of the division repulsed a German counterattack at dawn, jumped off at 7:00 a. m. and made a substantial gain, attacked about noon with the 80th Division and captured Cunel but did not hold the town that night. The 80th Division during the day advanced its lines about 700 yards. The 4th Division, in line beyond the 80th, captured this end of the Bois de Forêt, the wood seen above the right side of Cunel. That wood, a highly-organized and strong part of the Hindenburg Line, extends to the valley of the Meuse River about 4 miles away.

On October 12 and 13 the divisions consolidated their gains. On the 12th Cunel was entered though not held by a battalion of the 5th Division, that division having relieved the 80th. On the 13th the 3d Division extended to the right, relieving parts of the 5th and 4th Divisions. During the day it was subjected to heavy hostile artillery concentrations on its front lines, particularly in the Bois de Forêt where a determined enemy attack was repulsed.

On the morning of October 14 the Army launched a general attack, the 5th and 42d Divisions having entered the line to take part. The 3d Division attacked from just beyond Cunel; the 5th from in front of Cunel and along the ridge in rear of the chapel; the 32d from the front to the observer's left of Romagne and Côte Dame Marie; the 42d from the line facing

Results of Traffic on the Avocourt-Malancourt Road Built Over No Man's Land





Observer Dropping Message for 5th Division Headquarters at Bois de la Tuilerie
(Insert) White Panels Being Displayed as Signals to an Airplane

Côte de Châtillon (the operations there were described at the last stop) and the 82d and 77th from the front line beyond the 42d Division (the operations of the 77th and 82d Division were described at the stop near Martincourt Farm).

In this attack the German defenses crumbled before the onslaughts of the terrific American assaults. The 5th Division captured Cunel and with the 3d Division stormed the strongly fortified Bois de la Pultière, seen on the hill just to the left of Cunel, and by that night had practically cleared it of the enemy. The 5th Division just before jumping off suffered heavy casualties on the ridge behind the chapel from a two-hour concentrated enemy artillery bombardment and again from an intense concentration of hostile fire just after leaving its trenches. The troops doggedly advanced, however, capturing this hill about 10:00 a. m. and, in spite of savage cross-fire from machine guns located at the edge of the Bois de la Pultière near Romagne, stormed the ridge across the valley about 10:40 a. m. Upon arriving at that ridge,

which was devoid of trees at that time, their positions were so exposed and the sweeping cross-fire was so intense that the men could not dig in but secured what shelter they could in the shell holes and captured trenches until after dark.

The 32d Division, in spite of severe counterattacks, by a brilliant enveloping maneuver, captured Côte Dame Marie and advanced its front lines a total distance of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It also captured the village of Romagne and held it through a heavy German gas bombardment during that night.

The day was a momentous one for the First Army, for by its close the Hindenburg Line was in American hands on all this part of the battle front.

In this immediate vicinity the American troops organized themselves that night on a line which included the village of Romagne and ran from there along the valley to a point near the pool at the center of the cemetery. It then went diagonally to the right up the ridge across the valley and followed the top of that ridge to the Bois de la Pultière near Cunel.



90th Division Troops Passing Through Cunel, October 27, 1918

The Bois des Rappes, on the horizon to the right front, was the scene of terrific fighting for eight days before it was finally captured and cleared of the enemy on October 21 by the 5th Division. The 90th Division relieved the 5th on October 22 at the edge of the Bois des Rappes and on the ridge across the valley. The next day it captured Bantheville, seen in the valley to the left of and beyond the reception house. The 32d Division made almost daily gains until October 20 on which date it was relieved by the 89th Division. By that time it had driven a deep salient into the German lines by capturing most of the Bois de Bantheville, the very large wood which covers the tops of the hills to the left front, and which ends near Le Grand Carré Farm, seen just below the horizon to the left of front.

History records no more sustained and severe fighting than that on this front during October. The highly-organized positions of the Germans were defended with desperate tenacity by experienced troops. The ground was ideal for defense, and that the necessity of holding

it was evident to the Germans is clear from the following sentence of an order which the opposing German general issued to his men on October 1: "The fate of a large portion of the Western Front, perhaps of our nation, depends on the firm holding of the Verdun Front."

The American Army attacked incessantly and such lack of experience as existed in its divisions in the beginning was more than counterbalanced by the individual bravery and unbounded energy of its soldiers. Their constant pressure gradually forced the enemy back so that by the end of October the First Army faced the last German line on this part of its front. The bitterness of this fighting is attested by the 27,000 casualties suffered by the American 3d, 4th, 5th, 32d, 80th, 89th and 90th Divisions in the general vicinity of this cemetery.

On November 1 the First Army again drove forward, in what proved to be its last great attack, from a jump-off line which ran just this side of Le Grand Carré Farm. The zone of action of the 90th Division included that farm near

its left boundary. In line on its left was the 89th Division and then the 2d Division. The immediate objective of the attack was Barricourt Heights, seen on the horizon to the right of the wood just beyond Le Grand Carré Farm, and the more distant objective was the lateral railroad running near Sedan.

The attack was a signal success and Barricourt Heights were captured by the 2d and 89th Divisions on the first day. Hill 343, the wooded hill seen to the right of front was captured by the 90th Division on November 2. By November 4 the German Army was in full retreat on this front, and by the morning of November 7 the troops of the First Army were on the heights of the river across from Sedan, 25 miles from here.

By November 11, the day of the Armistice, the Meuse River had been crossed in several places and the American Army was pushing rapidly on beyond it.

Thus the war ended with a glorious victory for the American Army. Those who sleep on this hillside and their comrades in death who now rest in the cemeteries of America had not fought in vain.

Go to the reception building on the opposite side of the valley. From its terrace a beautiful view of the cemetery and its fields of crosses is obtained.

EN ROUTE MEUSE-ARGONNE AMERICAN
CEMETERY TO SOUTH OF
MADELEINE FARM

(56.5 m 90.9 km) Leave the cemetery by the gate opposite to the one entered.

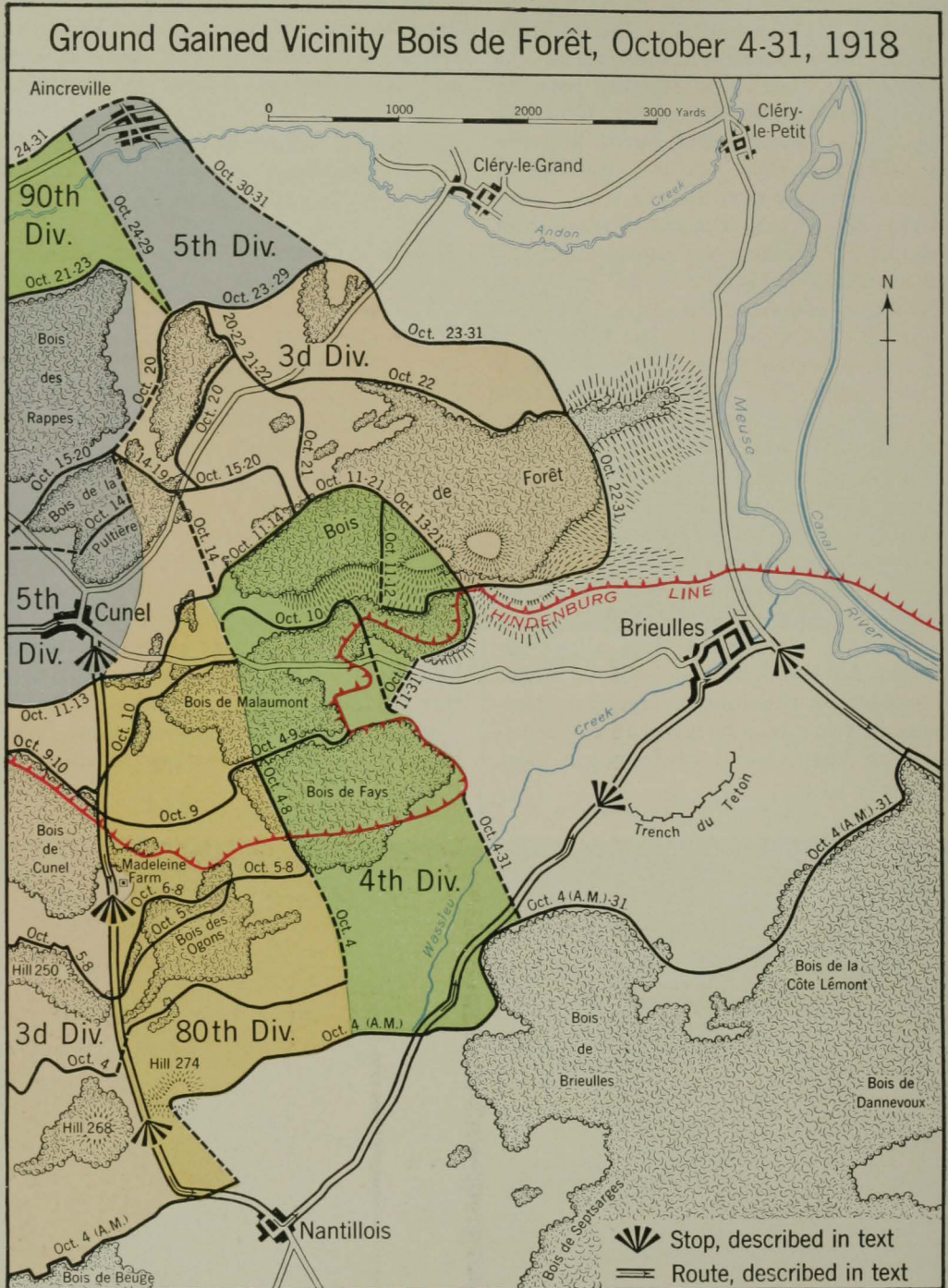
The next village, Cunel, was the scene of many desperate conflicts between October 9 and 14, in which the 80th, 3d and 5th Divisions participated. The town was captured several times but not held because it was dominated by the German positions in the Bois de la Pultière above it. The town and the wood, which was defended with the greatest tenacity, were finally captured on October 14; the town by the 5th Division and the wood by troops of the 3d and 5th Divisions.

(57.5 m 92.5 km) At church in Cunel, bear right. This town was the 5th Division Headquarters, November 4-7.

(57.6 m 92.7 km) At next road fork, bear right and STOP without leaving car.

"Cornwilly" for Breakfast in a Quarry Near Cunel, October 29, 1918





The wood seen to the left rear is the Bois de Forêt. That part of it closest to here was captured by the 4th Division on the morning of October 11 after terrific fighting. It was held in spite of several

determined counterattacks, one of which was launched from the Bois de la Pultière, the wooded area seen to the rear.

The ground in this immediate vicinity was captured by the 5th Division on

October 14 and near this point is seen one of the many pyramidal markers erected after the Armistice by the 5th Division on or near its former battlefields.

The terrain to the left and rear of here was, on October 12, the scene of the heroic exploits of First Lieutenant Samuel Woodfill, 5th Division, for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and later selected by General Pershing as an outstanding hero of the American Expeditionary Forces. Lieutenant Woodfill was leading his company in an attack toward the Bois de la Pultière from the small wooded areas to the left of here when it encountered heavy enemy fire. Followed at some distance by two soldiers, he immediately advanced toward a machine-gun nest, which was at the edge of the wood in rear of here, and worked his way around its flank. Four of the enemy emerged, three of whom were shot by Lieutenant Woodfill and the fourth, an officer, was killed in hand-to-



A Typical Scene in the Bois de Forêt

hand combat. The company then continued to advance through the wood until another machine-gun nest was encountered. Again Lieutenant Woodfill rushed ahead of his command in the face of heavy fire from the nest and when several of the enemy appeared, he shot them, captured three other members of the crew and silenced the gun. A few minutes later, this officer, for the third time, demonstrated conspicuous bravery by charging another machine-gun position and by employing in turn a rifle, a pistol, and finally a pick, killed seven of the enemy.

From here to the next town, Nantillois, the tour goes opposite to the direction of the American advance. The view of the terrain is, therefore, that which was seen from the various German positions.

The difficult character of the ground over which the American Army forced its way forward is illustrated by the country between here and the next village, Nantillois; and the bitter nature of the fighting is indicated by the comparatively small yet numerous American gains made along this road. In the next $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles there are six pronounced ridges which run almost at right angles to this road. It took the First Army 14 days of nearly continuous fighting to capture them. Each time the Germans lost a ridge they had one equally good for defensive purposes just behind it.

The line reached on October 11 by the 3d and 80th Divisions was along this side of the crest in front of here. The other front lines which crossed this road will be pointed out while approaching them.



Captain Samuel Woodfill, 5th Division,
July 1919



Madeleine Farm, Captured by the 3d Division on October 9, 1918
Note character of wooded areas in 1918

From the next crest on to near Nantillois, this road was the boundary between the zones of action of the 3d and 80th Divisions, the 3d Division zone of action being that to the reader's right.

Continue.

(58.0 m 93.3 km) **Beyond next crest, by looking down the valley to the right** a fine view is obtained of part of the heavily-wooded Romagne Heights.

(58.2 m 93.7 km) **At next crest, to the right front on the ridge ahead**, is seen the Bois de Cunel. Along its near edge was located the front line of the 3d Division on October 9 and 10. The Hindenburg Line crossed the road close to this side of that wood. (See map page 254.)

(58.9 m 94.8 km) **At the far side of the wood, when a clear view of the valley to the right is obtained, STOP.**

Face down the road, which direction is approximately south.

The buildings just passed are those of Madeleine Farm, famous in the history of the American Expeditionary Forces. The old building, formerly used by the Germans as a hospital, was marked with a large red cross on the roof. It had been carefully prepared for defense, however, and was the scene of desperate fighting from September 28 to October 9 when the battered ruins of the farm were finally captured by troops of the 3d Division.

The first attacks against it, made by

units of the 4th and 79th Divisions, supported by tanks, were repulsed on September 28. From then on the 3d, 4th, 79th and 80th Divisions all engaged in bitter fighting in its vicinity.

The large wood seen to the left is the Bois des Ogons. Troops of the 4th and 79th Divisions advanced through it on September 28, but were forced back by counterattacks. The following day elements of both divisions penetrated into it, but were again forced to fall back. It was attacked on October 4 by the 80th Division, which made frontal and flank assaults against it without success until dark when the far edge of it was reached. Attempts to capture the wood by infiltration that night were unsuccessful. On October 5, in spite of desperate efforts during the daytime, no progress could be made. About 6:00 p. m., however, the division reached this edge, which it outposted, and organized a position across the center of the wood.

The wood seen to the right front is on a ridge called during the war Hill 250, which was an exceptionally strong feature of the German defenses. It was reached by the 79th Division on September 28 and on the following day was captured but not held because it formed a sharp salient in the line. It was finally captured on the night of October 5-6 by units of the 3d Division, after a hard fight.

Hill 253, the high bare hill seen to the right, was a powerful German strong point that dominated a large part of the zone of advance of the 3d Division. It was attacked on October 4 without success and again on October 5 when a foothold was gained on its southern slopes. It was taken on October 9 by the 3d Division after a bitter struggle.

This point and the valley on each side of it were in no man's land from October 5 to 8. The American front line was along the edge of the wood to the right front and the German line was facing it from the wood across the valley.

As an illustration of the continuous fighting in this vicinity it might be noted that between midnight and dawn on October 7, the 3d Division made three determined efforts to cross this valley. Each attempt failed because of the alertness of the Germans, who illuminated the area with flares and raked it with severe machine-gun, rifle and artillery fire.

The American positions in the Bois des Ogons and on Hill 250 were subjected to many terrific artillery bombardments and counterattacks during this period.

It was during counterattacks on October 7 against Hill 250 that Private First Class John L. Barkley, 3d Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was stationed in an observation post near the edge of the wood seen to the right front. On his own initiative he repaired a captured enemy machine gun and mounted it in a disabled tank which was near his post. Shortly afterward, when the enemy launched a counterattack from the edge of the wood across the valley, Pri-

vate Barkley got into the tank, waited under the hostile barrage until the enemy line was abreast of him, and then opened fire, completely breaking up the attack and killing and wounding a large number of the enemy. Five minutes later an enemy artillery piece opened point-blank fire on the tank from the opposite wood. Although one shell made a direct hit, Private Barkley stuck to his improvised "pillbox" and broke up a second counter-attack several minutes later.

The fighting in this valley ended on October 9 when the 3d and 80th Divisions, attacking from the woods ahead, captured this clearing and Madeleine Farm, the Bois de Cunel, seen to the rear, and advanced their front line to the far side of the ridge directly in rear of here.

Madeleine Farm was the 3d Division Headquarters from October 14 to 26.

EN ROUTE SOUTH OF MADELEINE FARM TO NORTHWEST OF CONSENVOYE

(59.4 m 95.6 km) **At the next bend in the road** the American monument on Montfaucon is seen directly ahead.

In the small wood at this point the bodies of seven American soldiers were discovered as late as 1927 buried in the same unmarked shallow grave. They were all without shoes, probably indicating that these articles were in demand by the Germans who buried them.

(59.5 m 95.8 km) **The wood to the right front** is on Hill 268. On October 4 the American front line was about 100 yards this side of that wood and ran close to the edge of the wood seen to the left rear.

"Fox Holes" South of Bois des Ogons





Looking East During the War Toward the Ruins of Nantillois

Hill 274, seen to the left front, was captured on September 28 by the 4th and 79th Divisions but due to the total lack of cover and the intense enemy artillery fire, the troops of the 79th Division on that part of it nearest this road withdrew about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile the next day.

(59.9 m 96.4 km) **Upon reaching the next crest proceed about 100 yards and STOP without leaving automobile.**

In this general vicinity the German reserves of men and artillery, which were rushed to this front after the attack of September 26, entered the battle and desperately strove to stop the American advance by counterattacks and heavy concentrations of artillery fire.

The crest of the ridge seen to the left front on the sky line was reached by the 4th Division early on the afternoon of September 26. The near end of the division line was just this side of Hill 295, the highest part of the ridge as seen from here. Three enemy counterattacks against that part of its line were repulsed during the course of the afternoon.

The 79th Division at that time was held up on the other side of Montfaucon but part of the 37th Division and the 91st Division had progressed almost as far as Epinonville, seen in the distance just to the right of the Bois de Beuge, the large wooded area to the right front.

On September 27 the 4th Division attacked but encountered such severe resistance that it could not advance its lines to any extent. On that same day the 79th Division, after occupying Montfaucon about noon, attacked the Bois de Beuge, which was reached by a few men but not held. The division that night dug in along the lowest well-defined line of vegetation seen on Montfaucon. The village of Epinonville was repeatedly attacked by troops of the 91st Division during the day but was not captured.

On September 28 the Bois de Beuge was taken in a vigorous assault by the 79th and 37th Divisions, the latter taking the far side of it. The 37th Division after passing the Bois de Beuge was stopped by a German counterattack. The left of its

line, which had advanced over 2 miles, was driven back about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile by the same counterattack. On that day Nantillois, in the deep valley ahead, was taken by the 79th Division, it having been entered but not held by the 4th Division the day before. Being an important road center, that town, after its capture, was subjected to heavy shelling by German artillery.

In Nantillois are (1937) a building erected by a 315th Infantry association in memory of the dead of that regiment, which was a part of the 79th Division, and a memorial fountain constructed by the State of Pennsylvania as a tribute to the achievements of the 80th Division, which had a number of men in it from that state. The building is seen on the right, set back from the road, soon after entering town. The fountain is passed at the main road junction in the center of the village.

Continue.

(60.7 m 97.7 km) **At the center of Nantillois, turn sharply to the left.**

(61.2 m 98.5 km) **Beyond town, the little valley which the road follows** was the scene of desperate fighting on September 27 and 28 before it and the ridge to the left were finally taken by the 4th Division.

(63.1 m 101.5 km) **Beyond the first farm buildings located to the LEFT of the road, at second pronounced crest, STOP without leaving the automobile.**

A 4th Division monument is located alongside the road near this stopping point. (Consult the map on page 254.)

The hills seen ahead in the distance are on the other side of the Meuse River. Fire from German artillery positions located on those hills enfiladed the lines of the American units on this side of the river and caused many casualties. The hills were not taken until November 5, six days before the Armistice.

The large wood seen fringing the top of the ridge to the left and left front across the valley is the Bois de Forêt and that on the hillside seen to the left rear is the Bois de Fays. The Hindenburg Line included all of the Bois de Forêt and most of the Bois de Fays. The first penetration of the Hindenburg Line made by

the First Army was on October 4 when in a dashing assault troops of the 4th Division captured the Bois de Fays.

The Bois de Forêt was the scene of many desperate conflicts, in which the 4th and 3d Divisions were engaged, before its capture was finally completed on October 22 by the 3d Division.

Because of the enfilade fire of the German artillery up this valley, no attacks were launched from this vicinity against the Bois de Forêt. The capture of that wood was finally brought about by an enveloping movement through the Bois de Fays. This movement, which involved fighting of the most vicious character, was initiated by the 4th Division on October 4 and continued by it until October 11, when the left half of the Bois de Forêt was captured. The 3d Division relieved the 4th there on October 13 and on October 22 occupied the rest of the wood.

On top of the bare hill rising to the right from here was an exceptionally strong German position called the Trench du Téton. It was occupied by the 4th Division on October 10 and soon thereafter the Germans abandoned Briulles, seen in the valley ahead, because the town was dominated by the newly organized American positions on that hill.

During the severe fighting in the Bois de la Côte Lémont, to be pointed out later in the tour, and in the Bois de Fays, First Lieutenant William R. Arrants, Medical Corps, 80th Division, performed

the heroic services for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He accompanied his battalion into action on September 28 in the Bois de la Côte Lémont, and promptly opened his aid station within 100 yards of the front line, where he worked all night under continuous fire, giving aid to the wounded. When there was a shortage of stretcher bearers he assisted in bringing in the wounded. Under intense fire he undertook to locate the ambulance station and personally directed the evacuation of wounded to it. In the attack from the Bois de Fays on October 5 he again went with the attacking troops and opened a first aid station in an old cellar. Under an intense barrage of shrapnel and high-explosive shells, he performed the most devoted service in attending the wounded, working continuously until after his unit had been ordered to retire.

Continue.

(63.2 m 101.7 km) **To the left front, across the valley,** is seen a large French World War military cemetery.

(63.9 m 102.8 km) **Immediately after entering Briulles, turn to the right.**

(64.4 m 103.6 km) **Where the road ends at the railroad, turn right and STOP without leaving the automobile.**

This point is at the west side of the Meuse River valley. The river winds its way through the valley and a canal is at the foot of the nearest hill to the left.

During the progress of the last great

33d Division Troops in Drillancourt, October 4, 1918





A 79th Division Aid Station in the Bois de Consenvoye, November 8, 1918

offensive of the First Army, one of the most difficult military feats, that of crossing a river under hostile fire, was accomplished by the 5th Division near here.

Soon after midnight on November 2-3, a footbridge was placed by the engineers over the river about 300 yards in rear of here and a patrol followed by one infantry company crossed to the flats between the river and canal. About dawn the enemy discovered the movement and laid down a heavy fire in the area. The troops on the flats were driven to the cover of the high bank along the canal, in which precarious position they remained throughout the day.

That night the canal was bridged about 900 yards to the left rear from here with two footbridges. An attempt to rush over one of the bridges at 2:00 a. m. on November 4 was defeated by enemy machine-gun fire and several other attempts to cross before daybreak were repulsed. However, after dark (the sun set at 4:19 p. m.) by a sudden rush over

the footbridges the enemy was surprised and two companies quickly established themselves on the far side. These immediately extended their lines for a considerable distance along the river. Profiting by the confusion caused in the German ranks by this crossing, another battalion of the 5th Division crossed the river and canal, to the left front from here, in boats. This battalion promptly captured Hill 252, seen to the left, and organized a position on it that night.

On November 5 the division made another crossing of the river about 2 miles to the left rear from here and still further extended its gains in this vicinity, among its captures being the Bois de Châtillon, a large wooded area part of which is seen to the left front.

The successful crossing here turned the German lines on the Heights of the Meuse, to the left front beyond the river, and greatly facilitated the progress of those units of the American Army which were attacking the German lines from the front.

From now on to the village of Consenvoye, where the river is crossed, the tour goes along the Meuse River valley.

Continue.

(65.3 m 105.1 km) **At the place where large wood, Bois de la Côte Léumont, extends immediately alongside road, the 80th Division reached this valley on September 28 and established its front line along the railroad track. The opposing lines faced each other across the valley from that time on to November 6.**

(66.0 m 106.2 km) **The village to the left front across the valley is Vilosnes, captured on November 6, and beyond it on the ridge in the distance, Haraumont, captured on November 7, soon appears. These were taken by the French 15th Colonial Division which was attached to the American Army. It was assisted in the crossing of the river and the capture of Vilosnes by the 5th Division, which, after crossing at Brioules, attacked the town from the heights seen above it.**

German Observation Post Captured by the 29th Division in the Bois de Consenvoye



From here to the next sharp bend in the road, the tour runs generally east and west, that is, at right angles to the direction of advance of the First Army.

(67.0 m 107.8 km) **Opposite Vilosnes, on this side of the valley a large German supply depot was captured.**

(67.9 m 109.3 km) **While approaching next sharp bend in road, there is seen straight ahead a bald-topped hill marked by a small monument. That hill is the Borne de Cornouiller, called by our men "Cornwilly Hill". The slopes of the hill to the observer's right were reached by the 33d Division on October 9 and again on the 10th, its front line remaining there until the 12th. The top of the hill was captured on November 7 by the 79th Division after parts of it had changed hands several times during bitter fighting on the preceding days. The advance was from right to left as seen from here.**

The monument on the hill is a small one in commemoration of the services of the American soldiers who fought in that vicinity. No road runs near it.

(68.9 m 110.9 km) **In the next valley leading to the right is seen Dannevoux. That village, which lay in the German second position, was taken after dark on September 26 by the 80th Division. On this side of Dannevoux a large depot containing valuable military supplies was captured by the 33d Division.**

(69.1 m 111.2 km) **At next crest, the zone of action of the 33d Division on September 26 is entered. The division established its line just to the left of this road before noon of that day.**

(69.3 m 111.5 km) **In the next little valley, after crossing the stone bridge, to the left are seen (1937) several large concrete shelters built by the Germans.**

On October 7 a French airplane was shot down near here and crashed on the flats across the river near the enemy lines. Seeing that the French aviator was injured, Corporal Ralyn Hill, 33d Division, voluntarily dashed over the river on a footbridge and carried the wounded man to this side under heavy hostile fire. For his gallant exploit he was awarded



79th Division Water Service Train in Brabant-sur-Meuse, November 3, 1918

later the Congressional Medal of Honor. (70.4 m 113.3 km) **About 1 mile farther on, at top of the hill to the right is seen a distant view of Montfaucon.**

(70.9 m 114.1 km) **Beyond next road junction, where a good view is obtained of the valley ahead, STOP.**

Face down road, which direction is approximately southeast.

The nearest town across the valley is Consenvoye. The first buildings seen up the valley beyond it are in Brabant.

In this region, the Meuse River is followed on its far side by a comparatively narrow and rough plateau, about 4 or 5 miles wide, called the Heights of the Meuse. This forms a formidable military obstacle, being heavily wooded and indented by many deep valleys.

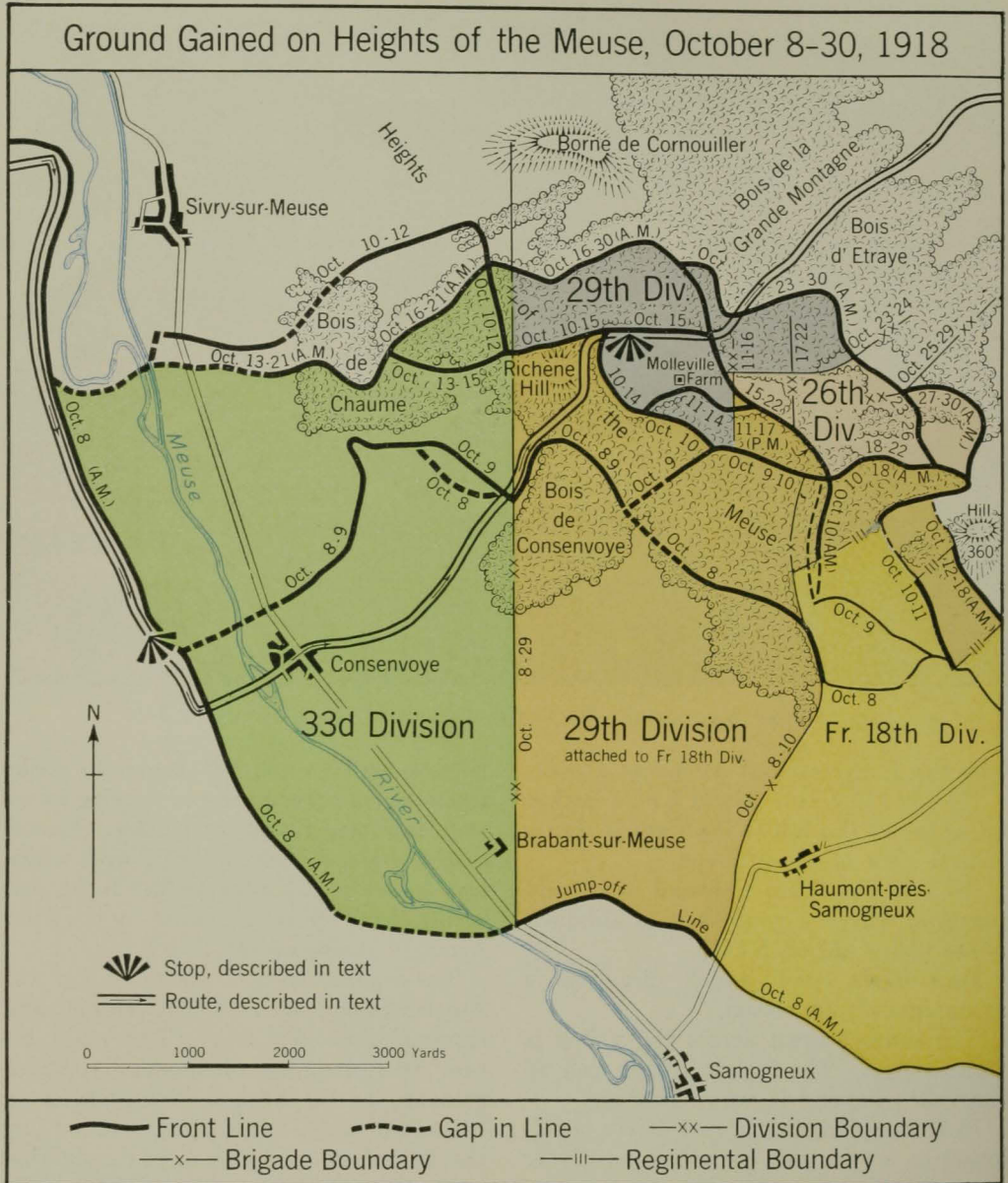
The German positions on those heights were not attacked on September 26, although the First Army contemplated that an advance would have to be made north along them in the near future.

This proved to be the case, because, as the offensive on this side of the river progressed, the hostile artillery fire from the

heights seen to the left began to strike the flank and rear of the advancing forces and inflicted many casualties. Consequently, the French XVII Corps, which was holding that part of the front just across the river, was ordered by the First Army to attack on October 8.

The operation was executed by the American 33d and 29th Divisions and three French divisions. The main assault was made by a brigade of the 29th attached to the French 18th Division, a brigade of the French 18th Division and the French 26th Division, in line in that order from Brabant on to the observer's left. The French 10th Colonial Division protected the right flank of the corps.

The 33d Division, which held this bank of the river from Brabant to the Bois de la Côte Lémont, recently passed on the tour, was to cross at Brabant after the main attack had progressed a certain distance. It was to be notified by the French 18th Division when to cross and after crossing it was to attack toward the Bois de Chaume, the wood seen fringing the summit of the hill to the left rear.



The troops of the main attack jumped off at 5:00 a. m. behind an intense rolling barrage. The advance of the 29th Division was rapid for about a mile until its intermediate objective, marked roughly by an extension of the line from this point through the center of Consenvoye, was reached. From there on it was subjected to severe machine-gun fire, a large part of which came from the Bois de Consenvoye, the wedge-shaped wood seen over the

left edge of Consenvoye. That wood was reached about noon and captured by the 29th Division during the afternoon.

At 9:00 a. m. the 33d Division was ordered to cross the river and at 11:00 a. m. it began its advance from Brabant. Consenvoye was captured about noon and a pause was made near there. The attack was continued soon after 4:00 p. m. against artillery and machine-gun fire. The most advanced part of the division

line was established that night in a German trench which was located just to the observer's right of the Bois de Chaume.

On October 9 the 33d Division attacked about 6:40 a. m. in a thick fog. It made an advance of about 1½ miles, well beyond the Bois de Chaume, but withdrew that afternoon because the 29th Division, adjoining it, had not advanced and the German units had begun to work their way in behind its exposed flank. These enemy units cut off and surrounded about 100 American soldiers near the far edge of the Bois de Chaume, but the Americans held out and were rescued by the advancing troops during the next morning.

It was during this fighting on October 9 that Private First Class Berger H. Loman, 33d Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. When his company was approaching its objective under terrific hostile fire, Private Loman voluntarily and unaided made his way forward after all others had taken shelter from the direct fire of an enemy machine gun. He crawled to a position on the flank of the gun and, after killing or capturing the entire crew, turned the machine gun and used it on the retreating German troops.

On this same day Private Felix Bird of

the 33d Division advanced alone against a German dugout and captured 49 of the enemy, killing one officer who attempted to escape. For this courageous and gallant deed, Private Bird was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The 33d Division attacked early on October 10 and by 10:00 a. m. had again captured the Bois de Chaume. On that day the 29th Division captured Richène Hill, the first wooded hill seen to the left of the wedge-shaped Bois de Consenvoye. The zone of action of the 29th Division is visited later in the tour and the fighting of that division is described in considerable detail at the next stop.

The 33d Division moved its front line a short distance to the rear on October 13 to a better defensive location. On October 16 it advanced the right of its line about ½ mile in support of an attack by the 29th Division. This advance ended its active fighting on this front as it was relieved from the line on October 21.

EN ROUTE NORTHWEST OF CONSENSVOYE
TO NEAR MOLLEVILLE FARM

(71.4 m 114.9 km) At road junction opposite the village of Consenvoye, turn to the left and cross Meuse River valley.

Road Through Bois d'Etraye, Showing German Shelters, November 10, 1918
The described route passes over this road





Illustrates Character of Terrain Advanced Over by the American First Army
on September 26, 1918

Soon after its capture on October 8, this road was heavily camouflaged along its left side to conceal movements over it from German observation posts located on the high ridge to the left, 4 miles away.

During the early morning of October 8 the engineers, in spite of heavy hostile artillery fire, built a bridge over the river to the right of here upon which part of the division crossed about 4:30 in the afternoon to join in the attack.

(72.1 m 116.0 km) **Continue on straight through the village of Consenvoye.**

During the attack on Consenvoye on October 8 First Sergeant Johannes S. Anderson and Private Clayton K. Slack, 33d Division, performed the acts for which they were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor. While his company was held up by intense artillery and machine-gun fire, Sergeant Anderson, armed with a shotgun, voluntarily worked his way alone to the rear of the machine-

gun nest that was offering the most stubborn resistance. Although his advance was made through an open area under constant hostile fire, he not only silenced the gun but captured it and brought back with him 23 prisoners.

Private Slack, observing German soldiers under cover 50 yards away to his left flank, upon his own initiative rushed them with his rifle and singlehandedly captured ten prisoners and two heavy machine guns, thus saving his company and its adjoining units from heavy casualties.

(72.5 m 116.7 km) **Beyond town, about 500 yards,** a German bombproof shelter is seen (1937) just at the left of the road.

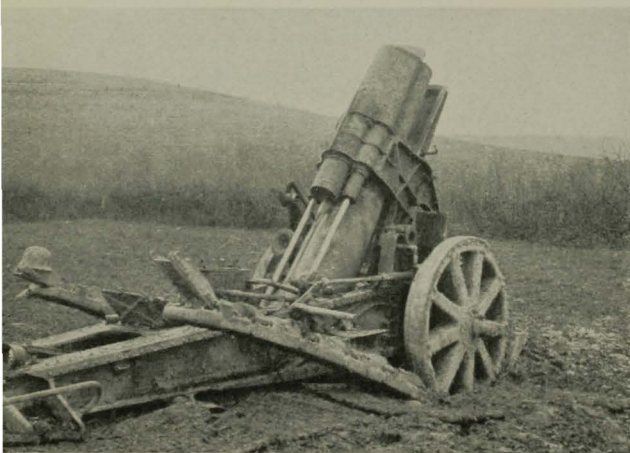
In the attack on October 8 the 33d Division advanced across this road from right to left and established its front line in a German trench on the near slope of the hill seen across the valley.

(73.0 m 117.5 km) **Beyond second left bend in road, by looking to the left rear down the valley** is seen the village of Consenvoye and a large part of the ground beyond the river which was captured by the First Army on September 26.

The American monument erected on Montfaucon is visible in the distance to the left on the sky line.

(73.8 m 118.8 km) **The large wood seen ahead** is the Bois de Consenvoye. The front line of the 29th Division was established on October 8 along the near edge of that part of it to the right of this road. It remained there throughout the next day.

German 21-Centimeter Howitzer Captured
by the 80th Division Near
Vaux-en-Dieulet on November 4, 1918





Steel Observation Turrets at Fort Douaumont

(74.2 m 119.4 km) **While approaching the wood, to the left front the wooded hill nearest the road is Richène Hill which was pointed out at the last stop.**

(74.4 m 119.7 km) **After entering wood, to the right of the road was the scene on October 8 of the heroic deeds of Sergeant Earl D. Gregory, 29th Division. Sergeant Gregory seized a rifle and trench-mortar shell, which he used as a hand-grenade, advanced ahead of the infantry and captured a machine gun and three of the enemy. Advancing still farther on beyond the machine-gun nest, he captured a 75-millimeter mountain howitzer and entering a dugout in its immediate vicinity he singlehandedly captured 19 of the enemy soldiers. For these acts of valor and outstanding gallantry he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.**

(75.1 m 120.9 km) **Beyond next cross-roads, where a good view is obtained of valley to the right front, STOP.**

Face to the right, which direction is approximately south.

In the valley to the left front are seen the buildings of Molleville Farm.

Consult the map on page 264.

When the heights east of the Meuse were attacked on October 8, a brigade of the 29th Division, operating with a French division, drove forward aggressively in this direction from a jump-off line about 3 miles in front of here. Elements of the brigade reached the ravine seen beyond Molleville Farm on that day

but, having no contact with the troops on their flanks, they withdrew about 1 mile.

On October 9 the brigade repulsed a hostile attack and advanced its line in the woods in front of here and on October 10 units of it reached the edge of this clearing to the right front.

It was during this fighting that Second Lieutenant Patrick Regan and Private First Class Henry G. Costin, 29th Division, won Congressional Medals of Honor. While leading his platoon against a strong enemy machine-gun nest which was holding up the advance, Lieutenant Regan divided his men into three groups, sending one group to each flank, he himself attacking the nest from the front with an automatic rifle team to which Private Costin had been first to volunteer. Two of the team were killed outright, while Lieutenant Regan and Private Costin were seriously wounded, the latter being

Headquarters Constructed by the French
at Bras, Occupied by the 26th Division
October 18–November 11, 1918



unable to advance. In spite of his injury Lieutenant Regan dashed with empty pistol into the machine-gun nest, capturing 30 Austrian gunners and four machine guns, Private Costin continuing to fire his rifle in support until he collapsed. These gallant deeds permitted the advance to continue. Private Costin died as a result of his wounds but Lieutenant Regan gallantly continued to lead his platoon forward until ordered to the rear by his commanding officer.

Early on October 11 the 29th Division took command of the zone of action immediately in front of here. One brigade of it, however, still continued to operate with the French 18th Division.

On the 11th the 29th Division advanced its line in front of here to the far side of this clearing. It made three determined efforts to cross the clearing, each time being driven back by severe fire from Germans in trenches along this road.

The brigade of the 29th Division still with the French made several determined attacks on October 12 and succeeded in gaining a foothold in the Bois d'Ormont on Hill 360, the hill seen to the left front with the patch of wood on its summit.

On October 15, after a severe fight, the division finally captured this clearing and established its front line along this road to the left of here. The next day its attacks were continued and in spite of intense opposition the division pushed forward about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile into the Bois de la Grande Montagne, the large wooded area immediately behind this point.

The brigade of the 29th with the French was returned to its own division on October 18, and on that day the relief of the French division to the observer's left of the 29th was completed by units of the American 26th Division.

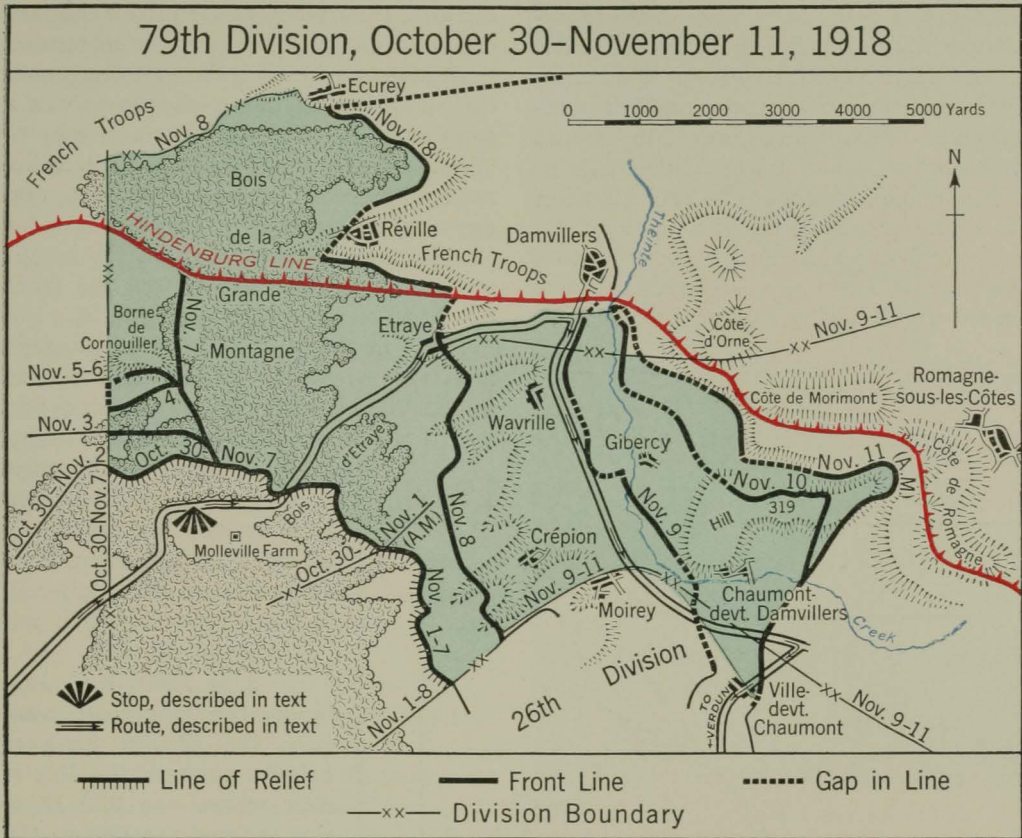
On October 23 the 26th and 29th Divisions attacked in the direction of the observer's left and in a spirited assault advanced their lines about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, gaining all objectives. Several hostile counterattacks made during the afternoon and evening of that day were driven back.

The 26th Division made determined efforts to capture Hill 360 on each of the three days, October 24, 25 and 27, but no permanent gains resulted.

It was during the fighting on October 27 that Private First Class Michael J. Perkins, 26th Division, voluntarily and alone,

Main Street in Ville-devant-Chaumont,
November 1918





crawled to a German concrete machine-gun emplacement from which grenades were being thrown at his platoon. Awaiting his opportunity, when the door of the emplacement was opened by a German to throw a grenade, Private Perkins threw a bomb inside which burst the door down. Then, drawing his trench knife, he rushed into the emplacement and in a hand-to-hand struggle killed or wounded several of the occupants, captured about 25 prisoners and silenced seven machine guns. He was killed in the operations of that day but was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for the courageous feats recorded above.

The 29th Division after its hard fighting here was relieved from the line on October 30 by the 79th Division.

On November 1 the 79th Division extended its sector to the observer's left, as shown on the above sketch, so that it held a total frontage of about 4 miles.

The capture of Barricourt Heights by

the First Army on November 1, and the resulting German withdrawal on the other side of the river, caused the Army to suspect a retirement was contemplated near here. Consequently, the 79th Division was ordered to test out the situation by sending out strong patrols near the Borne de Cornouiller, a high bald hill located about 1 mile to the right rear from here, recently pointed out from across the river. These patrols advanced early on November 3, and in severe fighting pushed the division line forward about 500 yards.

During November 4 and 5 the 79th Division after further desperate fighting reached a line near the crest of the Borne de Cornouiller. This success and the progress made by other divisions to the north forced the German troops to withdraw from the heights in this vicinity.

A deep advance was made on November 7 and the next day the division moved rapidly forward, toward the observer's left, to the eastern edge of these heights.

Substantial daily gains were made thereafter until the Armistice on November 11.

The total casualties of the 33d, 29th, 79th and 26th Divisions during their fighting on and near the Heights of the Meuse were almost 15,000 officers and men.

Molleville Farm was the 79th Division Headquarters from November 9 to 11.

Beyond this clearing for about 3 miles the tour follows the direction of advance on this front during November 8 and 9.

EN ROUTE NEAR MOLLEVILLE FARM
TO VERDUN

(75.2 m 121.0 km) **To the right in the**

distance is seen the tower of the Ossuary of Douaumont, a French war memorial.

(76.2 m 122.6 km) **After entering wood, the valley which the road follows** was a concentration place for German reserve units. In the woods on both sides of the road were many elaborate shelters and dugouts, constructed by the Germans for the protection and comfort of the troops who were waiting to support the front line or to relieve units serving in it.

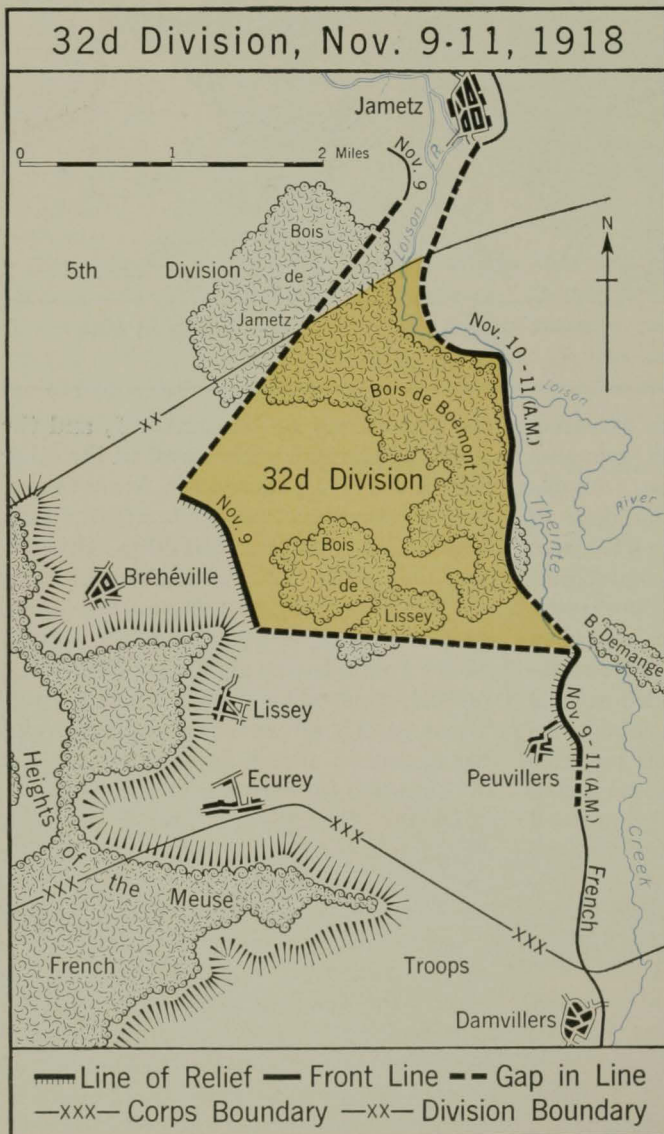
(77.7 m 125.0 km) **Straight through next village, Etraye, which was captured** by the 79th Division on November 8, and was just within its front line that night.

From here to the next road junction, this road was close to the left boundary of the 79th Division zone of action on November 9. A French division was adjoining it on the left.

(78.8 m 126.8 km) **Just before reaching road junction, the second nose of heights seen to the left** is near where the 32d Division entered the line on the afternoon of November 9. That afternoon some of its units reached the main road running to the left from the village, Damvillers, seen to the left front. One of its regiments attacked from there in a heavy fog on the morning of November 10, advanced about 2 miles and when the fog lifted found itself isolated. It withdrew in good order to its jump-off line. The left of the division on that day pushed forward about 2 miles.

(79.0 m 127.1 km) **At road junction, turn sharp right.**

(79.6 m 128.1 km) **The next town, Wavrille, was captured** by the 79th Division about 10:00 a. m. on November 9. The hostile resistance then stiffened



and progress was difficult due mainly to hostile fire from the hills seen to the left. The division established its line that night to the left of this road and generally parallel to it. On the 10th it again pushed forward despite considerable opposition and at the time of the Armistice the soldiers of the division were fighting on the near slopes of the hills seen to the left.

(80.1 m 128.9 km) **The bare hill seen to the left front** was captured by the 79th Division early on November 10.

(81.0 m 130.4 km) **The next town, Moirey, seen to the right near the road**, was near the boundary between the 79th and 26th Divisions. It was entered by elements of both of those divisions during the morning of November 9.

(81.3 m 130.8 km) **Soon after Moirey appears in view, alongside the road** are seen (1937) two large reinforced concrete posts which were built by the Germans. Heavy chains suspended between them were intended to prevent the advance of armored cars along this road.

(82.0 m 132.0 km) **The village seen to the left, part way up the hill**, is Chaumont-devant-Damvillers. It was captured by the 79th Division on November 10.

(82.8 m 133.2 km) **Beyond Chaumont, take the first road to the right.**

The tour now goes in a direction generally contrary to the direction of advance of the Army on this part of its front.

(83.4 m 134.2 km) **Straight through the village of Ville-devant-Chaumont**, captured by the 26th Division late in the afternoon of November 10.

(83.6 m 134.5 km) **Upon leaving the village, to the left of the road** is seen a German World War military cemetery.

(84.1 m 135.3 km) **Beyond town, along the foot of the slopes seen to the right front**, the 26th Division was held up on November 9 by heavy machine-gun fire. The division dug in there that night, facing in this direction. Its front line by the time of the Armistice had been advanced across this road and was established along the slopes to the left of it.

(85.4 m 137.4 km) **Near top of long hill, just beyond the road junction**, was



Near 79th Division Headquarters at
Vacherauville, October 31, 1918

located the front line of the 26th Division, November 3-7, from which it advanced on the afternoon of November 8.

(85.5 m 137.6 km) **At the right side of the road** is seen a monument, surrounded by graves, commemorative of a heroic defense in 1916 by a French officer, Colonel Driant, and his unit.

(85.8 m 138.1 km) **While descending hill, to the left front** are seen a small chapel and monument. These mark the site of the former village of Beaumont, which was completely destroyed during the severe fighting in 1916.

The battle line on September 26 was located just the other side of Beaumont. The attack in this region on October 8 was made from that line on a front of about 4 miles extending from the vicinity of Beaumont to the Meuse River.

The tour now passes through one of the few remaining areas which give an idea of the devastation at the front



Gate at Verdun, Said to Have Been the Inspiration for the Insignia
of the U. S. Corps of Engineers

during the war. To obtain a better picture of its wartime condition, this desolate country should be visualized as being devoid of all vegetation.

(89.9 m 144.7 km) **In Vacherauville**, the main road to Verdun is joined. This town was the 29th Division Headquarters, October 7–30, and 79th Division Headquarters, October 29–November 9.

The route leading east from the next town, Bras, shown in broken lines on the map at the end of the chapter, is a tour of the French forts near Verdun. It will take the visitor to the Trench of Bayonets, Fort Douaumont, the Ossuary of Douaumont and other places and monuments of general interest.

(90.9 m 146.3 km) **At Bras**, the next village, was located the 26th Division Headquarters, October 18–November 11.

(91.1 m 146.6 km) **Beyond the town**, on the right side of the road, is located a French World War military cemetery.

(94.9 m 152.7 km) **Continue to Verdun**. The mileage ends at the railroad station.

The city of Verdun was severely damaged by the German heavy artillery and by numerous air bombardments during the prolonged fighting in this vicinity.

Points of interest are the underground part of the citadel, the cathedral and house of the bishop, and the Hôtel-de-Ville (City Hall). The citadel is located on the western edge of the city. Its underground compartments served to house various French headquarters and thousands of reserves during the great battles near here in 1916–17. In the house of the bishop, which adjoins the cathedral, is a museum which contains battlefield souvenirs as well as ancient relics of the city. The cathedral and cloister, badly damaged during the war, are of interest. The Hôtel-de-Ville, located on Rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, contains an excellent museum, and in the building are the many beautiful tokens of esteem given to the city by various nations in appreciation of its heroic defense in 1916.

SECOND DAY'S TOUR OF THE AMERICAN MEUSE-ARGONNE BATTLEFIELDS

THIS tour starts at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery near Romagne and ends at Verdun. It is about 93 miles (150 kilometers) long and can be completed within approximately eight hours. To save time lunch should be carried.

The greater part of the tour is in the area captured by the American First Army between November 1 and 11, 1918. It is recommended to persons who have been over the first day's tour and to others who are especially interested in the last part of the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

The data given on pages 520-521 will be helpful to those following this tour.

In case the first day's tour has not been followed, it is suggested that the tourist in going to the starting point of the second day's tour follow the first day's tour from Verdun to Montfaucon and from there proceed via Nantillois and Cunel.

The narrative at the beginning of the chapter should be kept in mind, and the map facing page 326 should be consulted, so that the combat operations which took place in the region of this tour will be more clearly understood by the tourist.

Upon arriving at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, go to chapel and read pages 248-253, giving information

about the American fighting in the vicinity. If first day's tour has not already been followed, read also pages 247-248 which give a description of this cemetery.

When following this itinerary, unless contrary road instructions are given, the tourist should continue straight ahead.

EN ROUTE CHAPEL MEUSE-ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETERY TO NORTH OF CUNEL

Speedometer distance is measured from the plaza immediately in front of the chapel.

(0.0 m 0.0 km) **Leave the chapel and cemetery by the road to the right.**

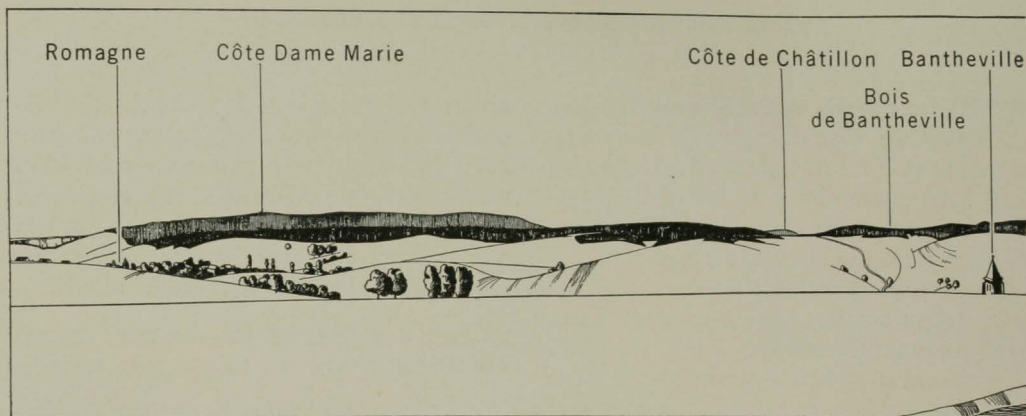
(0.6 m 1.0 km) **Down the road, to the left of the next village, Cunel, is seen the Bois de la Pultière, an exceptionally strong point in the German defensive organization. It was taken on October 14 by the 3d and 5th Divisions after hard fighting.**

(1.4 m 2.3 km) **At the church in the village of Cunel turn to the left.**

(1.6 m 2.6 km) **Beyond town, by looking to the left, may be had a fine view of the exposed slopes and ridges over which the American troops advanced. The commanding situation of the many German machine-gun positions located near the edge of the Bois de la Pultière, which is seen to the right, is evident from here.**

German Anti-Tank Gun in Firing Position, October 1918. © G





Panorama From Stop

(2.4 m 3.9 km) Beyond the village cemetery, on the second crest, where a good panorama is obtained of the terrain to the front and right front, STOP.

The town ahead in the valley is Bantheville. The village marked by the scattered houses to the right of Bantheville and some distance from it is Andevanne.

Face Andevanne, the direction to which is approximately north.

Beyond Andevanne is Sedan, 25 miles from here, through which ran the lateral railroad which was the main goal of the American Meuse-Argonne offensive.

For dauntless courage and the overcoming of seemingly impossible obstacles, the fighting of the American soldier up to and immediately beyond this point is unsurpassed in the history of the war.

On the ridges behind here was located the famous Hindenburg Line, the German defensive position constructed with the hope that it would be impregnable. Along the heights in front of here was the German Freya position, planned with the idea that it would be held, in case portions of the Hindenburg Line were broken through, until those portions could be regained by counterattacks.

A glance at the landscape with its ridges, woods and open fields will give some idea of the difficulties which the American units had to overcome. Each patch of woods was skillfully organized as a strong point and numerous enemy machine guns in them and in other concealed positions often were not discovered until

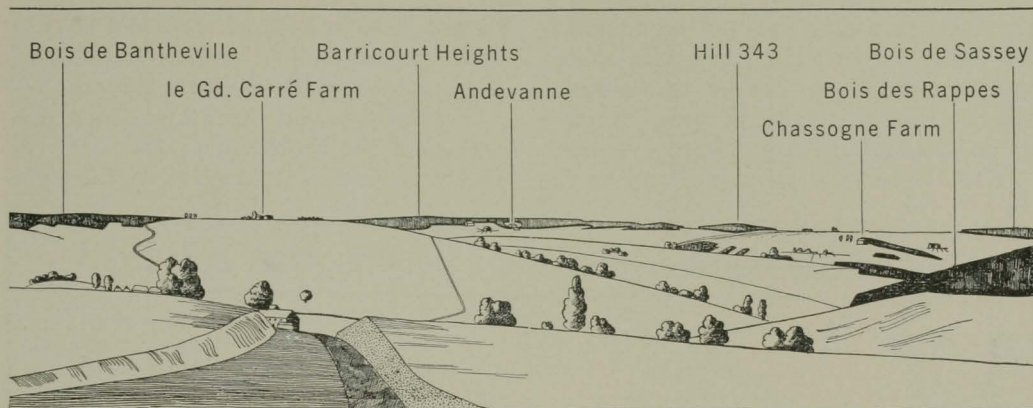
their fire started to cut down the advancing lines. The conduct of the American troops in overcoming the resistance in this vicinity and in forcing their way forward is beyond all praise.

If we consider with the above the fact that the Germans were using every energy and means at their command to check the advance on this front and thus protect their vital railroad at Sedan, the task performed by the American Army will be clearer and much better appreciated.

Positions in the woods near here frequently changed hands several times on the same day and the opposing lines at night were sometimes but a few yards apart. The situation was so balanced that a moment's relaxation by either side risked immediate loss of men and ground.

90th Division Ration Party Going Forward
Through the Bois des Rappes,
October 25, 1918





North of Cunel

After the capture of Romagne, seen in the valley to the left, and Côte Dame Marie, the high wooded peak just beyond it, the 32d Division continued to advance until it had overrun most of the Bois de Bantheville, the large wood which covers the tops of the hills to the left and left front. The 89th Division relieved the 32d on October 20, on a line which included the wooded hill on the sky line seen just to the right of the church in Bantheville. It later succeeded in capturing the remainder of that wood and in advancing through it to near Le Grand Carré Farm, the group of buildings seen on the hill beyond the village of Bantheville.

The 5th Division after eight days of intense and bitter fighting finally completed, on October 21, the capture of the Bois des Rappes, the large wood which

Machine Gun Firing at German Plane Near
Cunel, October 1918



is seen just to the right of this road.

On October 23 the 90th Division, which had relieved the 5th Division on the preceding day, attacked from the ridge to the left rear and from the Bois de Bantheville, captured Bantheville and established itself beyond that town. The division front line on that night extended across the open fields from the Bois des Rappes to the end of the wood seen to the left of Le Grand Carré Farm.

The wooded ridges on the sky line to the left of Andevanne are Barricourt Heights, and the most prominent wooded hill seen some distance to the right of that village is Hill 343.

The Freya position in front of here ran along Barricourt Heights, passed through Andevanne, included Hill 343 and continued on through the Bois de Sassey, which is partially visible on the horizon beyond the Bois des Rappes.

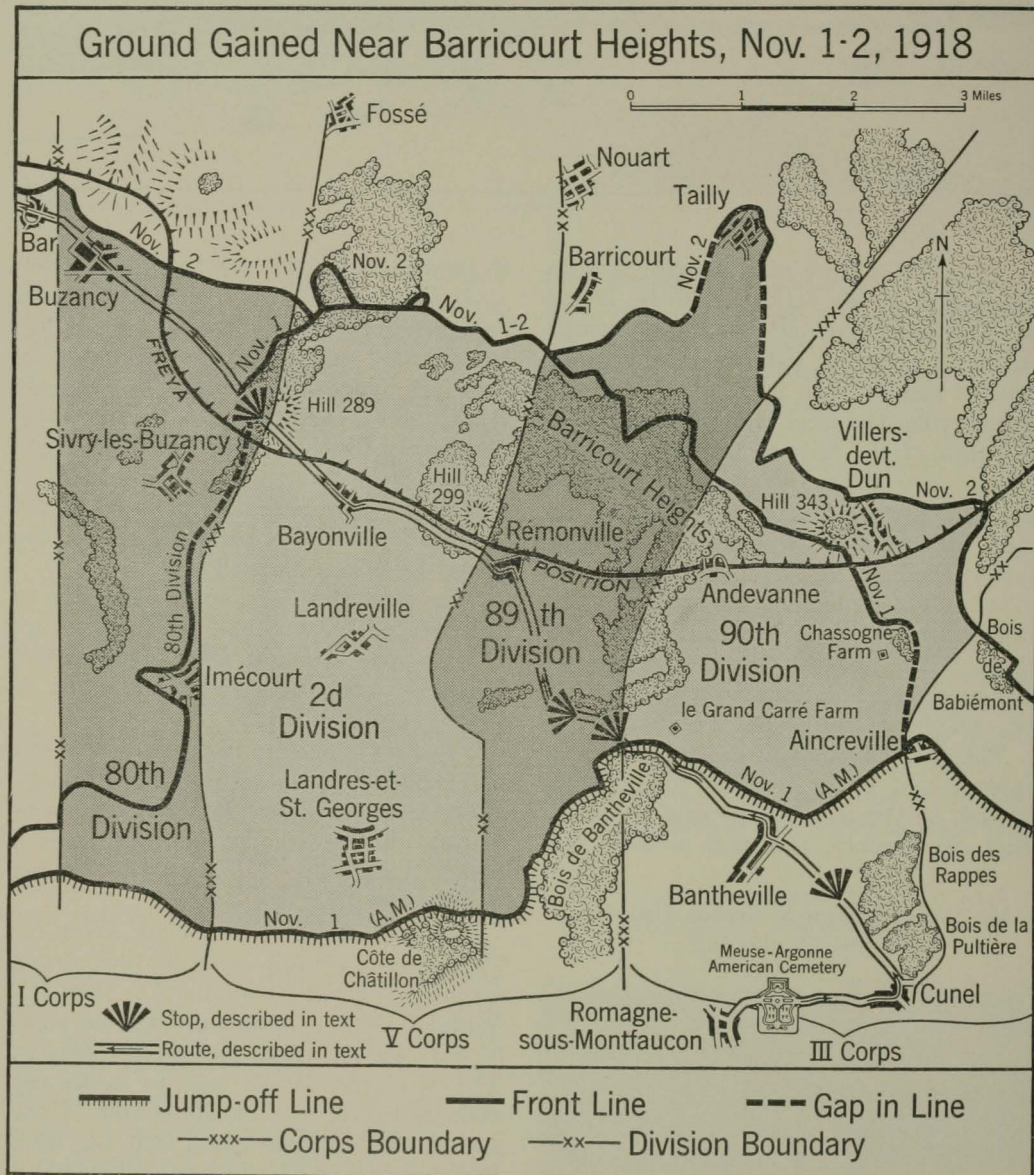
The date fixed by the First Army for the general assault against this strong German line was November 1. The III, V and I Corps, in that order from right to left, were to take part in the attack. The V Corps, which was to make the main advance, was in the center of the Army zone of attack and had the 89th Division in line to the left of Le Grand Carré Farm, and the 2d Division on the far side of the 89th, with its front line just beyond Côte de Châtillon, the wooded hill seen to the left front in the distance peeping up over the Bois de Bantheville. The immediate mission of

the V Corps was to capture the dominating Barricourt Heights, the accomplishment of which was certain to cause the Germans on this front to retire in haste across the Meuse River toward Germany.

The III Corps, in front of and to the

immediately in front of here, and the 5th Division, which had reentered the line, the one beyond the Bois des Rappes.

The I Corps, on the left of the Army, was to cover the flank of the V Corps and was given an objective in the right



right of here, was to assist in the main attack and be ready to force its way over the Meuse River, which is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away to the right and runs just the other side of the Bois de Sassey. In this corps, the 90th Division had the zone of attack

part of its zone of action which was about 4 miles in advance of its front line.

After an extremely heavy artillery bombardment lasting two hours, the attack was launched on the morning of November 1. When the infantry jumped



German Machine Gun Unit Going Into Position. © G

off at 5:30 a. m. all available artillery fire was concentrated in a rolling barrage about 1,100 yards in depth, which progressed immediately in front of the advancing lines. This intense and extremely effective fire and the severity of the infantry assault so overwhelmed the German defenders that the attack was a remarkable success from the outset.

The 2d and 89th Divisions, to the left of here, captured Barricourt Heights by early afternoon; while in front of here the 90th Division took Andevanne, the wooded ridge seen to the right of and beyond Andevanne, and Chassogne Farm, seen to the right front below the sky line. The fighting was severe but the dash of the American troops was irresistible. Hill 343, an exceptionally strong position, held out until the afternoon of November 2, when it was captured by soldiers of the 90th Division after a bitter struggle.

The 5th Division swung toward the

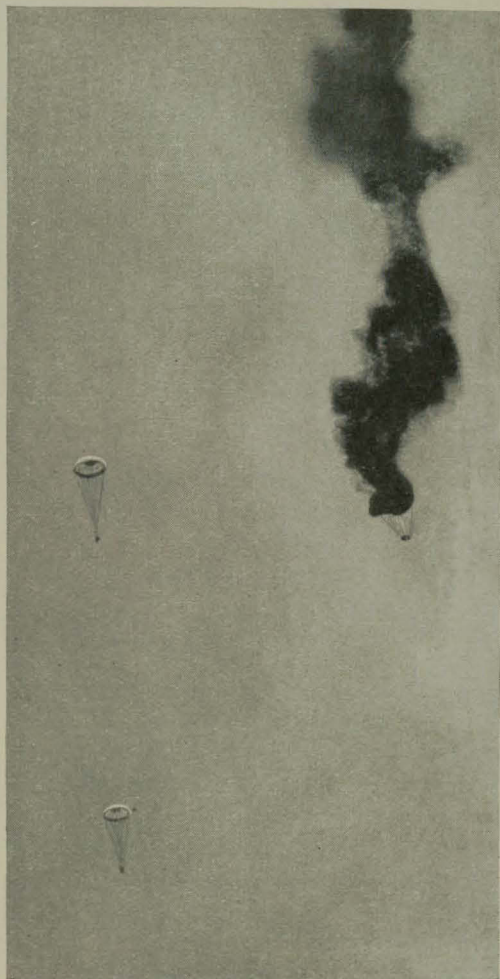
Meuse River during its advance and reached the banks of that stream to the right of the Bois de Sassey on November 3; the same day the 90th Division reached the river by fighting its way forward through that dense wood.

The I Corps, on the left of the Army, which faced the unbroken Hindenburg Line on most of its front, met stubborn resistance during the first day of the attack but in spite of this drove forward an average distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. That night, due to the deep advance of the V Corps, the German troops in front of the I Corps retired and from then on its progress was exceptionally rapid.

The battle soon became a pursuit, the enemy fighting a delaying action. All American divisions pushed forward rapidly until they reached the Meuse River, which flows obliquely across the direction of advance of the Army and passes through Sedan. From November 1 on

German Artillery Being Hauled Into Position by Oxen, 1918. © G





Observation Balloon Hit by German Shells
Coming Down in Flames
The balloonists are descending by parachute

the progress of the American Army was continuous until halted by the Armistice.

From here to Bar, which is 10 miles away to the left front, the described route runs generally northwest traversing in succession the zones of action of the American 90th, 89th, 2d and 80th Divisions.

EN ROUTE NORTH OF CUNEL
TO HILL 289

(2.7 m 4.3 km) **While descending hill, to the right in the valley** is seen the village of Aincreville which was captured on October 30 by the 5th Division.

(2.8 m 4.5 km) **The small wood which is seen just above Aincreville** is the Bois

de Babiémont. In spite of two determined assaults on November 1 the 5th Division was unable to take that wood until the morning of the next day.

(2.9 m 4.7 km) **Before reaching railroad (which was not here in 1918) on right of road**, is a 5th Division marker, one of many erected by that division after the Armistice on or near its battlefields.

(3.0 m 4.8 km) **While crossing the railroad, to the right down the valley** is seen an isolated bald-topped hill, called Côte St. Germain, which is situated on the other side of the Meuse River. That hill will be passed close up later in the tour.

(3.3 m 5.3 km) **In Bantheville, where the road ends turn to the right; at road fork at edge of town, bear left.**

After capturing Bantheville on October 23, the 90th Division established its front line near the crest of the hill which is seen to the right of this road.

It is reported that on that hill a 90th Division soldier, of Italian descent, charged a machine-gun nest manned by six Germans. After killing three of the enemy he made prisoners of the others and marched them nearly 8 miles to division headquarters where, in broken English, he insisted upon telling the division commander about his experiences.

(4.5 m 7.2 km) **Near top of hill, the wood seen ahead** is the northern end of the

Tender of an Observation Balloon Mounted
with Two Machine Guns for
Anti-Aircraft Defense



Bois de Bantheville. After its capture on October 22, the Germans bombarded it almost continuously with high explosive shells and mustard gas projectiles.

(4.6 m 7.4 km) At top of hill, to the right front is seen Le Grand Carré Farm, captured on November 1 by the 90th Division; and beyond it to the right, Hill 343, taken by that division the next day.

were then along the edge of the wood to the left rear, under continuous machine-gun fire and rescued two wounded officers. For conspicuous gallantry and utter disregard for their own safety while performing this deed of mercy these men were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor.

In the wood seen on the hill ahead occurred the heroic act of First Lieutenant



Road Between Bantheville and Rémonville, November 1918

This road is passed over on the described tour

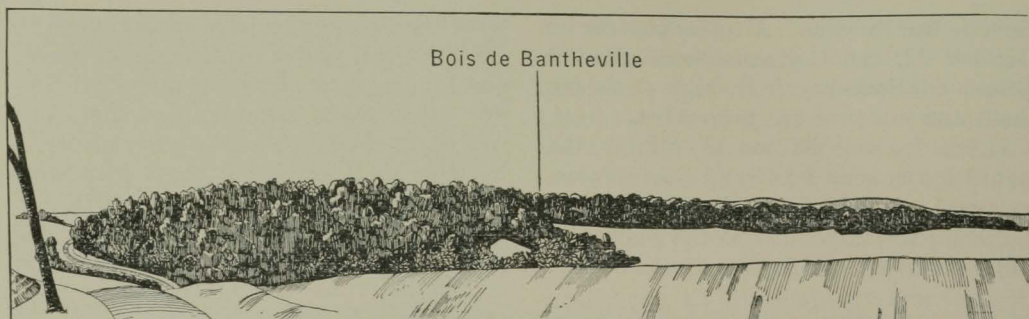
(5.1 m 8.2 km) At the road fork in the next valley, bear right and STOP near the road junction without leaving automobile.

Note the wartime condition of this valley as shown by the above photograph taken after the American advance. In the photograph the road climbing the hill is the one the tourist has just descended.

This road junction was on the First Army jump-off line of November 1 and also was on the boundary line between the zones of the 89th and 90th Divisions.

It was to the left of here that on October 31 Private First Class Charles D. Barger and Private Jesse N. Funk, 89th Division, upon their own initiative, made two trips as stretcher bearers 500 yards beyond the American lines, which

Harold A. Furlong, 89th Division, which is illustrative of the many individual feats of bravery performed by the American soldiers during the November 1 attack. In this wood Lieutenant Furlong, finding his company held up on that morning by withering machine-gun fire which killed his company commander, moved out alone and worked his way into the German position. He succeeded in getting behind the line of machine guns and closed in on them one at a time, killing a number of the enemy with his rifle, putting four machine-gun nests out of action, and driving 20 German prisoners into the American lines. For his exceptional daring this courageous officer was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Panorama From Stop North

(5.6 m 9.0 km) Continue to the top of the next crest, where a few buildings can be seen to the left front in the valley, STOP without leaving the automobile.

The above panorama is from this point.

The nearest buildings are those of La Dhuy Farm. To the right of them in the valley can be seen a few houses of the village of Landres-et-St. Georges.

At this point can be obtained a good view of a large part of the jump-off line of the First Army on November 1.

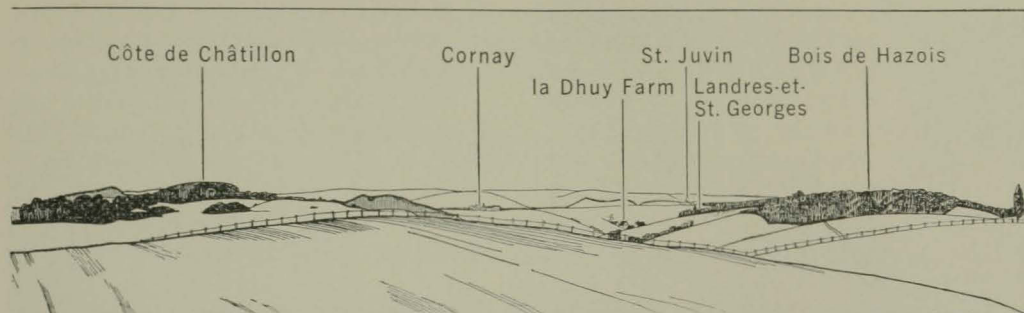
From the road junction just passed, the line followed the edge of the large wood, seen to the left across the valley, and included Côte de Châtillon, the nearest prominent wooded hill seen to the left. From there it ran approximately parallel to this road and included St. Juvin, which

can be seen at the foot of the wooded heights on the sky line to the right of and beyond the buildings of La Dhuy Farm. From St. Juvin it continued on for about 4 miles and joined the French line near the edge of the wooded heights on the sky line, which to the left of St. Juvin are the Argonne Forest and to the right of that town are the Bois de Bourgogne.

The 89th Division jumped off from the line to the left of here. The center of its zone of action passed through the wood seen down the road ahead. The 2d Division started from Côte de Châtillon and beyond. Landres-et-St. Georges was near the center of its zone of action. These divisions, which had fought side by side in the St. Mihiel offensive, were the assault divisions of the V Corps which

American Tanks Beside a Machine-Gun Nest Which They Put Out of Action on November 1, 1918, South of Bayonville





of Bois de Bantheville

was expected to make the greatest initial penetration of the corps on the Army front.

The 80th Division was beyond the 2d; the line of the 77th included St. Juvin, which was near the center of its sector; and the 78th was still farther on, the near edge of the wooded heights being the far boundary of its prescribed zone of attack.

Continue.

(6.6 m 10.6 km) While approaching the next village, Rémonville, beyond it to the right and left are seen Barricourt Heights, the first main objective of the American Army in its November 1 attack. Hill 299, seen beyond the town, was in the zone of action of the 2d Division. Rémonville and the heights to the right of Hill 299 were in that of the 89th Division.

The natural defensive strength of the

German Freya position, which ran along those heights, is evident from here. Note the steep exposed slopes up which the American troops had to advance and the woods along the tops of the hills which afforded the enemy good concealment and excellent protection for his troops.

Near this road on November 1, Sergeant Arthur J. Forrest, 89th Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. When the advance of his company was held up by fire from a nest of six enemy machine guns, Sergeant Forrest worked his way alone to a point within 50 yards of the machine-gun nest. Charging the nest singlehanded, he drove the enemy out in disorder, killing one with the butt of his rifle. This gallant exploit permitted the advance of his company to continue.

Rémonville Soon After Its Capture by the 89th Division on November 1, 1918





Reloading Artillery Ammunition in Rémonville, November 2, 1918

80th Division Troops Passing Through Imécourt, November 3, 1918



(7.3 m 11.7 km) In the village of Rémonville, at the place where the road ends, turn to the left; at the far edge of the village, turn to the right.

(7.5 m 12.1 km) A short distance beyond town the zone of action of the 2d Division during the advance is entered.

(7.7 m 12.4 km) While ascending hill, to the left in the valley is seen Landreville,

afternoon of November 1. The 89th was abreast of the 2d on its right. On November 2 the 89th Division advanced the right of its line about 2 miles farther.

(8.9 m 14.3 km) At entrance to village, take the road to the right and continue through town toward Buzancy.

Bayonville was captured in the morning of November 1 by the 2d Division.



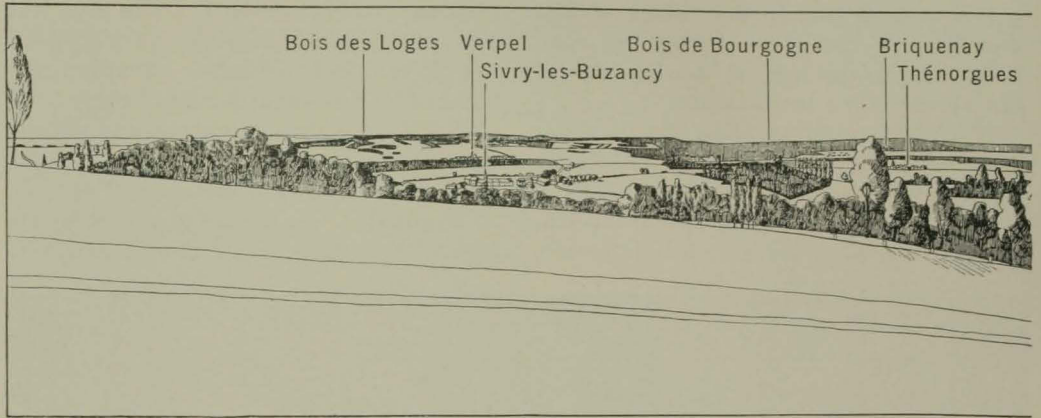
German Warning Against Airplanes at Bayonville

where the 2d Division about 9:00 a. m. on November 1 encountered strong resistance from numerous machine guns. These guns were finally overcome and the advance was continued on over this hill.

(8.7 m 14.0 km) While approaching the next village, Bayonville, to the right are seen the wooded heights upon which the 2d Division established its lines on the

(9.3 m 15.0 km) Beyond town, while ascending hill, to the left in the valley is seen Imécourt which was captured about 11:00 o'clock in the morning of November 1 by the 80th Division, after which a severe counterattack against the troops in the village was repulsed.

(10.1 m 16.3 km) Beyond next high crest, continue 80 yards, then STOP.



Panorama From Stop

The large tree on this crest (1937) can be seen from the monument on Montfaucon and is a conspicuous landmark from many other places in this region.

Face down the road, which at this place runs approximately northwest.

This point is on Hill 289 and was near the boundary line between the zones of action of the 2d and 80th Divisions.

The tour has just entered the area captured by the I Corps, the left corps of the First Army in its November offensive. The other boundary of its zone of action ran close to the far edge of the Bois de Bourgogne, the large wooded area seen on the sky line to the left and left front.

The I Corps objective during the November 1 attack was a line running near

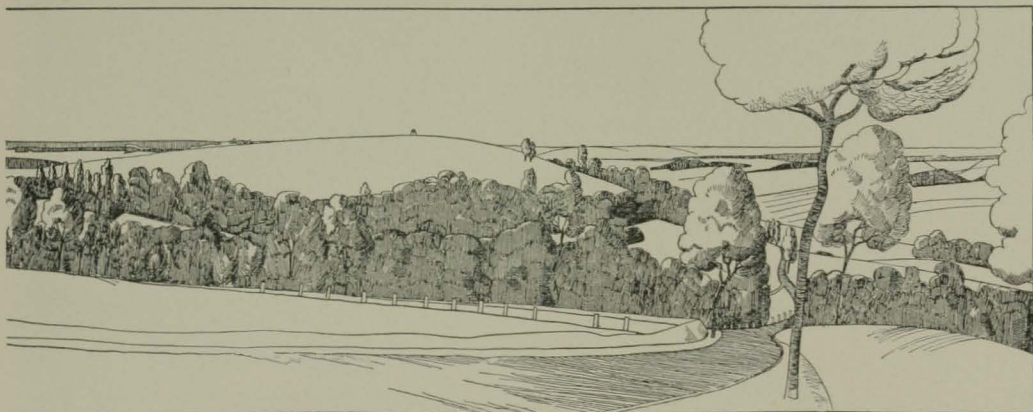
Verpel, the second village seen to the left.

On the first day of the attack the I Corps met great resistance at the Hindenburg Line and the progress of its units was slow, except for the right* of the 80th Division which captured the small wooded areas on this slope, including those seen in the foreground to the right front. The front line of the division that night ran from near here to the left rear for approximately 4 miles, almost parallel to the direction of advance of the Army.

On November 2, due to the withdrawal of the Germans on the previous night, the progress in the I Corps was rapid and by that evening all its divisions had reached a line beyond this point, the 80th Division having captured the bald-topped hill seen

German Artillery Position Near Landreville Soon After Its Capture





on Hill 289

to the left front, and the right of the 77th being abreast of it. The left of the 77th Division was to the observer's right of Thénorgues, the first village seen to the left front over the ridge, and the 78th Division was to the right of Briquenay, the village seen beyond Thénorgues.

The nearest town seen to the left is Sivry-les-Buzancy, captured by the 80th Division on November 2. The town just beyond it is Verpel, occupied by the 77th Division the same day. The towns seen beyond Verpel, near the foot of the wooded heights, were in the zone of action of the 78th Division, which had been held up on November 1 in front of the Bois des Loges, the first prominent wooded hill seen to the left of and beyond Verpel. That

wood was one of the strongest points of the Hindenburg Line and proved impossible to capture by direct assault. It was occupied early in the morning of November 2 by the American soldiers after the German troops had been withdrawn.

EN ROUTE HILL 289 TO NORTH OF BAR

(11.0 m 17.7 km) **While approaching the next town, Buzancy, to the right across the valley** are seen the heights to which the Germans withdrew their main forces on the night of November 1-2. The 80th Division, on November 2, established its lines to the right in the valley at the foot of this hill, facing the German position.

(11.3 m 18.2 km) **Before entering town,** a German military cemetery is passed.

German Prisoners Captured by the 2d Division





American Infantry Passing Through Buzancy, November 3, 1918



Troops West of Bar, Compelled to Pass
Around Bridge Being Repaired,
November 3, 1918

Below: At Bar, November 4, 1918
Engineer soldier having fun with passing troops
over the name of the town

Buzancy was formerly a fortified town. In the War of 1870 between Prussia and France cavalry fighting took place near it.

(11.9 m 19.2 km) **After entering town,** note that many of the walls and buildings on the right side of the street are still (1937) marked by rifle and machine-gun bullets from the fighting in the vicinity.

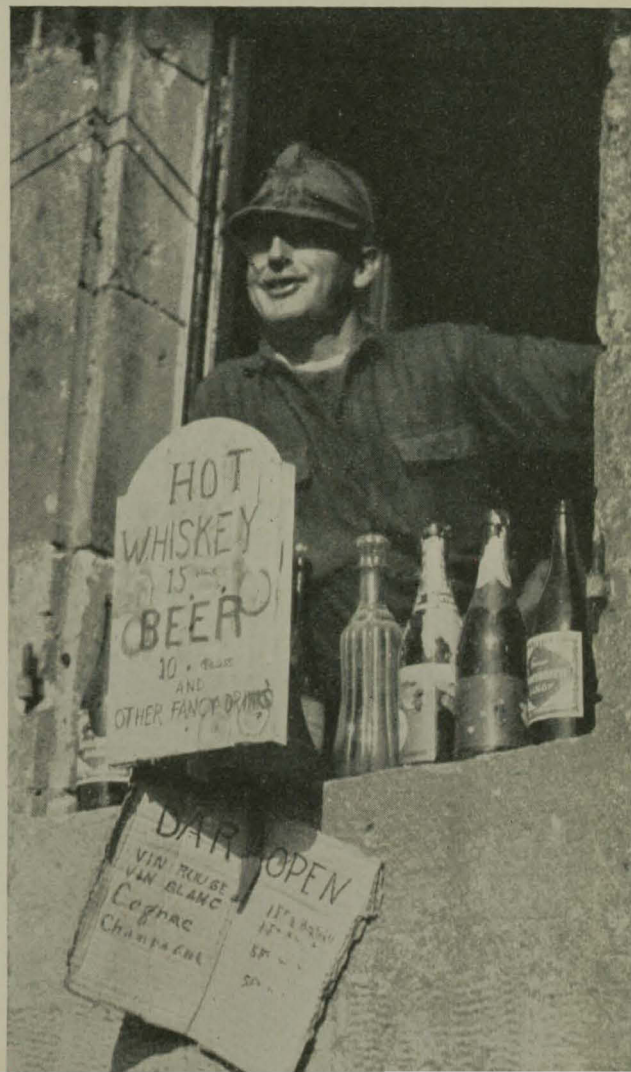
(12.3 m 19.8 km) **In center of Buzancy,** bear right; pass church, then bear left. This town was captured by the 80th Division early on the afternoon of November 2 after brisk fighting. Shortly thereafter it was under heavy hostile artillery and machine-gun fire, and in flames.

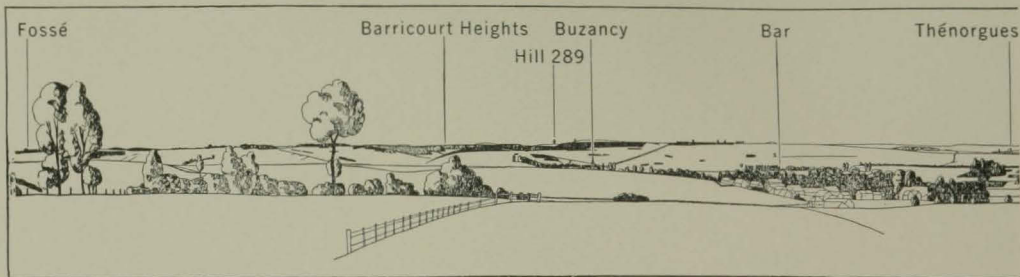
After the Americans had advanced beyond it, the only roads available for the 77th and 80th Divisions passed through Buzancy. Knowing that these would be crowded, the Germans shelled and bombed the crossroads in town for several days, thus making the movement of troops and supplies through this village a hazardous and difficult undertaking.

Buzancy was the 80th Division Headquarters during the period November 4-7.

(13.0 m 20.9 km) **At the near edge of the next village, Bar,** the zone of action of the 77th Division is entered.

(13.2 m 21.2 km) **Pass through Bar,** which was captured during the afternoon of November 2 by the 77th Division.





Panorama From

(13.5 m 21.7 km) Beyond the town, at the first road crossing, turn to the right.

(14.0 m 22.5 km) Just before reaching the first LEFT bend in the road, STOP.

To the right rear in the valley is Bar.

Face just to the right of Bar, which direction is approximately south.

To the left front is Buzancy. Beyond and to the left of it, the most prominent wooded hill is Hill 289, which was the last stop on this tour. To the left of it, in the distance, there is visible the near end of the wooded Barricourt Heights.

When the Germans facing the I Corps withdrew during the night of November 1-2, they established new temporary positions on these slopes with their front line running close to this point. Machine gun units and detachments of other troops had been left behind to delay the American advance as much as possible.

Overcoming the resistance on their front in sharp fighting in the morning, the divisions of the I Corps advanced rapidly. The 80th and 77th Divisions reached the wide valley in front of here during the afternoon and established positions on

this side of it. The 80th Division front line ran from near Bar to the observer's left for about 2½ miles. Part of the 77th Division was at the foot of these slopes, its line including Bar. The rest of that division was just this side of Thénorgues, the village seen directly ahead in the distance. The valley between here and there was in many places knee deep in water and impassable. The front line of the 78th Division was located to the observer's right of and some distance on this side of the village of Thénorgues.

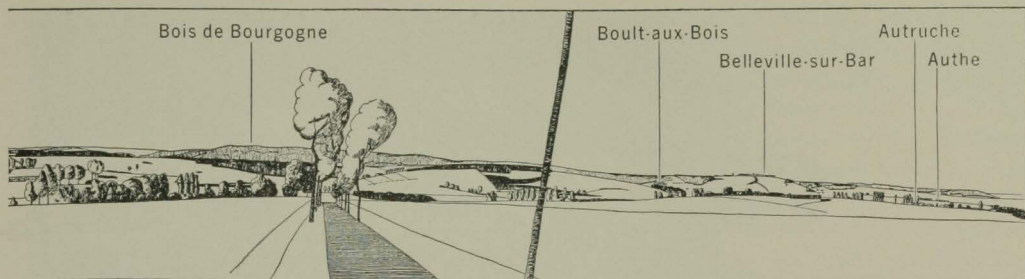
On November 3 the German positions here were attacked and carried by the American troops, the main enemy forces having retired during the night. This procedure—in which the Germans retired their main forces to a new position at night but left machine gun units scattered in strong defensive positions to hinder pursuit, and in which the Americans advanced the next day, overcame the determined machine gun resistance and fought their way forward toward the new position until stopped in front of it—was repeated almost daily until November 7 at which time all German troops on the First Army front had been withdrawn to the east of the Meuse River.

The village of Fossé, seen on top of the hill to the left rear, was near the boundary line between the 2d and 80th Divisions. It was taken by troops of the 2d Division about 6:00 a. m. on November 3.

The village seen on the sky line to the right is Belleville-sur-Bar. On the hillside some distance to the left of it is seen Boulton-aux-Bois, near which, on the morning of November 3, the 78th Division joined with a unit of the French Fourth

American 34-Centimeter Gun
on Railroad Mount





Stop Near Bar

Army which had advanced on the far side of the Bois de Bourgogne, thus pinching out that strong defensive feature.

The first town, Autruche, seen to the right rear, was taken by the 77th Division about noon on November 3. The village seen beyond it, Authe, had been occupied just before noon by the 78th Division.

To the right of Autruche, on the sky line, is seen a patch of woods which marks the ridge just beyond the village of Verrières. After a sharp fight that town was captured by the 78th Division about 5:00 p. m. on November 3. The troops of the division then established their front line on the ridge located beyond the town.

For the next 10 miles the tour goes with the direction of advance of the American First Army and passes over territory captured by the 80th and 2d Divisions.

EN ROUTE NEAR BAR TO SOUTH OF BEAUMONT

(14.5 m 23.3 km) **Beyond next crest to the right front** is seen the valley up which the 80th Division advanced on November 3. Strong resistance was encountered near the upper part of that valley.

(15.0 m 24.1 km) **At the first road fork, keep to the right.**

(15.4 m 24.8 km) **At first crest, to the left front in the distance** is seen the high wooded hill, Mont du Cygne, taken by the 77th Division on November 5. Mont-faucon, 16 miles away, can be seen in the distance to the right on the sky line.

(17.1 m 27.5 km) **Beyond first sharp S-bend in road, on the next crest** the 80th Division line of November 3 crossed this road approximately at right angles to it.

(17.3 m 27.8 km) **At next main road**

fork, turn to the right and descend toward Vaux-en-Dieulet, which is seen ahead in the valley. That town was captured on November 4 by the 80th Division.

(17.5 m 28.2 km) **While descending hill, to the right front** is seen a large high hill, Hill 308, fire from which stopped the advance of the right flank units of the 80th Division on November 3.

(18.1 m 29.1 km) **In Vaux-en-Dieulet, at the church, bear to the left.**

(18.4 m 29.6 km) **At road junction beyond the town, bear to the right.**

(19.0 m 30.6 km) **Where large hill descends to road**, the zone of action of the 2d Division and V Corps is again entered.

(19.6 m 31.5 km) **Just before reaching the first road junction, STOP** without leaving the automobile.

The large buildings seen to the right up the valley are those of Château de Belval, captured by the 2d Division before 9:00 a. m. on November 3. The progress of the units of the division was then stopped by heavy fire from the woods which are seen ahead and to the left of this road.

The infantry regiments of the division

German Monument to Their Dead in the
Operations Near Beaumont in 1870





American and French Soldiers After Meeting at Boul-t-aux-Bois, November 3, 1918

(it had two regiments of infantry and two of marines) were ordered to make a vigorous advance that evening. Soon after dark these regiments started forward in column in advance-guard formation, led by German-speaking soldiers, with the high ground near Beaumont, about 3 miles to the left front, as their goal. After breaking through the hostile front line, the two regiments, with a battalion of marines between them, moved forward rapidly; and as the night was extremely dark the marching troops passed practically unnoticed. Such resistance as was met was eliminated as quietly as possible by having the head of the column stop while detachments from the rear worked

2d Division column reached here the farm was full of sleeping Germans who were captured without difficulty and sent to the rear under a strong guard.

(21.1 m 34.0 km) **Just beyond the farm**, the American troops routed a hostile battalion engaged in digging trenches.

A short distance farther on, an enemy machine gun company that had halted along the road was captured.

(23.1 m 37.2 km) **Beyond the wood, at the first group of buildings, La Tuilerie Farm**, approximately 40 German soldiers were surprised and made prisoners.

The monument across the road from this farm is a monument in commemoration of German dead in the War of 1870.



Interior of Beaumont Church

their way around the flanks of the opposing units and overcame them. Hostile artillery that was seen firing from the woods at objectives within the American lines was left unmolested so as not to alarm the enemy as its capture would be assured by the success of the march.

Continue.

(19.6 m 31.5 km) **At the road junction, turn sharp left toward Beaumont.**

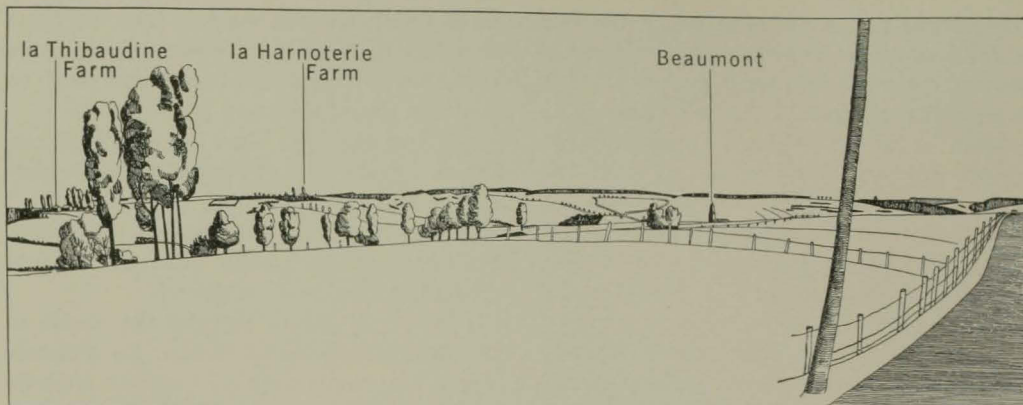
(20.7 m 33.3 km) **After entering wood, at road junction where road bends sharply to left, the tour joins the route followed by the units of the 2d Division at the time of their daring night maneuver.**

(20.9 m 33.6 km) **The first group of buildings is La Forge Farm.** When the

(23.5 m 37.8 km) **Continue beyond the next buildings, which are La Petite Forêt Farm, about 300 yards, then STOP.**

Emerging from the woods in rear of here shortly after midnight, the 2d Division column deployed, at right angles to this road, on a line passing near this point. The units of the column were then about 4 miles ahead of the adjoining divisions.

It is an interesting fact that the route taken by the 2d Division coincided with that used by the Germans on August 30, 1870, when they surprised and defeated the French who were camped near Beaumont. The German monuments located near La Tuilerie Farm and the village of Beaumont commemorate that operation.



Panorama From Stop

Face down the road, which direction at this point is approximately northeast.

The Meuse River is only 2 miles away; the wooded hill which is seen straight ahead on the sky line is on the other side of it.

Shortly before noon on November 4 the 2d Division attacked from its line near here toward Beaumont, whose church is seen in the valley to the left front. Intense hostile fire was immediately encountered from the front and flanks and after heavy losses the attempt to advance was given up. The division front line was then established across this road about 100 yards ahead, and along this side of the ridge seen to the right front.

By the evening of November 4 the 80th Division had established itself along the edge of the large wood partially seen to

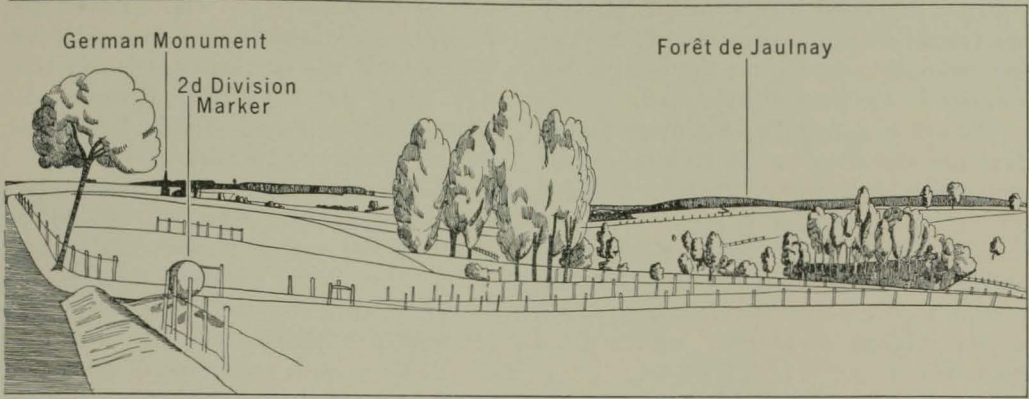
the left rear, and the 89th Division, to the right of here, had come up abreast of the 2d Division. There were, however, wide gaps in the front line in the intervals between the zones of these three divisions.

On the next day the 89th and 2d Divisions advanced to the bluffs of the Meuse, the 89th Division occupying the Forêt de Jaulnay, the large wood seen on the horizon to the right front, while the 2d Division moved to the top of the wooded hill which is seen almost directly ahead.

Beaumont was mopped up about dawn on November 5 by troops of the 2d and 80th Divisions. The 80th Division front line that night ran from near Beaumont to the vicinity of the buildings, La Thibaudine Farm, seen to the left in the trees on top of the hill across the valley.

42d Division Troops Resting in Front of Cheveuges,
Near Sedan, November 7, 1918





South of Beaumont

The farm seen to the left front across the valley is La Harnoterie Farm, occupied by the 80th Division early on the 6th.

About dawn on November 6 the 1st Division relieved the 80th Division and during the morning advanced to the Meuse River. At approximately 7:30 in the evening it moved toward Sedan, 10 miles away to the left front. The 2d Division took over the zone thus vacated.

EN ROUTE SOUTH OF BEAUMONT TO NORTH OF PONT-MAUGIS

(23.5 m 37.8 km) Fifty yards farther on, to the right of the road is seen a 2d Division boulder marker, one of many erected by that division on its former battlefields.

(24.4 m 39.3 km) At the near edge of the village of Beaumont, turn to the left.

(24.7 m 39.8 km) Near the center of the village, beyond the church, bear left.

The tour has now turned west, away from the Meuse River, and for 4 miles runs about at right angles to the direction of advance of the First Army.

(24.9 m 40.1 km) At the far edge of town, the zone of action of the 80th Division during the advance is again entered.

(25.6 m 41.2 km) At top of next high hill to the left rear across the valley is seen La Petite Forêt Farm, which is situated in the vicinity of the last stop.

To the right front near the edge of the nearest wood, the buildings barely visible because of the trees are those of La Harnoterie Farm. Machine-gun fire from that farm on the afternoon of November 5 stopped the advance of the 80th Division.

German Infantry Firing With Telescopic Sights, November 1918. © G



From this crest on for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles the front line of the 80th Division, which had been advanced from the left on November 5, was close to this road.

(26.5 m 42.6 km) **The buildings passed next** are those of La Thibaudine Farm, which was captured by the 80th Division during its advance on November 5.

(27.6 m 44.4 km) **At next group of buildings**, there is seen straight down the road a high prominent ridge upon which is the village of Stonne, captured on November 5 by the 77th Division.

The 42d Division, which relieved the 78th Division on November 5, had advanced by evening so that its front line was about in prolongation of this road on the other side of the village of Stonne.

(28.8 m 46.3 km) **At the next crossroad, turn to the right.**

From here until the Meuse River is reached the tour follows along the zone of action of the 77th Division.

(29.5 m 47.5 km) **The next village, La Besace**, was captured by the 77th Division

on November 5. The division met determined resistance just beyond town which could not be overcome during that day. On the next day, however, its advance units moved rapidly forward to the Meuse River, $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles away.

(31.2 m 50.2 km) **About $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles farther on, at sharp S-bend in road, to the right up the valley** is seen Flaba near which the 77th Division encountered machine-gun resistance on the morning of November 6. It also met with resistance on the slopes seen to the left of this road.

(32.7 m 52.6 km) **Continue through Raucourt**, captured about 2:10 p. m. on November 6 by the 77th Division.

The boundary between the 42d and 77th Divisions during the advance was just beyond the small stream in the valley which the tour is now following.

It is reported that the inhabitants of some of the towns displayed white flags at the approach of the American forces, to prevent the advancing troops from firing on places which were not defended

77th Division Anti-Aircraft Post at Raucourt, November 10, 1918





French Peasants Expressing Their Joy at Liberation by the Americans,
November 6, 1918

by German soldiers. As the advance guards entered the villages, the joy of the people at being liberated after four years of German occupation knew no bounds.

(34.2 m 55.0 km) **The next village, Haraucourt,** was entered at about the same time on November 6 by units of both the 42d and 77th Divisions.

(34.9 m 56.2 km) **Beyond town, at first high crest,** the hills seen down the valley are on the far side of the Meuse River. The line of the 42d Division on November 6 ran to the left up the slopes seen across the valley, it having advanced from near Stonne, recently pointed out, on that day.

(35.6 m 57.3 km) **Continue through Angecourt,** captured during November 6 by the troops of the 77th Division.

(36.4 m 58.6 km) **Beyond the town of Angecourt to the left on the crest of the**

high hill was where part of the front line of the 42d Division was located during the period from November 7 to 9.

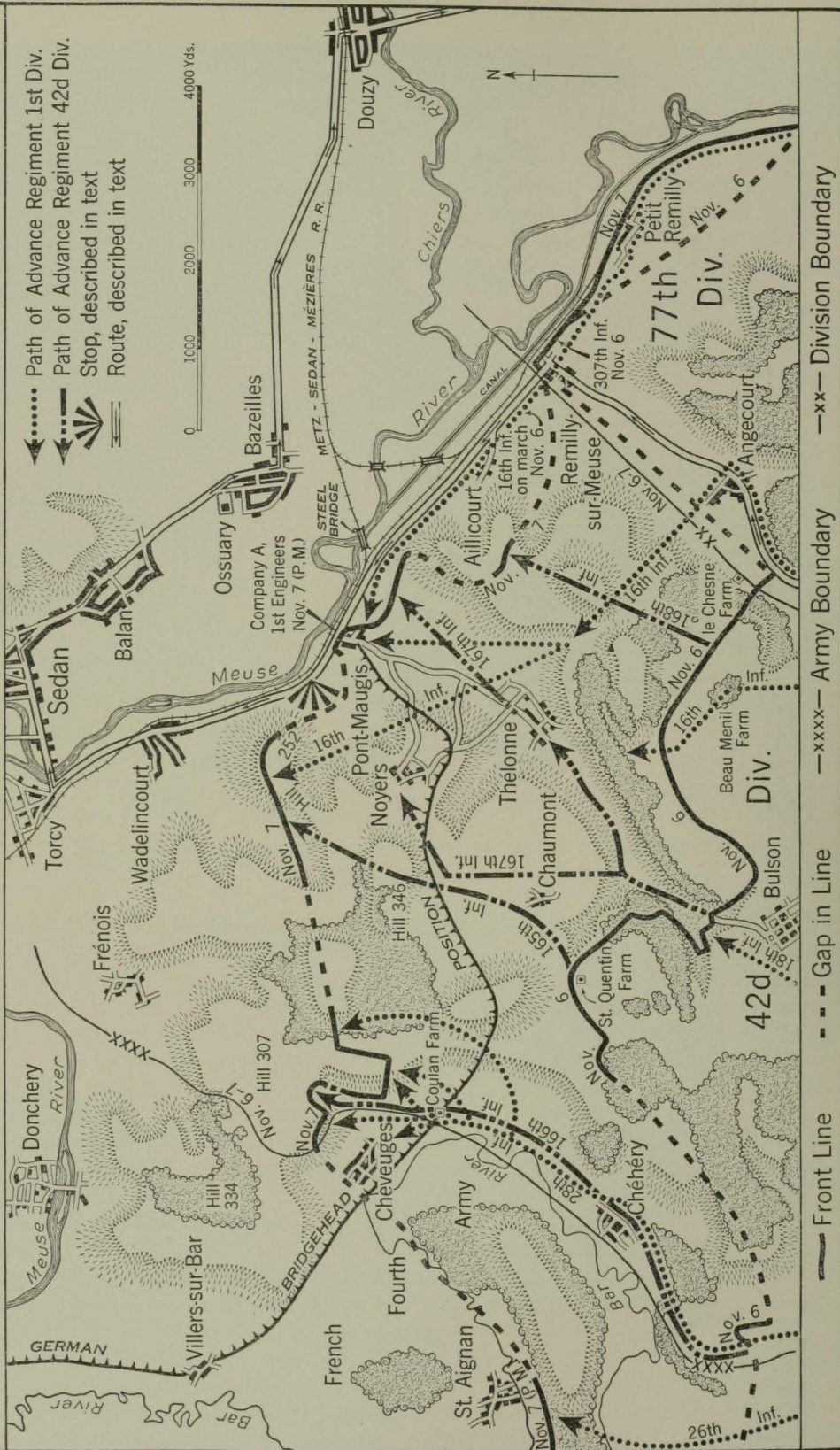
(36.5 m 58.7 km) **Just before reaching next town, Remilly-sur-Meuse, to the left front** is seen the city of Sedan.

(36.8 m 59.2 km) **Remilly,** which is on the Meuse River, was occupied about 4:30 on the afternoon of November 6 by a battalion from the 77th Division.

(37.0 m 59.5 km) **At the far side of Remilly-sur-Meuse, turn to the left.**

(38.3 m 61.6 km) **While approaching first bend in road, to the right front** is seen the steel bridge over which the Metz-Sedan-Mézières railway crosses the Meuse River. The cutting of this railroad was the main objective of the American First Army in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. As soon as the advancing troops reached a

Operations of 1st, 42d and 77th Divisions Near Sedan, November 6-7, 1918



point from which long-range guns could fire on the railway, it was subjected to periodic bombardments by American artillery in order to prevent traffic over it. When on the morning of November 7, American units captured a commanding position on the hills to the left of this road, the great value of this railroad to the German Army was destroyed. It is a striking coincidence that on this same day the German representatives crossed the battle line to ask the Allied Commander-in-Chief to grant an immediate armistice.

Germans established a bridgehead position to protect Sedan. It ran from Pont-Maugis, just passed through, included Noyers, the village which can be seen to the left up the valley, and extended, in the direction the reader is facing, from there on over the hill beyond Noyers. (See the sketch on the opposite page.)

On the afternoon of November 5 the I Corps was directed to capture Sedan, assisted on its right by the V Corps. As a result of a misconception in the V Corps of the exact intent of the orders, the 1st



1st Division Troops Advancing Through Thélonne Under Machine-Gun Fire,
November 7, 1918

(38.7 m 62.3 km) **Beyond the bend, along the left side of this road overlooking the bridge was the location during November 7 of the battle position of one regiment of the 42d Division.**

(39.6 m 63.7 km) **Beyond next village, Pont-Maugis, at the bottom of the first little valley running to the left, STOP.**

Face to the left front, which direction is approximately west.

The large city which is seen to the right about 2 miles down the river is Sedan.

During the night of November 6-7 the

Division crossed the zone of action of the 77th Division and entered that of the 42d Division. This resulted in both the 1st and 42d Divisions operating in this general region on November 6 and 7.

Before daylight on November 7 a column of troops of the 1st Division captured a German wagon train in Pont-Maugis, partially mopped up the town in hand-to-hand fighting and then moved up a little valley towards Thélonne, not visible, about a mile to the left over the hill. En route there it suffered heavily

from fire from that hill, from across the Meuse River and from the south, but most of the column succeeded in joining other troops of its division near Thélonne. Pont-Maugis was reentered by German troops but was retaken again about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon by an engineer company of the 1st Division.

During the morning of November 7 the 1st and 42d Divisions attacked the German bridgehead positions on the hills to the front and left of here. After intense fighting, they succeeded in capturing these positions shortly after midday, and forced the German troops to retire still closer to Sedan. The American front line was then established on the Sedan side of Hill 252, seen to the front, after which patrols of the 42d Division advanced to within 100 yards of Wadelincourt, the next village down the road.

The French desired, probably for sentimental reasons, to be the first to enter Sedan; so during the night of November 7-8 the positions on the hills in front of here were turned over to them. The left boundary of the First Army was at that time changed by the Allied Commander-in-Chief so that it ran in a northeasterly direction passing near Pont-Maugis.

The efforts of the American First Army were then directed toward forcing the Germans back from the Meuse River, in rear of here, preparatory to a general offensive in the direction of the town of Longwy and the Briey iron mines.

In Sedan the tour changes direction and follows the other side of the Meuse River valley back to Verdun. The American operations described from now on are mainly efforts to cross the valley. A general idea of the size and character of the Meuse River may be obtained at this stop. It should also be noted that for a large part of the way there is a canal in the valley and that during the time of the American operations the valley was in places flooded by the autumn rains and by obstructions in the river. The crossing of such a valley in the face of an energetic enemy could, of course, only be accomplished by surprise and with a superior concentration of forces.

EN ROUTE PONT-MAUGIS TO NEAR MOULINS

(40.0 m 64.4 km) **A short distance farther on, to the left of the road** is seen a 1st Division monument upon which is a list of its dead in the fighting in this region.

Railway Station at Sedan





War of 1870 Museum at Bazeilles

(40.6 m 65.3 km) **Continue on main road through the village of Wadelincourt.**

(41.4 m 66.6 km) **In Sedan, at the railroad station turn sharply to the right.**

This part of the city is known as Torcy. It was entered by joint patrols of the French and the 42d Division during the night of November 8–9. This was the farthest north that any American unit actively operated during this offensive.

(41.5 m 66.8 km) **Cross Meuse River.**

Sedan has a prominent place in French history. Here, in 1870, Napoleon III and the Army of Marshal MacMahon surrendered to the Prussians. It contains an old château-fort, built about 1430, during the time of Joan of Arc, which is an impressive example of the massive feudal construction of that period.

(42.4 m 68.2 km) **Where the street ends at a monument, turn to the right.**

(42.9 m 69.0 km) **Pass through Balan.**

(43.9 m 70.6 km) **Beyond town, to the right across the Meuse River valley, can be seen the town of Pont-Maugis, Noyers on the hill above it, and the heights beyond and to the right of that place which were captured on November 7 by American soldiers after determined fighting.**

(44.1 m 71.0 km) **Just before entering**

the next town, Bazeilles, on the left is an interesting museum of the War of 1870, called "La Maison de la Dernière Cartouche". The scene of Neuville's famous painting "Les Dernières Cartouches" ("The Last Cartridges") is laid in this building, which in 1870 was an inn called, of course, by a different name.

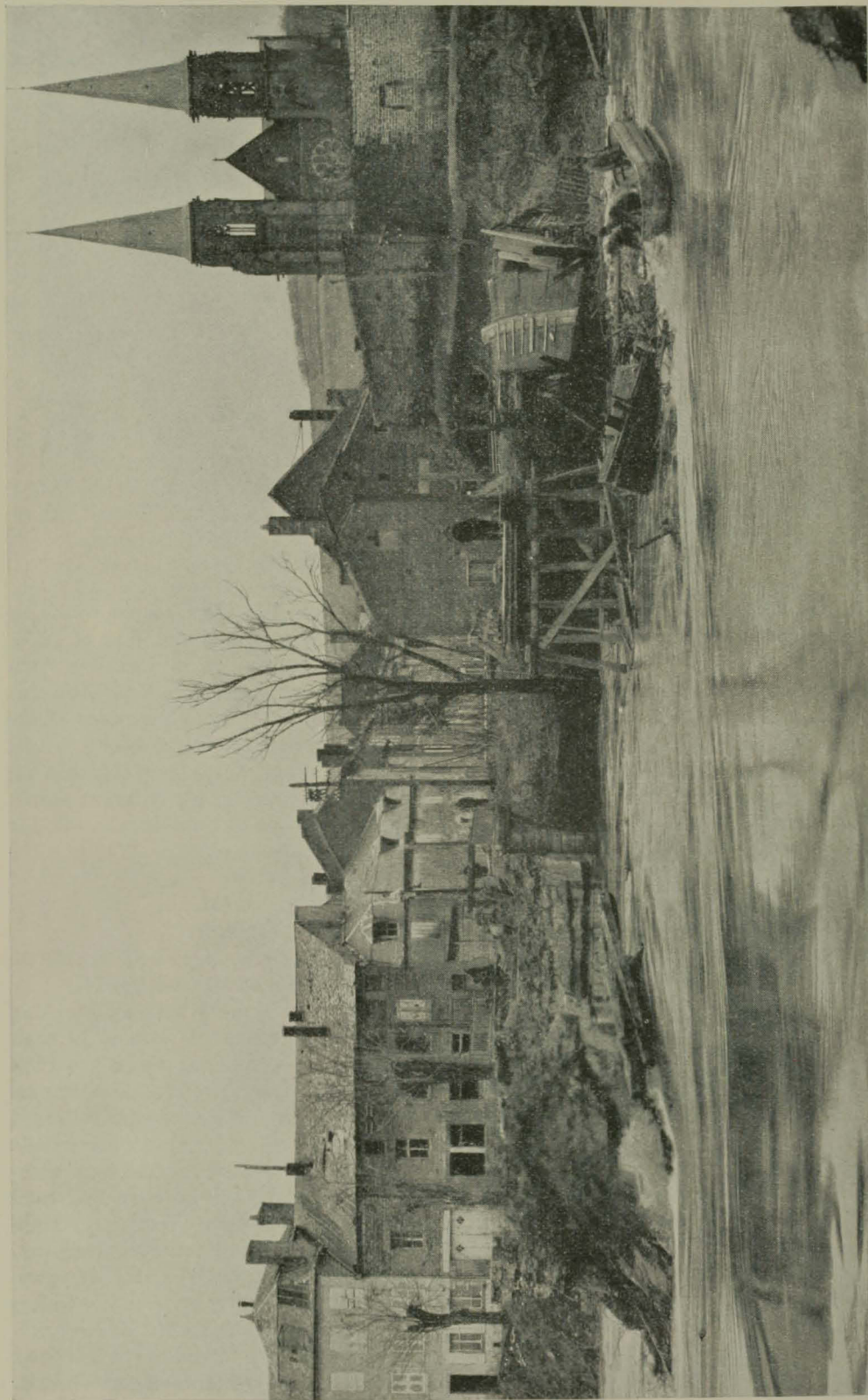
By bearing right at road junction at this point a large ossuary of the War of 1870 will be found on the right a few hundred yards farther on. Amount of time required for side trip—20 minutes.

(44.5 m 71.6 km) **In Bazeilles, turn to the left, keeping on the main road.**

(46.8 m 75.3 km) **While approaching next town, Douzy, to the right of the road is seen again the railroad which the First Army had as its objective. Its importance lay in the fact that the railroads which served the German forces on the Western Front were so located that without the use of this double-tracked road Germany could not supply and maintain its armies in northern France and Belgium.**

(47.7 m 76.8 km) **In center of town, turn sharp right and cross over the Chiers River, a tributary of the Meuse River.**

From here on the described route follows the main highway to the city of Verdun.



Mouzon

The 2d Division made several attempts to cross the Meuse near this place before operations were halted by the Armistice

(47.9 m 77.1 km) **To the right front across the valley** is seen the line of hills on which the front line of the 77th Division rested at the end of the war.

(49.2 m 79.2 km) **After passing next village, Mairy, to the right front across the river** is seen Villers-devant-Mouzon, where, although under heavy fire, a small detachment of the 77th Division succeeded in crossing the river on November 7. It was forced to withdraw the following day as the temporary bridge upon which the detachment had crossed was destroyed by enemy artillery fire, thus preventing reinforcements from joining it.

(50.4 m 81.1 km) **The next village which is seen to the left** is Amblimont.

The American units on the other side of the valley sent many patrols to this side at night to find out the location and strength of the hostile troops. One of the most successful of these patrols, consisting of an officer and a non-commissioned officer of the 77th Division, crossed over near Villers-devant-Mouzon on a raft about midnight on November 8. It reconnoitered Amblimont, reached Hill 345, the high bare hill seen above that town, and returned with valuable information concerning the enemy forces.

(52.3 m 84.2 km) **At entrance to next town, Mouzon, bear left up the hill.**

Corporal L. M. M. Van Iersel, 2d Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor for an outstanding exploit near this town. When his division reached the river opposite here, Corporal Van Iersel volunteered to reconnoiter the hostile positions on this side of it. While attempting, in the face of intense machine-gun fire, to crawl across on the timbers of a ruined bridge at night he was thrown into the river by a German trap. In spite of the swift current he swam the river, continued on his dangerous mission regardless of the enemy fire and obtained information of the greatest value.

(53.7 m 86.4 km) **Beyond Mouzon, to the right in the valley** are seen two farms which were captured by the 2d Division on the morning of November 11.

(54.2 m 87.2 km) **While ascending high hill, to the right on the far slopes of the**



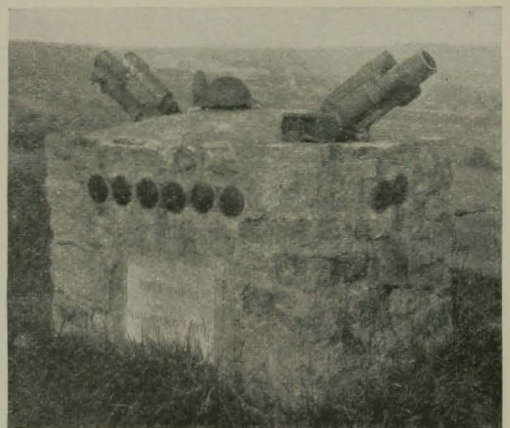
Engineers Building a Bridge Across the Meuse Near Pouilly After the Armistice

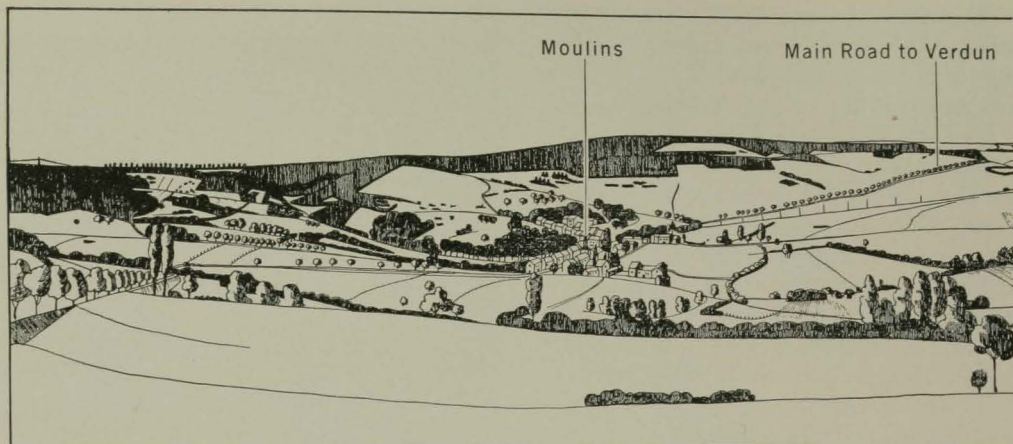
valley, can be seen Villemontry, captured by the 1st Division during November 6.

(55.3 m 89.0 km) **Beyond the large woods where a good view of the country to the right is obtained, STOP.**

On the right side of the road are monuments erected by the V Corps and the 2d Division shortly after the Armistice.

V Corps Marker, South of Mouzon





Panorama Looking South

Face the buildings, Farm St. Rémy, seen in the valley to the right rear. That direction is approximately south.

The town of Beaumont, through which the tour recently passed, is 4 miles from here beyond the edge of the large wood, Bois des Flaviens, which is seen extending off from this point to the right front.

The above sketch and the map on page 304 will aid in making the following description clearer. The map and sketch have been so drawn that they are oriented with the tops of them pointing south, the direction which the observer is facing.

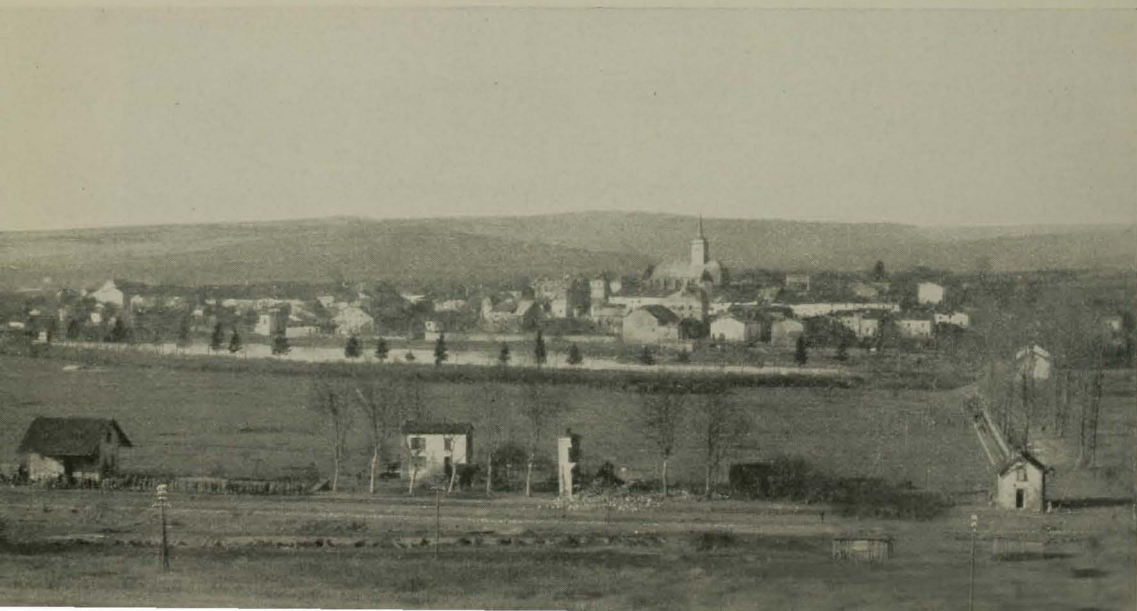
About 3 miles away to the left front the Meuse River, flowing this way, changes its direction sharply. It runs on the far side of Pouilly, whose church is

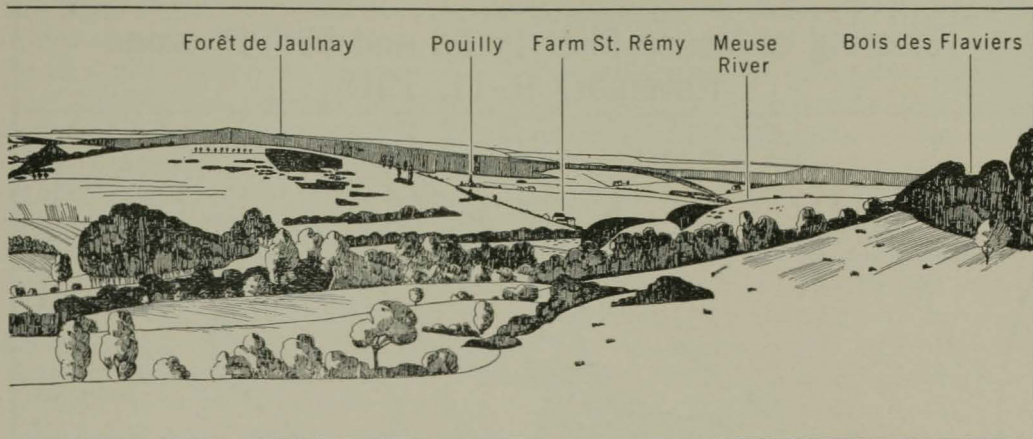
seen directly ahead, and, again curving abruptly, follows an irregular course, passing just to the right of the hill upon which the observer is standing. In the large bend thus formed, the 2d and 89th Divisions on the night of November 10 accomplished the difficult military feat of crossing a river under hostile fire.

During the night of November 7, in anticipation of a crossing by the Americans at Mouzon, the enemy burned oil on the surface of the river for illumination and swept the remains of the destroyed bridge by an intense cross fire from machine guns located on or near the river bank. Under cover of darkness during November 8 troops of the 2d Division attempted to cross over the ruined bridge

Pouilly and Létanne Viewed From the South

The 89th Division crossed the Meuse near the left edge of this terrain on November 10, 1918





From Stop Near Moulins

there. Some of them were thrown into the water by traps placed on the bridge by the Germans for that purpose but others continued on until they reached a gap in the bridge, too wide to be passed without further preparation, at which place the attempt had to be abandoned.

On November 10 a second effort to make a surprise crossing, this time by means of footbridges constructed near Mouzon, was defeated as the enemy discovered the point at which the crossing was to be attempted and smothered it with shell and machine-gun fire. That same night, however, a crossing was forced, after heavy losses, on the far side of the Bois des Flaviers, and by the time of the Armistice troops of the 2d Division

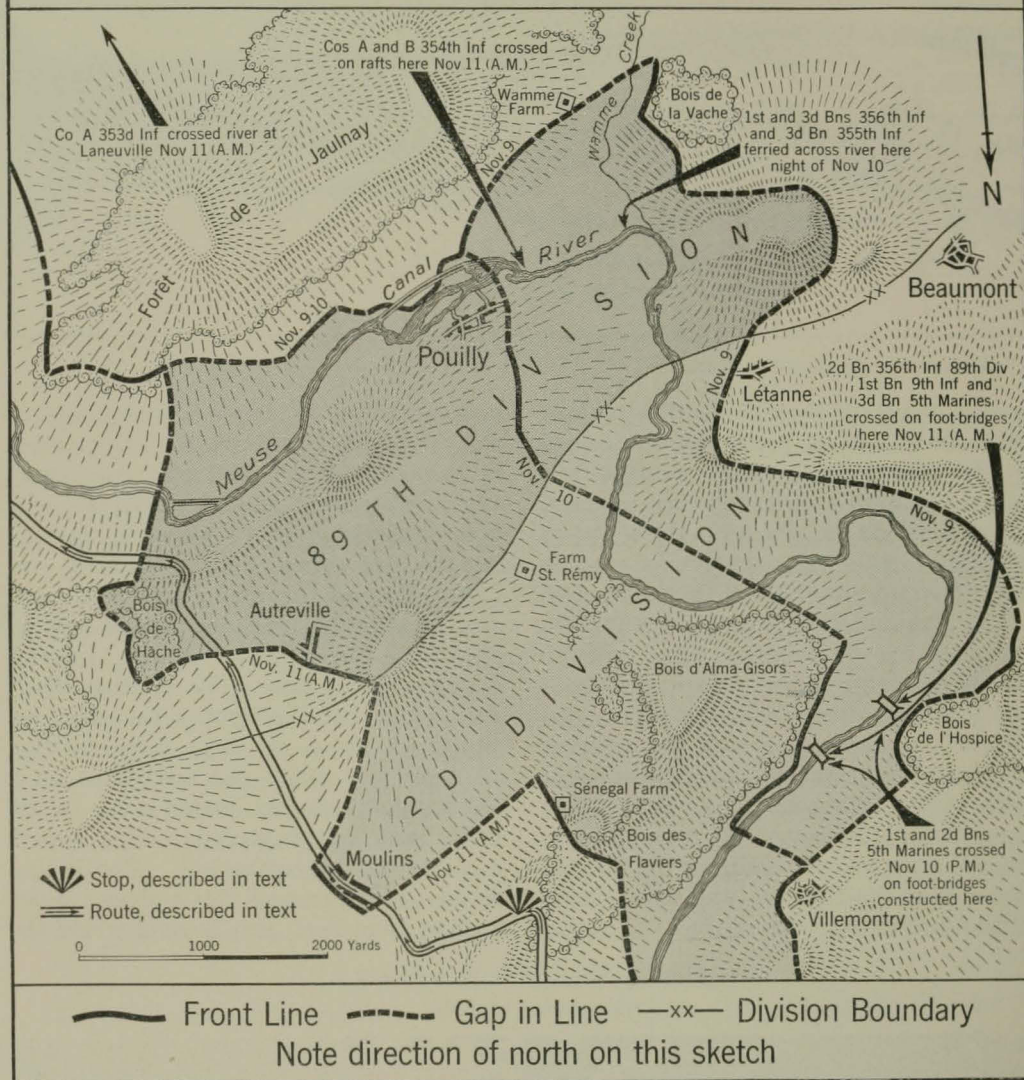
had advanced as far as Moulins, seen to the left. Other units of the division were at Farm St. Rémy, and still others had advanced about halfway between this point and the town of Mouzon, capturing the two farms recently pointed out.

An effort of the 89th Division to construct footbridges across the river beyond Pouilly met with failure because of heavy hostile artillery fire. The division, however, crossed to the right of that town as seen from here, on large rafts holding 75 men each which had been built on a tributary stream and floated down to the main river. It captured Pouilly before daylight on November 11. Continuing its advance, it crossed this highway about 2 miles from here, just beyond where the

Flooded Meuse River Near Stenay,
November 11, 1918



Crossing of Meuse River by 2d and 89th Divisions November 9-11, 1918



highway, identified by the line of trees, can be seen to the left front disappearing over the hill which is to the right of and beyond the village of Moulins.

During the operations near Pouilly, Sergeant M. Waldo Hatler, Private First Class Harold I. Johnston and Private David B. Barkeley, all of the 89th Division, volunteered to make reconnaissances of the hostile position on this bank of the river, although there were no means of crossing except by swimming. In carrying out their dan-

gerous missions, Private Barkeley while returning to the American lines with the desired information which he had obtained, was drowned. The others succeeded after the greatest difficulty in securing and taking back valuable information concerning the enemy forces. For these daring acts the three were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor.

EN ROUTE NEAR MOULINS TO SOUTH
OF DUN-SUR-MEUSE

(56.3 m 90.6 km) Continue through

the village of **Moulins**, which was in possession of troops of the 2d Division when the Armistice became effective.

(57.0 m 91.7 km) **Beyond town, while ascending hill, to the right in the valley** is seen Autreville. That village and the high hill to the right of it were captured by the 89th Division about 8:00 o'clock on the morning of November 11.

(57.4 m 92.4 km) **Before reaching top of hill, to the right in the valley in the distance** can be seen on a clear day the village of Beaumont, the fighting near which was recently described on the tour.

(57.7 m 92.9 km) **Beyond hill, the first wood growing to left edge of road** is the Bois de Hâche, where the leading elements of the 89th Division continued fighting for a short time after 11:00 a. m., November 11, not having previously received word concerning the Armistice.

Continue through Inor, Martincourt and Cervisy. The Armistice line of the 89th Division was along the other bank of the Meuse River opposite these towns.

(63.7 m 102.5 km) **Continue through Stenay**, where the zone of action of the 90th Division and the III Corps is en-

tered. Early on November 10 units of the 90th Division captured the far (south) side of this town but were not in sufficient strength to drive the Germans out of the rest of it. The remainder of the town was captured on November 11, before the Armistice became effective, by troops of the 89th and 90th Divisions.

(64.3 m 103.5 km) **Beyond town, the military barracks seen to the left of the road** were captured by the 90th Division. They were comparatively little damaged and were used by the Americans after the Armistice. The facilities for bathing, as well as the shelter from the cold, rainy weather were very welcome to the men who had undergone the hardships of a November campaign in this region.

(64.5 m 103.8 km) **Beyond barracks, to the left of the road** is seen the large wood, Bois de Chénois, in which the 90th Division had a severe struggle on November 10. The Division was fighting at the village of Baâlon, 2 miles away to the left, at the time of the Armistice.

The far side of the valley opposite here was reached by the 90th Division on November 6. The division immediately

89th Division Infantry in Stenay Two Minutes Before the Armistice Took Effect





Airplane Photograph of Dun-sur-Meuse Taken From the South

began assembling bridge material preparatory to a crossing and from time to time sent patrols over the river to obtain information. The crossing of the river by the division was finally carried out on November 9 farther up the valley.

(65.9 m 106.1 km) **Straight through Mouzay**, captured about 1:45 p. m. on November 9 by the 5th Division.

(68.4 m 110.1 km) **After passing first pronounced left bend in road (about 2 miles farther on), to the right front at foot of hill across the river** is seen Sassey-sur-Meuse. It was near there that a large part of the 90th Division on November 9 crossed the river by means of a foot-bridge which had been constructed across the demolished stone bridge.

During the afternoon of November 7 five American ambulances lost their way, entered the German lines near here and were captured. Observing their plight, a patrol of the 90th Division, which was near the river to the right of this road, attacked and recaptured the ambulances. They were then sent to the rear loaded with German prisoners taken near there.

(68.6 m 110.4 km) **To the left is seen the long, sparsely wooded ridge, Côte St. Germain**, captured by the 5th Division on November 6 and 7, after severe fighting. The village on this side of it, Liondevant-Dun, was attacked on the 6th but not taken until the next day.

On the other side of Côte St. Germain is Murvaux near where Second Lieutenant Frank Luke, Jr., Air Service, on September 29, performed his last heroic deed. After having previously destroyed a number of enemy aircraft, he voluntarily started on a patrol seeking German observation balloons. Though pursued by eight German planes which were protecting the enemy balloon line, he attacked and shot down in flames three German balloons. In this engagement Lieutenant Luke was exposed to heavy fire from ground batteries as well as hostile planes. Severely wounded, he descended to within 50 yards of the ground, and flying at this low altitude near the town of Murvaux he fired upon enemy troops, killing six and wounding as many more. Forced to make a land-



Second Lieutenant Frank Luke, Jr., Air Service,
September 19, 1918

ing and surrounded on all sides by the enemy, who called upon him to surrender, he drew his automatic pistol and defended himself until he fell dead from a wound in the chest. For his conspicuous gallantry in the performance of his last flight Lieutenant Luke was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

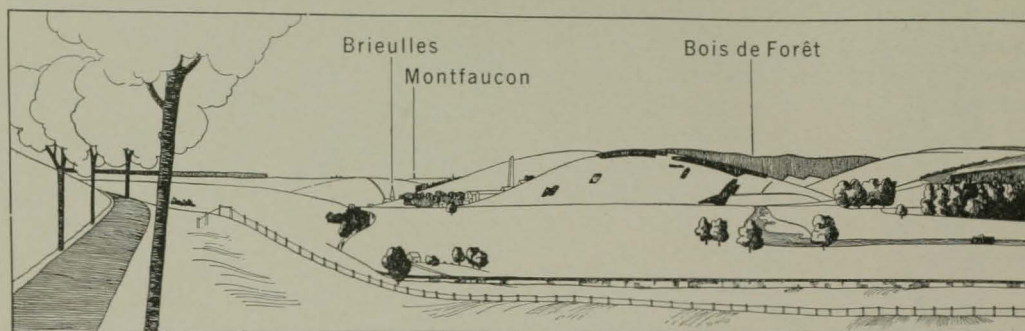
In the next town, Dun-sur-Meuse, the veterans of the 5th Division have erected a wrought-iron railing on a bridge to commemorate the crossing of the Meuse River by their division. To visit, in center of town stop at village monument passed on the right. The bridge adjoins the monument.

(72.0 m 115.9 km) **Continue through Dun-sur-Meuse**, captured after a hard fight by the 5th Division on November 5.

The Headquarters of the 5th Division was located here, during the period November 7-10, and the Headquarters of the III Corps, during November 10-11.

Engineers Relaxing in Ruined House After
Working Under Fire, Dun-sur-Meuse





Panorama From Stop

(73.7 m 118.6 km) Beyond town, from point where canal turns away from road, continue halfway up hill and STOP.

A 5th Division marker monument is seen (1937) alongside the road.

Face to the right, which is west. Note that both the above panorama and the sketch on page 310 are oriented when the upper part is held in the direction being faced.

The Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, where the tour started, is about 5 miles away. It is beyond the large wood, Bois de Forêt, which is seen to the left front on the other side of the river.

To the left in the distance is seen the American monument on Montfaucon.

Dun-sur-Meuse is plainly visible on the hill to the right. To the left of Dun-sur-Meuse, about a mile away from the river, is seen Doullcon. The ridge beyond that town surrounds it on three sides and the dish-shaped valley thus formed was called the "Punch Bowl" by American soldiers.

When the 5th Division attacked on No-

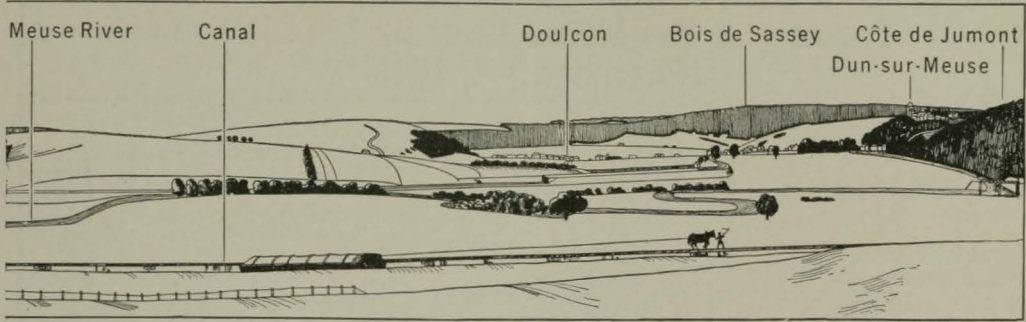
vember 1, it pivoted near Brieulles, seen to the left up the valley, and swung toward Doullcon. By November 3 it had reached the other bank of the river as far as this point, cleared the rim of the "Punch Bowl" and captured Doullcon.

A crossing of the Meuse River valley was attempted about 1:00 a. m. on November 3 just this side of Brieulles. The river was crossed there before daylight but attempts to bridge the canal failed with heavy losses, a number of men being forced to seek shelter on the exposed flats between the river and canal all during the next day. That night desperate efforts to cross the canal, on two footbridges which the division engineers had been able to construct over it, were repulsed.

After dark on November 4 an infantry force rushed across the footbridges and gained a foothold on this bank. While the enemy's attention was engaged with this operation, another force farther up the valley came over in boats. After these

Ponton Bridge Constructed by 5th Division Engineers Near Dun-sur-Meuse





South of Dun-sur-Meuse

surprise attacks, the enemy was driven back far enough to enable a large part of the division to cross during the night. Early on the 5th some of those troops attacked toward this point over the low ridge seen to the left down the road.

A determined though unsuccessful attempt to construct two ponton bridges across the river about halfway between here and Dun was made about 4:00 p. m. on November 4. The enemy discovered the bridges before they were finished and destroyed them by shellfire.

That night the river was bridged where it runs close to the hill on the other side of the valley, and the canal was bridged near here. At dawn, when the enemy discovered the operation and opened fire damaging the bridges, part of a company was on this bank and a large force was on the swampy ground between the river and canal. The men on this bank found themselves in a difficult position as they had no means of retreat and were sub-

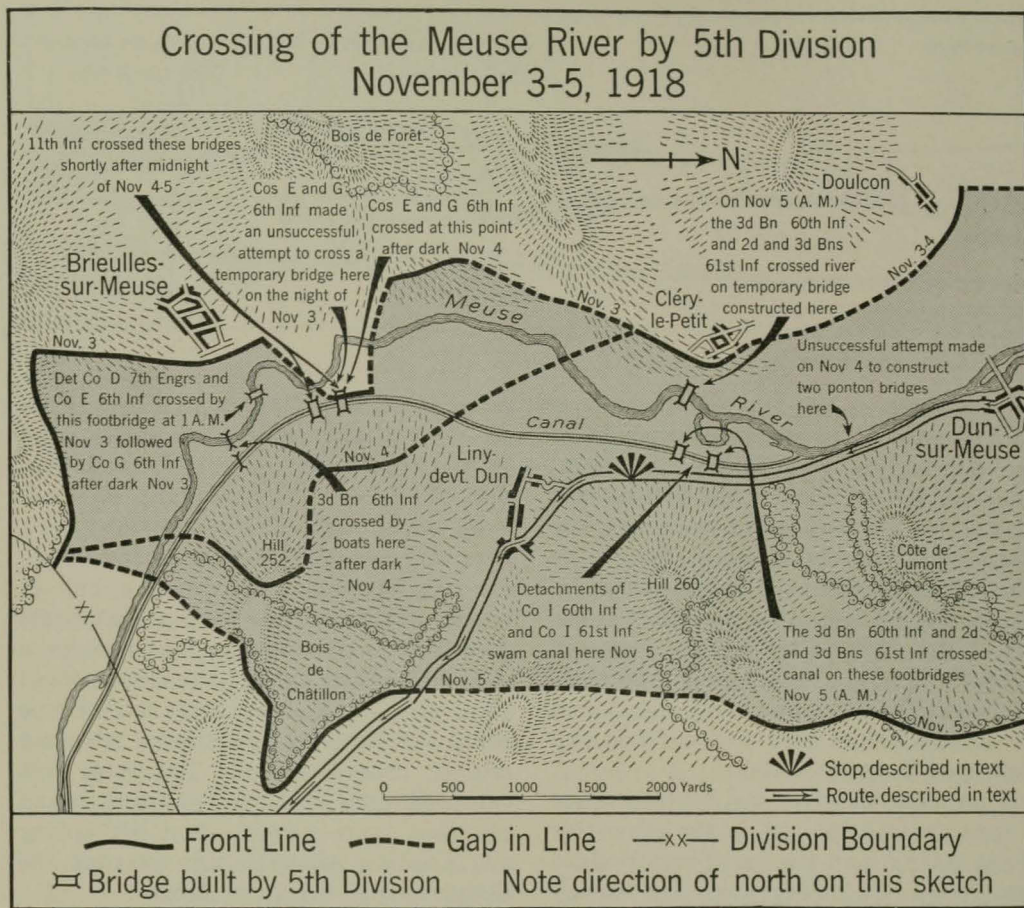
jected to severe enfilade fire from Côte de Jumont, the hill seen down the road to the right. To relieve the situation, Captain Edward C. Allworth, 5th Division, called upon the remainder of his company to follow him, plunged into the canal, swam over under a hail of bullets and joined his hard pressed units near here. He then led his men in a vigorous assault against the ridge behind here, about the same time that it was being attacked by the troops who had crossed near Briulles. The ridge was captured after a hard fight and many prisoners were taken. For his daring act, Captain Allworth was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Other troops of the division who crossed at this point pushed down the river and took Dun. By dark of November 5 the Germans had been driven back more than a mile to the rear of here.

It was during the crossing in front of here that Sergeant Eugene P. Walker,

Division Ration Dump Near Montfaucon, October 5, 1918





Corporal Robert E. Crawford and Privates Noah L. Gump, John Hoggle and Stanley T. Murnane, all members of the 7th Engineers, 5th Division, won Distinguished Service Crosses. When three boats in a ponton bridge across the river were destroyed by artillery fire, these men voluntarily entered the icy river and, standing in water up to their armpits and under heavy shell-fire, held up the deck until new boats were launched and placed in position. This timely and courageous act permitted the crossing of the infantry units.

The 5th Division continued to advance in the direction to the right rear from here during the following days. It was assisted by one regiment of the 32d Division from November 6th to the 9th; and by the time of the Armistice had pushed the enemy back about 10 miles

from the river, onto the Woëvre Plain. During the last days of the war, the 32d Division went into the line south of the 5th Division and advanced rapidly with it.

EN ROUTE SOUTH OF DUN-SUR-MEUSE TO SOUTH OF SIVRY-SUR-MEUSE

(74.4 m 119.7 km) Continue through the village of Liny-devant-Dun.

(75.0 m 120.7 km) Beyond town, the large wood which extends along the road on the right for a considerable distance is the Bois de Châtillon. It was captured by the 5th Division on November 5, the front line of the division on that night resting along this edge of it.

(76.4 m 123.0 km) Beyond wood, at first crest, to the right at foot of hill is seen Vilosnes-sur-Meuse. The 5th Division aided the French 15th Colonial Division to cross the river there on November 6

by attacking in rear, from this hill, the Germans who were defending the village.

(76.6 m 123.3 km) **While descending hill, the ridge seen to the right front** is on the other side of the Meuse. It was taken by the 80th Division on September 26 and from then on to November 6 the opposing lines faced each other across this valley.

(78.7 m 126.7 km) **Continue through the town of Sivry-sur-Meuse.**

(79.3 m 127.6 km) **Beyond far edge of town, about 80 yards, STOP.**

The monument on Montfaucon can be seen on the sky line to the right front.

Face to the left, which direction is east.

The 79th Division on October 30 took over a portion of the front line, about 2 miles away, which ran in the direction the reader is facing. It attacked, from the reader's right to left, daily on November 3, 4 and 5, by which time, after severe fighting, a line near the crest of the bald-topped hill seen to the left front had been reached. That hill, designated on French maps as the Borne de Cornouiller, was nicknamed "Cornwilly Hill" by the American soldiers who fought on this front.

On November 7 the division took the remainder of the hill, its direction of advance then changing to the direction which the reader is now facing.

The 26th Division on November 8 advanced alongside the 79th Division on its right and at the time of the Armistice both divisions were on a line about 8 miles from here, beyond Theinte Creek.

On the right of the 26th Division were the French 10th Colonial Division and the American 81st Division. The latter division advanced about 3 miles in the period between November 9 and 11.

Face down the road, which direction is approximately south.

As this is the last stop of the tour, a brief résumé here will aid in fixing in the reader's mind the events which took place in this region during the fall of 1918.

On September 26 a smashing surprise attack by the First Army, between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest, overran the strong German forward positions and captured the heights to the right across the valley. In four days of bitter

fighting an advance exceeding 6 miles was made by the American assault units.

On October 4 the general attack was renewed and continued almost without pause until October 22, by which time the Hindenburg Line had been carried on most of the First Army front beyond the river. This period was characterized by almost daily attacks and terrific fighting during which the German reserves were used up. It included a flank attack against the Argonne Forest on October 7, an advance on this side of the Meuse River on October 8, and a general assault against the Hindenburg Line on the other side of the river on October 14.

From October 23 to the end of that month only local attacks were made as the Army prepared for an offensive on November 1 that proved to be its last one. The results of this offensive exceeded all expectations and a complete break-through of the last prepared German position occurred. As the Germans did not have sufficient reserves to stop such a strong attack, they started a withdrawal to this side of the Meuse River.

The First Army then conducted an energetic pursuit. It brilliantly forced crossings of the river at several places, and exerted terrific and continuous pressure until the Armistice became effective.

The twelve American divisions that participated in the fighting between November 1 and November 11 suffered more than 18,000 casualties. The total American losses during the entire Meuse-Argonne offensive were close to 117,000.

5th Division Troops on the Armistice Line
Near Rémoiville





Vacherauville, October 31, 1918

EN ROUTE SOUTH OF SIVRY-SUR-MEUSE
TO VERDUN

(79.9 m 128.6 km) **At next crest, running at right angles to this road,** was located the First Army front line of November 1. No attack, however, was made on this side of the river that day.

(80.6 m 129.7 km) **To the left, crowning the ridge,** is the Bois de Chaume captured by the 33d Division on October 10.

(81.6 m 131.3 km) **The next village, Consenvoye,** was captured by the 33d Division during the general attack of October 8 on this side of the river. The division advanced in the direction opposite to the one the tourist is traveling.

(82.3 m 132.4 km) **Beyond the town, to the left alongside the road** is a German World War military cemetery.

(82.5 m 132.8 km) **To the right front** is seen Forges, which was just in front of the jump-off line of the American Army in its first great attack in this region on September 26. Le Mort Homme hill is seen on the sky line beyond it.

(83.1 m 133.7 km) **Continue through next village, Brabant-sur-Meuse.**

(83.2 m 133.9 km) **From first bend in road and for about a mile farther on,** the 29th Division used this road to form on for the attack of October 8. It advanced up the slopes to the left. During the next few days it was opposed by Austrian troops, of which only three divisions ever served in line on the Western Front.

(84.9 m 136.8 km) **The next village, Samogneux,** was just within the front line of the American Army on September 26. The town was entirely obliterated during the severe fighting on this front.

(86.6 m 139.4 km) **Beyond town,** the road climbs a steep hill called the Côte de Talou. It was captured by the Germans in hard fighting during 1916 and recaptured by the French in 1917.

(87.9 m 141.5 km) **Continue through Vacherauville,** which town was completely destroyed by shellfire during the war.

(88.5 m 142.4 km) **Beyond the town, after passing the first bend in the road, to the left front** the Ossuary of Douaumont with its tower can be seen.

The road leading east from the next village, Bras, is the one generally followed by tourists who visit the French battlefields near Verdun. A suggested route for this trip is shown in a broken black line on the map at the end of the chapter. This makes an interesting side trip and can be completed in approximately 1½ hours if no long stops at interesting points are made.

(89.1 m 143.4 km) **Just beyond Bras, which also was completely destroyed, to the right of the road** is a large French World War military cemetery.

(92.9 m 149.5 km) **Continue to Verdun. The mileage ends at the railroad station.**

A few points of interest in Verdun have been indicated on page 272 which is the concluding page of the first day's itinerary.

ADDITIONAL PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE REGION

IN addition to the places whose World War history has been described in the itinerary, there are a number of other places in the Meuse-Argonne region where interesting war events occurred, where there now exist features of special interest, or which were of sufficient importance in history before the World War to warrant special mention. For reference purposes and for the benefit of the tourist who travels in the area not on the described route, these places and some of their history have been recorded here.

The map on the next page indicates the general location of most of the places mentioned. At those indicated both in the text and on the sketch by a star there is some existing interesting object such as a memorial, ancient building or ruins or outstanding World War feature which is still in a good state of preservation.

Argonne Forest. While the 77th Division was engaged in heavy fighting about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles southeast of Binarville on September 29, Lieutenant Colonel Fred E. Smith of that division performed his last heroic act. When communication with the leading battalion of his regiment was interrupted by the infiltration of small parties of the enemy, Lieutenant Colonel Smith personally led a party of two other officers and ten soldiers forward to reestablish runner posts and carry ammunition to the front line. The party, straying

to the flank beyond supporting troops, suddenly came under fire from enemy machine guns only 50 yards away. Shouting to the members of his party to take cover, Colonel Smith disregarding his own danger opened pistol fire on the Germans. About this time he fell, severely wounded, but regaining his footing he continued to fire on the enemy until most of the men of his party were out of danger. Refusing first-aid treatment, he made his way to a hand-grenade dump and returned under heavy machine-gun fire for the purpose of making another attack on the enemy machine guns. As he was attempting to determine the exact location of the nearest nest, he fell mortally wounded. This gallant and brave soldier was later posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In this same part of the Argonne Forest, Sergeant Benjamin Kaufman, 77th Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor on September 29. He took out a patrol for the purpose of attacking an enemy machine gun which had checked the advance of his company. Before reaching the gun he became separated from his patrol and a machine-gun bullet shattered his right arm. Without hesitation he advanced on the gun alone, throwing grenades with his left hand and charging with an empty pistol, taking one prisoner and scattering the crew. He then

View Near the Jump-Off Line of the 77th Division, September 26, 1918



brought the machine gun and prisoner back to the first-aid station where he went to have his wounded arm treated.

Slightly to the east of the scene of the above exploit, Private Archie A. Peck, 77th Division, also won the Congressional Medal of Honor. While engaged with two other soldiers in patrol duty on October 6, he and his comrades were subjected to the direct fire of an enemy machine gun which wounded both of his companions. Returning to his company, he obtained another soldier to assist in carrying in the wounded men. Although his assistant

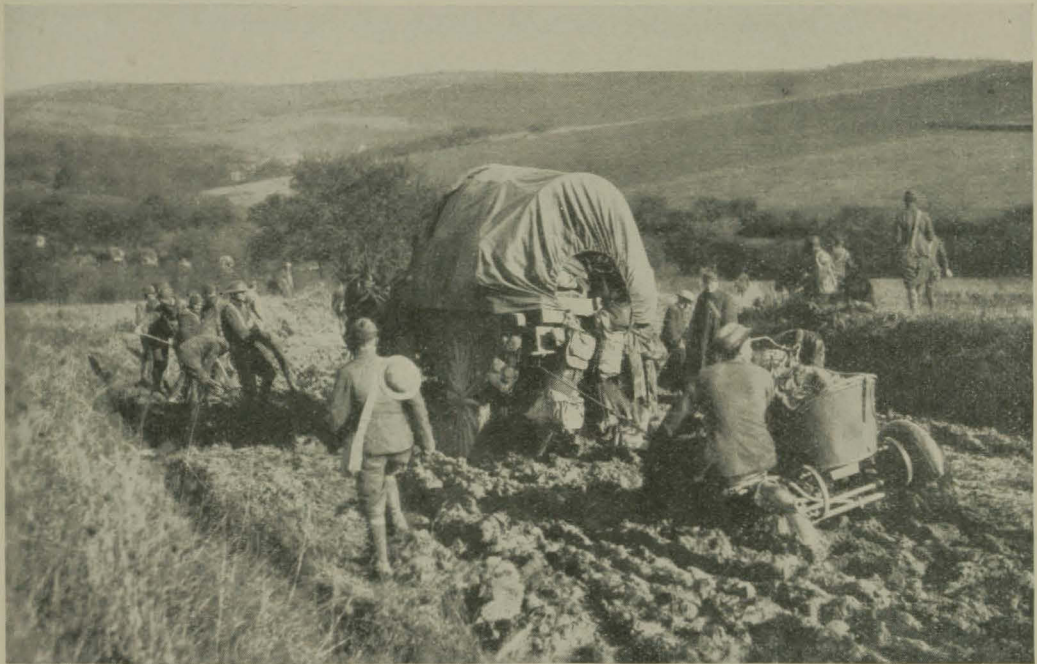
Barricourt. Strong resistance was encountered in this village on November 2 before it was captured early the next day by troops of the 89th Division.

Beauchamp Farm, 1½ miles southwest of Clermont-en-Argonne. Location of 92d Div. Hdqrs., September 24-30.

Beauchair. Captured by the 89th Division on November 3 after a sharp fight.

Béthincourt. Location of 80th Div. Headquarters, October 1-12.

Bois Emont, ½ mile southwest of Cierges. Captured by the 37th Division early on September 28 after a hard fight.



Engineers Working on Road Near Barricourt, November 4, 1918
Note condition of road

was killed and Private Peck was constantly under terrific machine-gun fire he made the round trip twice, bringing in each time one of the wounded men.

Ariétal Farm, 1 mile northeast of Exermont. A tank attack on September 29 was broken up near this farm by hostile artillery fire. The farm was captured by the 1st Division on October 5.

Avocourt. This village was an important road junction just in rear of the 37th Division jump-off line on September 26.

Bois de Gesnes. This wood which is located on the Romagne Heights just west of Côte Dame Marie was the scene of heavy fighting at various times from October 10 to 14 by the 32d and 42d Divisions, and the 181st Brigade of the 91st Division while with the 1st Division.

Bois de Lambechamp. In a ravine at the east edge of this wood was located the 79th Div. Hdqrs., September 24-26.

Bois de Montfaucon. German concrete dugouts located at the crossroads



1st Division Marching Into Bantheville Just After the Armistice

on Hill 269 in the Bois de Montfaucon were occupied by the 37th Div. Hdqrs., Sept. 27–Oct. 1, and by the 32d Div. Headquarters, September 29–November 2.

Bois de la Morine and Bois du Chêne Sec. These woods witnessed heavy fighting on October 4 and 5 when they were attacked several times by the 32d Division. They were finally captured on October 5 after a four-hour battle.

Bois de Taille l'Abbé, 1 mile west of Apremont. At daybreak October 1 a German counterattack from this wood met a 28th Division attack supported by tanks. The Germans were driven back. The wood was finally captured by troops of the 28th Division during October 7.

Concrete Dugout in Champ Mahaut



Bois de la Tuilerie, east of Montfaucon. 5th Div. Hdqrs. from Oct. 12 to Nov. 4.

Bois de Valoup, on the southeastern slope of Côte Dame Marie. Captured October 9 by the 32d Division in heavy fighting. Attempts of the 32d Division to advance from this wood on October 10 and 11 were unsuccessful.

Bois de Ville, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of Ville-devant-Chaumont, was captured by the 26th Division during November 10.

Brandeville. German resistance near this place held up the advance of part of the 5th Division on November 7. The village was captured on November 8 by the 5th Division, to which the 128th Infantry Regiment of the 32d Division was attached at the time.

Camp Drachen, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Apremont. At this balloon camp, captured from the Germans, was located the 42d Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 19–Nov. 3.

★ **Champ Mahaut.** At this place are (1937) a large number of wartime concrete shelters and dugouts said to have been used as a headquarters by the Crown Prince of Bavaria. The place was captured by the 28th and 77th Divisions after hard fighting on September 26, 27 and 28. The 77th Div. Hdqrs. was located there Oct. 2–12 and Oct. 16–31. To visit Champ Mahaut, leave Varennes on road to the south. Beyond town, at first road junction, take road to the right toward Vienne-le-Château. About 3



German Shells Exploding Near Cuisy, October 7, 1918
A man was severely wounded by the shell exploding in the foreground

kilometers (1.8 miles) from road junction turn right and travel 800 yards to shelters.

Châtel-Chéhéry. 77th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 12-16; 78th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 16-31; and 80th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 30-Nov. 1.

Chaudron Farm, in a ravine 1 mile north of Baulny. This farm was captured during September 28 by the 35th Division after severe fighting.

Chéhéry, 1 mile south of Fléville. In this town was located the I Corps Hdqrs., Nov. 2-5. The near-by château was the 82d Div. Hdqrs., October 13-31.

Cheveuges. Positions on the hills east and north of this place were occupied on November 7 by the 1st and 42d Divisions. These positions were turned over to the French early on November 8.

Cierges. This town was reached by the 37th Division on September 28 but a German counterattack drove the American troops from the village. On the 29th it was attacked twice, once with tank support, but the heavy artillery fire of the enemy was so severe that it could not be held. It was finally captured by troops of the 32d Division on October 1.

Clairs Chênes Wood, northeast of Cunel. Scene of heavy fighting by the 3d Division on October 14-16. It was captured on October 20 and a German attempt to recapture it on the 21st was repulsed. To the east are Hill 299 and La Mi-Noël Wood, at both of which places severe fighting took place on Octo-

ber 14, 15 and 21. They were captured by the 3d Division on the last-named date.

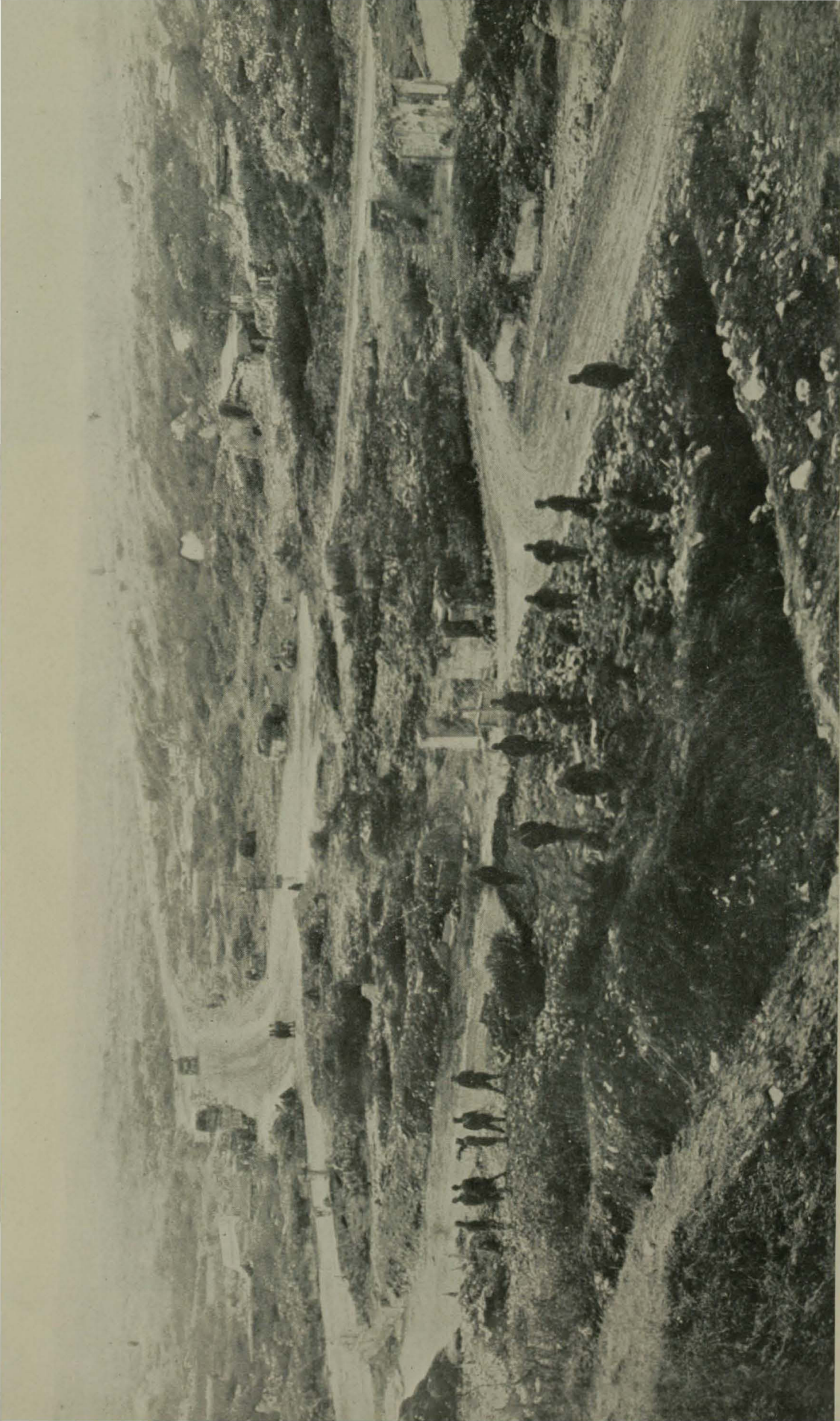
Clermont-en-Argonne. This historic town, because of its position on one of the two principal passes through the Argonne Forest, has been the scene of numerous battles and sieges. The Church of St. Didier, dating from the 16th Century, is of architectural interest. The town was an important point in the supply and communication system of the American First Army during the offensive.

Cléry-le-Grand. Captured early on November 1 by the 5th Division.

Cléry-le-Petit, near Cléry-le-Grand, was captured by the 5th Division on Nov. 2.

Cuisy. Location of 4th Div. Hdqrs. Temporary American Cemetery Near Cierges, January 1919





Ruins of Avocourt, October 1918

during the period Sept. 26–Oct. 19, and 90th Div. Hdqrs. from Oct. 19 to Oct. 31.

Dhuy Farm, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Landres-et-St. Georges. This farm was a German strong point captured on November 1 by the 89th Division.

Eclisfontaine. In this village and in Bouleaux Bois west of it the 91st Division had bitter fighting from September 26 to 28. Both places were captured on September 27, abandoned the same day and recaptured on September 28.

In the general attack toward Eclisfontaine on September 26, First Lieutenant Deming Bronson, 91st Division, was struck by fragments of an enemy hand grenade, receiving deep cuts on the head. He nevertheless participated under hazardous conditions in the capture of an enemy dugout from which a large number of prisoners was taken. That afternoon he was painfully wounded in the arm by an enemy rifle bullet and after receiving first-aid treatment was ordered to the rear. Disregarding these instructions, Lieutenant Bronson remained on duty with his company throughout the night although suffering from severe pain and shock. On September 27 when the attack was resumed, Lieutenant Bronson's company was in support. Nevertheless, he gallantly joined the assaulting line and took part in the capture of Eclisfontaine. Later he participated in the capture of a hostile machine gun, himself killing the enemy gunner. Shortly after this encounter, when the troops were compelled to retire because of the heavy enemy artillery barrage, Lieutenant Bronson, who was the last man to leave the advanced position, was wounded in both arms by an enemy high-explosive shell. He was then assisted to cover by another officer who applied first aid. Although bleeding profusely and faint from the loss of blood, Lieutenant Bronson remained with the front line that night refusing to go to the rear for treatment. His conspicuous gallantry was an inspiration to the members of his command and for his deeds he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

During the 91st Division advance between Véry and Eclisfontaine, on September 26, Corporal Philip C. Katz performed the heroic service for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. After his company had withdrawn about 200 yards to a line about 1 mile south of Eclisfontaine, Corporal Katz learned that one of his wounded comrades had been left in an exposed position. Voluntarily crossing an area swept by heavy machine-gun fire, he advanced to where the wounded soldier lay and carried him to a place of safety.

Epinonville, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of Eclisfontaine, was the 91st Div. Hdqrs., Sept. 28–Oct. 4, and 89th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 14–24.

During the severe fighting near Epinonville, Sergeant Lloyd M. Seibert, 91st Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Suffering from illness, he led his men with the highest courage and leadership under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. On September 26, with two other soldiers, he charged a machine-gun emplacement in advance of his company, he himself killing one of the enemy with a shotgun and capturing two others. In this encounter he was wounded but continued in action, and when a withdrawal was ordered he returned with the last unit, assisting a wounded comrade. Later in the evening he carried in wounded until overcome with exhaustion. On September 27, when his organization captured Epinonville, Sergeant Seibert was one of about ten soldiers who went through their own barrage into the village, where, according to his citation, he chased a group of 30 or more Germans along the main road until he dropped from exhaustion.

Exermont. In the severe fighting near here on October 4, Private Sterling Morelock, 1st Division, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. While his company was held up by heavy fire, Private Morelock voluntarily led three other men, who were acting as runners, as a patrol through his company's front line. Under intense rifle, machine-gun and artillery fire they penetrated a wood in which the German front line was located. The



A Dangerous Corner in Exermont,
October 7, 1918

patrol encountered a series of five hostile machine-gun nests, containing from one to five guns each, cleaned them all out, and held control of the situation until the arrival of reinforcements, even though all except Private Morelock had become casualties. He rendered first aid to the injured and evacuated them, using as stretcher bearers ten German prisoners whom he had captured. Soon thereafter his company commander was wounded and while dressing his wound Private Morelock was severely wounded in the hip, which forced his evacuation. His heroic action and devotion to duty were an inspiration to the entire regiment.

In the same attack of the 1st Division, Corporal Berte L. Kinkade, Private First Class Stanley Gancz and Private George W. Garner took an important part. When a German 77-millimeter field gun, supported by numerous machine guns, broke up the tank attack and held up the infantry advance, Corporal Kinkade, with Privates Gancz and Garner, both of whom were scouts, made an encircling movement on their own initiative under heavy fire and put the gun out of action, capturing the entire crew. They cleaned out the enemy dugouts in the vicinity and returned with 40 prisoners, including one infantry officer. All three men were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for their bravery.

Exmorieux Farm and the near-by Les Epinettes Bois. This farm and wood were captured by the 91st Division on September 28 against desperate resistance.

Forêt de Dieulet. Patrols of the 89th Division pushed through this wood on November 4 and reached the Meuse

River that same day. The engineers of the 89th Division built rafts in the Forêt de Dieulet which were floated down Wamme Creek to the Meuse where they were used in forcing a crossing of the river near Pouilly on November 10.

Forêt de Woëvre. This wood was cleared of the Germans by the 5th Division during November 9 and 10.

Fossé. This village was the location of the 2d Division Hdqrs., November 4-11.

Gesnes. In the vicinity of this village, situated at the foot of Romagne Heights, occurred some of the most desperate fighting of the war. The town itself was captured by the 91st Division on September 29 after two previous attacks that day had failed, but was abandoned the same night because it formed a sharp salient in the line. Soon after the war a small marker was erected near the church by the 362d Infantry, 91st Division, in commemoration of its fighting at Gesnes during this period. The town was recaptured by the 32d Division in savage fighting during October 5.

South of this village Major Oscar F. Miller, 91st Division, performed the exploits for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Although exhausted by two days of intense physical and mental strain, he reorganized his battalion and ordered an attack during September 28. Upon reaching the open ground, the advancing line commenced to

A Haircut Near the Front Lines



waver in the face of machine-gun fire from the front and flanks and from direct artillery fire. Personally leading his command group forward between his front-line companies Major Miller inspired his men by his personal courage and they again moved ahead. During this advance he was shot in the leg but he staggered on in front of his command.

vision on November 2. Location of the I Corps Hdqrs. from Nov. 5 to Nov. 10.

Hill 255, northwest of Gesnes. This hill was attacked by the 32d Division on October 4 and 5. On October 9 the 181st Brigade of the 91st Division, while attached to the 1st Division, reached a position just south of the crest in heavy fighting and occupied the hill the next day.



Brabant-sur-Meuse, November 3, 1918

Soon afterwards he was shot in the arm, but continued the charge, personally cheering his men on through the heavy machine-gun fire. Just before the objective was reached, he received a wound in the abdomen, which forced him to the ground, but he continued to urge his men ahead, telling them to push on to the next ridge and leave him. He died from the effects of his wounds a few days later.

The 89th Div. Hdqrs. was located at Gesnes during the period Oct. 24–Nov. 1.

Grange-aux-Bois Farm, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Cierges. Scene of heavy fighting by the 37th Division on September 28 and 29 and by the 91st Division on September 29. From the road near it is obtained an excellent view of the ground captured by the 3d and 32d Divisions during the severe fighting in this vicinity in early October.

Harricourt. Captured by the 77th Di-

Hill 263, in Le Petit Bois. This hill was captured by the 1st Division on October 9 after severe fighting.

Hill 269, in the Bois de Moncy. Elements of the 1st, 32d and 91st Divisions fought on this hill at various times between October 5 and 9. The crest was captured on October 8 by the 1st Engineers, a part of the 1st Division.

In the advance on October 7 First Lieutenant Edmund P. Arpin, 32d Division, won the Distinguished Service Cross for voluntarily leading a platoon of 41 men in an attack on Hill 269. Although all but four of his men became casualties, this small group under the leadership of Lieutenant Arpin continued on its mission, capturing a position on the hill and holding it for some time although there was no hope of his receiving reinforcements.

Hill 272, two miles east of Fléville.

Heavy fire from this strong position held up the advance of the 1st Division on October 5. A hostile counterattack stopped an attempt to outflank it on October 8, but it was stormed and captured by the 1st Division, in spite of terrific hostile artillery fire, in a brilliant assault on October 9. It is reported that more than 50 German machine guns were captured during the advance up its southern slope.

★ **Hill 285**, in the Argonne Forest. This was on the American jump-off line of September 26. It was the scene of hard fighting in 1914-15 and is marked by many deep mine craters. A French ossuary monument, called the Ossuaire de la Haute Chevauchée, which mentions the American units that served in the vicinity, is on the hill. To reach it from Varennes, go southwest on road leading toward Vienne-le-Château. After entering woods take first turn to the left and proceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the monument.

Hill 304, 1 mile north of Esnes. This hill was just behind the American jump-off line on September 26. It was the scene of severe French and German fighting in 1916 and 1917. A monument on its summit commemorates the French

defenders of the hill and French soldiers who died on it. The monument is difficult of access (1937) and is reached from the Esnes-Malancourt road. The 79th Div. Hdqrs. was located near this road at PC Zouave, 2 miles south of Malancourt, on September 26 and 27.

Jametz. Captured after dark on November 9 by troops of the 5th Division who waded one stream and swam the Loison River under hostile fire to attack the town. The troops could not hold it that night, but reoccupied it the next day after a short fight. A German aviation field was located near there.

La Besogne, in the Argonne Forest 2 miles west of Cornay. Location of 78th Div. Headquarters, Oct. 31-Nov. 3.

La Claire, 200 yards north of Bois Bourrus. Location of 80th Div. Hdqrs. during the period Sept. 26-Oct. 1.

La Forge, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southeast of Montblainville. Captured by the 28th Division on September 27. Location of 28th Div. Hdqrs., Sept. 30-Oct. 9, and 82d Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 9-13.

La Wavrille. The French 26th Division engaged in heavy fighting on this wooded height from October 8 to 11.

Salvation Army Workers Near Varennes Giving Fresh Doughnuts to Soldiers
Just in From the Front Line, October 1918



The height was captured by troops of the American 26th Division on November 9.

Le Champy Bas. This village was captured by the 89th Division on November 3. In this attack, Captain Marcellus H. Chiles took a heroic part. When his battalion, of which he had just taken command, was halted by machine-gun fire, he picked up the rifle of a dead soldier and calling on his men to follow, led the advance across a stream waist deep. Upon reaching the opposite bank this gallant officer was seriously wounded, but before permitting himself to be evacuated he made complete arrangements for turning over his command to the next senior officer. Under the inspiration of his fearlessness, Captain Chiles' battalion reached its objective. He died shortly after reaching the hospital for treatment and was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

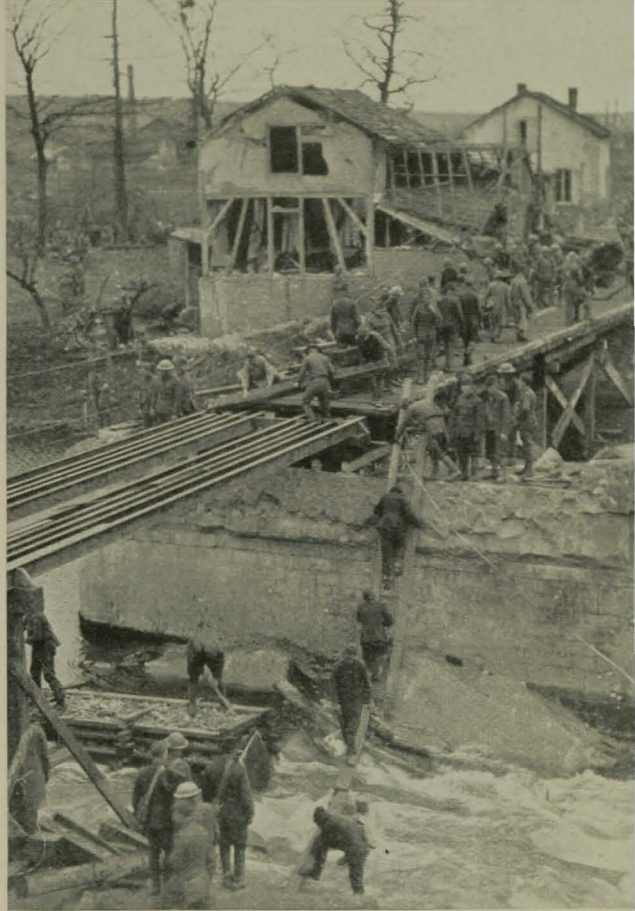
Le Champy Haut, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southwest of Le Champy Bas. In an unsuccessful attack on this place on the morning of November 3, the 2d Division sustained heavy losses. The town was later occupied by the division without opposition.

Le Houppy Bois, east of Molleville Farm, was captured on October 23 by the 26th Division. That night it was violently bombarded by the German artillery.

Les Côtes de Forimont, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of Neuville. In a dugout near the southern edge of the woods on these hills was located the 35th Division Hdqrs., for the period Sept. 25-28, and the I Corps Hdqrs., Sept. 29-Nov. 2.

Maisoncelle. Captured by the 42d Division on November 6. Location of the 42d Div. Hdqrs., November 7-10.

Montrebeau, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of Exermont. In the attack on this wood on October 4, Corporal Harold W. Roberts, Tank Corps, was driving his tank into a clump of bushes to afford protection to a disabled tank when his tank slid into a water-filled shell hole, ten feet deep, and was immediately submerged. Knowing that only one of the two men in the tank could escape, Corporal Roberts said to the gunner "Well, only one of us can get out, and out you go," whereupon he



American Soldiers Constructing Heavy Timber Bridge at Dun-sur-Meuse, November 1918

pushed his companion through the back door of the tank and was himself drowned. He was later posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In the same attack Sergeants Harold J. Ash and Harley N. Nichols, Tank Corps, took a gallant part. Driving their tank in the face of direct 77-millimeter gun fire into the extreme eastern part of Montrebeau, it was put out of action by an enemy shell. These men continued for some minutes to fire on a machine-gun nest which was firing on them, then dismounted and attacked the nest. They killed the two gunners and disabled the guns, and then drove the crew from another machine gun. Under the protection of another tank, they started to their own lines, nearly a mile away. On the way back, they encountered two Germans with anti-tank rifles and captured the rifles. Both men were under heavy machine-gun and artillery fire throughout this operation. They were awarded Distinguished Service Crosses.

Montzéville. Location of III Corps Headquarters during the period from September 29 to October 26.

Moulin de l'Homme Mort. Four companies of the 77th Division succeeded in penetrating the German lines in the Argonne Forest on September 28, reaching a position about 200 yards south of this mill. The units on the flanks of this force had not kept abreast of it, and soon the Germans succeeded in infiltrating behind this group, cutting it off from the remainder of the division. These four companies remained thus surrounded by the enemy until the evening of September 30. On September 29 First Lieutenant Arthur F. McKeogh, accompanied by Privates First Class Jack Herschkowitz and John J. Monson, attempted to reestablish communications with regimental headquarters, in order to obtain ammunition and food. In the afternoon they were attacked by a hostile force. Killing one of the enemy, they eluded the others. When night came they crawled unknowingly into the center of a German camp, where they lay for over three hours, undetected. Finally discovered, they made a dash to escape, each drawing hostile fire. They succeeded in getting through the enemy lines and delivered valuable information to regimental headquarters, which helped in the relief of the beleaguered group. For this daring exploit each of the three men was

awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Musarde Farm, near the southern tip of Côte de Châtillon. Scene of heavy fighting by the 42d Division from October 14 to 16, when it was finally captured.

Neuville-le-Comte Farm, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Exermont. Captured by the 35th Division on September 29, in an attack made under severe artillery fire, but not held due to a heavy German counterattack launched that noon. On October 4 it was recaptured by the 1st Division in spite of desperate hostile opposition.

Nouart. V Corps Hdqrs., Nov. 7-11.

★ **Ossuaire de la Haute Chevauchée.** See the account given under Hill 285.

★ **Ossuary of Douaumont.** 4 miles northeast of Verdun, near Fort Douaumont, stands the Ossuary of Douaumont, a large memorial to the French dead of the Verdun battles of 1916 and 1917. A French military cemetery adjoins it.

The "Trench of Bayonets", where a number of French soldiers are supposed to have been buried standing up, is located about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away on the road to Bras. It is sheltered by a concrete structure donated by an American citizen.

PC Gorgia, $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles north of Clermont. 28th Div. Headquarters, Sept. 24-27.

PC La Hutte, in the Bois Bourrus. 33d Div. Headquarters, Sept. 25-Oct. 21.

PC Pau, near Fontaine des Emerlots, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles southwest of La Chalade. 77th Div. Headquarters, Sept. 25-Oct. 2.

Peuwillers. Early on November 9 troops of the 32d Division attached to the 5th Division relieved units of the French 15th Colonial Division who had occupied this village the previous day. East of the village on November 10 the 32d Division had considerable fighting.

Polka Farm, 1 mile northwest of Sommauthe. Heavy resistance near this farm checked the advance of the 77th and 80th Divisions on November 4. The farm was captured on the 5th by the 80th Division.

Ramont. Location of the III Corps Hdqrs., Sept. 14-29, during the initial attack of the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Rarécourt. Location of the I Corps Hdqrs., Sept. 18-29, during the initial attack of the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Town Hall at Souilly Where First Army Headquarters Was Located



Raucourt. Location of the 77th Div. Hdqrs. during the period from Nov. 7-11.

Ravine aux Pierres, northeast of St. Juvin. The 82d Division engaged in bitter fighting near this ravine from October 14 to 16 and occupied it on October 21. On November 1 the 77th and 80th Divisions suffered heavy losses in an attack launched from the ravine.

St. Christophe, $\frac{3}{8}$ mile east of Cunel. An entrenched German position there was attacked twice by the 80th Division on October 10 without success but on the next day, as the result of two attacks, part of it was captured. On the 12th the 5th Division fought in the vicinity and on October 14 the area was finally captured by the troops of the 3d Division.

St. Georges. Elements of the 42d and 82d Divisions fought severe actions with the Germans south and west of this place on October 14 and 15. It was captured by a joint detachment of the 2d and 80th Divisions on November 1 after a determined fight during the main attack.

Sérieux Farm, 1 mile west of Eclisfontaine. The 91st Division overcame strong resistance here on September 28.

Sivry-les-Buzancy. This village was captured by the 80th Division on November 2. It is reported that while 45 American officers were discussing plans in an old stable that night for the next day's attack, a large shell came through the roof, causing casualties among them.

Sommauthe. Captured on November 4 by the 80th Division. Stiff resistance was encountered on the hill south of town and in the woods to the north.

★**Souilly.** Location of First Army Headquarters from September 21 to the end of hostilities. The United States Government has placed a bronze plaque on the town hall recording this fact.

Tailly. Captured on November 2 by the 89th Division after overcoming strong machine-gun resistance. The town formed a salient in the line that night. 89th Div. Headquarters, November 4-11.

Talma, farm and village, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Grandpré. These were in the Hindenburg Line. French troops captured them on October 16 but



Signal Corps Photographer Taking Pictures
in St. Juvin

were driven out the next day. From October 18 to 27 the 78th Division engaged in heavy fighting in their vicinity, capturing the farm on October 18 and the hill east of the village on October 25. This outflanked the hostile position on the hill north of Grandpré, which was captured on the 27th in desperate fighting. Talma village was occupied by the 78th Division on October 30.

During the attack by the 78th Division on October 23 against the hill east of Talma, Private Parker F. Dunn won the Congressional Medal of Honor. When his battalion commander found it necessary to send a message to a company in the attacking line and hesitated to order a runner to make the trip because of the extreme danger involved, Private Dunn, a member of the intelligence section, volunteered for the mission. After advancing across a field swept by artillery and machine-gun fire, he was wounded but continued on, falling wounded a second time. Still undaunted, he persistently attempted to carry out his mission until he was killed by a machine-gun bullet before reaching the advance line.

Tannay. Entered early on November 5 by patrols of the 78th Division. Later that day elements of the 42d Division passed through the 78th Division about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile northeast of the village and continued the advance to the north.

Transvaal Farm, on the southern slope of Côte Dame Marie. Scene of heavy fighting on October 9 and 10 by soldiers of the 32d Division. The farm was finally captured by the division on October 10.

Tronsol Farm, 1¼ miles southwest of Gesnes. Captured by the 91st Division after a hard fight on September 28 and held against a vigorous German counter-attack the next afternoon. The 32d Division had heavy fighting north of the farm.

Tuilerie Farm, near the eastern end of Côte de Châtillon. Scene of severe fighting, October 15-16, by the 42d Division.

Verrières-en-Hesse Farm, 2½ miles southeast of Avocourt. Location of the 37th Division Hdqrs., Sept. 23-26, and of the V Corps Hdqrs., Sept. 29-Oct. 21.

Véry. Captured about noon September 26 by the 91st Division. The headquarters of the division was located at a road junction ½ mile southwest of Véry during the period September 26-28.

Ville-aux-Bois Farm, ¾ mile southeast of Cunel. Scene of heavy fighting by the 80th Division on October 5, 9 and 10.

Villers-devant-Dun. Captured by the 90th Div. during November 2. 90th Div. Headquarters from November 3 to 10.

Ville-sur-Cousances. Location of the V Corps Hdqrs. from September 18 to 29.



Church Services at Verdun, October 18, 1918



FACTS CONCERNING GERMAN DIVISIONS WHICH SERVED ON THE MEUSE-ARGONNE FRONT, SEPTEMBER 26-NOVEMBER 11, 1918

Divisions moved to Meuse-Argonne front.....	34
Divisions moved from front.....	15
Divisions on front September 26 (a.m.).....	16
Divisions in line twice.....	13
Divisions in line three times.....	5
Divisions which came from British front.....	3
Divisions sent to British front.....	1
Divisions which came from French fronts other than Vosges.....	18
Divisions sent to French fronts other than Vosges.....	9
Divisions which came from Vosges.....	3
Divisions sent to Vosges.....	1
Divisions which came from St. Mihiel region.....	10
Divisions sent to St. Mihiel region.....	4

SUMMARY OF COMBAT SERVICE OF AMERICAN DIVISIONS
IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE REGION

<i>Name of Div.</i>	<i>Period of Service 1918</i>	<i>Character of Service</i>	<i>Location of Service General vicinity of—</i>	<i>Army to Which Attached ¹</i>	<i>Corps to Which Attached ¹</i>	<i>Casualties ²</i>
1	Oct. 1-12.....	Battle.....	Exermont and Côte de Maldah.	First.....	I until Oct. 7, then V.	7,772 (459)
	Nov. 6-8.....	Battle.....	South of Sedan.....	First.....	V.....	583
2	Oct. 31-Nov. 11	Battle.....	Landres-et-St. Georges, Beaumont and Moulins.	First.....	V.....	3,282 (61)
3	Sept. 30-Oct. 27	Battle.....	Madeleine Farm and Bois de Forêt.	First.....	V until Oct. 12, then III.	7,708 (165)
4	Sept. 26-Oct. 19	Battle.....	Septsarges and Bois de Fays.	First.....	III.....	5,820 (396)
5	Oct. 12-22.....	Battle.....	Cunel.....	First.....	III.....	4,184 (159)
	Oct. 27-Nov. 11	Battle.....	Dun-sur-Meuse and Jametz.	First.....	III.....	2,083 (267)
26	Oct. 14-Nov. 11	Battle.....	Ville-devant-Chaumont.	First.....	Fr. XVII until Nov. 6, then Fr. II CAC.	4,666
28	Sept. 20-25....	Sector.....	Boureuilles.....	Fr. Second until Sept. 22, then First.	Fr. IX until Sept. 21, then I.	97
	Sept. 26-Oct. 9.	Battle.....	Côtes des Perrières, Apremont and Châtel-Chéhéry.	First.....	I.....	4,131 (106)
29	Oct. 8-30.....	Battle.....	Bois de Consenvoye and Molleville Farm.	First.....	Fr. XVII.....	4,746 (219)
32	Sept. 30-Oct. 20	Battle.....	Côte Dame Marie and Romagne-sous-Montfaucon.	First.....	V.....	5,148 (370)
	Nov. 9-11.....	Battle.....	Bois de Jametz.....	First.....	III.....	476 (11)
33	Sept. 10-25....	Sector.....	Béthincourt.....	Fr. Second until Sept. 22, then First.	Fr. XVII until Sept. 14, then III.	48 (24)
	Sept. 26-Oct. 21	Battle.....	Forges and Consenvoye	First.....	III until Oct. 7, then Fr. XVII.	3,904 (82)
35	Sept. 21-25....	Sector.....	Vauquois.....	Fr. Second until Sept. 22, then First.	I.....	100
	Sept. 26-Oct. 1.	Battle.....	Cheppy and Baulny....	First.....	I.....	6,006
37	Sept. 23-25....	Sector.....	Avocourt.....	First.....	V.....	40 (5)
	Sept. 26-30....	Battle.....	Bois de Montfaucon and Ivoiry.	First.....	V.....	3,060 (14)
42	Oct. 12-31....	Battle.....	Côte de Châtillon and east of Sommerance.	First.....	V.....	3,679 (91)
	Nov. 5-10.....	Battle.....	Grandes Armoises and south of Sedan.	First.....	I.....	357

See footnotes, end of table.

SUMMARY OF COMBAT SERVICE—Continued

Name of Div.	Period of Service 1918	Character of Service	Location of Service General vicinity of—	Army to Which Attached ¹	Corps to Which Attached ¹	Casualties ²
77	Sept. 21–25.....	Sector.....	Argonne Forest.....	Fr. Second until Sept. 22, then First.	I.....	93
	Sept. 26–Oct. 16	Battle.....	Argonne Forest and St. Juvin.	First.....	I.....	4,061
	Oct. 31–Nov. 11	Battle.....	Champigneulle, Bar and Villers-devant-Mouzon.	First.....	I until Nov. 10, then V.	897
78	Oct. 16–Nov. 5.	Battle.....	Grandpré and Verrières	First.....	I.....	4,876
79	Sept. 16–25.....	Sector.....	Avocourt.....	Fr. Second until Sept. 22, then First.	III until Sept. 21, then V.	103 (1)
	Sept. 26–30.....	Battle.....	Malancourt, Montfaucou and Nantillois.	First.....	V.....	3,529 (65)
	Oct. 30–Nov. 11	Battle.....	Borne de Cornouiller and Wavrille.	First.....	Fr. XVII until Nov. 6, then Fr. II CAC.	2,347 (96)
80	Sept. 26–29.....	Battle.....	Béthincourt and Danneveux.	First.....	III.....	790 (1)
	Oct. 4–12.....	Battle.....	Southeast of Cunel.....	First.....	III.....	2,767
	Oct. 31–Nov. 6.	Battle.....	Imécourt, Buzancy and Beaumont.	First.....	I.....	1,219 (69)
82	Oct. 7–31.....	Battle.....	Cornay and Marcq.....	First.....	I.....	6,369 (8)
89	Oct. 20–Nov. 11.	Battle.....	Rémonville, Barricourt and Stenay.	First.....	V.....	3,864 (267)
90	Oct. 22–Nov. 11.	Battle.....	Bantheville, Andevanne and Stenay.	First.....	III.....	3,492 (267)
91	Sept. 20–25.....	Sector.....	East of Vauquois.....	First.....	V.....	39
	Sept. 26–Oct. 4.	Battle.....	Bois de Cheppy and Epinonville.	First.....	V.....	4,568 (131)
92 (368th Inf. only)	Sept. 25.....	Sector.....	Northeast of Vienne-le-Château.	Fr. Fourth.....	Fr. XXXVIII.....	4
	Sept. 26–Oct. 1.	Battle.....	Binarville and to the south.	Fr. Fourth.....	Fr. XXXVIII.....	266
93 (370th Inf. only)	July 23–Aug. 15.	Sector.....	Vauquois.....	Fr. Second.....	Fr. XIII.....	10
93 (371st Inf. only)	June 22–Sept. 14.	Training in Line and Sector.	Avocourt.....	Fr. Second.....	Fr. XIII until Aug. 21, then Fr. XVII.	40
93 (372d Inf. only)	June 6–July 14.	Training in Line.	Boureuilles.....	Fr. Second.....	Fr. XIII.....	15
	July 25–Sept. 9.	Sector.....	Béthincourt.....	Fr. Second.....	Fr. XIII until Aug. 21, then Fr. XVII.	16

¹ All armies and corps are American unless otherwise indicated. In this table Fr. = French.

² Casualties are for period in line only. Figures in parentheses give casualties for units temporarily attached. Add figure in parentheses to the one above in order to obtain total casualties during the entire operation.