

# 26th HAS PIVOTAL POINT IN ATTACK ON MARNE SALIENT

**Continued from Page 1**  
 Forest de Villers-Cotterets should be hampered in. This required the left of the division to attack northward and north-eastward, pivoting on Bouréches and guiding on the 107th French Division, to its left, never getting ahead of the latter but swinging gradually to the north-east until the whole front to its left should have been straightened.

This accomplished, it would next be necessary for the right of the division to attack, half of it to the eastward and half of it to the northward, conquer the woods in front and then execute a half-turn to the northeast to bring its front in alignment with the general front. Then, and then only, a straight-ahead advance to the northward would be in order. It was a problem for Yankee ingenuity to solve and, as usual, it was solved.

**Out of Bois de Belleau**  
 Three support battalions of General Cole's brigade went through the front line without artillery preparation but covered by a neutralization fire from the batteries of the 101st Field Artillery, at 4:35 o'clock that morning, the 2nd Battalion of the 103rd Infantry charging northeast to take the Bois de Belleau, the 3rd Battalion of the 103rd going north to take Belleau and Givry and the railroad between them, and the 3rd Battalion of the 103rd on the left, also going north to take Forey and the railroad beyond.

A heavy morning mist favored the attack and the enemy—the C.C.I.S. Division of General von Boehm's VIII German Army—was taken by surprise. At 5:30 a.m. a signal rocket thrown up from Forey announced to the American observation posts that the 2nd Battalion of the 103rd Infantry was in the town, which, in fact, they immediately went beyond, taking the railroad grade and creek bank, where they consolidated their position.

The center battalion, becoming confused in the darkness of the Bois de Belleau, had its attack delayed and did not jump off until 7:30. At that time, although the enemy was now thoroughly aroused and making a vigorous resistance, the Americans went through everything, cleaned up Belleau and then Givry in a sharp bayonet fight which was over by 8:30, and then, enfilading the Union troops at Missionary Ridge, rushed on halfway up the slopes of Hill 193, north of Givry, before they could be stopped.

**Enfiladed from Hill 193**  
 This hill, however, was in the sector of the 107th French Division and though the advancing troops of the latter were still far from it the Americans were recalled and the German machine gunners reoccupied it, as from it they had a commanding enfilade fire westward along the front of the 107th Division and a still better fire southward on any position the Americans might take up along the creek valley or the hills east of it, as at Bouréches.

This fact had a direct bearing on the attack of the American right battalion, which went over, with the center battalion, at 7:30 and captured the railroad and also the creek beyond, but

was obliged to fall back from the latter and to remain clinging only with the greatest difficulty to the railroad grade owing to the enfilade fire from Hill 193. Here Captain Mosford's men, burrowing out fox holes along the grade, stayed away, while many such acts of heroism were performed as those of Mechanic J. A. Thibodeau, who aided the wounded under fire until a shot in the hand prevented him from carrying stretchers any longer, when he joined the line and continued fighting until shot again in the leg.

But across the fire-swept belt in rear of them it was impossible to bring supplies or ammunition, and after dark they fell back to the edge of the woods, the detachment of the 102nd Infantry which had gone forward with them and taken the Bouréches railroad station contriving to remain in possession of this slightly less exposed point.

The battalion in Forey and that under Major Lewis in Belleau and Givry were not so badly off where they lay, but the ground between them and the woods was an inferno, and on it out of 22 runners going back and forth with messages during the day, five were killed and 12 wounded, only a few getting through as did Pvt. John W. Roy, Company H, who delivered one message after seeing three preceding runners killed and one wounded on the same route which he took.

There was nothing now for the 26th to do but hold on grimly and wait for the 107th Division to attain its first objective—the line Givry-Monthiers which included the summit of Hill 193. On the evening of the 18th the French were nearly up to Lley-Clignon and the next evening they were circling the western base of Hill 193. So, assuming that they would take the hill in a simultaneous assault, a general advance of the 26th Division was ordered for 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 20th, the object being to align the whole front facing northeast on an intermediate objective line along the hill crests beyond the creek valley and extending from Les Brusses Farm, about a kilometer east of Belleau, through Hill 193 to La Gonerie Farm.

**Division Provides Barrage**  
 There was no preliminary fire by the corps artillery, but under such barrage as could be afforded by that of the division, the attack went off on time. On the division right, the assault troops of General Johnston's 51st brigade successfully solved their difficult problem, the 3rd Battalion of the 102nd Infantry, on the left, going northeast into the Bois de Bouréches and clearing it, after which, on the other flank, the 3rd Battalion of the 101st Infantry drove north into the Bois de la Halmarrière, enfilading on the left when in contact with the other battalion and thus swinging itself to face northeast also.

On the division left, the 52nd Brigade had a harder time. The shifting of battalions under the enemy's fire from a front facing north to make an attack eastward involved some nice maneuvering, but Major Lewis' herd men went out of Belleau, up the railroad, across the creek and took Les Brusses Farm on the creek and took Les Brusses Farm on

schedule time, while Major Hanson's 1st Battalion of the 102nd Infantry leaving the Bois de Belleau and surmounting the same obstacles a little farther south, rushed forward with machine gun nests, took some prisoners, guns and ammunition and was firmly in possession of Hill 193 and in liaison with the troops in the Bois de Bouréches by 6 p. m. But, unfortunately, the 107th French Division, in two gallant assaults, was unable to take Hill 193, and through the night the German machine guns so swept the American left that the captors of Les Brusses Farm were isolated there.

The unit, however, was cracked. On the morning of the 21st the Germans, reeling from their repulse along 60 bloody miles to the eastward and fearful now of being strangled out of Chateau-Thierry between the 29th and 3rd United States and the 39th French divisions were in full retreat. Leaving behind them at last the woods and the fields in which for more than seven weeks, while the wheat ripened and the poppies bloomed and faded, the doggedness of America had been pitted against the stubbornness of Germany, the 20th swept forward in pursuit.

**Enemy Stands in Creek Valley**  
 All day long it was a matter of marching across country in columns headed by advance guards, and it was not until near evening, after a march of almost nine kilometers had carried the advance far across the Soissons-Chateau-Thierry highway, that heavy machine gun fire stopped the forward movement and brought warning that the enemy had made a stand in the broad, shallow creek valley in which lie the tiny villages of Trigny and, a kilometer north of it, Epiédes.

Half a kilometer east of the villages, up the gently sloping fields, was the leafy margin of the Bois de Trigny, bristling, of course, with hidden machine guns and spreading out southward into the greater forest of the Bois de Barbillon. The same old Allied divisions, in fact, were up against the point of the same old German salient, somewhat blunted since it had dropped back six kilometers from Chateau-Thierry but still a point, with the 26th United States on one side of it, the 39th French tearing blindly at the apex in the obscurity of the Bois de Barbillon, and the 2nd United States on the other side scaling the ravines from the Marne with its left flank, at Mont St. Pere, not four kilometers from Trigny.

Excepting for the advance guard under Major Lewis, most of the troops of the 26th snatched a few hours' rest two or three kilometers west of the German machine guns in Epiédes and Trigny and along the country road between. But at gray dawn they set out again, with the Bois de Barbillon, and the 2nd Infantry advancing on Epiédes, two and one-half battalions of the 102nd going for Trigny and two battalions of the 101st moving along the edge of the Bois de Barbillon, about a kilometer south of Trigny, in an attempt to flank the villages.

The divisional batteries, equipped four or five kilometers back, did not know

where the front lines were and could not deliver an effective barrage, while the enemy's artillery, adjusted by airplanes, poured in a deluge of gas and high explosive. Moreover, there was an uncaptured German machine gun straggled at La Gouttière Farm, in the sector of the 107th Division, which galled the assaulting troops in left flank and rear.

### Deluge of Gas and H.E.

Yet the men of the left and center went 1,000 or more, into the edges of Trigny and Epiédes before they were turned back, while the 101st Machine Gun Battalion, skirting with the infantry of its regiment the Bois de Barbillon, penetrated the Bois de Trigny, and, when finally forced back by concentrated fire, stopped defiantly directly south of Trigny and stayed there, on the enemy's flank. Three battalions of General Cole's troops repeated the attack on the left in the afternoon, but with no better success, for La Gouttière Farm was still untaken, the 107th Division being engaged all day in a bitter struggle beating off German counter-attacks—a struggle in which the 26th Division artillery several times took command by extending its zone of fire generally across the 107th's sector. Liaison was very difficult under such conditions, but it was maintained by men like Cpl. J. L. Casey, Company I, 102nd Infantry, who once established communication between his own and the regiment on the left across an open field 500 yards wide after other men had been killed by machine guns in making the attempt.

The location of the American front line being more accurately known on the morning of the 23rd, the artillery prepared the way by fire of destruction for a renewal of the attack from the right flank on the Bois de Trigny, which was made by the 101st Infantry extended to the left by the 2nd Battalion of the 101st Engineers, under Major Greenway.

At first handsome progress was made, and at noon the battle line was in the eastern part of the woods. But later it encountered concentrations of machine guns in front and on both flanks so numerous and so skilfully concealed that they could not be overcome, and the assailants, after suffering heavy losses, were forced to fall back to the other edge of the woods, leaving a good many wounded men among the trees. The intensity of the struggle here was illustrated by such acts as that of Sgt. J. W. Casey, Company I, who, after capturing with his platoon two machine gun nests and killing the occupants, dashed out single-handed and killed three German snipers who were shooting at his men.

### 56th Brigade Jumps In

The division by this time was so wearied by its losses and its desperate fighting that during the night the corps command placed Brig. Gen. William Weigel's 56th Infantry Brigade, of the 28th United States Division, at the disposal of General Edwards to assist in carrying forward the attack. Its positions were made accordingly, but about 1 o'clock on the morning of the 24th patrols found that the enemy, like a

fencer on guard, had again jumped back.

Once more came the majestic forward sweep of the Allied battle front across the hills, the 26th following in its sector with the motorized 100th Machine Gun Battalion (divisional), in lieu of cavalry, leading the pursuit in the direction of the Jaulgonne-Fère-en-Tardenois high-northeast of the Bois de Trigny. Pushing through the central part of the Forest de Fère, the advance was held up just west of the road early in the evening by machine gun fire coming from the clearing and the massively constructed buildings of La Croix Rouge Farm.

The flank divisions having also been stopped by opposition along the same line, the 26th waited for daylight to resume the push toward the Ourcq, but before that time the arrival of the 42nd United States Division by autobus permitted the weary 26th to be at last relevelled. Leaving the 1st Artillery Brigade and the 101st Engineers to go on for a time with the fresh division, the 26th marched back to a rest area at Epiédes, the command of the front sector passing from General Edwards to General Menoher at 7 p. m., July 25.

The division in its eight days of continuous battle had advanced a distance of 15 1/2 kilometers, captured about 250 prisoners, four field pieces, numerous machine guns, one pontoon train, and quantities of ammunition. Its losses had been about 5,300 officers and men, of whom 600 were killed. The general commanding estimated that the permanent losses, including killed, missing and badly wounded or gassed, were about 2,000, many of the casualties being due to the fact that the division, after gaining its first objectives, had to wait during two days under severe fire for the forces to the left to come up to the line established at the pivot by "New England's Own."

(The work of the other American divisions which participated in the July counter-offensive will be described next week, together with a map that will include the advance of the 26th.)

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## 'ON WITH THE DANCE' SLOGAN AT COBLENZ

New Year's Ball Draws Hundreds of Officers to Casino

## MEN SPORT IN MASQUERADE

Season Starts With Bang for Elite and Not So Elite of Army of Occupation

New Year's night did it—tore the lid right off the social season of the American Army of Occupation and flung it into the Rhine. And now they are having dances galore at Coblenz and in the bridgehead, together with such ultra-elite affairs as the dancings.

The grand opening, on the night of January 7, was held at the officers' new club, the Casino, a famous old building at 12 Casino strasse where in days gone by, the super-fashionables of Coblenz and vicinity were wont to gather.

The dance New Year's night, at which Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman was present, began at 8 in the huge ball room, and to fill the cup of happiness to the team and beyond, there were a lot of real American girls present—Red Cross nurses, Y.M.C.A. canteen workers, Canadian nurses and others.

But the dance, held in the afternoon of New Year's Day, from 4 to 6, must be more than honorably mentioned. It was certainly the finest the dancings in the history of the whole A.E.F. The ladies came at 4. At 6 there was supper, and from 8 that evening until 4 the following morning the general scramble for partners was on.

### Generals, Colonels, Everybody

For there were hundreds and hundreds of officers—generals, colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors and captains, staff officers, and even a few lieutenants and flyers. Of the lieutenants there were certainly more in Coblenz and vicinity than there were at the dance—considerably more. Why they did not appear in greater numbers is one of the mysteries of the evening. But there really was only a sprinkling of them.

General Dickman led the grand march at midnight. His partner was Miss Polly Ellis of New Orleans and Evacuation Hospital No. 6. Then came six other generals, and after them the high ranking staff officers, together with Canadian and French officers, and more Americans until the long, long line doubled and re-doubled on itself around the ball.

And there were refreshments, or rather, there should have been refreshments. But when the salad was brought up and tasted before being placed upon the tables there was consternation. The salad tasted queerly, so queerly, indeed, that deep, dark suspicion instantly attached itself to the Germans who had the preparation. For a long time nothing could be made of their incoherent and vehement statements, but finally the mystery was explained. The salad had been burnt.

But this wasn't all. The punch tasted odd, too; and when this mystery had been unraveled it was found that the low-moving Teuton mind had not quite grasped the idea of how to make American punch, and had made a hot punch of it. So the refreshment part of the evening was spoiled. However, no one minded this—and at the end of the "evening" everyone voted the grand opening a superlative success.

The lid was surely off. The very next night the enlisted men got into the swim with an affair of their own at the

## PLAN TO DELIVER THIRD LOAN BONDS

Personnel Officers to Compile Lists of Men Who Made Allotments

In order to expedite the delivery of Third Liberty Loan bonds as soon after January 21 as possible, G.O. 235 has been issued directing the course to be followed. The order reads:

In order that the Third Liberty Loan bonds purchased by allotment to the Secretary of the Treasury may be delivered promptly after January 31, 1919, personnel officers of the American Expeditionary Forces, holding allotments to the Director of Finance, Pay of the Army Division, Washington, D.C., on ordinary pay roll (and No. 366 War Department) in alphabetical list of all enlisted men in each organization or detachment who are in service on January 31, 1919, and who have contributed to such allotments to the Secretary of the Treasury.

This list will be made out at the time of the preparation of the quarterly pay roll and as soon as possible after the close of the month, and will show the enlisted man's present rank, date of enlistment, serial number, the organization in which he was serving at the time the allotment was made, name and full address of beneficiaries (if self designated as beneficiary and soldier's signature on file with the records of the organization in which he was serving at the time the allotment was made, and the nature of the allotment, the reason therefor will be stated. This list will bear the certificate of the personnel officer that it is correct as shown by the records of the organization, that the amount set opposite each man's name has been deducted from his pay on account of his allotment to the Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D.C., for the Third Liberty Loan bonds, or that sufficient amount has accrued to permit of its deduction.

The names of men who made allotments to institutions other than the Secretary of the Treasury must not be included in these lists.

Fest Hall, the great municipal theater and singing hall. This party took the shape of a stag dance, in costume, and it was a riot. There was a band that nearly tore the roof off, and there were only two or three women canteen workers present, the boys, after settling the vexatious question of which bird should do the leading, managed to get along very well.

And the costumes. The prize winner was dressed in a Y.M.C.A. woman worker's dress, and he was wigwag, and he was graceful and he had a nifty ankle; and he and his partner were the hit of the ball. There were troubadours and gladiators, Indians and Crusaders, one Death's Head Hussar, and one nymph all dressed in green. She puzzled everyone as to what she represented, but finally someone who had been reading up on the legends of the Rhine decided she was Die Lorelei. There were, oddly enough, no caricatures of the ex-Kaiser or the Crown Prince, whether from a desire not to hurt the Coblenzians' feelings or because of the fact that those twin even in elly might spoil the party is not known, and there were few strictly military costumes.

A club has been formed in Trier, advanced G.I.Q., and the officers there held an informal opening New Year's Eve. There was a dance at Neuwied, down the Rhine, where the Marines held forth—and the Red Cross nurses and other ladies who were invited, taken down in motor trucks. Incidentally, the American women in that section of the country are going to have a busy winter. And there was a dance at the headquarters of the 1st Division last Saturday night. And so it goes.

### BETTER EAT IT NOW

Mess sergeants who don't let their men eat their cake now will find they won't be allowed to let them keep it when they get back to the States, for "company funds accruing from ration savings will, upon the disbanding of an organization, be converted into notes on the Treasury of the United States, to the credit of Miscellaneous Receipts," according to a recent memo from Washington. The memorandum continues:

Other funds of company funds on hand after all indebtedness of disbanding organization shall have been paid will be converted into a check drawn to the order of the Director of Finance, Purchases, Storage and Traffic Divisions with statement showing sources from which the funds are derived. . . . Amounts to be deposited with Treasury of United States to credit of special deposit account; . . . these funds to be used for such purposes as may be directed by the Secretary of War.

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