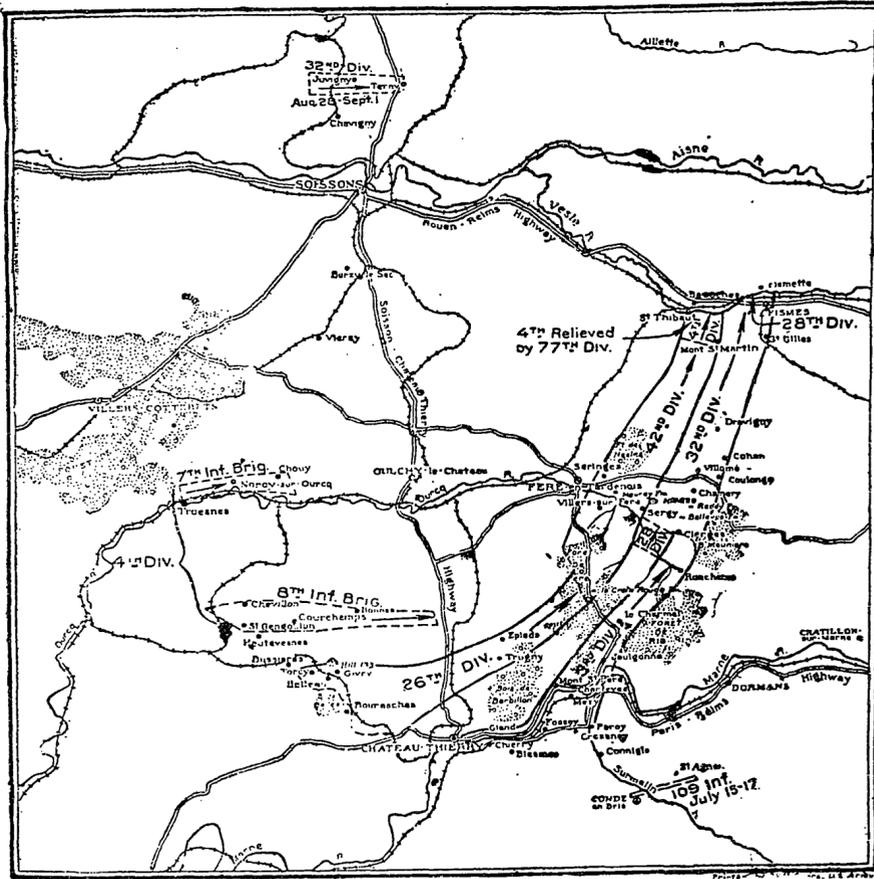


3rd MEETS SHOCK SOUTH OF MARNE



The paths of the American divisions which helped drive the Boche from the Marne to the Vesle

Continued from Page 1
 between Jaulgonne and Chavigny. In the sector of the 125th French Division, crossings by boats of pontoon bridges were vigorously striven for by troops of the 33d German Division on the right of the XXXVIII Division on the left.

Company Gets Across
 At Ru Chally Farm about one company of the 33d German Infantry Regiment got over after the rest of it had been killed or scattered by the American artillery. This company took the farm but could not progress beyond Possy, so, turning east, worked its way along the valley in the direction of Mezy and was eventually all disposed of by elements of the 30th and 7th Infantry, Companies E and F of the latter, under Major Gaston, sticking persistently to the railroad grade toward Mezy despite the presence of these Germans in their rear.

Near Mezy and up the river above it in the Jaulgonne Bend, the enemy got two pontoon bridges laid, and a great number of troops poured across, including the 11, 14th, the 1, 15th and the 16th and 17th Grenadier Regiments, of which the last two were in the 14th regiment, respectively, of the XXXVIII and the 33d divisions. After a bloody struggle, took Mezy from a platoon of the 20th Infantry, which fought to practical annihilation, but in moving forward were all either killed or captured by elements of the 20th Infantry of Major Walker's battalion.

Lines of battle were hastily formed near Possy by Major Duto from platoon fragments of the 7th Infantry and prolonged toward the Surlinval river by a battalion of the 20th Infantry under Major Paschal. This line was always held intact. By 8 o'clock in the morning the fighting on the left and center had virtually ended in an American victory, in which more than 500 prisoners and 50 machine guns were captured.

33th's Right Flank Exposed
 On the extreme right, however, the situation was for a time more serious than anywhere else. The 125th Division fell back from the Marne when the Germans came over, thus exposing the right flank of the 33d United States Infantry to attack from the Jaulgonne Bend and the high hills extending southward from it along the east side of the Surlinval valley.

The 33d was thus obliged to throw its right flank around facing northeast across the hill slope toward Vesle, which the enemy had seized, while other elements of the regiment held their position on the bank of the Marne and still others were echeloned in depth down the east side of the Surlinval valley covering the villages of Moidins, Paroy and Launoy, a depth of nearly three kilometers.

In this position, surrounded on three sides, Major Rowe, commanding at the point of the wedge on the Marne, sent a message back to headquarters cheerfully reporting that he was holding the line and could do so indefinitely. The men in the ranks were of the same opinion. For example, Acting Cpl. Alexander Newell, Co. G, who, seeing a sergeant of his company lying out in front helpless from wounds, took the offensive through the German barrage with a squad of nine men, captured five machine guns and 33 prisoners, recovered the sergeant and returned to his place.

Spirits of this sort all along the American battle line were invincible. The enemy in the Jaulgonne Bend, having seen his attack further west checked, smothered and finally hurled back in fragments across the Marne instead of sweeping southward, mopping up Possy and Cecancy and proceeding triumphantly toward Montmirail, as it had confidently been expected to do, made but half-hearted attempts on July 16 to improve his positions against the 33d Infantry, and through the 17th, 18th and 19th the opposing forces lay quiet, except for artillery activity, grimly watching each other.

General Advance Ordered
 The only territory which the enemy held south of the Marne was the narrow strip between the Surlinval and Châtillon, and on the 20th three French divisions made an attack along this whole front only to find that the Germans had retreated to the north side of the river during the previous night.

A general advance accordingly was ordered for the morning of the 21st and bridges were laid across the Marne, without much opposition, during the previous night. The 4th Infantry crossed at Chateau-Thierry and Chery and its

combat patrols moved up by Gland to Mont St. Pierre and Chartèves, sweeping the river valley of scattered machine guns and infantry and thus adding the crossing of the 7th Infantry, which went over, partly by boats, at Ru Chally Farm and Mezy.

The 20th and 38th Infantry made their way across at the head of the Jaulgonne Bend and between there and Chartèves and by evening the lower ground north of the river was firmly held all along the divisional front. But the work was only commenced, for as they started northward next morning in the general direction of Le Charnel and Le Charnel Château, heavy opposition was encountered along the steep hill slopes and in the narrow creek valleys and tracts of dense timber running back to the uplands between the Marne and the Ourcq.

The advance battalions found it very difficult and sometimes impossible to keep touch with one another and the flank units of the neighboring divisions, and at dark the line was an irregular and disjointed one, the front of the 7th Infantry, on the left, being in the Bois de Mont l'Évêque and across the creek valley east of La Toulèrie Farm, the 4th Infantry across the hill crest southeast of Les Franquets Farm, and the 38th and 30th Infantry extended eastward from there into the Forêt de Ris. But none the less, the line averaged about a kilometer beyond where it had been 24 hours earlier.

In Broken, Obscure Country
 The 23rd and 24th of the month saw a continuation of the incessant fighting and maneuvering between infantry and machine gun detachments in the broken, obscure country, while the artillery of the opposing sides, a little further back, mutually pounded one another's support and rear zones with high explosives and gas. But the Americans steadily fought and filtered their way northward toward Le Charnel, on the road to Pécquen-Tardenois, and northward toward Bouvaires, and by evening of the 24th the Marne bridgehead had been enlarged to include the territory to the outskirts of Le Charnel and the farms of La Thèoderie, La Toulèrie and Les Franquets.

Major Whitten's 3d Battalion of the 4th Infantry, on the hill crest to the west, forced its way through, entered the village by noon and had completely occupied it at dark, against fierce machine gun opposition in the town and the park of Le Charnel Château, just to the east of it.

About a kilometer northwest of Le Charnel is the southern edge of the Vente Jean Guillaume, an outstanding spur of the large Forêt de Fère. Battalions of the 4th and 7th Infantry were ordered to take this, in co-operation with French battalions, at 4:50 o'clock on the afternoon of the 26th, following an artillery preparation of two hours. But the enemy put down a heavy counter-barrage which inflicted heavy losses on the Americans, the attack from the flank did not develop and the effort was a failure.

It was resumed, but further to the east, the next afternoon, after the clearing of the position of two hours. But the enemy put down a heavy counter-barrage which inflicted heavy losses on the Americans, the attack from the flank did not develop and the effort was a failure.

Attempt to Stand on Ourcq
 The backbone of the watershed between the Marne and the Ourcq was now crossed. Further down, the enemy was making a determined effort to hold the line of the Ourcq at Sergy, Fère-en-Tardenois and points further west, but the flank of his line was already partly turned when, continuing its advance, the 3d Division crossed the river and took Ronchères the following morning, July 28, and then, swinging more to the left, moved against Clerges, three kilometers north of Ronchères on an affluent of the Ourcq.

The battalions on line had been rotating rather regularly and the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Infantry was on its front on the morning of the 29th when progress was stopped a short distance north of Ronchères by the vigorous machine gun fire from the southern edges of the Bois des Grimettes and the Bois de Meuniers, in the direction of Clerges. Hard fighting ensued throughout the day but little progress was made either by the 3d Division or by the divisions on its right and left, the 4th French and the 42nd United States.

Relief of the 3d Division by the 64th Brigade of the 32d United States Div

ision had already been arranged, and it began during the afternoon of the 29th and was completed during the following night, the 3d retiring for rest to its old area south of the Marne, the troops, for all the losses and exhaustion experienced in 15 days of the most bitter defensive and offensive fighting, going out of line in high spirits and crossing the Marne with bands playing. The divisional artillery alone remained with the other American forces on the Ourcq front until August 2, when it, also, went back to the rest area.

Total of 5,986 Casualties
 In its two weeks of battle the 3d Division had decisively defeated a German major offensive and then advanced approximately 15 kilometers through a terribly difficult country, fighting every foot of the way, and when it retired from action its losses, according to the first tabulated reports, had amounted to 40 officers and 876 enlisted men killed and 126 officers and 3,135 enlisted men wounded, with an additional 39 officers and 1,723 enlisted men gassed; a total of 5,986 casualties, though this was probably considerably increased later by other casualties not at first reported.

(The work of the other American divisions which participated in the July counter-offensive will be described in subsequent articles.)

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"Every Stick and Stone Must Be Respected," Declares G.O.

Orders for strict enforcement of the rules protecting private property are embodied in G.O. 242, G.H.Q., which points out that now that the partly destroyed villages are welcoming back, as best they may, the inhabitants who have been forced to leave them during the war, "every stick and stone" that remains must be left untouched by American soldiers.

"During the period of active operations," the order states, "it was not always possible in ruined villages to regard property rights as sacred. With the cessation of hostilities the situation has entirely changed. The inhabitants who were driven from their homes for four years are returning. No matter how nearly complete the destruction of property may have been, every stick and stone remaining has a real as well as a sentimental value, which must be respected."

SERVICE RECORDS SOUGHT

Two things are necessary to get a soldier on board a ship, as the A.E.F. knows, and one is a gangplank and the other is a service record. Sometimes it is possible to get around one or the other, but not often. In order to assure the presence of the latter institution at the port of embarkation, it has been directed in G.O. 242 that a search be made of all company files for records that may belong to former members, since lost, strayed or stolen.

All such records that may be discovered but cannot be immediately forwarded to the point where the recordless soldier is at present are to be sent to the Central Records Office. Company and detachment commanders are ordered to send to that office a list of all soldiers serving with their commands who have no records.

FOR HOME-TOWN PAPERS

American soldiers on leave at Grenoble are being asked to write descriptions of their sight seeing in the lower Alps. A leave center official, formerly a writer, offers to edit all the stories and put them in best form for publication in their home town papers.

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REAL A.E.F. LADIES IN MUSICAL PLAY

"Battle of Bourges," With 60 Waacs in Ranks, to Tour Army

Ten of the 600 Waacs stationed at Bourges, supported by perhaps a half hundred sister privates and non-coms, have produced, with the assistance of some soldier actors, a musical play entitled "The Battle of Bourges," which is unique in that it is the first production of its kind in the A.E.F. featuring non-English speaking, pretty young women.

For some months now, five hundred Waacs have been helping 3,000 soldiers stationed at the Central Records Office to finish incomplete service records, rectify false casualty returns and redirect unclaimed mail matter, along with many other things that are essential to keep A.E.F. machinery running smoothly.

It was not until recently that some of the soldiers discovered that at least two of the Waacs were experienced "in acting." They had played in several prominent productions, both in England and France, before joining the Army Auxiliary Corps. A lieutenant stationed at Bourges wrote the play.

The troupe will soon be touring the A.E.F.

DOGS SMUGGLED IN PLANES

Dogs, large and air broken, small and more or less compact, have been leaving France in airplanes or neatly rolled between pins, tent, five and socks winter, one pair, in the doughboy's roll, have been arriving without passports and spreading rabies instead of joy in otherwise Merry England.

Why the members of the A.E.F. even those with smuggling tendencies, should pick out, for bosom or blanket-roll companions, mad dogs, it is difficult to say. However, G.H.Q., in Bulletin 106, officially warns the A.E.F. "that the attention of all concerned is called to the British law requiring the quarantine of all dogs entering the United Kingdom."

"Corporal Sevenup ought to make his fortune before he quits the Army."
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