

BATTERY C, 6TH F.A., FIRED A.E.F.'S FIRST French 75, Yank Manned, Opened Show October 23, 1917

GUN NOW AT WEST POINT

Initial Projectile Fell Somewhere in Lorraine—20,000 Rounds Followed It

The first American artillery shot of the war was fired at five minutes after 6 o'clock the morning of October 23, 1917, from a position about 400 meters east of Balthromont, in the Lunéville sector.

A French 75, dragged by the hands of American artillerymen over 800 meters of rough roads on a pitch black night, roared America's artillery prelude at daybreak.

Battery C of the 6th Field Artillery is so positive that this shell was America's first shot that it has just prepared a sworn statement signed by an officer and four enlisted men who were in on the event, telling all the circumstances leading up to it.

Everybody Given Share

The gun is now at the United States Military Academy at West Point with other newly transported war trophies.

The firing of the first shot was ceremonial, according to the signed statement, each man in the battery performing a certain task.

The gun crew present at the first firing consisted of: Sgt. Edward A. Braxton, chief of crew; Capt. Robert E. Braxton, gunner; and ammunicions, Sgt. Edward Warner, Sgt. Louis D. Mack, Sgt. Frank Garbowick, Pvt. James V. Braxton, and others.

A.E.F. SHOP TALK

The latest additions to the trophy collection of the A.E.F. are some Japanese rifles, captured by the Russians by the Germans, and finally captured for good by the Yanks.

Officers and enlisted men to whom garments of this kind would be most useful upon discharge, take them to their homes under the same conditions as uniform clothing, says a War Department cablegram.

Candidate stripes, which are authorized to be worn by graduates of several candidate schools, will have to be discarded when the men get back to the United States, according to provisions of G.O. 25.

Members of the A.E.F. are to assist in the Engineering brotherhood, who have had experience in city planning, stand a chance to win from 200 to 10,000 francs in the prize contests for plans for the rebuilding of the city of Chânoy, France.

Property owned by organizations, such as pianos, phonographs, libraries, athletic goods and the like, may be disposed of by the organization, and the proceeds for the use and benefit of enlisted men in the Army, according to a W.D. cablegram.

The War Department has advised G.H.Q. that certain States are making provisions to have men who have served in the Army register, upon returning home, with their respective town, city, or county clerks, or other designated officials.

A large memorial auditorium of the Y.M.C.A. was dedicated at Fontenay-le-Peuple, France, on Sunday, February 24, in memory of First Lieutenant Earl Trumbull Williams of the 301st Field Artillery, who died while in France.

The first shot by the 14-inch American Naval guns on the Western front was fired on September 14, 1918, from a gun in Retonchères, occupying a railroad siding at the identical spot where the train carrying Marshal Foch and his staff stood at the moment the armistice was signed.

ST. MIHIEL ATTACK CLEAN CUT AMERICAN VICTORY

Continued from Page 1
proaching reserve divisions to counter-attack, the XXXIst against Thiaucourt and the CXIIIrd against Vieville-en-Haye, southeast of Thiaucourt. But the counter-attack was not vigorous enough to have more than a temporary delaying effect upon the Americans, the attack on Thiaucourt being put down by the Third Brigade of the 2nd Division and that on Vieville by the Tenth Brigade of the 5th Division and the troops of the 9th Division.

The 5th Division, indeed, was already on its sector of the Army objective at 10 a.m. and met the counter-attack there, while the 9th reached it at 4 p.m. and the 2nd at 5 p.m. The lively fighting near Thiaucourt and Vieville inspired many deeds of heroism, such as those of Sgt. E. S. Willis, Company A, 15th Machine Gun Battalion, 5th Division, who led his section with the greatest courage and while consolidating his objective was severely wounded by shrapnel but remained in command until he fainted from weakness; of Pvt. Joseph Thornton, Company I, 11th Infantry, 5th Division, who alone charged an enemy trench with an automatic rifle and forced the surrender of the occupants; and of Sgt. Gilmore Tomlin, Company G, 6th Infantry, 5th Division, who similarly charged alone on a machine gun nest which was firing on his company, killed the gunner and captured the gun.

The 9th Division made its splendid advance through the forbidding waste of the devastated Bois de Pretre, the network of trenches and the woods and deep ravines of its sector largely because of the impetuous gallantry in rushing machine gun nests and because of such acts as that of Capt. Jesse W. Graham, Company L, 35th Infantry, who jumped out of a trench when his company was held up by an impassible wire entanglement, ran forward under heavy machine gun fire and cut sufficient paths for his comrades to pass through before he was himself killed.

Sharp Fighting at Quart de Reserve

The 8th, 42nd and 1st Divisions, of the Fourth Corps, with longer distances to cover, moved forward with as rapid strides as the divisions of the First Corps and the German front lines were taken almost as they came. The tanks could march over them, probably the most serious opposition anywhere encountered was that presented to the 1st Division by some of the German troops of the 1st Division at the last trench line of its forward system, where it ran through the Quart de Reserve, a small woodland about half way between the Bois de Pretre and Vieville. It was here that the 1st division about 600 casualties to take these woods, but nevertheless it was on the "1st Phase" line with the rest of the Corps front before the 1st Division, which had been ordered to pass over the "1st Day" line, with the 8th in possession of Boney and Namples, the 42nd well north of Fames in the Bois de Pretre, and the 1st north of Nonsard in the Bois de Nonsard. Though it had not experienced the earlier offensive battles of the other divisions in the Corps, the 1st Division, which was led by such officers as 1st Lieut. John H. Ale, 35th Infantry, who, after losing his right hand and being wounded in the chest and back, kept fighting that he could not possibly go further, told his platoon that he was confident that their pride in their organization would enable them to go on, with the 1st Division at his own expense, and they tried them to continue the advance.

Cavalry Takes a Hand

The 1st Division, being on the outer flank, was pushing hard all the afternoon to reach the Bois de Pretre, the main highway between Heudicourt and Vigneulles. Before 2 o'clock, tanks and a squadron of the 2nd Cavalry, closely supported by the 1st Infantry, pushed west through the Bois de Nonsard and the Bois de Creve and by 4 p.m. had crossed the road and taken some prisoners, though they were too few to permit the 1st Division to enter the enemy's positions, passing their retreat in desperate haste from Apremont before the advancing French could still make their way past. While the road over the hills from St. Mihiel by way of Chalillon to Vigneulles was yet open.

The tanks, waddling about over the fields and through the woods, had adventures of their own, like those of the battalion under Maj. Serrano E. Britt, who went ahead of his tanks on foot and pulled them through the mud and water. The tanks fired all the way from Heudicourt to the Bois Quart de Reserve, and like that one under Capt. Harry H. Semmes, which fell into the Bois de Pretre and was completely submerged, whereupon Captain Semmes, escaping through the turret door, found that his driver was still in the tank, and, under machine gun fire, returned and rescued him.

In the struggle for the German line of retreat, the 1st Division Infantry followed up the Cavalry and the 2nd Division, which was occupying the Bois de Nonsard in force.

At that time a brigade of the 3rd Division—Fourth Corps Reserve—having been sent up to reinforce the 1st Division, the left flank of the latter was pushed eastward decisively, and by 10 o'clock a company of the 28th Infantry was firmly established across the important road. At 3:15 a.m. of the 13th the advance detachments of the 16th and 18th Infantry, of the 1st Brigade, were in the outskirts of both Vieville and the plain, and Hattouchatel, on the brow of the hills, effectively closed the retreat of the 1st Division, and the 26th Divisions encountered one another at Hattouchatel, thus locking them across the base of the obliterated salient.

Turning now to the region west of the Fourth United States Corps, the 2nd Cavalry Division, the Second Colonial Corps performing their delicate mission with the greatest success. At the points where follow-up attacks with limited objectives were to be made, they were scheduled to jump off one hour after the beginning of the general American advance.

In accordance with the arrangements, during the course of the day the 30th French Division captured Apremont, Loupmont and Mont Sec, forcing the Germans to engage a large part of their forces in action, and thus delaying their retreat by the threatened road through Heudicourt, Vigneulles and St. Benoit. The 26th French Division, employing similar tactics, engaged the Germans around the nose of the salient and along its western front.

Finally, when the proper moment came, they broke through with strong raids at Stada and Marie Hill, north of St. Mihiel, clearing the Chauvecouert ridgehead, partially capturing the city of St. Mihiel, and then Spandorf, leading to Chalillon, where they came astride the road over the heights of the Meuse by which a large part of the enemy had to retreat from St. Mihiel to Vigneulles and the Michel position.

Austro-Hungarians Routed

On the extreme left, the 2nd Cavalry Division vigorously seconded the attack of the 1st Cavalry Division, and drove the troops of the XXXVth Austro-Hungarian Division through their successive systems of machine gun trenches on the hills and ravines south overlooking the valley, and greatly assisted in reducing this division to the stream of panic-stricken fugitives which, as night fell, was fleeing along the road through the upland forests toward the open plains eastward.

The attack of the Fifth United States Corps, going off at 8 a.m., had by noon carried the 26th United States and the 15th French Colonial Infantry Divisions to the crest of the hill of Les Eparges and close up to the western edge of St. Remy and the woods south of that village, but not without hard fighting.

Division, and the LXXXIInd Landwehr Regiment of the XVIII Division, and in front of the 15th French Colonial Infantry Division, the XXVth and LXth Regiments of the XVIII Landwehr Division, at first made a vigorous defense.

But they were heavily outnumbered, and although after the 15th French Colonial Division had captured the crest of Les Eparges Hill, a counter-attack by three or four reserve companies of the XVth Landwehr Regiment recovered a part of the ground, they were soon driven back, while on the rest of the front the enemy gradually gave way without any attempts at re-attack.

Until night parts of the XVIII Landwehr Division clung to the eastern crests of the hills of Les Eparges, Combres and Amaranthe, and then retreated to the Volvre plain. Forcing its way after the retiring Austro-Hungarians, however, the 26th Division drove them first from their strong Tranche de Thist, then from their strong Tranche de Kied, finally, following their disorderly retreat through the woods, captured the villages of St. Remy and Doumarlin.

Ordered Forward to Vigneulles

Toward evening an order came to the 26th to push a brigade forward to Vigneulles. The regiment in divisional reserve, together with the divisional machine gun battalions, were at once ordered across the hills for that objective and reached it and Hattouchatel by 2 a.m. of the 13th, while the other regiment of the brigade, which had to be assembled from deployment, followed a few hours later. At 7 a.m. of the 13th, as previously mentioned, liaison was complete across the base of the salient on the Army objective.

The efforts put forth by the Germans against the attack on September 12 seem to have been singularly ineffective. Unhappily this was largely due to their great inferiority of numbers, but it does not appear that Gen. von Gallwitz might not have remedied this and made a better showing. His subordinate, General Fuchs, earned him repeatedly of the imminence of a heavy American attack on the salient, yet he let matters drift without guaranteeing the safety of the position. The vast quantities of material which it contained either by reinforcement or retirement.

When the attack broke on the south front several days before even Fuchs looked for it, the LXXXVIII Division at once went to pieces, as had been anticipated, while the higher state of morale caused it to fight as it retired, had its flank in the air and could do nothing effective.

Fuchs's appeal to the German command brought no response in the way of support, and he early deserted the body of his local reserves, the XXXIst and CXIIIrd Divisions, to the counter-attacks in his region. He was ordered to retreat, which at least resulted in saving the part of his Michel position northeast of there from being pierced by the exploitation of the First United States Corps from its Army objective.

Vain Attempts to Stem Tide

Shortly before noon, Fuchs learned that the American advance on the south had reached the 15th Division, to its right, and that de Mad, and he then received information from the other flank that his Combres group had been attacked, that St. Remy had fallen and that the Combres Hill was also probably lost.

Although at that time the CXCI Division, along the hills north of St. Mihiel, and the VII Landwehr Division, to its right, appeared to be withstanding the French attacks, Fuchs, alarmed by the rapid penetration of the American columns from south and northeast toward the battle point at Vigneulles and St. Benoit, hastily issued orders transferring the defense to the Schroeter zone and directing the retreat of the CXCI and the VII Landwehr Divisions upon that line.

At the same time he sent instructions to various scattered battalions and companies at rest or working in the rear, to be ready to march and Lemarche for the protection of the St. Benoit crossings. But about 2 o'clock Panmes and Nonsard had been taken by the 42nd and 1st Divisions, and the Cavalry and tanks at the latter division were advancing eastward toward the road between Heudicourt and Vigneulles, while some 400 retreating Allied troops were being driven back toward the heights of the Meuse.

Last Enemy Reserves Thrown In

Everything was tumbling in and, the Schroeter zone being already broken at Nonsard, Fuchs gave up hope of defending it and ordered everything back to the Michel position, meantime devoting all his efforts to patching up some sort of a line for delaying the irresistible advance of the 1st and 2nd Divisions toward Heudicourt, Vigneulles and St. Benoit.

On his own initiative, the commander of the VII Landwehr Division had already ordered the two resting battalions of his XXVth and XXXVth Landwehr Infantry Regiments to counter-attack the American advance north of Heudicourt, establishing flank contact with the other regimental fragments which were trying to constitute a line through the woods toward a point southeast of St. Benoit, and in contact with these battalions that the 2nd United States Cavalry collided on the road between Heudicourt and Vigneulles.

About 5:30 in the afternoon the LXXXVIII Division, Fuchs's last reserve, having arrived within reach for use, was ordered into the retirement sector of the Xth Division in the Michel position for the protection of the right flank of the Gorze group.

This disposition Fuchs probably made because by this time there was not much left of the original Gorze group—the Xth and LXXXVIII Divisions—to occupy its assigned sectors in the new battle zone of the Michel position. The burden of holding the latter had fallen upon the XXXIst and CXIIIrd Divisions, still fighting each other in the Thiaucourt, and the XXVth Division, which was in line just to the left of the Gorze group, the CCLVth was being pushed back down the Moselle by the vigorous follow-up attack of General Burnham's 82nd Division, slowly but steadily advancing northward toward Norroy.

All through the afternoon the staffs of the German divisions which were still down toward the point of the salient seem to have been finding pressing business at the rear, establishing new posts of command well behind the Michel position a good many hours before any of their retreating troops were even up to Vigneulles. Indeed, it was 2:30 o'clock on the morning of the 13th before the Army detachment commander had any news of the 13th Division, whose staff was at that hour reported as having just arrived in the Michel position. How much more of it eventually arrived there, or how much of the VII Landwehr Division, is very uncertain.

Cannon Losses Laid to Bursts

However well Fuchs may have done with inadequate forces against overwhelming States divisions, the utter lack of support from his Army group, he seems to have done very well—he was, at least in his reports thus far available, very far from frank in his admission of losses. He ascribes to the CXCI Division total casualties of 715 officers and men, most of them missing, and 82 machine guns, and minenwerfers, and to the VII Landwehr Divisions casualties of 624 officers and men, also chiefly missing, 64 machine guns and minenwerfers and two cannon, the latter on account of bursts by the enemy.

As a matter of fact, the First American Army took in the operation approximately 11,000 prisoners, 145 pieces of material, and enormous quantities of other material, by far the greater part during the first 24 hours after the attack. The LXXII German Division, according to all evidence, was virtually wiped out, while the Xth Division and the XXXVth Austro-Hungarian Division suffered very heavily indeed, losing 2,330 prisoners in the fighting at the northwest corner of the salient, a large part of the Austro-Hungarians.

The suppression of the St. Mihiel salient was virtually accomplished within the space of one day, for in that time the Army objective was reached, if not occurred, at least by the end of September 13, 14 and 15 further progress averaging three or four kilometers was registered along most of the front, frequently at the cost of hot local fighting.

Through Broken Country
It was in such fighting that the line of the 2nd Division, for example, was carried forward through the broken country bordering the Rupp de Mad about Jaunty and Reimercourt by the impetuous dash of such men as Pvt. G. M. Chatman, 75th Company, 6th Infantry, who, after being with his platoon in an outpost position which was being harassed by three German snipers, jumped out and, under the fire of their own platoon, charged them, charged them alone and overcame them.

Further to the right, in the sector of the 9th Division, how close the opposition was realized from the fact that, while some American officers were holding a conference in a dugout on the eastern side of Vilecy, a German plane darted across a foot bridge over the little stream which winds past Vilecy and threw a hand grenade into the dugout. Capt. Willie Greene, Commander 26th Infantry, who was close by, promptly stood on the grenade to save his officers from injury, and then, from this precarious position, shot two of the retreating enemy in patrol.

At the end of three days of this sort of work, when the Americans virtually came to a stop close up before the Michel position, they were met by a short distance.

State Cavalry collided on the road between Heudicourt and Vigneulles. About 5:30 in the afternoon the LXXXVIII Division, Fuchs's last reserve, having arrived within reach for use, was ordered into the retirement sector of the Xth Division in the Michel position for the protection of the right flank of the Gorze group.

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the center, where most of the large Lake of Lachaussees remained for the ensuing few weeks within the German lines, the outposts were ahead of the projected line of exploitation and within a dozen kilometers of such places as Mars-la-Tour, Vionville and Gravelotte, whose bitter memories of 1870 were soon to be offset from the minds of the French people.

Four Years' Situation Reversed

At last the situation of four years was reversed. The American observatories on the redeemed heights of the Meuse, particularly the one at Hattouchatel, dominated the enemy's positions as formerly from Mont Sec the Germans had dominated Xivry, Seicheprey, Flirey and all the low country for miles south of those villages.

Even on the great number of prisoners and guns whose capture has already been mentioned, the Americans and French took in the salient vast quantities of light rail material and fueling stock, including railway artillery, and all kinds of other military stores which the enemy left intact in his precipitate retreat. All through the woods were encampments vast enough for the Army which they at times contained, arranged with every comfort and convenience that semi-permanent field cantonments could afford, left standing with everything in them—bunks and bedding, stoves, dishes, cooking utensils, personal property, even sometimes meals cooked and ready to be eaten on the tables.

As an example of the booty won in the eastern part of the salient, the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, which captured Thiaucourt and repaired the Argonne and the Meuse there, losing in its operation five officers and 81 enlisted men killed, and nine officers and 274 enlisted men wounded, took from the enemy about 7,000 prisoners, including 74 officers, 92 pieces of artillery, including some guns of as large caliber as eight inches loaded on cars in Thiaucourt, 6,000 rifles and 226 machine guns, over 55,000,000 worth of ammunition, a hospital train complete with locomotive, a trainload of ammunition and 51 other standard-gauge cars, numerous lumber cars, and hundreds of tons of wire, tools and other material.

Victory Cost 7,000 Casualties

Materially, this victory, perhaps the swiftest and most spectacular ever achieved on the Western front, yielded enormous prizes, and they were gained at a cost of 7,000 casualties over fields where, in earlier efforts, the French had sometimes given many times that number to win a single trench.

At St. Mihiel, America proved to her allies that they had not trusted her in vain; to her enemies that, in flouting her, they had sealed for themselves irrevocably fate's decree of ignominious defeat. Between the Argonne and the Meuse she was seen to be with those same Allies, a glorious part in carrying that decree into final execution.

It is not only made in the form of Art-Rugs, but also in Art-Carpets (5 yards wide) and Congoleum (2 yards wide) for use over the entire floor. It comes in a wide range of artistic designs suitable for any room where a low-priced floor covering is desired. Look for the Gold Seal when you buy.

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That Civilian Job Back Home

Is a job being kept ready for you in the States? If not, you can't start too early to go after one. One thing that may help you land the position you want is a letter from you to prospective employers in America. Such a letter should state what sort of job you wish and your qualifications for it.

Another thing that is sure to help you is to better prepare yourself for the job of your choice—to work and study during the spare time you have while still in France.

The fact that you served in the American Army in France may make it easy for you to land a job on your return to the United States—but you must "deliver the goods" to hold the job you land and to insure promotion and increase in salary. The war hasn't changed the fundamental principles of business—indeed, efficiency and ability are demanded now more than ever before.

General Orders No. 9

By General Orders No. 9, A.E.F., G.H.Q., post schools are provided for every camp where 500 or more soldiers are stationed.

In charge of every post school is an Army officer, the "post school officer."

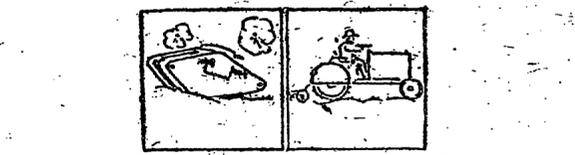
By General Orders No. 9 the Army indicated its desire that all men of the A.E.F. be afforded some opportunity to better prepare for civilian life while awaiting demobilization.

See the post school officer of your unit about courses of study and training that will better qualify you for the civilian position of your choice.

Already approximately 150,000 soldiers in the A.E.F. are students in post schools.

It is true that the unexpected coming of the armistice cut short the time for preparation for school work.

When You Return to New York STAY AT THE HOTEL McALPIN or the WALDORF ASTORIA A substantial discount and every possible preference and attention to men in the Uniformed Service.



FROM tanks to tractors will be the logical move of many of the men now with the A. E. F. The tractor is developing with tremendous strides in the United States, and men who know how to drive a tank or care for machinery will find, when they get home, jobs waiting for them wherever tractors are used. It will take men with steady nerves to handle the big tractors, and Adams' chewing gum is going to be just as much help to you then as it has been here in France.

ADAMS Pure Chewing Gum. Adams Black Jack, Adams Chiclets, Adams Peppin, Adams Spearmint, Adams California Fruit, Adams Yuccata, Adams Sen Sen, Adams Clove. AMERICAN CHICLE COMPANY

CONGOLEUM Gold Seal ART-RUGS. "That Seal Guarantees Congoleum Quality". When you get back to the good old U.S.A., don't fail to have the dealer in your home town show you the latest patterns. Congoleum is the famous American floor covering—beautiful, durable, waterproof and sanitary, yet low-priced. It is not only made in the form of Art-Rugs, but also in Art-Carpets (5 yards wide) and Congoleum (2 yards wide) for use over the entire floor. It comes in a wide range of artistic designs suitable for any room where a low-priced floor covering is desired. Look for the Gold Seal when you buy. The Congoleum Company, Department of the Barret Co., Philadelphia San Francisco Chicago Boston.

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Rob't Burns—FRIEND OF THE ARMY AND NAVY SINCE 1876 General Cigar Company, Inc. New York

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Mallory Hats. A HAT that looks like the offspring of May's old preserving kettle may have been wearing it for the trenches, either for keeping out the shrapnel or warming up the chuck—but, Oh, Boy! it won't be good to get back in God's Country once more and go shopping for a real lid! Just imagine yourself easing along down Main Street, and halting in front of a whole windowful of Mallory Hats! See, sleek better-looking than the smartness of style and the richness of color that you'd almost forgotten a hat could have. You'll give in and try on half a dozen, just for the sheer delight of seeing yourself in the big triple mirror that shows you what the back of your neck looks like. I'll tell you what—a man doesn't half appreciate his headgear until he's been wearing a service-cap or a steel helmet, with about as much individuality as a piling in a long, long picket fence. Here's luck, boys—may you soon be romping in and selling your Mallory Hats in the United States before the War, was seven and ONE-eight. He's still doing business, at the old stand; and he's got YOUR Mallory all ready and waiting up there on the shelf. E. A. MALLORY & SONS, INC. 134 Fifth Avenue, New York Factory: Danbury, Conn.

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