R.R. & C. CROWD IS DESTINED TO BE A.E.F. REAR GUARD

"Moppers-Up" Are Cheerful About It, However, and Plug Right Along

BILLETING IS ONE OF JOBS

Service Paid Out More Than 42,000,000 Francs to Give Us Beds—and as for Claims!

When the last division of the A.E.F. has gone home, when Coblenz, Toul, Chaumont and Gièvres are no longer full of Police Militaire Américaine, and when even Paris shall have lost its luster of olive drab and its wandering crowds of Yankee permissionnaires, there will still be in France one organization of hundreds of officers and hundreds of enlisted men that is destined to be the rear guard of the returning American Army.

This organization, the last to go home, is the Rents, Requisitions and Claims Department, which has its main offices at Hq., S.O.S., at Tours, but is represented by its commissioned and enlisted agents all through the A.E.F.

"Moppers up," they call themselves, these R. R. and C. men, and they are counting on "business as usual" for months and months.

Since it came into existence a year ago, in March, the department has played a continuous role in the daily life of almost every soldier in France. It provided the billeting areas and supervised the quartering of all the forces of the A.E.F. It had charge also, with a few exceptions, of the renting and leasing and requisitioning in France of all lands and buildings required for all departments of the Army.

Lawyers, Agents and Such

Its officers and enlisted men in civil life did almost everything connected with law and business—they were attorneys, bankers, insurance agents, real estate dealers, court reporters. Most of the field officers belong to the Judge Advocate General's Department, but among the captains and lieutenants are Artillerymen, Infantrymen and Airmen.

The work of the R. R. and C. is divided into three distinct departments, under the control, respectively, of the Chief Billeting Officer, the Chief Renting and Requisition Officer and a Chief Claims Officer.

To do the work of this service requires a personnel of 561 officers, 45 field clerks, 2,400 enlisted men and 55 civilians employed as clerks and bi-lingual stenographers. In addition to this, approximately 2,200 officers have acted as zone and town majors.

The Claims Department must follow the laws and practice of France and the other countries in which it operates.

The principal functions of the Billeting Department of the R. R. and C. service has been to supervise the billeting and quartering of the A.E.F. The right man in the right French home—that was the ideal set. A careful survey of the area to be selected for billets was made by a board of officers. The town major, on entering a commune to secure billets, received a billeting list from the mayor of the town. Each billet was selected and marked in chalk with a serial number and located by its serial number on a map belonging to the town major.

127 Areas for A.E.F. in France

The A.E.F. has had at its disposal at one time or another in France 127 areas and of these 127 areas 30 have been actually occupied by the A.E.F. The areas have been classified as Infantry Divisional Training Areas, Field Artillery Training Areas, Organization and Training Centers, Replacement Depots, School Areas, Rest Camps and Embarkation Centers.

Since the organization of the R. R. and C. service, more than 1,500,000 American troops have been billeted in France, and payments for these billets have aggregated more than 42,000,000 francs.

The Renting and Requisitions Department has been in charge of the acquisition of all A.E.F. installations in France since the R. R. and C. service was organized.

The work done by the Renting and Requisitions Department for the Medical Department is an instance of the enormous transactions involved in acquiring installations for the whole A.E.F. Prior to the signing of the armistice accommodations for more than 300,000 hospital beds had been acquired, including the acquisition of 83 hotels at Vichy and all the important hotels embraced in the "Riviera Hospitalization Project." Many of these centers were secured at Chatel Guyon, Royat, La Bourboule, Mont Doré Vittel, Contrexeville, La Baule, Quiberon, Pouges-les Eaux and Paris. In Blois, Bordeaux, Lyon, Pau and Lourdes, important buildings were also acquired.

Uncle Sam in Real Estate Game

No real estate agency back in the States has ever had the mass of business to handle that the Renting and Requisitions Department transacts. They have been charged with the acquisition of hospitals, warehouses, remount stations, salvage depots, aviation fields, and schools for the Air Service, locations for the Engineer projects, prison enclosures, ammunition dumps, Ordnance depots, location for Signal Corps, as well as training fields, rifle ranges, Artillery firing fields, headquarters and office buildings.

At the conclusion of American occupancy of these various territories the service is responsible for the preparation and execution of an "Etat-de-Degradation" and "Constation" of damages and the investigation and settlement of all claims for damages arising out of real properties.

Large projects, such as those at Gièvres, Montoir, St. Sulpice, Talmont, Pontanezen, Is-sur-Tille and Châteauroux, have been secured by the Renting and Requisitions Department, and in some cases owners and tenants interested have numbered between 2,000 and 15,000. The rights of each must be respected, the claim of each must be settled, and, as there is no appeal against Uncle Sam from the allowance fixed by the R. R. and C. service, this work involves peculiar moral responsibility. After the armistice the work of this department was organized along the same line in Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland, and representatives of this service have also assisted officials of the United States Naval forces in France in the disposition and settlement of installations originally acquired for the Navy.

By an Act of Congress of April 18, 1918, all claims must be decided according to the law and practice of the country in which they occur. This has made it necessary for the officers of the Claims Department to know something of the law and practice of eight countries, for claims against the United States have originated in France, England, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain and Monaco.

They have been called upon to investigate and settle claims ranging all the way from 75 centimes for an injury to a woozy-eyed kyoodle to 6,000,000 francs, caused by practice firing on an artillery range.

6,000 Claims Handled Each Month

Recently the number of claims handled by the R.R. & C. Service has averaged 6,000 a month and the number is increasing, for the A.E.F. is clearing out of France, and units, as a recent G.O. makes plain, can not sail until their bills are in order.

However, the records of this Claim Department show a few cases more amusing than serious, it is true, in which it is just as well that Uncle Sam had a lawyer on the job. There was the case, for instance, of the French woman who presented a bill for several rabbits which had been stolen by some Yanks billeted in her neighborhood. A price of 10 francs was asked for each rabbit, except one, who was expecting a visit from Old Daddy Stork. She was worth more, the owner said, and a claim officer was asked to estimate the value of the expected parcel of baby bunnies.

There was also another claim involving more money, in which a family cow had fallen a victim to the skilful hands of an American camouflage artist and had eaten some false leaves which did not agree with her tender digestive apparatus.

A recent survey of claims shows more than 20,000 already disposed of. Of these, about 10,000 were miscellaneous and about 4,500 for damages to billets by troops occupying them. The rest concerned automobile accidents, other personal injury cases and fire claims. Out of the total number of disposed-of ones, approximately 15,000 were settled by payments made out of public funds, by payments made by troops and by repairs made by the Army. Only about 5,000 were rejected.

A silver stripe,
A golden stripe,
A stripe of baby blue.
I've had them all.
Now what I want
Is one of crimson hue.
—Pontanezen Duckboard (Camp Pontanezen, Brest).

We were in the Infirmary the other day, and the name Tony Spagoni was called. The doctor looked down his throat and said, "Say 'Ah-h-h-h.'" Tony said, "Me no spik Inglees."—Mehun News (Ordnance Troops, Mehun).

If marks are worth 222 for 100 francs (which they are), and 100 francs are worth 222 marks, which they are if you can get the francs (which you can't), and francs are something like 6.05 for a dollar, which is rumored, but we haven't the dollar to prove, what is the value of two feet of Chinese yen, properly strung?—Long Range Sniper (66th Field Artillery Brigade).

Courage, soldier, do not grumble,
Though your stay be long and drear;
There's a ship to bear the humble,
But that ship won't sail this year.
—51st Pioneers.

The Pop Valve is looking for an associate editor, a nice, agreeable young man who can sit in the sanctum of the paper and grind out funny stuff on a wobbly typewriter. It's a nice, adventurous life, and he'll be just a couple of lotas from a G.C.M. about eleven times a day. We'd like his name and the name of his nearest relative, in case he loses his mind or something. All applicants must have a $10,000 insurance policy.—Pop Valve (89th Grand Division Transportation Corps).

"Heard the latest, Jack? They're going to change the 4th Division insignia from an ivy leaf to a pine tree."

"Aw, why the 'ell are they going to do that?"

"Because a pine tree never leaves."—Skirmisher (4th Division).

First Fraulein: "He told me that I was the first girl he ever loved."

Second Fraulein: "When was it?"

First Fraulein: "Monday night."

Second Fraulein: "Then he lied to me on Tuesday."—Bridgehead Sentinel (1st Division).

THE SHORTEST POEM IN GERMANY

Rhine
Wine.
—Skirmisher (4th Division).

Weather forcast: Mebbe it will and mebbe it won't. Most likely it will.—Pontanezen Duckboard (Camp Pontanezen, Brest).

"Say, boy, how'd you all like to have one of them cross de gears?"

"Say, man, I don't want no cross de gear. All I want is a cross de ocean."—Skirmisher (4th Division).

A new use for gold dust—Camouflage your moustache with it and kid the public into believing you had eggs.—Oil Can (M.T.C. Hq., Tours).

I'm glad I drew to come here.
I like Montpellier fine.
Her grand old university is
A knowledgelic shrine.
I like her population,
Surtout her pretty daughters.
But the one fly in my soup
Is the commutation of quarters.
—Soldier-Student (University of Montpellier).

"Home, James!"—Oil Can (M.T.C. Hq., Tours).

A $10 bill, hastening along an Andernach thoroughfare, was chased by three doughboys, one of whom grabbed and held it until an M.P. took charge of it to prevent a row. There is various testimony as to who first saw the bill and as to who first laid hands on it. To whom should the money be awarded? I think the bill should be turned loose and given another chance.—Watch on the Rhine (3rd Division).

Registrar: What course do you want to take?

Student: Due west, toot sweet, please.—11th Regiment Bulletin (University of Beaune).

We've seen the English language murdered more than once, but this sign on a hash house on the Schiedamscedijk takes first prize:

Hotel & Boarding House
For Seaman
Accurate & Fresh Sleeping
Accommodations
Occasion for Board
And Lodging
Equitable Condition
—Wind Mill (Rotterdam Base).

Sweet: A feller insulted me the other day by offering me a drink.

Williams: And what did you do?

Sweet: Oh, I swallowed the insult.—Indian (2nd Division).

Musketry Instructor (to class): Now, boys, you must remember that your rifle is your best friend. Treat it as you would your wife. Wipe it over with an oily rag every morning.—Wind Mill (Rotterdam Base).

If you think that some of the jokes we print are rotten, you should see some that we do not print.—Viola (University of Bordeaux)

A DIARY OF A RICH MAN

Monday—Signed ration voucher for two weeks' board. Down to last two francs.

Tuesday—Signed voucher for one month's room rent. Down to two sous.

Wednesday—Signed monthly payroll. Broke.

Thursday—Signed voucher for rations on trip to Clermont. Broke.

Friday—Signed corrected payroll. Encore rien.

Saturday—Resigned to my fate. Nichts komm heraus.

Sunday—Payday! Paid all my debts and have two francs left. Hooray!—Deux Mots (Clermont-Ferrand University).

Overheard in a gasthoff: "What did you do in this man's war, anyhow?"

Château-Thierry, Soissons, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne Survivor: "I lived through it."—Indian (2nd Division).

Private McQueen: Halt! Who goes there?

O.D. keeps on going.

Private McQueen: Halt! Who went there?—Frapper (Co. A, 11th Marines).

JUSTICE A LA BUCK

Note: Judge S. S. Gregory, chairman of the Bar Association committee investigating courts-martial, suggests the creation of a system of trial for enlisted men before juries of enlisted men. Judge to be a high officer. Qu'est-ce Que C'est (University of Toulouse).

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BRONZE STARS TELL OF 12 MAJOR OPERATIONS

Continued from Page 1

the fiercest, caused General Marchand, under whom it was operating, to make special mention of it to the Army Corps. The battalion was relieved in Château-Thierry on June 4.

The only American force credited with a part in the Montdidier-Noyon Offensive, which constituted the fourth great effort of the Germans to break through the Western front, was the 1st Division. It attained this distinction not because it was directly attached but because the vigor of its preparations probably prevented it from being attacked. While it was holding the sector of Cantigny, which it had captured on May 28, the enemy assaulted the French troops immediately to its right on the morning of June 9. But the 1st Division Artillery opened a violent fire and continued it more or less vigorously during the five days of the battle, expending about 15,000 rounds, and the enemy did not think it best to involve that part of the front in his Infantry offensive. The latter was virtually held by the French at all points and on some parts of the line ground was gained, so that the general result was an early presage of the superiority of numbers which eventually was to give the initiative to the Allies.

"Marne Division's" Exploit

The Champagne-Marne defensive involved the 3rd, 28th and 42nd American Divisions and the 369th Infantry Regiment (colored) operating with a French division. This operation, as defined, lasted from the 15th to the 18th of July. The German attack of the 15th found the 3rd Division occupying a sector 12 kilometers in length along the south side of the Marne River from Château-Thierry east nearly to Varennes. Following an intense bombardment of ten hours, the enemy attempted to cross the Marne at four different points on this front. But though the rush of German troops overwhelmed some of the front-line positions, in which the Infantry and machine gun units in some cases suffered a loss of 50 per cent, no German crossed the main road between Château-Thierry and Varennes except as a prisoner, and by noon of the 16th they had all been driven back across the river except on the right, where the flank of the 38th Infantry was drawn back for three days more, holding in check the Germans who had forced a crossing at the Jaulgonne bend, against the 125th French Division, and further east.

It was behind the right flank of the 3rd Division and the left flank of the 125th French Division that the troops of the 55th Infantry Brigade of the 28th Division, occupying support positions, became engaged in the battle. Due to the retirement of the French, perhaps in accordance with the scheme of "elastic defense" which was employed with perfect success on the front east of Reims, the machine gun company of the 109th Infantry, which stood fast, was in action by 9:15 a.m. north of St. Agnan. Shortly afterward the Infantry of this regiment also came into action. The fighting was very confused, and various other elements of the division were also involved in it with the 3rd Division, those on the right, particularly, continuing the battle and holding their ground until the advance of the French and of the 3rd Division on July 20.

Rainbow's Stunt East of Reims

The 42nd Division was in support of the 17th and the 13th French Divisions in the region of Suippes, east of Reims, on July 15, three battalions being in the intermediate position when the Germans attacked. By the scheme of "elastic defense," the front-line trenches were not held and the intermediate position became the combat position. Here one of the American battalions repulsed seven distinct assaults before noon. Troops of the division, operating with the French, recaptured some of the few points which the enemy succeeded in occupying, and reserve units were gradually put in until, as stated by Lieutenant Colonel de Chambrun, of the French Army, in a report upon American activities, "in this glorious affair the 42nd Division had engaged more than five battalions and the American troops received the unqualified congratulations of all the French chiefs under whom they had served.

The 369th Infantry was with the 16th Division of the Fourth French Army, in front of Courtremont and Maffrecourt, about seven kilometers west of the Argonne Forest, occupling the intermediate, or combat, and the second positions when the Germans attacked on July 15. Though heavily depleted in numbers on account of sickness, its battalions helped materially in stopping the enemy and then moved further west to the sector of the 161th French Division, where one battalion relieved a battalion of Moroccans, the whole regiment continuing in action while the attack lasted during July 16, 17 and 18.

Eight in Aisne-Marne Push

Passing now from major defensive to the major offensive operations, we find engaged in the Aisne-Marne offensive, between July 18 and August 6, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32nd and 42nd United States Divisions and the 369th Infantry Regiment—a vastly larger aggregate in numbers than had been on any of the previous fields, and less only than the Americans engaged in the St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne offensives later on. In this first really adequate display of the military power of America, the 1st and 2nd Divisions had the honor, with the French Moroccan division, of breaking the enemy's line south of Soissons and of rendering inevitable the crushing of his Marne salient.

Operating under the Twentieth Corps of the Tenth French Army, they drove through the German lines to a depth of about 11 kilometers, undergoing terrific fighting and suffering fearful losses, but capturing thousands of prisoners and vast numbers of guns and quantities of material and forcing upon the Germans the unwelcome conviction of the unrivaled fighting powers of the American soldier. Further south, units of the 4th Division, fighting under French division commands, by themselves or in conjunction with French troops, took Norroy, Hautevesnes, Courchamps, Chevillon, Pricz and Sommefans, together with various woods and farms, making a deep penetration. Two battalions of the 47th Infantry on July 29 attacked Sergy, on the Ourcq, with the 42nd United States Division and suffered a 50 per cent loss. On August 2 the division relieved the 42nd Division along the Vesle, and by hard fighting got some troops across the river, though on the night of the 6th they had to be withdrawn.

3rd and 26th's 18-Kilo Advance

Starting from the sector at Belleau Wood and Bouresches, the 26th Division took Torcy, Belleau and other places of importance on July 18, and then during eight days of continuous fighting, forced its way northeast over the hills, eventually took Epieds and Trugny and the Bois de Trugny, advanced across the Jaulgonne-Fère-en-Tardenois road and entered the Foret de Fere, where it was relieved on July 25 by the 42nd Division after an advance of about 18 kilometers. East of Château-Thierry, the 3rd Division began advancing across the Marne on July 20, forced its way up the steep bluffs against desperate opposition, finally reaching the highlands and taking the town of Le Charmel on July 26. Thence it pushed northward and took Roncheres next day, and then advanced slowly and against strong resistance to a line near the Ourcq River, where it was relieved by the 2nd Division on July 30, after having gained about 18 kilometers.

The 28th, 32nd and 42nd Divisions, which came into the Aisne-Marne offensive as reliefs to divisions which had started the drive, contributed greatly to its final success. The 28th, following up the 3rd, attacked the line of the Ourcq between Cierges and the Bois de Grimpettes on July 30, lost nearly 3,000 men, and entered Cierges. On August 6-7 the division relieved the 32nd Division along the Vesle at Fismes, where its fighting was severe and sanguinary, though the enemy's positions were too strong to permit of much progress. The 32nd Division relieved the 3rd along the Ourcq on July 30. On that and the succeeding day it took, in desperate fighting, all the strong German positions on the heights north of the Ourcq around and beyond Clerges, which positions constituted, it was said, the "key point to the entire enemy line to the north of the Ourcq."

Rapidly following up the German retreat, the 32nd then reached the Vesle, took Fismes on August 4, and was relieved on the 6th after losing nearly 5,000 men and gaining 17 kilometers of ground. On July 25 the 42nd Division relieved the 26th and part of the 28th Division in the Epieds area and next day captured La Croix Rouge Farm. Pursuing the enemy on the 27th to the Ourcq, for three days the 42nd fought a desperate battle in which it gradually conquered the strong German positions on the north bank, including Sergy, Meurcy Farm and Seringes, finally breaking through into the Forest de Nesles and pursuing the enemy to the Vesle, and being relieved just before reaching that stream after gaining 15 kilometers and losing about 5,500 men in casualties.

Two battalions of the 369th Infantry, being with the 161st French Division in front of Courtremont and Maffrecourt, assisted their division in its counter-attack of July 18, the remaining battalion moving two or three kilometers west to relieve a Chasseur regiment in the second position.

Yanks on British Front

The Somme offensive of August 8 to November 11 saw the gallant fighting of the 27th and 30th United States Divisions, first in breaking the tremendously strong Hindenburg Line along the Bellicourt canal tunnel on September 29 and 30, and later in advancing the front of the British Armies in their sectors nearly to the Sambre River and canal. In these later operations the 30th Division took Brancourt and Premont on October 8, Busigny on the 9th, St. Benin, Souplet, etc., on the 10th, and the west bank of the La Selle River on the 11th.

The 27th Division took the La Selle River crossings on October 17, Arbre Guernon and Jone de Mer Ridge on the 18th, and reached the St. Maurice River on the 19th. The 30th Division, meantime, pushed forward to the right of the 27th, about 6,000 yards on October 17 and 18, crossing St. Martin River and taking Molain, Ribeauville, Mazinghien and other villages and positions of great natural strength. When eventually relieved by British troops about October 20, the American divisions were about 20 miles east of the jumping-off lines before the Hindenburg positions. The losses of the 27th had approximated 6,000 men and those of the 30th about 4,000, but each had inflicted great losses on the enemy and gained successes of the utmost importance.

In the Oise-Aisne offensive of August 18-November 11, American arms were represented by the 28th, 32nd and 77th Divisions and the 370th Infantry Regiment. The 28th Division participated in the sense that it was occupying a sector along the Vesle at Fismes and engaged in various local encounters during some of which, on September 7 and 8, the Vesle was crossed and the town of Fismette occupied against stubborn machine gun opposition, though the enemy had begun retiring from the Vesle on September 6. The 32nd Division, as a part of the Thirtieth Corps of the Tenth French Army, attacked Juvigny north of Soissons on August 28 and made some advance against very bitter opposition. Continued attacks the next day gained no ground, but on August 31 a deep advance was made, taking Juvigny and advancing nearly to Terny-Sorny, along the road from which to Bethancourt the division was relieved on September 1-2 by the 1st Moroccan Division, having taken nearly 1,000 prisoners and lost nearly 3,000 men in casualties.

77th in Along Vesle

The 77th Division, first of the National Army divisions to take part in a major operation, went in along the Vesle between Fismes and Bazoches on August 12 and on September 4, when the enemy began withdrawing, followed up vigorously, taking Blanzy-les-Fismes, Dhuizel, Longueval and other villages on that day, and reaching the line of the Revillon-Glennes road on the 5th, well up toward the Aisne, north of Fismes. On the 8th the division attacked near Glennes, but made little progress, and fighting continued in this vicinity, the 77th taking the southern outskirts of Glennes on the 15th and being relieved by the 8th Italian Division about the 15th-17th. It had gained about 12 kilometers and lost about 2,225 men in casualties.

The 370th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 59th French Division in the Vauxillon area, north of Soissons near the Chemin des Dames, and four rifle companies participated, on September 15, with two French regiments in the fight which resulted in the capture of Mont des Singes and adjacent works. On September 22 the regiment was placed in a sector of its own resting on the Aillette Canal, and it attacked the village of l'Ecluse at dawn of the 27th. The fighting, which lasted for several days, was very confused, as was that begun by the 3rd Battalion on September 30 and continuing until October 4 along the canal from Mont des Singes to the Pinon-Brancourt road. All objectives were gained, however, and on October 12, the enemy withdrawing, a general advance was made. The division commander complimented the regiment, particularly "for its passage of the exceedingly strong positions in the Bois de Montlers and the well-conducted march in pursuit via Ainzy-le-Château."

Crossing of the Scheldt

In the Ypres-Lys Offensive, in which the 27th, 30th, 37th and 91st Divisions are credited with participation, the first two earned the distinction by reason of the fact that late in August and early in September they were occupying sectors immediately east and south of Ypres, and when the Germans began withdrawing these divisions took the offensive, the 27th advancing about 2,000 yards and capturing Vierstraat Ridge, while the 30th advanced 1,500 yards and took Lankhof Farm and the village of Voormezeele. All this occurred before they were shifted south for the attack on the Bellicourt Canal tunnel.

The 37th and 91st won brilliant successes in this offensive in Belgium, the 37th advancing from the Lys river across Cruyshautem Ridge to the Scheldt, a distance of 14 kilometers, between October 31 and November 2, and then, on November 10 and 11, pushing about seven kilometers beyond the Scheldt. The 91st at the same time took the difficult wooded hill called Spitaals-Bosschen, drove eastward to the Scheldt and captured the city of Audenarde, gaining altogether 11 kilometers, and later, just before the armistice, crossed the Scheldt and advanced about seven kilometers beyond it.

The results of the two great offensives of the First American Army, the St. Mihiel Offensive, in which more than one-half of our combat troops were engaged and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, in which nearly all of them took part at one time or another, are too well known to bear repetition. But, briefly, the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 26th, 42nd, 82nd, 89th and 90th Divisions, together with Corps and Army troops, took part in the St. Mihiel Offensive between September 12 and 16, releasing about 150 square kilometers of French territory, capturing about 15,000 prisoners and great quantities of war material, and reducing the most conspicuous salient on the Western front.

24 Divisions in Argonne

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive, by far the greatest campaign in the history of American armies, involved between September 22 and November 11, besides great numbers of Corps and Army troops, the following divisions: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 36th, 37th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 89th, 90th and 91st, besides the 369th, 371st and 372nd Infantry Regiments. This last and stubborn contest resulted in the complete disruption of the stupendous German defense system between the Argonne and the region northeast of Verdun, a penetration into the territory held by the enemy to an average depth of about 50 kilometers and a methodical punishment of the hostile armies which had brought them, by November 11, to the verge of complete demoralization.

The 24 American divisions engaged met and overcame 44 German divisions and captured from them over 16,000 prisoners and 468 guns. Of the bronze stars which will in future be worn on the War Service Ribbons, by far the greater number will represent participation in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and they will mean that the bearer has proved his mettle in as fierce a conflict as the world has ever seen.

Work of Colored Troops

Of the three regiments of colored Infantry mentioned above, the 369th fought in the Meuse-Argonne with the 161st French Division of the Fourth Army, helping the Moroccans on September 26 to take Rip and crossing the Dormois River. Continuing the battle successfully during the next two days, on the 29th the 1st Battalion took the town of Sechault in a fierce house-to-house combat. Different battalions of the 371st Infantry, attached to the 161st French Division, in heavy fighting from September 26 to October 1, which earned from the division commander the statement that the regiment had "showed the finest qualities of bravery and audacity which are the attributes of shock troops," took the villages of Ardeuil and Montfauxelle and other important points in the Champagne some 12 kilometers west of the Argonne, while the 372nd Infantry, co-operating on the right of the 371st, but as part of the 157th ("Red Hand") French Division, captured the powerful German position on the Crete-des-Observatoires on September 28, assisted in the taking of Sechault on the 29th, and thereafter continued fighting until October 4, losing altogether 551 men and receiving the warmest praise of its division commander.

Windup With Austria-Hungary

In the battle of Vittorio-Veneto, the great final victory of Italy over the armies of Austria-Hungary, only about 1,200 Americans took part, these being the personnel of the 2nd Battalion of the 332nd Infantry Regiment, who, following up the rapid Italian advance, crossed the Taglinmento River at Ponte Della Delizia on the night of November 3-4 and attacked the enemy at 5:20 on the morning of the 4th, storming his positions against heavy machine gun resistance, taking 52 prisoners in ten machine gun nests on the opposite bank of the river, and losing only one killed and six wounded. The battalion then pursued the fleeing enemy to Codroipo and Villa Orbia-gating courts-martial, suggests the creation of a system of trial for enlisted men before juries of enlisted men. Judge to be a has-Agliapenta, and was still in pursuit when hostilities ceased by armistice at 3 p.m., November 4.

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