

BATTLE OF MEUSE-ARGONNE SAW A. E. F. MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT, DIVIDE ENEMY

Continued from Page 1

by the British Army Commander under whom they served.

On October 29 our 2nd and 30th Divisions were sent to assist the French in an important attack against the old German positions before Rheims. The 2nd conquered the complicated defense works on their front against a persistent defense worthy of the grimmest period of trench warfare and attacked the strongly held wooded hill of Blanc Mont which they captured in a second assault, sweeping over it with consummate dash and skill. This division then repulsed strong counter attacks before the village and cemetery of St. Etienne, and took the town, forcing the Germans to fall back from before Rheims and its positions they had held since September, 1914. On October 9 the 36th Division relieved the 2nd and, in its first experience under fire, withstood very severe artillery bombardment and rapidly took up the pursuit of the enemy now retreating behind the Aisne.

Meuse-Argonne, Second Phase

The Allied progress elsewhere cheered the efforts of our men in this crucial contest as the German command threw in more and more first class troops to stop our advance. We made a stand in the almost impenetrable and strongly held Argonne Forest, for despite his reinforcements, it was our Army that was doing the driving. Our aircraft was increasing in skill and numbers and forcing the issue, and our infantry and artillery were improving rapidly with each new experience. The placements of our troops were put into exhausted divisions with little time for training, but they had the advantage of serving beside men who knew their business and who had almost become veterans overnight. The enemy had taken every advantage of the terrain, which especially favored the defense, by prodigious use of machine guns manned by highly trained veterans and by using his artillery at short range. In the face of such strong frontal positions we should have been unable to accomplish any progress according to previously accepted standards, but I had every confidence in our aggressive tactics and the courage of our troops.

On October 4, the attack was renewed all along our front. The Third Corps tilting to the left followed the Briailles Canal road, our Fifth Corps took Gesnes, while along the irregular valley of the Aire river and in the wooded hills of the Argonne that border the river, used by the enemy with all his art and weapons of defense, the First Corps advanced for over two miles. This sort of fighting continued against an enemy striving to hold every foot of ground and whose very strong counter attacks challenged us at every point. On the 7th, the First Corps captured Chateauberry and continued along the river to Cornay. On the east of the Meuse sector, one of the two divisions co-operating with the French captured Convoys and the Haumont woods. On the 9th, the Fifth Corps, in its progress up the Aire, took Fleville, and the Third Corps which had continued fighting against an enemy which was working its way through Briailles and Cornay. On the 10th we had cleared the Argonne Forest of the enemy.

It was now necessary to constitute a Second Army, and on October 10 the immediate command of the First Army was turned over to Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett. The command of the Second Army whose divisions occupied a sector in the Woerwe was given to Lieutenant General Robert L. Bullard, who

had been commander of the 1st Division and then of the Third Corps. Major General Dickman was transferred to the command of the First Corps while the Fifth Corps was placed under Major General Charles P. Summerall, who had recently commanded the 1st Division. Major General John L. Hines, who had some rapidly up from regimental to division commander, was assigned to the Third Corps. These four officers had been in France from the early days of the Expedition and had learned the lessons in the school of practical warfare.

Our constant pressure against the enemy brought day by day more prisoners, mostly survivors from machine gun nests captured in fighting at close quarters. On October 18 there was very fierce fighting in the Cautres woods east of the Meuse and in the Ormont wood. On the 14th the First Corps took Sain Jurin, and the Fifth Corps, by hand to hand encounters, entered the formidable Kriehilde line where the enemy had hoped to check us indefinitely. Later the Fifth Corps penetrated further to the Kriehilde line, and the First Corps took Champignolle and the important town of Grand Pre. Our dogged offensive was wearing down the enemy, who could no longer rely on throwing his best troops against us, thus weakening his line in front of our Allies and making their advance less difficult.

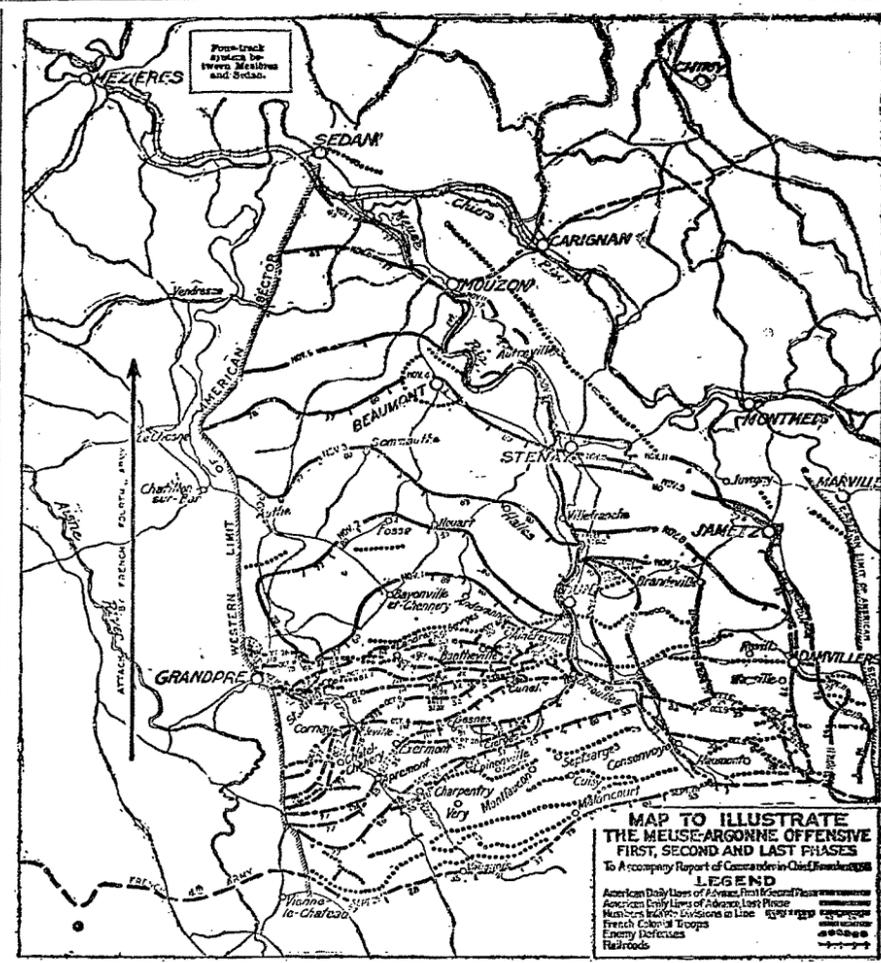
Divisions in Belgium

Meanwhile, we were not only able to continue the battle, but our 37th and 91st Divisions were hastily withdrawn from our front and dispatched to help the French Army in Belgium. Detaching in the neighborhood of Ypres, the divisions advanced by rapid stages to the fighting line and were assigned to adjacent French corps. On October 31, in continuation of the Flanders offensive they attacked and methodically broke down all enemy resistance. On November 3 the 37th had completed its mission in driving the enemy across the Escaur river and firmly established itself along the east bank included in the division zone of action. By a clever flanking movement, troops of the 91st Division captured Spillnals Bosschen, a difficult wood extending across the central part of the division sector, reaching the Scheidt and penetrated into the town of Audenarde. These divisions received the high commendation from their corps commanders for their dash and energy.

Meuse-Argonne, Last Phase

On the 23rd, the Third and Fifth Corps pushed northward to the level of Braslesville. While we continued to press forward and throw back the enemy's violent counter attacks with great loss to him, a re-grouping of our forces was under way for the final assault. Evidence of loss of morale by the enemy gave our men more confidence in attack and more fortitude in enduring the fatigue of incessant effort and the hardships of very inclement weather.

With comparatively well rested divisions the final advance in the Meuse-Argonne front was begun on November 1. Our increased artillery force acquitted itself magnificently in support of the advance, and the enemy broke before the determined infantry which, by its persistent fighting of the past weeks and the dash of this attack, had overcome his will to resist. The Third Corps took Auvillers, Doulon and Auvillers, and the Fifth Corps took Lardes of St. Georges and pressed through successive lines of resistance to Bayonville and Chemery. On the 2nd, the First Corps joined in the movement which now be-



came an impetuous onslaught that could not be stayed. On the 3rd, advance troops were hurried forward in pursuit, some by motor trucks, while the artillery pressed along the country roads close behind. The First Corps reached Aulhe and Chateauberry-sur-Bar, the Fifth Corps, Fosse and Nouart, and the Third Corps Hailles, penetrating the enemy's line to a depth of 12 miles. Our large caliber guns had advanced and were skillfully brought into position to fire upon the important railroad lines at Montmedy, Longuyon, and Conflans. Our Third Corps crossed the Meuse on the 5th and the other corps in the full confidence that the day was theirs, eagerly cleared the way of machine guns as they swept northward, maintaining complete co-ordination throughout. On the 6th a division of

the First Corps reached a point on the Meuse opposite Sedan, 25 miles from our line of departure. The strategic goal which was our highest hope was gained. We had cut the enemy's main line of communications and nothing but surrender or an armistice could save his army from complete disaster. In all 44 enemy divisions had been used against us in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Between September 26 and November 6 we took 16,039 prisoners and 498 guns on this front. Our divisions engaged were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82nd, 89th, 90th, 91st. Many of our divisions remained in line for a length of time that required weeks of steel while others were sent in again after only a few days of rest. The 1st, 2nd, 5th, 26th, 42nd, 77th, 79th,

80th and 90th were in the line twice. Although some of the divisions were fighting their first battle, they soon became equal to the best.

Operations East of the Meuse

On the three days preceding November 10, the Third Corps and the Second, Tenth and Seventeenth French Corps fought a difficult struggle through the Meuse hills south of Stenay and forced the enemy into the plain. Meanwhile, my plans for further use of the American forces contemplated an advance between the Meuse and the Moselle in the direction of Longwy by the First Army, while at the same time the Second Army should assume the offensive toward the rich iron fields of Briey. These operations were to be followed by an offensive toward Chateau-Salme, east of the Mo-

sele, thus isolating Metz. Accordingly, attacks on the American front had been ordered, and that of the Second Army was in progress on the morning of November 11, when instructions were received that hostilities should cease at 11 o'clock a. m. At this moment the line of the American sector from right to left began at Port-sur-Selle, thence across the Moselle to Vandieres and through the Woerwe to Beranvaux, in the foothills of the Meuse, thence along the foothills and through the northern edge of the Woerwe forests to the Meuse at Mouzy, thence along the Meuse connecting with the French near Sedan.

Relations With the Allies

Co-operation among the Allies has at all times been most cordial. A far greater effort has been put forth by the Allied armies and staffs to assist us than could have been expected. The French Government and Army have always stood ready to furnish us with supplies, equipment and transportation and to aid us in every way. In the towns and hamlets wherever our troops have been stationed or billeted, the French people have everywhere received them more as relatives and intimate friends than as soldiers of a foreign army. For these things, words are quite inadequate to express our gratitude. There can be no doubt that the relations growing out of our associations here assure the permanent friendship between the two peoples. Although we have not been so intimately associated with the people of Great Britain, yet their troops and ours when thrown together have always warmly fraternized. The reception of those of our forces who have passed through England and of those who have been stationed there has always been enthusiastic. Altogether, it has been deeply impressed upon us that the ties of language and blood bring the British and ourselves together completely and inseparably.

Strength

There are in Europe altogether, including a regiment and some sanitary units with the Italian Army and the organizations at Murmansk, also including those on route from the States, approximately 2,633,347 men, less our losses. Of this total there are in France 1,338,169 combatant troops. Forty divisions have arrived, of which the infantry personnel of ten have been used as replacements, leaving 30 divisions now in France organized into three armies of three corps each.

The losses of the American Army up to November 18 are: Killed and died of wounds, 36,154; died of disease, 14,817; deaths unclassified, 2,204; wounded, 179,625; prisoners, 2,163; missing, 11,660. We have captured altogether about 44,000 prisoners and 1,400 guns, howitzers and trench mortars.

Commendation

The duties of the General Staff, as well as those of the Army and Corps staffs, have been very ably performed. Especially is this true when we consider the new and difficult problems with which they have been confronted. This body of officers, both individuals and as an organization, have, I believe, no superiors in professional ability, in efficiency, or in loyalty.

Nothing that we have in France better reflects the efficiency and devotion to duty of Americans in general than the Service of Supply, whose personnel is thoroughly imbued with a patriotic desire to do its full duty. They have at all times fully appreciated their respon-

sibility to the rest of the Army, and the results produced have been most gratifying.

Our Medical Corps is especially entitled to praise for the general effectiveness of its work, both in hospitals and at the front. Embracing men of high professional attainments, and splendidly devoted to their calling and untiring in their efforts, this department has made a new record for medical and sanitary proficiency.

The Quartermaster Department has had a difficult and varied task, but it has more than met all demands that have been made upon it. Its management and its personnel have been exceptionally efficient and deserve every possible commendation.

As to the more technical service, the able personnel of the Ordnance Department in France has splendidly fulfilled its functions both in procurement and in forwarding the immense quantities of ordnance required. The officers and men and the young women of the Signal Corps have performed their duties with a large conception of the problem and with a devoted and patriotic spirit to which the perfection of our communications daily testify. While the Engineer Corps has been referred to in another part of this report, it should be further stated that their work has required large vision and high professional skill, and great credit is due their personnel for the high efficiency that they have constantly maintained.

Our aviators have no equals in daring or in fighting ability, and have left a record of courageous deeds that will ever remain a brilliant page in the annals of our Army. While the Tank Corps has had limited opportunity, its personnel has responded gallantly on every possible occasion and has shown courage of the highest order.

The Adjutant General's Department has been directed with a systematic thoroughness and excellence that surpasses any previous work of its kind. The Inspector General's Department has risen to the highest standards and throughout has ably assisted commanders in the enforcement of discipline. The able personnel of the Judge Advocate General's Department has solved with judgment and wisdom the multitude of difficult legal problems, many of them involving questions of great international importance.

It would be impossible in this brief preliminary report to do justice to the personnel of all the different branches of this organization which I shall cover in detail in a later report.

The Navy in European waters has at all times most cordially aided the Army, and it is most gratifying to report that there has never before been such perfect co-operation between these two branches of the Service.

As to Americans in Europe not in the military service, it is the greatest pleasure to say that, both in official and in private life, they are intensely patriotic and loyal, and have been invariably sympathetic and helpful to the Army.

Finally, I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardship, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal, and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country.

I am Mr. Secretary,
Very respectfully,
JOHN J. FEARNSIDE,
General, Command-in-Chief,
American Expeditionary Forces.

CAN YOU USE 2,500 FRANCS?

WHAT DO THEY MAKE IN YOUR HOME TOWN?

Is it Kalamazoo and kitchen ranges?

Is it Pittsburgh and steel rails?

Is it Waterbury and watches?

Is it Oshkosh and concrete mixers?

Is it Marysville and centrifugal pumps?

WHO are the big manufacturers of your home town? Do you know them? Do you know their goods? Do they want more business? Would they like to see their products made, under their own direct supervision, in French factories, and placed on the European market direct from those same French factories?

Do they know that hundreds of French factories, engaged for

four years in the manufacture of implements of war for France and for her Allies—including America—are now ready and waiting to return to the normal pursuits of peace, with no peace article to manufacture?

Do they know that these same French factories are now anxious to become Americanized in their choice of many articles of manufacture, and in the methods of turning out those articles?

Do they know that French manufacturers are seeking the peace time partnership of their brother American manufacturers?

Do you know that, simply by writing a letter of introduction that says, "Mr. Home Town Manufacturer, meet the manufacturers of France," you can open the way toward earning for yourself 2,500 francs?

The FRANCO-AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION (F.A.M.A.)

consists of a group of French manufacturers and American Army officers (engineers and chiefs of purchasing departments), now awaiting discharge, who have formed this association to buy the rights to make American owned devices in France.

The factories of France, with their victorious work of four years ended, are now ready to enter upon the even greater task of rehabilitation. They want to get back to normal. They have the plants, the labor, the capital. They want to make American goods—anything from a door knob to a locomotive—of proved worth and reputation. The range is unlimited. They seek the partnership of the American manufacturer. They do not ask one cent of his money.

They will buy European rights for cash or arrange to operate under license. Special skill and equipment will also be required from America, as well as blue prints and samples, for the "know-how" is as important as any other factor.

The choice, for the American manufacturer seeking a European market, lies between a helter-skelter scramble for European business and the sale to the Franco-American Manufacturers' Association (F.A.M.A.), for ready money, of the right to make and market his products.

The F.A.M.A. wants the American soldier in France or Germany to ask himself these specific questions: What has America got that France needs? What American devices do

you know about that you think could be profitably made and marketed in France? What American manufacturer are you acquainted with, personally or through his products, who would be interested in the proposition outlined?

Send this advertisement to that manufacturer, with your views, based on your own experiences, of the opportunity that is open to him, sending to the office of the F.A.M.A. at the same time your A.E.F. and home addresses and the name and address of the manufacturer with whom you have communicated.

Remember that the F.A.M.A. is not prepared to exploit any new or untried article. It will deal only with firms of established

reputation who are producing a recognizedly fine article. The F.A.M.A. prefers, also, to manufacture articles that are or can be protected in France by patents.

To every member of the A.E.F. who, in the manner explained, places the F.A.M.A. in touch with an American manufacturer from the F.A.M.A. buys the right to produce and market his device in France, we will pay, on the completion of the terms of agreement, the sum of 2,500 francs.

The factories are waiting. We ask you to act quickly. Remember, some other soldier may be planning to write to the very firm you have in mind. The F.A.M.A. will also be pleased to have you call at its Paris offices. Address:

The FRANCO-AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION (F.A.M.A.) 72 RUE St. LAZARE, PARIS