



Official Commendations

of the

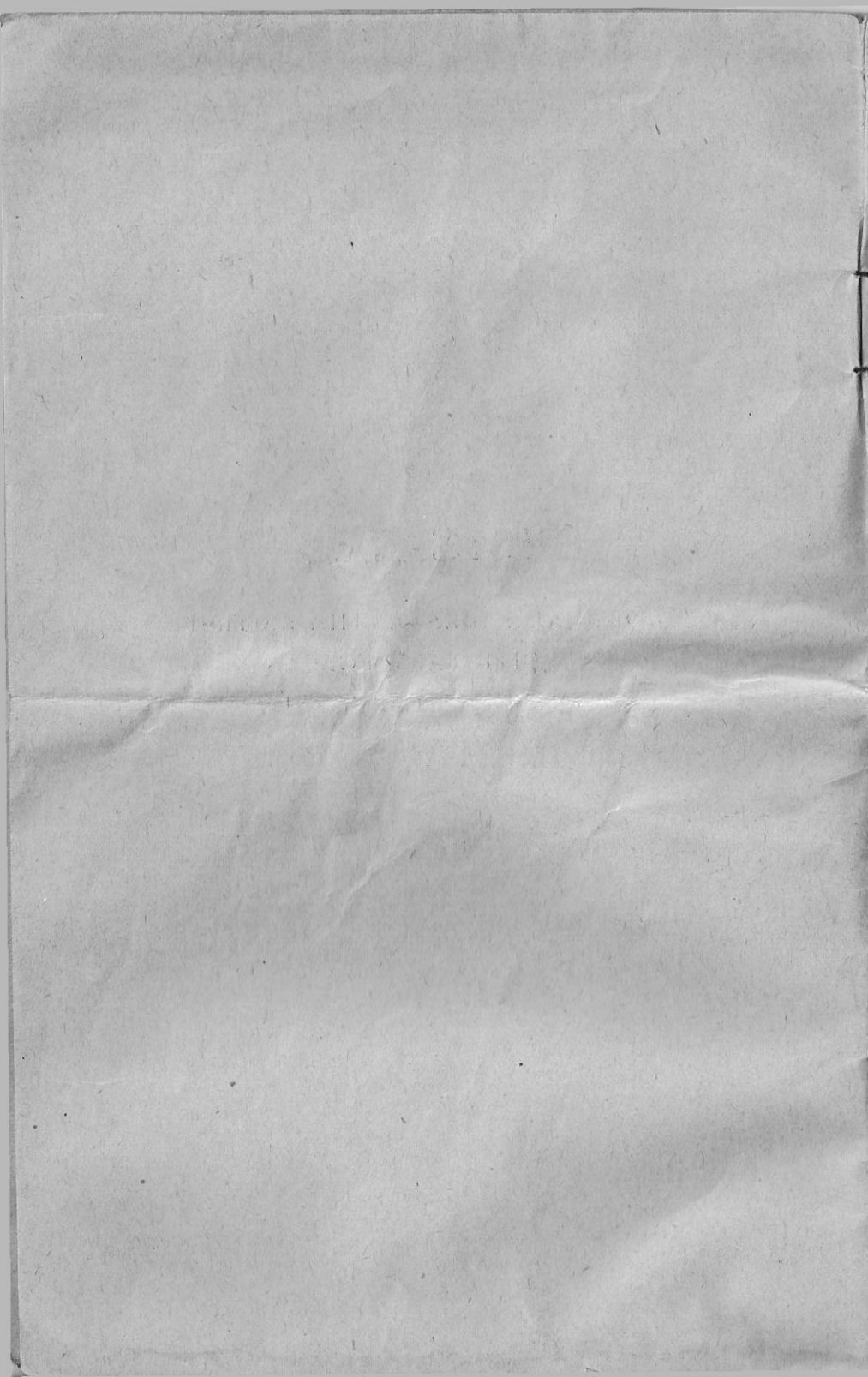
27th American Division

Belgium and France

1918

DEDICATED

TO OUR COMRADES OF THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
WITH WHOM WE SERVED



BATTLES, ENGAGEMENTS AND MINOR ACTIONS OF THE 27th DIVISION U.S.A., IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE, 1918

BATTLE. HINDENBURG LINE (Vicinity of Bony), France, Sept. 29
30, 1918.

The Battle of Hindenburg Line was a prepared attack; the 3rd British Corps on our left, the 2nd American Corps, the Australian Corps, the 9th British Corps, participating, in connection with other British Troops to the left and the 10th French Army to the right.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

- 2nd Guard Division;
- 232nd Infantry Division;
- 54th Infantry Division;
- 185th Infantry Division;
- 121st Infantry Division;
- 75th Infantry Division.

BATTLE. LA SELLE RIVER (Vicinity of St. Soupiet), France
Oct. 17, 1918.

The battle of La Selle River was a prepared attack, the enemy having made a determined stand using the stream as a defence the 3rd British Corps, the 2nd American Corps, the 9th British Corps, participating, in connection with the 10th French Army to the right.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

- 204th Infantry Division;
- 243rd Infantry Division;
- 3rd Naval Division;
- 24th Infantry Division;
- 15th Rifle Division.

BATTLE. JONG DE MER RIDGE (Vicinity of Arbre Guernon)
France, Oct. 18, 1918.

The battle of Jong de Mer Ridge was a prepared attack, the 3rd British Corps, 2nd American Corps, 9th British Corps, 10th French Army, participating.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division

204th Infantry Division ;
243rd Infantry Division ;
3rd Naval Division ;
24th Infantry Division ;
15th Rifle Division.

ENGAGEMENT. VIERSTRAAT RIDGE (Vicinity of Mont Kemmel), Belgium, Aug. 31st to Sept. 2nd, 1918.

The engagement of Vierstraat Ridge was an advance to occupy this ridge and Mont Kemmel, from which the enemy was believed to be retiring.

The enemy was found to be withdrawing his main force to Wyschaete Ridge, but leaving machine gun nests to hold as long as possible, and keeping the whole terrain covered with artillery fire.

Our troops continued a following action with artillery and machine gun preparation and action, meeting strong resistance, including counter-attacks by enemy infantry, to east slope of Vierstraat Ridge.

The 30th Division (American) on our left, the 34th British Division on our right, and other corps of 2nd British Army further south, participated in this engagement.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

236th Infantry Division ;
8th Infantry Division ;
52nd Infantry Division.

ENGAGEMENT. THE KNOLL — GUILLEMONT FARM — QUENNEMONT FARM, France, Sept. 27, 1918.

This operation was a planned attack with tanks, artillery and machine gun barrage to capture the strong advance line of the Hindenburg System.

The 30th American Division on our right straightened their line, no other troops participating.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

54th Infantry Division ;
121st Infantry Division ;
185th Infantry Division ;
75th Rifle Division ;
2nd Guard Division.

ENGAGEMENT. ST. MAURICE RIVER (Vicinity of Catillon), France, Oct. 19-20, 1918.

The engagement of St. Maurice River was an advance, including

an attack of machine gun nests with enemy infantry and artillery resistance, to the line of the St. Maurice Stream. (Troops participating : 3rd British Corps, 2nd American Corps, 9th British Corps).

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

Parts of 204th Infantry Division;
Parts of 243rd Infantry Division;
Parts of 24th Infantry Division;
Parts of 15th Rifle Division.

MINOR ACTION. EAST POPERINGHE LINE, July 9th to August 20, 1918.

This action consisted of constructing and occupying the second position opposite Mont Kemmel during a time when the enemy was expected to make heavy attacks. The position was under close observation from Mont Kemmel and was subjected to observed artillery fire by day and continued fire by night, inflicting daily casualties.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

Divisions of Prince Ruprecht's Group of Armies.

MINOR ACTION. DICKEBUSCH SECTOR, Belgium, August 21st to 30th, 1918.

This action consisted of holding the Dickebusch Sector (vicinity of Dickebusch Lake) front line, repelling raids, making raids and patrols, being under continual artillery and machine gun fire with perfect observation from enemy position on Mont Kemmel.

Enemy opposite the front of the 27th Division :

Divisions of Prince Ruprecht's Group of Armies.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM FROM GENERAL PERSHING

(Dated October 19, 1918.)

COMMANDING GENERAL, 27TH DIVISION.

The following repeated for your information quote number 160603. The commander in chief desires you to convey to the officers and soldiers of your corps his appreciation of the magnificent qualities which have enabled them, against powerful resist-

ance, to advance more than ten miles and to take more than six thousand prisoners since September twenty seventh. McANDREW. Unquote addsd 27th and 30th divs. II. American Corps.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM FROM SIR DOUGLAS
HAIG, K.T., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E.,
FIELD MARSHAL, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

(Dated October 20, 1918.)

“ General Read, II. American Corps. I wish to express to you personally and to all the officers and men serving under you my warm appreciation of the very valuable and gallant services rendered by you, throughout the recent operations with the 4th British Army. Called upon to attack positions of great strength held by a determined enemy all ranks of the 27th and 30th American Divisions, under your command, displayed an energy, courage and determination in attack which proved irresistible. It does not need me to tell you that in the heavy fighting of the past three weeks you have earned the lasting esteem and admiration of your British Comrades in arms whose success you have so nobly shared.”

D. HAIG.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM FROM GENERAL
H. L. RAWLINSON
COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRITISH ARMY

II. AMERICAN CORPS.

Now that the American Corps has come out of the line for a well earned period of rest and training, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the great gallantry and the fine soldierly spirit they have displayed throughout the recent hard fighting.

The breaking of the great Hindenburg system of defense, coupled with the captures of Grandcourt, Busigny and St. Souplet, and finally the forcing the passages of the La Selle constitute a series of victories of which each officer, N. C. O. and man have every reason to feel proud.

The Corps has been very well supported by the Artillery of the Australian Corps, to whom I desire to offer my best thanks for

their skill and endurance during the long months they have now been in action.

The efficiency with which the staff work of the Corps has been carried out on this their first experience as a fighting Corps in the line of battle has filled me with admiration, and I attribute it largely to the zeal and unity of purpose which has throughout animated the whole Corps.

The outstanding feature of their recent victories has been the surprising gallantry and self-sacrifice of the regimental officers and men. I congratulate them on their prowess and offer them one and all my warmest thanks for the leading part they have taken in the recent operations.

It is possible now to give the Corps a period of rest, during which special attention should be paid to the training of the smaller units in minor tactics such as the attack of strong points and machine gun nests. The experience they have had of actual combat will assist them to improve their fighting efficiency in this respect.

In thanking the Corps as a whole for the great services they have rendered to the Allied cause, I desire to wish all ranks the best of good fortune in the future.

H. S. RAWLINSON,
General, Commanding Fourth Army.

Adv. Hqrs. Fourth Army.

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 3rd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

MAJOR GENERAL J. F. O'RYAN, 27th Div.

France, 14 Octobre 1918.

General :

On behalf of all ranks of the 3rd Australian Division, I desire to express our sincere appreciation of the fighting qualities displayed by the 27th Division U. S. on the 27th and 29th September last. The gallant manner in which your troops faced an extremely difficult task, the determination of their attacks on a strongly entrenched position, and the undaunted spirit with which they met their losses make us hope that we shall again have the honour of fighting alongside the Division under your command. The confidence of the men in their officers appealed to us as particularly happy omen for the future successes of the 27th.

Very respectfully,

I. GELLIBRAND,
Major General, Comg. 3rd Australian Division.

HEADQUARTERS II. CORPS AMERICAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

France, Oct., 4 1918.

From : Adjutant General.
To : Commanding General, 27th Division, American E. F.
Subject : Operation against Hindenburg Line of September
29th 1918.

1. Following is letter received from the Commanding General,
Australian Corps :

AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Corps Headquarters, 2nd October 1918.

My dear General,

As the Second American Corps has now been withdrawn from the line, and my official association with you and your troops has been, for the time, being suspended, I desire to express to you the great pleasure that it has been to me and to the troops of the Australian Army Corps to have been so closely allied to you in the recent very important battle operations which have resulted in the breaking through of the main Hindenburg Line on the front of the Fourth British Army.

Now that fuller details of the work done by the 27th and 30th American Divisions have become available, the splendid gallantry and devotion of the troops in these operations have won the admiration of their Australian comrades. The tasks set were formidable, but the American troops overcame all obstacles and contributed in a very high degree to the ultimate capture of the whole tunnel system.

I shall be glad if you will convey to your Division Commanders my appreciation of thanks for the work done and to accept my best wishes for every possible success in the future.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) JOHN MONASH.

MAJOR-GENERAL G. W. READ, N. A.

Commanding II. American Corps.

2. In communicating to you this expression of the sentiments of the Commander of the Australian Corps, the Corps Commander desires to make known to you his appreciation of the splendid

fighting qualities of your division, and of the results they accomplished in their part in breaking this formidable portion of the Hindenburg Line. It is undoubtedly due to the troops of this Corps that the line was broken and the operations now going on made possible.

The unflinching determination of those men, their gallantry in battle and the results accomplished, are an example for the future. They will have their place in history and must always be a source of pride to our people.

(Signed) STEPHEN C. CLARK,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL BRITISH REPORT

Saturday night, Oct. 20, 1918.

In the course of the last three weeks the Twenty-seventh and the Thirtieth Divisions of the II. American Corps, operating with the Fourth British Army, have taken part with great gallantry and success in three major offensive operations, besides being engaged in a number of lesser attacks. In the course of this fighting they have displayed soldierly qualities of a high order and have materially assisted in the success of our attacks.

Having fought with the upmost dash and bravery in the great attack of September 29th in which the Hindenburg Line was broken and having on that occasion captured the villages of Bellicourt and Mauroy, with a large number of prisoners, on Oct. 8th. the troops of the II. American Corps again attacked in the neighborhood of Montbrehain. In three days of successful fighting they completed an advance of ten miles from Maton to St. Souplet, overcoming determined resistance and capturing several strongly defended villages and woods.

Throughout the past three days the II. American Corps has again attacked daily and on each occasion with complete success, through the enemy's resistance has been most obstinate. Fighting their way forward from St. Souplet to the high ground west of the Sambre Canal, they have broken the enemy's resistance at all points, beating off many counter-attacks and realising a further advance of nearly five miles.

Over five thousand prisoners and many guns have been taken by the II. American Corps.

HEADQUARTERS II. CORPS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, FRANCE

November 18, 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO 44.

1. The following letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies to the Commanding General, II. Corps, is published for the information of the officers and men of this command :

« Now that the American II. Corps is leaving the British Zone, I wish once more to thank you and all officers, non-commissioned officers and men under your command, on behalf both of myself and all ranks of the British Armies in France and Flanders, for the very gallant and efficient service you have rendered during the period of your operations with the 4th British Army.

On the 29th of September you took part with great distinction in the great and critical attack which shattered the enemy's resistance in the Hindenburg Line and opened the road to final victory. The deeds of the 27th and 30th American Divisions who on that day took Bellicourt and Nauroy and so gallantly sustained the desperate struggle for Bony, will rank with the highest achievements of the war. They will always be remembered by the British regiments that fought beside you.

Since that date, through three weeks of almost continuous fighting, you advanced from one success to another, overcoming all resistance, beating off numerous counter-attacks, and capturing several thousand prisoners and many guns. The names of Brancourt, Premont, Vaux-Andigny, St. Souplet and Mazinghien, testify to the dash and energy of your attacks.

I rejoice at the success which has attended your efforts and I am proud to have had you under my command.

(Signed) D. HAIG.
Field Marshal.

By Command of Major General Read

OFFICIAL :

STEPHEN C. CLARK.
Adjutant General.

GEO. S. SIMOND
Chief of Staff.

September 30, 1918.

TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 27TH DIVISION :

In making a personal reconnaissance of the battle-field east and northeast of Duncan Post on the morning of September 30, it was evident from the onset the troops of the 27th Division had met with very heavy opposition and machine gun fire which was enfilading. There were a very large number of dead, all of which were lying with their faces toward the front, obviously being killed as they were advancing. Not in any one case was there a man moving backward when killed. Owing to the nature of the country the Germans were able to get enfilading machine gun fire which proved disastrous. Although the 27th Division may not have taken all objectives in all parts, it is very evident that by their gallant fighting on the left flank, they enabled the 30th Division on their right to do what they had set out to do, viz., to break the Hindenburg Line. Without the gallant fighting of the 27th Division, against great odds, it would have been impossible for the 30th Division to advance.

I am convinced that the officers and men of the 27th Division have done all that was humanly possible for brave men to do, and their gallantry in this action must stand out through all time in American history.

Signed : H. MURRAY.

Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. D. S. O. Bar., D. C. M.
Commanding 4th Australian Machine-Gun Battalion.

Headquarters, 27th Division, American E. F.,
France, 2 December 18.

BULLETIN NO 125.

The following letters of commendation are published for the information of the members of this Division :

HEADQUARTERS, 33rd DIVISION AMERICAN
EXP. FORCES, FRANCE

28th October, 1918.

From : Major General Geo. Bell., Jr., Commanding.
To : Brigadier General George Albert Wingate, 52nd F. A.
Brigade.
Subject : Service with 33rd Division.
As the 52nd Field Artillery Brigade is being relieved from duty

with the 33rd Division, I wish to take this occasion to express to you my appreciation for the invaluable service and assistance rendered by it.

Every request of ours you have met in a uniform, earnest and official manner, and your cooperation has contributed in a great measure to our success in the recent operations.

Please express to your officers and men my appreciation and sincere regret that the exigencies of the field service necessitates your separation from us at this time.

(Signed) Geo. BELL, Jr.
Major General, U. S. A.

Hq. 158th Infantry Brig., A. E. F.,
14 November 1918.

From : Commanding General, 158th Infantry Brigade.
To : Commanding General, 52nd Field Artillery Brigade.
Subject : Conduct of Artillery.

I desire to express to you, and through you to the officers of the 105th Regiment of Field Artillery, my appreciation of the services rendered by this regiment since the beginning of the operations November 2nd last. At all times they have worked in the closest co-operation with my Brigade, and have performed the duties assigned them most efficiently and effectively, assisting very largely in such measure of success as I may have gained.

I may add not only this regiment, but where called upon the heavy artillery worked, I found, also very effectively and I desire to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered.

(Signed) EVAN M. JOHNSON.
Brigadier General.

BULLETIN No 125

Headquarters 157th Inf. Brigade, A. E. F.,
15th November, 18.

From : Commanding General, 157th Inf. Brigade.
To : Commanding General, 52nd Field Artillery Brigade.
Subject : Artillery Support.

1. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity of communicating to you the opinions of all members of this Command regarding the support and cooperation of the 104th Field Artillery and that portion of the 106th Field Artillery assigned for the support of this Brigade during the recent operations prior to the cessation of hostilities.

2. The service rendered by the above mentioned units from the start commanded the thorough confidence of all members of this

Command and by the efficiency of their work and the effect of their fire supported all ranks and assisted materially in maintaining a high standard of morale.

3. From my own observation and from reports and statements made by officers of my Command, the units mentioned above proved themselves to be the best supporting artillery which has been associated with us. Their fire has been the most accurate, their action upon request the most prompt, their means of communication with us the most complete and continuous and their co-operation by moving forward with our Infantry, the best that has been our fortune to encounter.

4. I trust that you will convey the thanks and appreciation of myself and of members of this Command to the Officers and Men of the 104th Field Artillery and the Battalion of the 106th Field Artillery above indicated, for their splendid services.

(Signed) W. J. NICHOLSON,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.

Headquarters 79th Division Am. E. F., France,
18th November, 1918.

From : Commanding General.

To : Brig. General George A. Wingate, 52nd F. A. Brig.

Subject : Commendation.

I desire to record my appreciation of the manner in which you and your brigade have functioned in support of the 79th Division. During the recent operations north of Verdun October 30th to November 11th, inclusive, your brigade was called upon many times for artillery support and frequently the aid desired made it necessary for you to employ the full resources and capacity of your brigade. You, your officers and men have always responded to the call of the infantry with the utmost cheerfulness and enthusiasm and our artillery support has been all that could be desired.

I beg that you will extend to your officers and men the sincere thanks of myself and of the Division as a whole for their hearty and whole hearted co-operation.

(Signed) JOSEPH E. KUHN,
Major General, U. S. A.

OFFICIAL

H. S. BATTENBERG,
Adjutant General,
Division Adjutant.

By Command of Major General O'RYAN

T. S. TAYLOR,
Colonel, G. S.
Actg. Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS, 27th DIVISION, U.S.A.
AMERICAN E. F., FRANCE

October 21, 1918.

BULLETIN No 103.

Since the 25th of September — a period of nearly a month — the Division has been engaged almost continuously in fighting and marching. Some of this fighting involved a leading role in one of the fiercest battles of the war — the breaking off great Hindenburg defense line. We have suffered the loss of some of our best officers and men, but unfortunately such losses are incidental to battles of such magnitude. Only divisions highly trained and disciplined, possessing the greatest confidence and morale and at the very top notch of their strength could have accomplished what the Division and our comrades of the 30th Division accomplished in that great battle. Only such divisions could have met the sacrifices demanded, and with morale unimpaired have renewed the advance in the manner characteristic of the operations of the past two weeks.

This is not the occasion to describe the Hindenburg defenses or the details of the battle for breaking them. That will doubtless be done after the war. The same comment applies to the details of the operations since that engagement. Nevertheless, the Division Commander cannot withhold this expression of his admiration and respect for the valor and discipline as well as the endurance and spirit manifested by officers and men throughout this long period of fighting. These sentiments are stimulated by the events of the past week. When reduced in numbers, the Division attacked the enemy, took the town of St. Souplet, forced the crossing of the La Selle River, and against strong opposition successfully assaulted the heights on the other side. Since that date the Division has attacked daily taking by force the town of Arbre Guernon and a number of strongly fortified farms and forcing a withdrawal of the enemy to the Canal de la Sambre.

In this latter advance the Division captured more than 1400 German officers and enlisted men, and a vast amount of military property including field guns, a great number of machine guns both light and heavy, anti-tank guns, trench mortars, dumps of ammunition and railroad rolling stock. In all this fighting the character of the enemy's resistance and the extent of his losses are indicated by the large number of enemy dead on the field.

The efforts of the past month constitute a record to be proud of, and their value is indicated in the commendatory letter from the

Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Forces which has been published for the information of the Division. Officers and men have justified estimate made of the Division when after its arrival in France it was selected to hold the Mont Kemmel sector against the expected great effort of the enemy to drive thru to the sea. They have justified the opinions of their fighting qualities formed when this crisis, with the evacuation of Mont Kemmel had passed, and the Division promptly attacked and took Vierstaat Ridge, being, with the 30th Division on our left, the first American troops to fight on Belgian territory.

JOHN F. O'RYAN, Major General.

Headquarters, 27th Division, American E. F.,
France, 6 December, '18.

BULLETIN NO 128.

The following letter from the G. O. C. 4th Army, B. E. F., to Hdqrs. II. Corps, A. E. F., dated 25, Nov. 18, is published for the information of this command :

1. I wish to express to you my thanks for, and my appreciation of, the excellent work done by the 102nd and 105th Regiments of Engineers, whose services you were good enough to place at my disposal.

2. The work done by these two regiments on the light railways was of the greatest value in getting through the system of light railway communication which, owing to the continuous destruction of the broad gauge lines by delay action mines, was the means by which it was possible to maintain the troops and continue the fighting which led to such great results.

3. I will be glad if you will be so good as to convey to Colonel A. H. Acker and Colonel J. H. Pratte, Commanding respectively the 102 and 105th Regiments of Engineers, and to the officers, non commissioned officers and men of these regiments this expression of the keen appreciation with which their valuable and cordial co-operation has been regarded by all thanks of the Fourth Army.

H. S. RAWLINSON,
Comdg Fourth Army.

By Command of Major General O'RYAN.

W. H. RAYMOND, Colonel, G.-S. Chief of Staff.

Official H. B. BATTENBERG, Adjutant general, Division Adjutant.

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN
OF BUSIGNY TO CAPTAIN STEPHEN N. BOBO,
AMERICAN RED CROSS

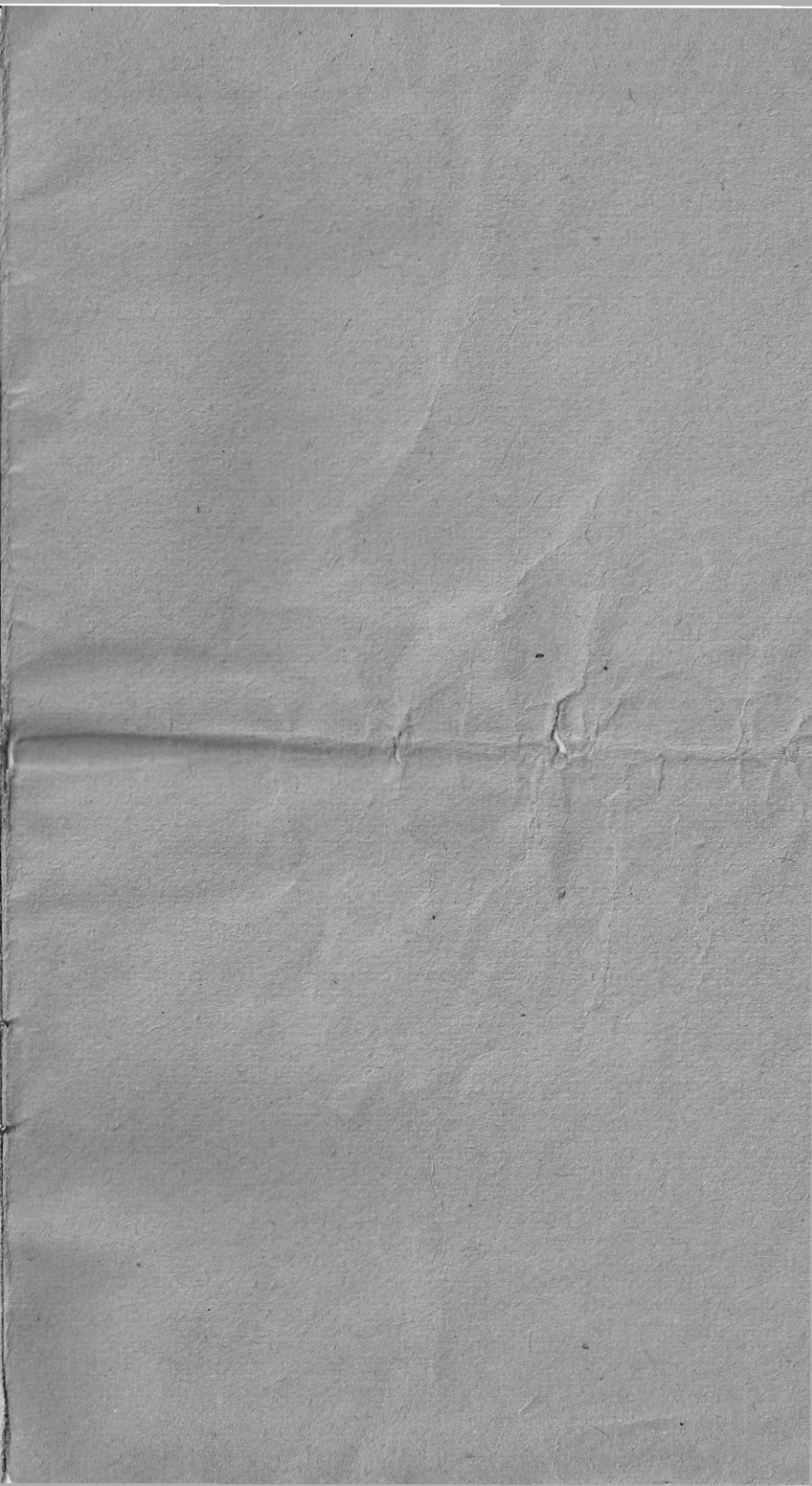
ATTACHED TO THE 27th AMERICAN DIVISION

“ In the name of the population of the village of Busigny and its neighboring localities, I wish to convey to you our deep feelings of gratitude for all the gifts we have received from the American Red Cross, even under Boche bombardment. Your gifts were inestimable to us who, during four years, have suffered under the heavy heel and brutal yoke of Prussianism. We will never forget that it is thanks to the countrymen of our liberators that we owe the first delicate attentions that have been shown us and of which we were deprived since the first days of the war. I should be very much obliged if you would kindly transmit the expression of our profound gratitude to the splendid organization of which you are the devoted messenger.

Your name will live eternally in our memory and the admiration that we feel will never die for he who, in spite of the greatest danger, has come even within our walls, and runs the risk of war to bring relief to our miseries.

Please accept, Sir, the expression of my gratitude and admiration. ”

E. MAIRER.



HEADQUARTERS 27TH DIVISION U. S. A.

American E. F. France.

BULLETIN }
No 103. }

October 21, 1918.

Since the 25th of September — a period of nearly one month — the division has been engaged almost continuously in fighting and marching. Some of this fighting involved a leading role in one of the fiercest battles of the war — the breaking of the great Hindenburg defense line. We have suffered the loss of some of our best officers and men, but unfortunately such losses are incidental to battles of such magnitude. Only divisions highly trained and disciplined, possessing the greatest confidence and morale and at the very top notch of their strength could have accomplished what this division and our comrades of the 30th accomplished in that great battle. Only such divisions could have met the sacrifices demanded, and with morale unimpaired have renewed the advance in the manner characterizing the operations of the past two weeks.

This is not the occasion to describe the Hindenburg defenses or the details of the battle for breaking them. That will doubtless be done after the war. The same comment applies to the details of the operations since that engagement. Nevertheless, the Division Commander cannot withhold this expression of his admiration and respect for the valor and discipline as well as the endurance and spirit manifested by officers and men throughout this long period of fighting. These sentiments are stimulated by the events of the past week, when reduced in strength, the Division attacked the enemy, took the town of ST. SOUPLLET, forced the crossing of the LE SELLE RIVER, and against strong opposition successfully assaulted the heights on the other side. Since that date the division has attacked daily taking by assault the town of ARBRE GUERNON and a number of strongly fortified farms and forcing a withdrawal of the enemy to the CANAL DE LA SAMBRE.

In this latter advance the division captured more than 1400 German officers and enlisted men, and a vast amount of military property including field guns, a great number of machine guns both light and heavy, anti-tank guns, trench mortars, dumps of ammunition and railroad rolling stock. In all this fighting the character of the enemy's resistance and the extent of his losses are indicated by the large number of enemy dead on the field.

The efforts of the past month constitute a record to be proud of, and their value is indicated in the commendatory letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Forces which has been published for the information of the division. Officers and men have justified the estimate made of the division, when after its arrival in France it was selected to hold the MT. KEMMEL sector against the expected great effort of the enemy to drive through to the sea. They have justified the opinions of their fighting qualities formed when that crisis, with the evacuation of MT. KEMMEL, had passed, and the division promptly attacked and took VIERSTAAT RIDGE, being, with the 30th Division on our left, the first American troops to fight on Belgian territory.

JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS 27TH DIVISION U. S. A.

American E. F., France

October 22, 1918.

FROM : Commanding General,
To : Commanding Officer, 105th U. S. Infantry.
SUBJECT : Commendation.

1. — I write to express my admiration and commendation for the valor, skill and endurance of the officers and men of the 105th Infantry.

2. — During the battle for the breaking of the Hindenburg Line the mission of the regiment was peculiarly difficult. The character of the operation assigned it made it impossible for the regiment to have the assistance of a barrage. The enemy operating from a flank position at VANDHUILLE held back the division on our left and delivered repeated hurricanes of fire and strong counter attacks against our flank. It was against such fire that the regiment rendered such valuable service in assisting in the shattering of these counter attacks.

3. — Almost continuously since that battle the division has been fighting and marching. On the 17th instant the crossing of the LE SELLE RIVER and the assault of the heights on the easterly bank was imposed on the 105th Infantry and 108th Infantry regiments. The serious obstacle offered by this stream with its steep approaches and absence of bridges, the difficulties presented by the high embankments on the other side manned with machine guns, anti-tank guns and minenwerfers, all supported by artillery, make the crossing of the river and the taking of the heights seem like an incredible feat. Nevertheless, this was accomplished.

4. — In the days succeeding this assault the regiment played a most prominent part in the continuous fighting which resulted in the taking of BANDIVAL FARM, the town of ARBRE GUERNON and the forcing of the enemy to the line of the CANAL DE LA SAMBRE. These operations resulted in the capture of many hundreds of prisoners and a great amount of war material. It necessitated lying in shell holes at night, attacking at dawn and fighting most of the day against determined machine gun resistance supported by artillery fire. That the officers and men of the 105th Infantry were enabled to continue this advance under the conditions for a number of days with their cheerfulness and determination unimpaired indicates the highest measure of morale. The regiment has made a fine record. Let us honor the memory of our gallant comrades who contributed so materially thereto but who died in battle.

JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.

