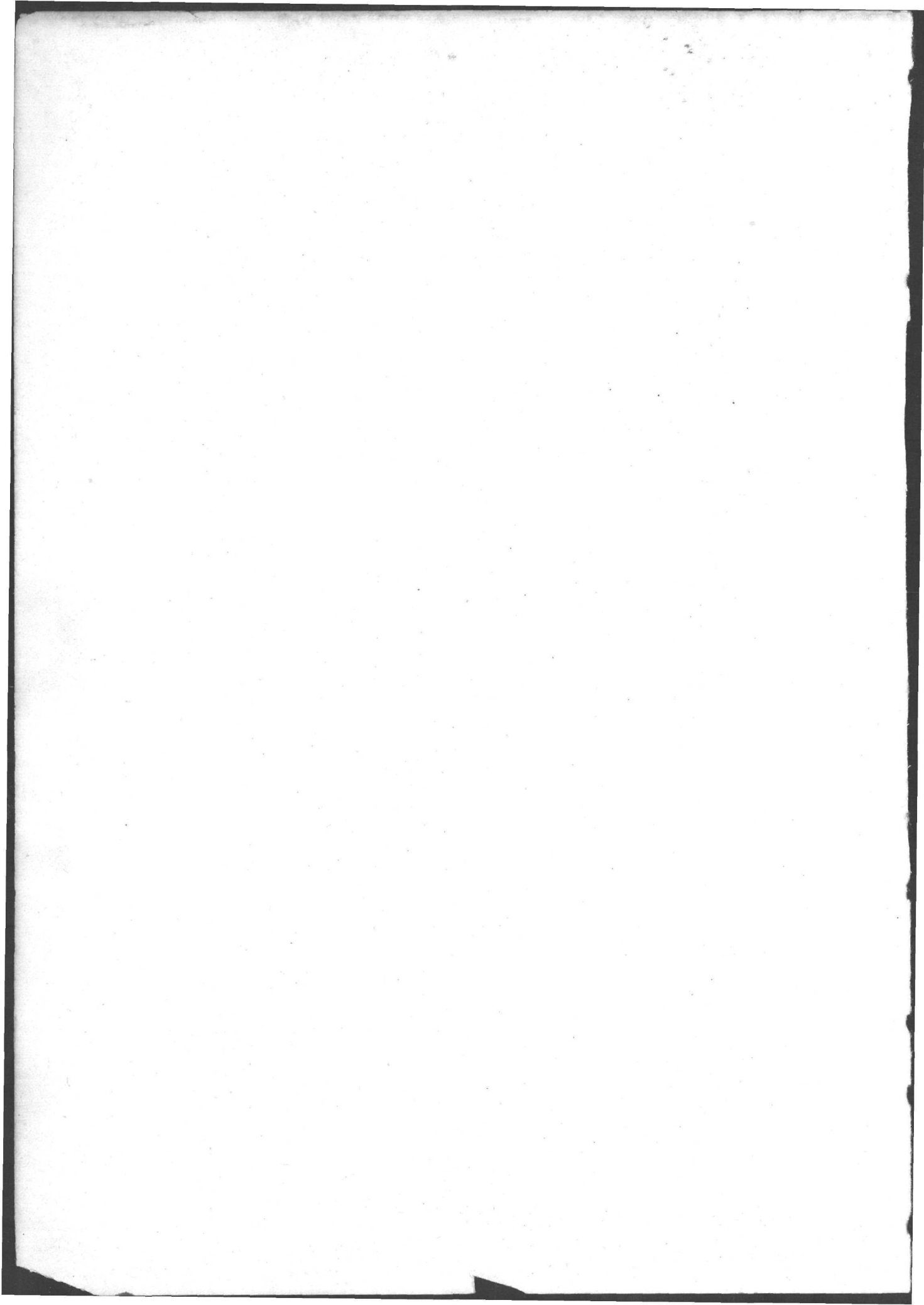


THE STORY OF THE
27TH DIVISION



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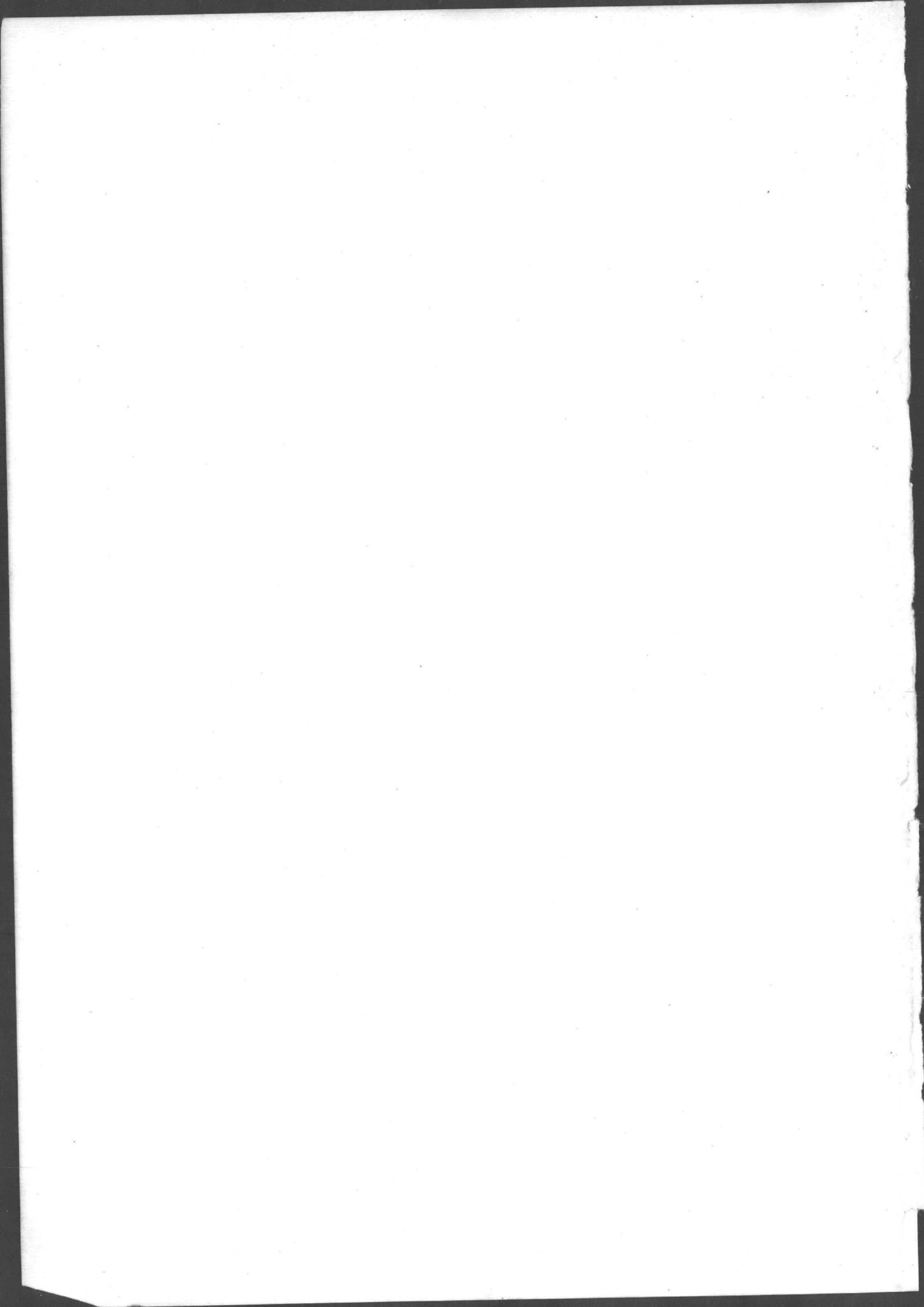
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June 1st 1921

John F. Ryan
Major General

On June 7th 1952, I saw this book again shown me by the owner Major General R. C. Brock

John F. Ryan
Major General Reti







The Spirit of the 27th Division

THE above photograph shows Private First-Class Clifford D. Howe (1205317), of Company K, 105th Infantry, going to the rear after having been wounded in Le Selle River operations, near Mazingheim, France, on October 19, 1918. Note the smile. It indicates the spirit of the division. This soldier subsequently died of his wound at the Bath War Hospital, Bath, England, November 6, 1918, and was buried at Lockbrook Cemetery, Bath, England.

THE STORY OF THE 27TH DIVISION

By Major General JOHN F. O'RYAN



I

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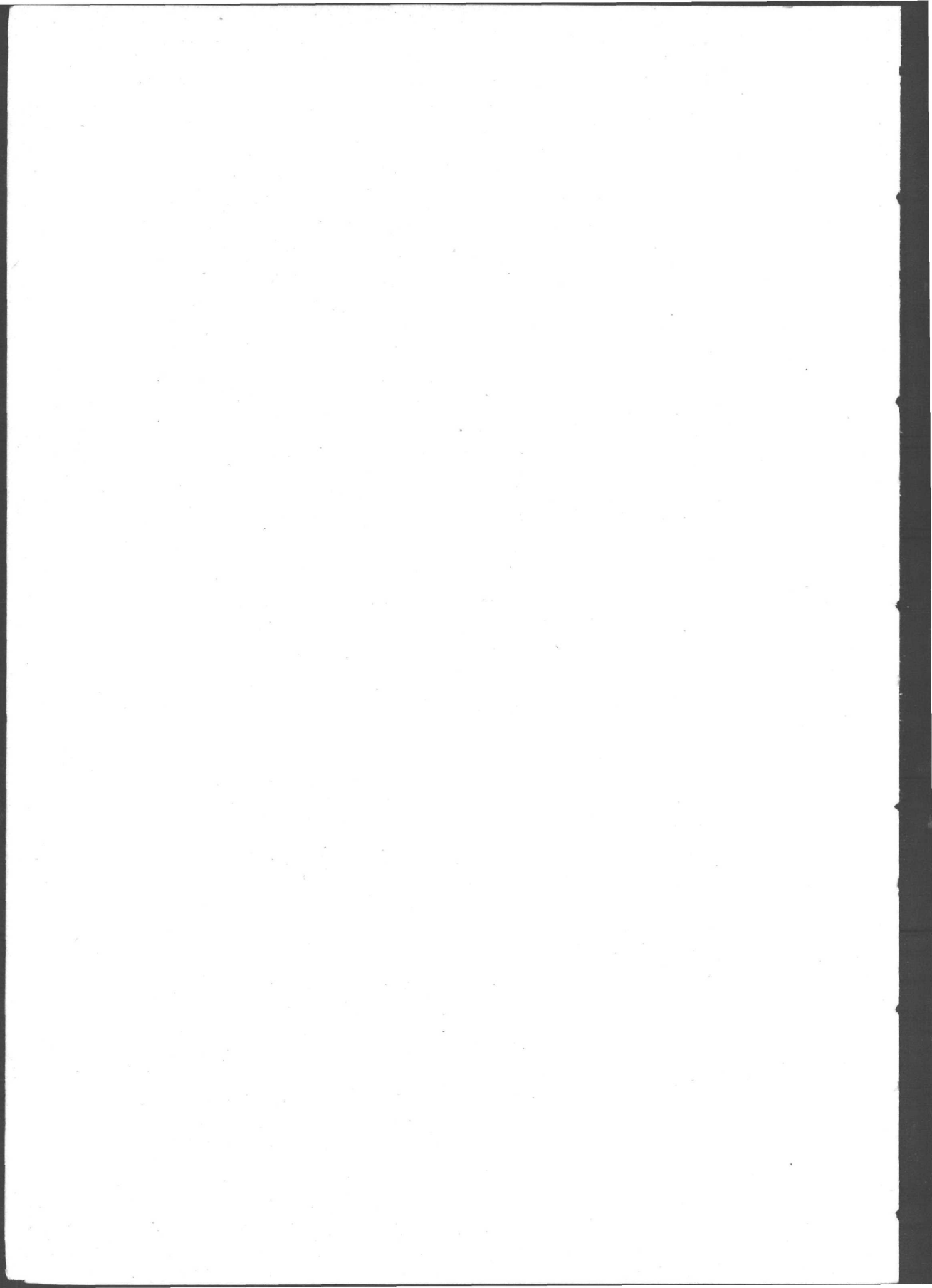


DEDICATION

*This book
is reverently dedicated
to those
who bear
the heaviest
burdens of war*



THE MOTHERS



FOREWORD

Upon the return of the 27th Division from its service abroad, and even before its return, the question of the history of its activities and achievements was discussed. It became evident that numerous histories would be written, some of them histories of regiments and many of them histories of companies. Some of these have since appeared. The officers and men of our division were proud of their record. Their families and their friends desired the opportunity to read in authoritative and connected manner an account of the division's war activities. There seemed to exist an impression that this should be done with the least possible delay. Other divisions upon their return had produced and published divisional histories. It seemed to me that if a real history of the division were to be written it would be essentially a military history and, therefore, should include an accurate statement of operations, supported by official maps, orders and instructions. To attempt to write such a history within a few months' time was obviously impracticable. An examination of the histories of other divisions, which appeared shortly after their return, indicated that they had been hastily prepared. Accordingly, when I determined to write the history of the division, I concluded to collect and arrange the data with care and to take whatever time might be necessary for the writing of the story, irrespective of other considerations.

Of course, a history written in the unattractive language of a military report of operations obviously would not be satisfactory to the men of the division and their friends. And so I have tried to prepare the history in a way that will present the story in interesting fashion to the average reader, making reference to the more technical side of our activities in the form of orders, reports, maps and other official papers, which may be found in the appendices.

JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.

September 1, 1921.

Acknowledgment is made to my secretary, Captain James A. Walsh, A. G. D., for the preparation and arrangement of the exhibits, statistics, and maps used in this work. Great industry and unremitting care to avoid errors were essential, and these qualities he contributed in the manner characteristic of him.

*JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Foreword	9
I. The Origin of the New York Division.....	13
II. Preparatory Service on the Mexican Border.....	17
III. Guarding Public Utilities at the Outbreak of War.....	45
IV. Mobilization for the World War.....	49
V. Organization of Camp Wadsworth.....	61
VI. General O'Ryan's Tour of Observation with the British and French Armies in 1917.....	71
VII. Reorganization of Division.....	85
VIII. Life at Camp Wadsworth.....	99
IX. Training of the Division for War.....	117
X. Movement Overseas	145
XI. Training with the British.....	161
XII. Service with the 3d British Army.....	185
XIII. Service with the 2d British Army.....	195
XIV. Battle of Vierstraat Ridge.....	225
XV. Special Training in the Beauquesne Area and Preparation for the Battle of the Hindenburg Line.....	243
XVI. Battle for the Outworks of the Hindenburg Line.....	265
XVII. Battle for the Main Defenses of the Hindenburg Line.....	295
XVIII. Enemy Retirement from Hindenburg Line, the Pursuit to Le Selle River, and Le Selle River Operations.....	343
XIX. The Rest Area at Corbie.....	389
XX. Le Mans Area.....	407

CONTENTS—Continued

	PAGE
XXI. Home-coming, Parade and Final Muster.....	429
XXII. Operations of the 52d Field Artillery Brigade.....	443
XXIII. Experiences of Men Taken Prisoner.....	489
XXIV. Use of the Bomb and Bayonet.....	499
XXV. Supply; Intelligence; Medical; Gas; Animal Casualties.....	523
Exhibits	569
War Diary	753
Decorations	893
Divisional Citations.....	929
Names of Dead with Original Places of Burial.....	1065
Names of Men Missing in Action.....	1091
Cemetery List.....	1092
Casualty Statements	1093
Roster of Officers.....	1107
Index	1139