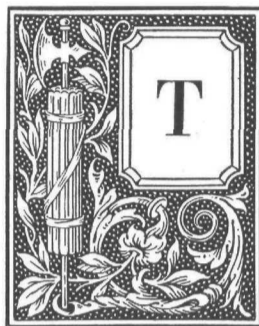


## CHAPTER XXIV

### USE OF THE BOMB AND BAYONET



THE reader will remember that between 1914 and our entry into the war, and even thereafter, the accounts of battles and engagements which appeared in the public press were replete with stories of the great numbers killed by the bayonet. No newspaper description of a battle was deemed interesting unless the headline announced: "TAKEN AT THE POINT OF THE BAYONET."

Shortly after the war broke out in 1914 the writer, in cooperation with Captain W. D. A. Anderson of the Regular Engineers, wrote a book, called "The Modern Army in Action." In the chapter on infantry the popular misconceptions concerning the extent to which the bayonet was used in battle were pointed out, and the bayonet was referred to as a psychological weapon. The authors were surprised, after the appearance of the book, to receive letters from several American officers taking issue with the statement concerning the small percentage of casualties in battle caused by the bayonet. These communications indicated the belief that a large percentage of casualties in the war were being caused by the bayonet. It would, therefore, seem to be a matter of interest to record in this connection the official report of our War Department concerning the character of casualties suffered by the American army in the World War:

"Of the 266,112 soldiers admitted to the hospitals of the A. E. F. from battle causes more were suffering from gas than any other cause, and more were wounded in the legs than in any other part of the body. Complete analysis follows:

|                       |        |                          |        |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| Gunshot missiles..... | 85,132 | Falling objects.....     | 193    |
| Shrapnel .....        | 40,448 | Aerial bomb.....         | 150    |
| Rifle ball.....       | 22,336 | Cutting and piercing in- |        |
| Shell .....           | 21,312 | strument .....           | 146    |
| Hand grenade.....     | 1,156  | Airplane .....           | 88     |
| Indirect result.....  | 1,133  | Crushing .....           | 85     |
| Explosives .....      | 943    | Saber .....              | 14     |
| Pistol ball.....      | 257    | Other .....              | 3,901" |
| Bayonet .....         | 245    |                          |        |

Another list prepared shows the location of wounds and the number. All casualties from gas, except mustard gas, are classified under "thorax":

|                           |        |                        |        |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| Legs .....                | 72,527 | Abdomen or pelvis..... | 10,286 |
| Thorax (50,084) cases.... | 67,584 | Back .....             | 8,948  |
| Arms .....                | 56,213 | Neck .....             | 5,396  |
| Head (24,251 facial in-   |        | Unclassified .....     | 8,839  |
| juries) .....             | 35,819 |                        |        |

It will be noted that of the many thousands of casualties inflicted upon the American army but 245 were caused by the bayonet. These figures need no further comment.

After the Armistice it occurred to the writer to make inquiry among the officers and men of the 27th Division concerning their experiences with the bayonet and with the hand grenade as well. As many of the personnel of the division who had been wounded had not yet returned to the division, the inquiry was deferred until the middle of January, at which time the division was in the American Embarkation Center in the vicinity of Le Mans, France. Most of the slightly wounded had returned to the division, but unfortunately some thousands of the more seriously wounded were not available. Accordingly a bulletin was sent out to every company in the division requiring:

(a) A report from each officer or enlisted man who actually saw one or more of the enemy or one or more of our own men bayoneted in action during the present war, with the names of witnesses if they could be given.

(b) A report from each officer or enlisted man who had used grenades in action against the enemy or against whom enemy grenades had been used, or who personally witnessed such attacks, with statements of witnesses concerning the relative efficiency of our own and the enemy grenades.

A great mass of very interesting material was received in pursuance of this bulletin. The statements bore out the claim that relatively few men had been killed or wounded on either side with the bayonet. Although the division had been highly trained and were very expert in the use of the bayonet, it was their practise when coming to close quarters with the enemy to use magazine fire, while some of the attacking party threw a few hand grenades into the enemy group. In most cases, however, in these local combats at close quarters the enemy group surrendered before there was opportunity to use the bayonet in fair combat.

It is not the purpose of this chapter to indicate to the reader a belief that the bayonet is relatively valueless as a weapon, but only that its value is not to be measured by the number of actual casualties inflicted by it in battle. The statements of the officers and men of the division show that the bayonet is for the most part a psychological weapon. Men highly trained in the use of the bayonet and possessing confidence in its effectiveness will go forward under the lure of the bayonet in order to get in physical contact with the enemy. Without the bayonet the infantry would lack this lure and would be dependent solely upon fire action. But to fire the rifle with any kind of effectiveness the soldier must stop. It is well known that when men stop in battle it is very difficult to get them moving forward again. The value of the bayonet is not to be judged by the harvest of its casualties, but by the pull of its magnetic influence in getting the infantry forward to close grips with the enemy when fire action may be most effectively employed.

Some of the more interesting statements of officers and men of the division in answer to the questionnaire mentioned are given in brief:

Captain George F. Terry of Company C, 105th Infantry, reported that Sergeant Henry Schurman of his company in the assault on

Le Selle River, October 17, 1918, saw three men of the 106th Infantry with Mills bombs in their bomb carriers struck by shrapnel which caused one or more of the bombs to explode, killing the group instantly.

The Captain himself reported that on September 29th in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line he saw one of the men of another company of the 105th Infantry engage one of the enemy with the bayonet, and that after a few passes the 105th Infantry soldier drove his bayonet into the abdomen of the enemy soldier, which, however, did not cause instant death.

Private William Talbott of Company C, 105th Infantry, reported that on October 17th near St. Souplet, First Lieutenant Charles J. Doyle of his company took his rifle from him and engaged two of the enemy, who belonged to the 3d German Marines. The Lieutenant shot one and killed the other instantly with a bayonet drive through the chest.

Sergeant William Flynn of Company C reports seeing Lieutenant Harry Merz fire three rifle grenades against a sniper's post while the company was in the Dickebusch Sector in Flanders. Later investigation shows that one of the rifle grenades made a direct hit, killing the sniper. Captain Terry expressed the opinion that the Mills grenade was much better than the German potato masher in opening fighting, but that the potato masher was very effective in dugouts owing to its great concussion.

Sergeants George D. Rapport and John S. Fleming of Company G, 105th Infantry, reported numerous experiences in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line, illustrating the greater effectiveness of the Mills grenade in comparison with the German "potato masher." These Sergeants, on September 29th, with platoons of their company were in a trench thirty-five yards from the enemy. An effort was made by Lewis gun and rifle fire to run the enemy out of their trench. The latter resisted by hurling large numbers of "potato mashers," which failed to inflict many casualties. A reply was then made by throwing Mills grenades, which were so effective that the enemy was driven from the trench and the platoon enabled to advance. These men reported, "There is no doubt but that the Mills grenade has a terribly destructive effect when dropped into a section of trench or thrown into a group of men."

First Lieutenant Marvin L. Atkins of Company K, 105th Infantry, reported that on October 18, 1918, when a detachment of the 3d Battalion of his regiment, near the village of Arbre Guernon, stormed a number of machine-gun and rifle nests some hand-to-hand fighting resulted and that he saw two cases of bayoneting. Private Seward Dorvee of his company used a bayonet on a German rifleman (unit unknown), the thrust passing up the man's arm into his elbow, the result being that Dorvee was unable to remove his bayonet until the enemy soldier had been shot by another soldier of the company.

Lieutenant Atkins also reported that on the same day Private James M. Reed of his company used the "short jab" at close quarters against an enemy machine gunner, the point of the bayonet entering the throat of the enemy soldier. The point was easily withdrawn.

Captain Carl G. R. Ross of Company L, 105th Infantry, reported that

on September 27th, in the preliminary assault against the outworks of the Hindenburg Line, he personally threw about fifteen Mills grenades and that he later saw the results of their effectiveness. He also reported that nearly a dozen "potato masher" grenades were thrown at him, some five or six of which exploded within six feet of him without causing injury. He reported that his practise was to watch enemy grenades as they came through the air, so as to determine the probability of their falling in his trench. When they fell in the trench he flattened himself as much as possible against the trench wall and succeeded in avoiding injury. However, on this occasion two of his men were badly wounded in the head and on other occasions other men were slightly wounded. His conclusions concerning the relative merits of the two types of grenades are that the Mills grenade is very effective and that the enemy fears it; that the German "potato masher" is comparatively ineffective, but that it can be carried more easily and in greater numbers than the Mills.

Sergeant Arthur M. Donnelly of Company L, 105th Infantry, reported a successful hand grenade duel with an enemy soldier at close range on September 27th. He states that the German "potato masher" is not effective.

Private William G. Bennett of the same company saw a soldier of his command rush an enemy machine gunner and drive his bayonet into the man's breast, extracting it with no difficulty.

Corporal Edward O. Acker of the same company reported grenade contest at fifteen yards between his platoon and an enemy group on September 27th, resulting in the hurried retirement of the enemy.

Corporals Anthony R. Etes and George F. Lewis and Private Christy del Guidice, all of Company L, reported putting enemy machine-gun posts and patrols out of action with Mills grenades in the Dickebusch Sector. Corporal Lewis reported also that German "potato mashers" had no effect on his machine-gun post because they did not make direct hits.

Corporal George Kitsaros of the same company reported that in the open warfare operations east of the Le Selle River on October 18th he saw an enemy soldier waiting to attack him behind a tree. He engaged him and drove his bayonet into the body of the enemy soldier, but was unable to withdraw it, being compelled to disengage his rifle from the bayonet.

In the same company Sergeant Joseph J. Delaney, Corporal Patrick D. Burns and Private Peter J. Keenan reported incidents of grenade fighting, all with the general effect that the Mills grenades were most effective against the enemy and that our men did not have much respect for the enemy "potato mashers."

Captain Charles R. Whipple of Company M, 105th Infantry, reported that on September 27th Private First Class James J. Manning of his company, turning a corner of an enemy trench, came upon an enemy soldier who made a lunge at him with his bayonet. Manning, being in the "on guard" position, stopped the thrust and drove his own bayonet into the chest of the enemy soldier, the bayonet breaking off. The enemy soldier was killed almost instantly. Private Manning, on another occasion, witnessed the blowing off of roofs of shelters and dugouts and killing of

the occupants by Mills grenades. This soldier had a German "potato masher" land in the bay of the trench in which he was standing and explode, he being only slightly cut by a fragment.

Private Raymond Bennett, now deceased, of the same company, while leading a group up an enemy trench, in like manner came upon an enemy soldier in turning a corner, and overcame the latter with the bayonet.

Private Abraham Zirt of the same company on September 27th, seeing First Lieutenant William B. Turner engaged in combat with an enemy soldier and about to be attacked by another, drove his bayonet into the latter. He reported using Mills grenades in cleaning out dugouts and shelters, with the result that the destruction of the dugout was almost complete. He saw Lieutenant Turner wounded slightly on two occasions by German "potato mashers" falling near him.

Private John V. J. Storey of Company M saw Private Edward S. Connelly of his company, now deceased, suddenly come upon a German soldier in a shell hole. The latter raised his rifle to fire at Connelly, who rushed him with the bayonet and successfully overcame him.

Most of these and other incidents on the date mentioned were combats between men of the 105th and 106th Infantry and German troops of the 27th Prussian Guards regiment.

Corporal Leo F. White of Company M reported that his party threw Mills grenades into an enemy dugout containing about ten enemy soldiers, with the result that all but two were wounded.

Corporal Percil E. Corbin of the same company reported a shell hole grenade contest with two enemy soldiers, resulting in the killing of one and the escape of the other slightly wounded.

Captain Whipple in his report gave it as his opinion that the German "potato masher" can be thrown farther than the Mills grenade, although not as effectively.

Second Lieutenant Harold G. DeLoiselle of Headquarters Company, 106th Infantry, reported that on September 29th, in the attack on the Hindenburg Line, he witnessed an encounter between our infantry and German troops in the vicinity of Guillemont Farm. In one instance an American soldier (name unknown) charged a German soldier with the bayonet with such force that he practically threw himself into the enemy trench. The bayonet went through the enemy soldier, pinning his body to the side of the trench, while the butt of the rifle became wedged in the opposite side. The soldier, not being able to extricate the weapon, seized another and continued down the trench.

Lieutenant DeLoiselle reported that on the same day about 200 yards further on in the same trench, while leading a group of 106th Infantry men, he came upon two German soldiers guarding a turn in the trench. The first had his bayonet ready for use and lunged at the Lieutenant, letting go the left hand and extending the right so as to drive the bayonet far forward. The bayonet went between the left arm and the body of Lieutenant DeLoiselle, without causing more serious injury than a bruise on the arm. While the German soldier was pulling back his rifle for another

lunge, he was struck on the head with the butt of a rifle by an Australian soldier in the Lieutenant's party, and still showing fight, was bayoneted by an American soldier who came from behind the Lieutenant.

Lieutenant DeLoiselle also reported that on September 27th, during the attack of his regiment against the outworks of the Hindenburg Line, he was making a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Guillemont Farm, his party consisting of First Lieutenant Franklin J. Jackson and Private Christian Johnson of the 106th Infantry. When well within the enemy trench system they came to a fork, Lieutenant DeLoiselle going to the left and Lieutenant Jackson to the right. The former encountered none of the enemy; the latter, after going about 200 yards, met an enemy party and was killed. Private Johnson, who had been left in reserve at the fork, reported to Lieutenant DeLoiselle that they were being surrounded, whereupon the Lieutenant ordered Private Johnson to return and make report, while he himself hid behind a traverse to await developments with six grenades. In a few minutes an enemy party was seen coming cautiously down the trench. Lieutenant DeLoiselle pulled the pin from one grenade and threw it. It landed in the trench behind the leading member of the enemy party. A terrific explosion followed. The leading enemy soldier was blown about three feet forward and instantly killed. The effect on the remainder of the party could not be seen, but those uninjured fled. The Lieutenant then found that he had been outflanked by other enemy groups who threw "potato mashers" at him. Three exploded within five yards of where he was standing without inflicting injury. The Lieutenant succeeded in escaping through a drain to shell holes, where he lay for some time observing the Germans ineffectively throwing grenades at the place where he had been.

Private Edward J. Dougherty of Company L, 106th Infantry, reported that on September 27th, near Guillemont Farm, his platoon being held up by an enemy machine-gun nest, the party was ordered to bomb it out. With the third bomb fire ceased and the group advanced. After reaching their objective he was wounded and while being evacuated was attacked by a small enemy group in a shell hole, the group using "potato mashers." Their fire was returned by throwing Mills grenades, with the result that the enemy party were put of action.

Private James Lohman of Company L, 106th Infantry, reported that on August 31st, in the Dickebusch Sector in Flanders, Second Lieutenant Ira A. Hodes ordered Sergeant John F. Schnepf of his company with a patrol to silence an enemy machine gunner who was hindering the advance of the company. After advancing about 100 yards with two men on the right, two in the center and two on the left, the enemy machine gun was located in a heavy brush about 200 yards in front. An effort was made to silence the machine gun with rifle fire, but without effect. Sergeant Schnepf then determined to advance under cover of the rifle fire of the group. In this way about 175 yards were gained, when one of the party got within bombing distance. Six grenades were thrown, after which the

place was rushed and the enemy gunner found with one leg torn off. He died while the party was there.

Private Francis Esposito of Company L reported that on August 31st in the Dickebusch Sector, after ineffective efforts to drive an enemy party from a trench by Lewis gun and rifle fire, they attacked with grenades, killing six, wounding six and causing the remainder to retire.

Similar incidents were reported by Private Frederick Koelsch and others of the same company.

Private Joseph F. Farrell of the same company reported that in the attack on the outworks of the Hindenburg Line, September 27th, his company, having reached its objective on The Knoll, came under fire of three enemy soldiers in a shell hole not more than ten yards distant. Corporal Peter A. Anderson endeavored by rifle fire to drive out the enemy party, but without success. Private Farrell then threw one Mills grenade, which killed all three of the enemy group.

Private Leo V. Lanning of the same company reported that in the attack on The Knoll, September 27th, all machine-gun nests encountered by his platoon were mopped up; that when the objective trenches were taken the men loaded up with enemy "potato mashers" to replace bombs they had expended. The enemy counter-attacked, and forced his company to retire from the captured position. He with Private Harold Smalley, while retiring, saw two enemy machine-gun nests which had evidently been passed over in the advance, firing at their comrades in the trench just taken. They fell into a shell hole close by and threw grenades into both nests with such good effect that both machine-gun crews were killed or wounded. The grenades thrown were both Mills and "potato mashers" and the report does not indicate which caused the more damage in this instance.

Private Joseph E. Ferris, also of Company L, reported that on the afternoon of August 31st, during the commencement of the Battle of Vierstraat Ridge, Belgium, his company was stopped twenty-five or thirty yards from the objective trench by enemy fire. Lewis gun and rifle fire being ineffective against the enemy position, the command was ordered to bomb it out. Bombs were successfully thrown with effective results, many of the enemy rushing from the trench to fall victims of Lewis gun and rifle fire.

Private William J. Moran of the same company reported that in the attack on The Knoll an enemy soldier came out of a dugout with a dagger and attacked. The dagger thrust was parried with the bayonet and the enemy soldier then bayoneted through the arm. A moment later he was shot. Private Moran also reports that on the same day his platoon found it difficult to use rifle and Lewis gun effectively and resorted to bombs; that the bombs carried by his platoon were soon expended and that they resorted to the German "potato mashers," of which there was plentiful supply in the enemy trenches. He also reported that many of the "potato mashers" thrown at his platoon were picked up and thrown back at the

enemy before they went off. He also reported that many "potato mashers" thrown at his platoon failed to explode.

Private Lester Tarling of the same company reported that in the attack on The Knoll on September 27th he saw a party of about twelve men of Company I of his regiment attacked by twenty or twenty-five enemy soldiers. The attack lasted a few moments and resulted in the killing of six or seven of the enemy with the bayonet and the capture of the remainder. He also reported that on September 29th, near Bony, he threw bombs at several enemy machine-gun emplacements, putting two of them out of action.

Sergeants Chester A. Hendrickson and Carl Barth with Privates Gerald P. Donnelly and Wesley Witherington of Company L, 106th Infantry, in the attack on The Knoll on September 27th, reported that when they reached the sunken road about ten or fifteen of the enemy in a trench twenty yards in their front were firing heavily upon them; that the enemy had clear fire superiority and that thereupon Sergeant Hendrickson directed the use of bombs. The party then effectively bombed the enemy, causing a cessation of fire and the advance of the party to the enemy's position.

Sergeant William Moncrief of the same company reported that on September 2d in the Dickebusch Sector he approached to within fifteen or twenty yards of an enemy machine-gun nest by crawling and threw in Mills grenades which silenced the enemy machine guns. He states that it would have been impossible to reach these effectively by either rifle or machine-gun fire.

Private First Class William H. Anderson of Company L, 106th Infantry, reported that in the Dickebusch Sector in Flanders on August 26th an effort was made to locate and destroy an enemy sniper, who had bothered the platoon for some time. Corporal Peter A. Anderson and Private John J. Brady of the same company, having located the flash of the sniper's rifle forty-five or fifty yards distant, took a few bombs and successfully crawled to bombing distance, one of them succeeded with Mills grenades in destroying the sniper.

Private Edward A. Reilly of the same company reported that in the attack on The Knoll on September 27th he saw a Sergeant of Company F of his regiment (name unknown) attacked by an enemy soldier with a bayonet while the Sergeant was passing a dugout. Continuing the report, Private Reilly, referring to the enemy soldier, says: "His form was poor and it took but a moment for the Sergeant to run him through."

Private Walter C. Ferris of the same company, one of a mopping-up party following the assaulting troops in the attack against the Hindenburg Line, September 29th, reported the effective use of Mills grenades thrown into dugouts as enemy groups attempted to emerge after the assaulting waves had passed on.

Sergeant Edward F. Duffy of the same company reported seeing a soldier of his company in a bayonet fight with an enemy soldier in one



of the trenches of The Knoll. The fight resulted in the killing of the German soldier.

Private George Wetlick of the same company reported that on October 1st he was selected with a Sergeant and six other men to form a combat patrol to go into Joncquiere Farm. There was a patrol on the right and another on the left. They encountered an enemy machine gun in a shell hole which was causing some trouble. While his patrol engaged the enemy gun from the front the other two patrols executed a flanking movement, encircling the shell hole and bombing it out with Mills grenades, killing and wounding the crew.

Privates Frank Fairechie, Salvatore Striano and Matthew McNamara all reported the effective use of Mills grenades in the Dickebusch Sector on August 31st and September 1st under varying conditions.

Private John Jenkins of Company A, 106th Infantry, reported that on September 29th, while mopping up for the assaulting line, he in company with Corporal Tilford L. Larsen, now deceased, and Privates Frank O'Brien and Alexander M. Wulff of his company, attacked two enemy machine guns in a nest. They got to within bombing distance and threw in all eight Mills grenades. Hands appeared waving over one of the guns. The other continued to fire. Private Jenkins reports three of the enemy killed with the bayonet. The others, badly mangled by the bombs, expired in the position. Private Jenkins gives as his opinion that "German 'potato mashers' were a joke."

Private Abraham Brenner of the same company reported that, having been wounded in the ankle by a German "potato masher" in one of the enemy counter-attacks of September 27th, he was taken prisoner. At the time he had four Mills grenades on his person and his captors made him throw them over the parapet, as they apparently feared to handle them.

Private Arthur F. Messner, also of Company A, 106th Infantry, reported that in the attack of September 27th on the outworks of the Hindenburg Line he became separated from his company in the heavy smoke screen, and getting into a battered enemy trench was shortly joined by two other soldiers not of his own company. Almost immediately they were attacked by German "potato mashers," which they could see coming through the air. They replied by throwing their Mills grenades in the direction of the enemy position. With the explosion of one of them they heard a cry and saw a German helmet fly in the air. This stopped the enemy bombing attack. Corporal Messner further reports meeting men of his regiment who had been slightly wounded by splinters from the handle of the German "potato mashers." In concluding his report, the Corporal states: "The German bombers, it seemed to me, travel in teams of four, the 'mashers' being passed from the rear to the throwers in front."

Corporal Augustine Brophy of the same company reported that in the attack of September 27th against the outer defense of the Hindenburg Line and about halfway to the objective, he and Corporal Larsen, now deceased, saw an American soldier (name unknown) throw a Mills grenade at a

group of seven Germans in a prepared shell hole. Four of the enemy were killed by the grenade and the others taken prisoner. Corporal Brophy considered the German "potato masher" ineffective. He says: "The German bomb, the 'potato masher,' was almost worthless. Several were thrown at me, exploded, but did no harm. The noise they made was all that seemed to cause any discomfort to the person they were thrown at. \* \* \* I observed that the Mills grenade played the chief part, both as a defensive and offensive weapon. \* \* \* The bayonet played a minor part all the way through. I never saw it used at all."

Private James M. Cleary of the same company reported that in the attack of September 27th he was wounded in the head by shrapnel during the attack, and crawled to a German trench where, finding a dugout that had been used as an aid station, he entered it. There were two bunks to this dugout. He sat on one and dressed his head. The trench in which the dugout was located was very low, having been battered by our artillery. He remained in the dugout until the early morning of September 28th, when, weak from loss of blood, he tried to leave the shelter. A German machine gunner saw him and fired a string of bullets at the mouth of the shelter. He remained inside until the following day, when he left the trench and saw the German machine gunner shooting in the direction of the right flank of the old line of his regiment. As the gunner's attention was directed away from him, he succeeded in creeping to within fifteen yards and throwing two grenades. After waiting some time he crawled to the gunner's position and saw that his right shoulder had been ripped off and the machine gun damaged. He states: "I noticed he was strapped to his gun by a belt, which was attached to his waist and to the gun. He had been sitting on a box."

As to this latter statement, it will be remembered that reports had appeared in the allied newspapers that German machine gunners had been found chained or strapped to their positions. Of course, no such thing happened. What Private Cleary saw was a belt employed by many of the German machine gunners to aid in carrying the gun when going to or retiring from position.

Captain Ames T. Brown, commanding Company C of the 106th Infantry, reported that no member of his company would state that he had participated in or seen a man bayoneted or a hand grenade thrown.

Captain Matthew J. Wilson of Company D, 106th Infantry, reports that in the attack on Guillemont Farm on September 27th the men of his company in a number of instances used the bayonet, and that always they seemed superior to the Germans in its use. In relation to grenades, he reported that there were numbers of occasions in his company when his men quickly seized "potato mashers" thrown at them and succeeded before they exploded in throwing them back at the enemy. His view confirms that of others that the Mills grenade was infinitely superior to the German "potato masher" grenade.

Sergeant Francis J. Farrelly confirms his Captain's views and reports further that in the attack of September 27th he with Private Thomas F.

Hamilton engaged two enemy soldiers in the second line of their trenches. Sergeant Farrelly shot one with his automatic pistol and his magazine being empty, was attacked by the other with the bayonet, whereupon Private Hamilton jumped from behind him and engaged in a bayonet duel with the enemy soldier, the result of which was that the latter was disposed of by the use of the "long thrust."

Sergeant George J. Parker of the same company reported that on September 27th Private Joseph A. Clarke of his company fought a bayonet duel with an enemy soldier in the bay of a trench, Clarke quickly being the victor. The Sergeant states, "By use of the 'short thrust' while closing in after the German's inferior attack, Private Clarke several times demonstrated the superiority of our method of use of the bayonet." He also reports: "I have seen many times the Mills grenade used as against German 'potato mashers.' In every case I recall that the Mills grenade was very effective, the German grenades being of no value to the enemy unless a direct hit was obtained. The Mills grenade is of certain effect in clearing any dugouts or trenches suspected of containing the enemy."

Corporal Kling M. Nelson of Company E, 106th Infantry, reported that on August 5th, in the Dickebusch Sector, Belgium, a German "potato masher" exploded three feet in front of the parapet of his trench and that a fragment one-half inch square penetrated the steel helmet of a soldier of his company, inflicting a slight scalp wound, while another soldier sitting on the fire step was uninjured.

Sergeant Patrick Leddy of the same company reported that in the Dickebusch Sector an enemy raiding party approached within twenty-five yards of his trench, when they were driven back by one Mills hand grenade, which exploded in their front.

Sergeant James J. Kerrigan and Corporal Michael V. O'Rourke of the same company report that in the attack of September 27th German "potato mashers" thrown at thirty yards struck within a few feet of their group of five men without causing injury, and that shortly thereafter they threw Mills grenades at the same distance, killing one of an enemy party and resulting in the capture of the rest.

Private Matthew Kerr of the same company reported seeing a German "potato masher" thrown at thirty yards at three soldiers of his company in a shell hole. One of them was fatally wounded. He further reports that a Mills grenade thrown at the same distance resulted in several German helmets flying into the air and the apparent complete demoralization of the occupants of the trench.

Corporal Thomas P. Callow of the same company in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line on September 29th saw a German officer refuse to surrender to a soldier of his regiment, who thereupon killed him with the bayonet. The same corporal reports seeing the survivors of one of the platoons of his company maintain a grenade duel with an enemy detachment for a considerable period of time; after which the enemy position was assaulted and captured. Ten dead and dying German soldiers were found with two uninjured, who were taken prisoners.

Mechanic Sarkis T. Attarian of the same company on September 29th saw a group of six soldiers of his company stopped by enemy machine-gun fire from a shell hole. These soldiers crawled fifteen yards to a mound and from there threw one Mills grenade into the machine-gun nest, which was then captured, two dead enemy soldiers being found there. This soldier also saw an unknown soldier of Company F of his regiment throw a Mills grenade into an enemy shell hole, killing one and wounding three of the enemy. He also with others successfully used Mills grenades in mopping up dugouts.

Corporal Arthur Buehrer and Private Francis T. Cashman of the same company reported being part of an outpost of seven men in the Dickebusch Sector on August 7th, when an enemy raiding party approached throwing "potato mashers," some of which landed within four feet of the post, but without causing injury. The enemy detachment was driven back by rifle fire and Mills grenades.

Private William J. Fibisch of the same company reported that in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line, September 29th, he with one other soldier was directed to outflank an enemy machine-gun post by crawling to a bombing position. While doing this they met and surprised two German snipers, who had telescopic sights on their rifles. One of these, seeing the American soldiers, thrust at Fibisch with his bayonet. The latter parried and drove his own bayonet into the German's throat. The other German soldier was killed by a bullet fired by Fibisch's companion.

In the earlier attack of September 27th a German machine-gun post was engaged by a Lewis gun, while squad leader Conrad Lihle with four others turned the position. One grenade was thrown at fifteen yards, resulting in one German being killed, one wounded and one taken prisoner.

Corporal John J. Dougherty of the same company on September 27th maintained Lewis gun fire on an enemy machine-gun nest, while a party outflanked and successfully turned the position, killing two enemy soldiers and wounding one by means of Mills grenades. This was repeated the same day by the same group when one enemy soldier was wounded and two taken prisoners. This detachment reported the successful mopping up, mainly by using grenades, of twelve enemy dugouts on this occasion.

Private Walter Mayer of the same company, with one Mills grenade thrown at ten yards, successfully mopped up an enemy shell hole position on September 27th.

Corporal Joseph Theiner and Private Arthur M. Richards reported seeing, on September 27th, a "potato masher" explode between the legs of an unknown American soldier, wounding him slightly in both legs. The same men reported a "potato masher" exploding within ten feet of them without inflicting injury. These men also reported that they were members of a party of twelve soldiers under a Sergeant of Company H of their regiment, holding a captured trench when they were heavily counter attacked. They used their rifles until the enemy got within twenty-five yards, when all threw Mills grenades. This stopped the enemy assault. A little later the party was counter attacked on the left flank and "potato

mashers" were thrown by the enemy in such numbers that all but the two soldiers mentioned were killed or wounded.

Private Joseph Mathews, also of Company E, reported seeing eight American soldiers in a trench slightly in advance of the objective on September 27th, when they were attacked by a German detachment who threw about twenty-five "potato mashers," apparently killing and wounding all the American party. On the same day this soldier saw twelve American soldiers under the First Sergeant of Company H attack a German trench, throwing about a dozen Mills grenades, the result of which was the killing of several enemy soldiers and the retirement of the remainder.

Sergeant Fred W. Hemgen of Company E, 106th Infantry, in the Battle of the St. Maurice River, on October 19th, finding the advance of his platoon held up by enemy machine-gun posts in shell holes and hedges, took command of a patrol of five men and crept forward under hostile fire, throwing Mills grenades into places that might shelter enemy groups. Their advance was covered by rifle fire of the platoon. The result was that the Germans in that part of the line retired, protecting their retirement by machine-gun fire from the rear. On this occasion one enemy soldier was killed and several wounded. A similar patrol was employed by the platoon on the right.

Captain William B. Watson, commanding Company E, 106th Infantry, reported that Private Milton J. Hjordt, while stationed in the German trench system taken on September 27th, saw four German soldiers marching from a near-by shelter in single file. He shot three of them and bayoneted the fourth in the kidneys. He was wounded immediately thereafter.

Private Rosario S. Benovisto of Company F, 106th Infantry, on October 19th, in the attack east of Arbre Guernon, was one of five men sent out under a corporal to gain touch with the enemy. The party was held up by an enemy sniper. Private Benovisto, having seen one of his comrades killed by the sniper, undertook to locate the latter. By clever maneuvering he crept within bombing distance and threw one grenade into the sniper's post. The party then went forward and found the bomb had blown off the face of the enemy soldier.

The report of Captain James G. Conroy, commanding Company G of the 106th Infantry, was to the same general effect as those already mentioned.

Details of bombing and bayoneting action were not furnished by Company I of the 106th Infantry, commanded by Captain Jerome F. Langer, due to the small number of survivors of the company present with it at the time the report was called for.

Private Salvatore Notch of Company H, 106th Infantry, reported seeing a Sergeant of his company bayonet an enemy soldier on September 27th and afterward shoot him with his revolver.

Private John T. Ryan, also of Company H, reported that he was in a shell hole near Guillemont Farm on September 29th and saw a German "potato masher" drop into another shell hole occupied by three men of his

company. Two of the occupants were slightly wounded and the other uninjured. He reported seeing Mills grenades used effectively in dugouts and against machine-gun nests.

Private Henry L. Lamb of Company H reported using grenades on September 27th in the attack on the Hindenburg Line, against an enemy party occupying a trench, resulting in the killing of two and the surrender of one.

Sergeant James E. Merry of the same company reported that on the 18th of October near Arbre Guernon, being unable to neutralize a German sniper's post by rifle fire and Lewis gun fire, he finally succeeded in gaining a bombing position from which he threw one Mills grenade. This struck one of the enemy soldiers on the forehead and exploded. The other enemy soldier ran off, but was shot with a pistol by one of the company officers. Arriving at the enemy post, it was found that the dead enemy soldier had his head blown off.

Private Joseph Consiglio of the same company reported that on the 29th of September near Bony he was in a shell hole with several Australian soldiers, using a Lewis gun against Germans in a near-by shell hole. Keeping them down with the fire of the Lewis gun, two of the Australians flanked the position and getting within throwing distance, threw six grenades, three of the enemy party being wounded and the remainder calling, "Kamerad," surrendered. In a further advance this soldier is reported to have killed two enemy soldiers with the bayonet.

Private Frank J. Creighton of the same company reported that in the attack of September 29th in front of the main defenses of the Hindenburg Line he and an unknown soldier from Company C of the 105th Infantry came upon two German soldiers in a shell hole with a machine gun. In the fight that followed the two enemy soldiers were killed with the bayonet.

Private Harry J. Deitsch of the same company reported hand-grenade combat on the morning of September 29th at Guillemont Farm while mopping up a German machine-gun nest. The advance was made from the front and one flank. Three Germans were wounded and the remainder taken prisoners.

Sergeant James J. Finn of the same company reported that on the 27th of September near Guillemont Farm, when his company entered the first enemy trench, he bayoneted a German soldier. Later the same day his platoon successfully bombed out two enemy machine-gun posts. In the same locality one of his men bayoneted an enemy soldier.

Sergeant Irving Sucher of the same company reported that on September 29th near Guillemont Farm he overtook a party of soldiers of the 107th Infantry in a trench, who were not advancing because of the presence of a large enemy group on their left in the same trench. Shortly thereafter an Australian officer and four Australian soldiers came up. The situation was explained to this officer, whereupon a bombing attack was made upon the trench, with the result that the enemy party was cleared out.

Sergeant Herbert E. Walsh of the same company reported that on September 27th near Guillemont Farm he bombed a German machine gun,

killing three enemy soldiers and wounding one by grenades and killing one with the bayonet.

Sergeant James M. Doyle of the same company reported that on the 29th of September near Guillemont Farm their mopping-up party was held up by an enemy machine-gun post. Thereupon, with two men of another regiment, he maneuvered around the post and bombed it out with Mills grenades. Upon advancing, it was found that the machine-gun post had been held by three enemy soldiers, two of whom were dead and one badly wounded.

The foregoing reports concerning men of Company H were made by Captain Frederick K. Long.

Captain Harry F. Sullivan of Company K, 106th Infantry, reported that in the attack of September 27th he saw three German soldiers bayoneted by members of either I or K Company of his regiment. This took place when the company reached the second sunken road when about sixty prisoners were taken. While they were being formed to be marched to the rear, three or four of them made an effort to get away, which resulted in three of them being killed with the bayonet. He also reports that on August 31st in the vicinity of Vierstraat Switch, Belgium, an enemy counter-attack, employing a large number of "potato mashers," compelled withdrawal of part of his company. He also reported that when his regiment took the outworks of the Hindenburg Line his company found at least 300 "potato-masher" grenades in the enemy trenches, and that during the morning of September 27th he personally used about forty of them. He states: "It seemed to me that you could throw much farther with 'potato-masher' grenades and more accurately, although the damage caused through fragmentation is not as great as that caused by the Mills grenade." On this occasion Captain Sullivan had been hit in three places by fragments of German hand grenades, but none of the wounds were serious. He saw one soldier nearest to him killed by a German grenade. He also saw German soldiers who had been badly cut up by Mills grenades. Captain Sullivan also reported that on one occasion a private of Company K called to Germans in a dugout to come up and surrender and that upon their refusal to do so a German "potato masher" was thrown in at each entrance. After its explosion the German soldiers persisted in their refusal to come out, whereupon Mills grenades were thrown down each of the two entrances. Thereupon three German soldiers emerged, two of them wounded. No others were in the dugout at the time.

Private James M. Davenport of Company K, 106th Infantry, saw a man in M Company kill a German soldier with a bayonet in the vicinity of Dickebusch Lake, Belgium, at the commencement of the Battle of Vierstraat Ridge, August 31st.

Private Norman J. Mayer of the same company saw a soldier of the 105th Infantry kill a German soldier with the bayonet in the same place on the same day.

On the same day also Private Henry S. O'Hara of Company K saw a

soldier of Company I of his regiment bayonet a German in the same operation.

First Sergeant Edward R. Humann, Jr., and Sergeant Henry L. Hoffman of Company K made reports concerning the use of grenades which were of the same tenor as those heretofore mentioned.

Sergeant Percy O'Gorman of Headquarters Company, 107th Infantry, reported that on the morning of September 29th, east of Ronssoy, he had advanced with the left company of the 1st Battalion of his regiment as far as Willow Trench, where the advance was held up by machine-gun and rifle fire. After a short halt the Germans commenced bombing down the trench from the left. The counter-attack was broken up with Mills grenades, but was shortly thereafter renewed. Until Mills grenades were replenished the detachment employed German "potato mashers," of which there were boxes in the trench. The Sergeant reports that the Mills grenade seemed to be equal in explosion to the "potato masher," while its fragmentation was far superior and the danger zone much greater.

Sergeants Edward R. Cronk and Clarence E. Luckey and Private Frank S. Ross, all of the same company, make similar reports concerning grenades.

Captain Kenneth C. Wilson, commanding the company, in making these reports stated that the regiment at the time had opposing it units of the 2d Prussian Guard Division.

First Lieutenant Ford M. Terry of Company B, 107th Infantry, reported that on September 28th, while occupying a sector of trench preparatory to the Hindenburg Line assault, an enemy patrol of six men was seen shortly before dawn approaching the trench. The enemy group was driven off by rifle fire and Lewis gun fire, after which four men of Lieutenant Terry's company were sent forward through a trench near Egg Post, where they found one wounded German soldier. At 2:30 P. M. the same day an enemy party made a raid, using "potato mashers," six of which were thrown into and near the trench. Private W. C. Meyers was struck in the back by the belt hook and a shred of the casing attached, causing a flesh wound just above the buttocks, while Private Henry Williams was shot from the parapet by a sniper. The soldiers of the 107th Infantry used freely the German "potato-masher" grenades found in large quantities in the trench which had but recently been taken, reserving their Mills grenades for special use. The enemy patrol was driven off in about ten minutes. Grenade reports from this company are in line with others already enumerated.

Corporal Lonnie J. Moscow of Company C, 107th Infantry, reported that on September 29th, at 7:00 A. M., while in a German trench, he saw an American soldier with his leg blown off as a result of the explosion of a German "potato masher."

Private First Class Thomas J. Brown of the same company reported seeing two Germans take cover in a dugout. He closed in and threw one Mills grenade into the dugout, whereupon three wounded Germans emerged, but still showing fight, were killed by rifle fire.



Private John Kutchett of the same company, while advancing with Private Claude J. Oderkirk of his company in the attack on the main defenses of the Hindenburg Line on September 29th, came suddenly upon an enemy machine-gun nest about twenty yards ahead. Private Kutchett threw a five-second Mills grenade into the nest, killing the three enemy machine gunners who occupied it. Later this soldier saw Corporal Edmund Kells of his company killed by the explosion of a German "potato masher."

Corporal John P. Murphy of Company C reported that while holding a captured enemy trench on September 29th they were heavily counter-attacked by enemy forces using large numbers of "potato-masher" grenades. One of these exploding on the parapet propelled a fragment through the steel helmet of Corporal Francis Doane, causing a cut on the cheek. The detachment held the trench, repelling the counter-attack by the free use of Mills grenades.

Private First Class George K. Baxter of the same company reported that in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line on September 29th he was sent up a trench to block it against counter-attack. Hearing an enemy party approaching down the trench, he threw three bombs into the next bay, killing three enemy soldiers of the party and wounding several others, who were shot when they continued to fight.

Corporal Floyd S. Ellis, also of the same company, reported that on September 29th, while going up an enemy trench, he came to a dugout. Looking down the steps he saw a German soldier backing away. He promptly threw a five-second Mills grenade into the dugout, and going down into the dugout found it had killed three enemy soldiers.

Corporal Charles T. Stoll, also of Company C, reported that on October 18th, in the open warfare east of the Le Selle River, he was ordered with a patrol to reconnoiter a farm house. With Privates Frank W. Garvin and Wasyl Kolonczyk of his company he advanced about 140 yards and aided in the capture of thirty-seven of the enemy. Two of these got away and ran into a barn. Corporal Stoll followed and with one Mills hand grenade "got them both."

Sergeant John Schwegler, also of Company C, reported that on September 29th, while lying flat on the ground behind the parapets of an enemy trench held by twenty Americans, he witnessed the German counter-attack made from a trench about forty yards in front, a great number of "potato mashers" being thrown. Most of them landed on the foreground about four yards from the trench, with the result that only one man of the 107th Infantry in this group was wounded. Sergeant Schwegler states: "The danger zone of a German grenade is about fifteen yards and unless there is a direct hit little damage is done."

Private Fred W. Rushlow of the same company reported that early in the morning of September 29th, while going forward, he saw a German soldier in a trench in a crouched position throwing "potato mashers." He quickly threw a five-second Mills grenade, and when he advanced found that the bomb had killed the enemy soldier.

Private First Class Remington Scott of Company C states that on the

morning of September 29th he saw Sergeant Thomas W. O'Connor severely wounded in the arm and hand from the explosion of a German "potato-masher" grenade.

Sergeant Charles J. Haible of Company E, 107th Infantry, reported that on the morning of September 29th, after he had gotten through the enemy wire beyond Guillemont Farm, he with two other men was going down an enemy fire trench and had proceeded but a short distance when he heard a warning call. He promptly crouched and a German "potato masher" fell five or six feet behind him and immediately exploded. He was knocked down and stunned for a few seconds, but suffered no other injury. One of his men immediately threw two Mills grenades fairly into the bay. Investigation showed a number of dead enemy soldiers, but they were men who had apparently been killed earlier by artillery fire. The enemy soldier who had thrown the grenades had apparently fallen back promptly.

Reports on grenades of Corporals S. R. Drabble and Fermon R. Tompkins, both of Company E, indicate the effectiveness of the Mills grenade as compared with the German "potato masher."

Private Truman R. Coates of Company F, 107th Infantry, reported that on September 29th with one man of H Company of his regiment he came upon two Germans in a shell hole engaged in firing a machine gun at assaulting American troops a short distance from them. As they dropped to the ground for the purpose of opening fire on the Germans, the latter turned their machine gun upon them. The man from H Company suddenly raised up and threw one Mills grenade, which made a direct hit on the machine gun and killed both gunners.

On the same day Private Patrick J. Mullarky of the same company, with several other soldiers of his regiment and an Australian lieutenant, came upon an enemy machine-gun nest. They opened fire with a Lewis gun, keeping the enemy party down. At the same time others of the party turned the nest and bombed it with Mills grenades. Before this was accomplished the Germans threw a number of "potato mashers," some of which landed within a few feet of Mullarky and the Australian officer, the latter having his face blackened by their smoke, but suffering no other injury. The Mills grenade thrown killed several of the Germans and caused the surrender of the others.

Private First Class Thomas J. Higgins of the same company was one of a detachment of men held up on the same day by an enemy machine gun in a trench about forty-five yards from their position. The party divided and worked around each flank until one of the men got within twenty yards of the enemy position and threw in a number of Mills grenades. The little operation took nearly half an hour, and when the advance was resumed five dead German soldiers were found behind the gun.

Sergeant Otis R. Prior of the same company reported much experience with German "potato mashers," of the effectiveness of which he has a poor opinion.

Sergeant Charles W. Koch of the same company reported that on

September 29th, together with some men from Companies G and H, he ran against a machine gun, which they bombed for about three-quarters of an hour, at the end of which they advanced to find three dead German soldiers near the gun.

Private John O. Voorhis of the same company reported a grenade fight on the same day, the Germans using "potato mashers" and his party using Mills grenades. The result was the capture of four German soldiers, one of whom was wounded, and the death of two others.

Sergeant Floyd S. MacLean, also of Company F, with one other soldier, came upon a German machine-gun nest on September 29th. They each threw a Mills bomb into the enemy post, a distance of thirty-five yards. Advancing, they found the gun badly damaged and the two gunners dead.

Corporal John J. Foley and Private Ralph L. Starrett, both of the same company, were driven into a shell hole and held there by an enemy rifleman until Private Starrett succeeded in throwing a Mills grenade into the shell hole occupied by the enemy soldier, killing him instantly.

Corporal Lyndon W. Joyce of Company G, 107th Infantry, reported that on September 29th with another soldier from the 3d Battalion of his regiment he was forced to take shelter in a shell hole on account of machine-gun fire. About ten minutes later a "potato masher" exploded on the edge of the crater, but caused no injury. At that time the smoke screen was slowly lifting and at thirty yards distance two German soldiers were seen in a trench, or what had been a trench previous to the morning barrage. Joyce and his comrade saw the two enemy soldiers at the same time, for they both threw grenades together. A few moments later they advanced and found one of the enemy soldiers dead, he having received three grenade wounds. The machine gun, which had been on the parapet, was lying in the bottom of the trench.

Private Frank M. Van Horn of the same company reported that on September 29th in the attack on the Hindenburg Line he saw a Mills grenade thrown into a group of three enemy soldiers, which, upon exploding, killed all three instantly, their bodies being badly lacerated. The three bodies seemed to be hit all over by fragments of the bomb.

Private Joseph C. Stapleton of Company G of the same regiment reported that on the same day he and a soldier of the 108th Infantry threw two Mills grenades into a shell hole occupied by two enemy soldiers and upon approaching found the two men dead, both bodies having been badly mangled and torn.

Corporal Peter Bragaglia of the same company reported that on the same day with some other men of his company he was held up by machine-gun fire at short range and, dropping into a shell hole, threw two Mills grenades into the enemy position. The machine-gun fire was not renewed and upon approaching they found two enemy soldiers dead, their bodies badly lacerated.

Corporal George R. Brown of the same company reported a similar experience on the same day.

Sergeant Harold I. Moles of Company H, 107th Infantry, saw many

Mills grenades used during battle with telling effect. In the attack of September 29th, as his platoon reached the support trenches of the Hindenburg Line, they were attacked from their left by a number of German soldiers, throwing "potato mashers." Several of his men fell, while one of the enemy grenades dropped about five feet in front of him without exploding. He thereupon threw his Mills grenade, knocking out three enemy soldiers. While pursuing some Germans down a trench another sergeant directly in front of him threw a Mills grenade, which struck a German soldier squarely on the back and immediately exploded, the body of the enemy soldier being torn to pieces. About the same time four men of his platoon mopped up a machine-gun nest with Mills grenades.

An interesting statement was furnished by Private First Class Raymond R. Williams, also of Company H, 107th Infantry, who stated that in the attack on the Hindenburg Line, September 29th, after the outposts had been taken and they were attacking the main line of resistance, held in their front by regiments of the Prussian Guards, he saw the leading wave of his company come suddenly to a halt and immediately commence fighting with hand grenades and firing at German soldiers who stood up to throw their "potato mashers." The enemy group, numbering about 100, were holding stubbornly to a battered trench in the immediate front. A number of men of the leading wave engaged in this work were struck by fragments of these "potato mashers," the Germans also losing heavily from the Mills grenades. Groups from H Company immediately began to close in on the flanks, but the Germans acted quickly. They sent over a shower of grenades and then leaped up on the parapet with fixed bayonets. "A couple of men from our regiment were very close to the trench and ran forward to meet two Germans who were ahead of the others. At the sight of steel, one of the Germans turned back, but the other, a large square-headed fellow, crouched down and made a 'throw point,' which the American lad turned off with a right parry almost as coolly as he would have done in a bayonet class, and before the German could recover his piece the lad took a quick step forward and sent the bayonet home with a well-directed 'long thrust.' The German gave a yell as he dropped that could be heard above the noise of battle. Everyone on the scene of the fight stood still and looked on with bated breath. The contest had taken all the fight out of the other Germans, and they immediately dropped their arms and shouted, 'Kamerad.' I do not know the lad's name, but he belonged to some unit of the 107th Regiment."

Private First Class John J. O'Donnell of the same company reported another instance of use of the bayonet in the Hindenburg Line Battle, September 29th. He states: "During the advance as Germans were met they were shot down with rifles, while in some instances bombs were thrown ahead where Germans were seen. A machine gun was encountered and about five yards to my left a German jumped up, half decided as to whether to fight or throw up his hands. But he had no time to make a decision, for as he presented himself a man to my left delivered a 'long thrust' with lightning quickness, withdrawing his bayonet before the crumpled form of

'Jerry' had reached the ground. Immediately other Germans in the machine-gun nest began to run to the rear, but were shot down before they had gone many steps. A few men were soon in the trench moving towards the remaining Germans with bayonets pointed, but before the bayonet could be used the Germans dropped their arms and threw up their hands, evidently induced to do so by their fear of the bayonet."

Sergeant George Rowe of Company I, 107th Infantry, reported seeing two men dead as a result of bayonet fighting in Guillemont Farm on the morning of September 29th. One was a German and the other an American. Their bodies were lying close together and it was evident that they had been killed by bayonet thrusts.

The views of First Sergeant Philip Garey of the same company concerning the use of Mills grenades and "potato mashers" coincide with those already expressed.

Sergeant Washington I. Clayton of the same company reported the rough land about Guillemont Farm particularly suitable for bombing operations, it being difficult to use rifle fire effectively. In his platoon men bombed their way in this section from one shell hole and battered trench to another during the attack of September 29th.

Sergeant Frederick H. Brown, Jr., also of Company I, was seen by Corporal Willard S. Moore of the same company to put two German machine gunners out of action with Mills grenades while advancing through Guillemont Farm. This Sergeant was later in the morning of September 29th killed in front of the heavy wire at Bony.

Captain Claude G. Leland, commanding Company I, reported that the unanimous opinion of the men of his company was that the German "potato mashers" were effective only in the immediate vicinity of the point of burst. Several men of the company had at various times been stunned by the concussion of the "potato mashers," but promptly recovered.

In connection with these reports it is obvious that a considerable wealth of experience has not yet been drawn upon. This is true because at the time the reports were made, namely, in January, 1919, some thousands of wounded of the division were still in hospitals in France and England or had been evacuated to the United States. In a very large percentage of cases these wounded men had taken part in the fierce local combats which furnished occasions for the use of the bomb and bayonet. The foregoing is well illustrated by the report turned in by Captain Griswold B. Daniell, commanding Company K of the 107th Infantry. His company had been specially depleted as a result of their gallant service in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line, followed by the operations east of the Le Selle River. Naturally there were very few men in the company when it was finally relieved from the line. It was later filled up by replacements who constituted the company at the time the report was made. Accordingly, the Captain reported that no men of his company present with it in January, 1919, had seen anyone, enemy or Allied, bayoneted during the war and that no officer or enlisted man had actually seen the result of hand grenades thrown in action. Similar conditions existed in companies of the 105th,

106th, 108th Infantry, and largely account for no reports having been received from some of the companies of those regiments.

Private First Class Charles Johanson of Company L, 107th Infantry, in the attack of September 29th was compelled to use the bayonet against an enemy soldier. While going cautiously down an enemy trench in the position of "on guard" he suddenly came face to face with a German soldier about to throw a "potato masher." The meeting was so sudden that Johanson's bayonet had pierced the German's breast before he could throw the grenade, killing him instantly.

Corporal John J. Flynn, also of Company L of the same regiment, reported the mopping up of a German machine-gun nest on September 29th with the aid of men of other units of his regiment. Four of the occupants of the nest were killed, the remaining one having his hand blown off.

Corporal James J. McGough, Jr., of the same company, reported that while advancing over the Hindenburg Line on the 29th of September he saw an unknown soldier of his regiment in the act of throwing a German "potato masher," when the grenade exploded while the soldier still had his hand on the stick. The soldier, however, did not appear to be injured.

Captain John A. Korschen, commanding this company, reported that all the survivors of this battle stated that the Mills grenade was most effective and always killed or wounded severely, while the French and German grenades merely stunned for a minute or two.

Captain George R. Dunspaugh, commanding Company M of the 107th Infantry, reported an incident which occurred on September 29th when Private Joseph J. Ahearn of that company threw a Mills grenade, which resulted in the surrender of thirteen or fourteen enemy soldiers, who appeared to be demoralized. Under the same circumstances, he reported, rifle or machine-gun fire would not have given the same results.

In a similar manner another enemy group were compelled to surrender by Corporal Ralph S. Van Inwegin, who threw a Mills grenade into the group, killing three, resulting in the surrender of the remainder.

Still another case of the same character was recorded when Corporal John R. Forsythe on September 29th successfully threw a Mills grenade into a group of enemy soldiers, wounding several.

In the Machine Gun Company of the 108th Infantry Corporal Patrick Maguire reported that on September 29th, in the vicinity of Bony, he threw hand grenades against an enemy party and also saw a group of Australians bombing a similar enemy detachment. In the Corporal's opinion, hand grenades are more effective at short ranges in trenches and organized shell holes than machine guns and automatic rifles.

Private Harold D. Gardner of Headquarters Company, 108th Infantry, on October 17th, at St. Souplet, threw a Mills grenade at a German light machine gunner. The explosion upset the gun and killed the gunner, blowing off one arm and one leg below the knee, besides ripping open his abdomen.

Private Robert J. Mullen of Company G, 108th Infantry, reported that at 4:00 P. M. on August 4th, while occupying an advanced rifle post in

front of Mont Kemmel, Belgium, his squad was rushed by a party of six Germans, who carried no rifles, helmets or pistols, but who relied solely upon "potato-masher" bombs. They threw in all about six "potato mashers," three of which did not explode, due to the fact that they dropped in the mud and water, which was deep in the trench. Private Mullen further states: "There is a small iron ring at the bottom of the cylindrical part of the bomb at the handle which hit me in the leg. In my estimation, it is the only effective part of the bomb. One of the bombs hit Private Raphael Rispoli of my company and fell to the ground before it exploded. He received nine wounds from it and is now in the United States for further treatment. While going to the rear he was wounded in the leg by a machine-gun bullet, which was the real cause of the necessity for further treatment. It is my opinion that, aside from the concussion and the small iron band referred to, the bomb is almost useless for offensive operations, and in all it is about twenty per cent. as effective as the bomb used by our forces." First Lieutenant George F. Wallace, commanding this company, states that Private Mullen was wounded later in the attack, and that his statement is authentic.

Private Benjamin Le Barron of Company I, 108th Infantry, reported the effective use of hand grenades against six German soldiers in a communication trench which could not be reached by rifle fire on September 29th.

Corporal William I. Allen of Company I reported incidents showing the effective use of Mills grenades in the bombing of dugouts in the vicinity of St. Souplet on October 17th.

In the same engagement on October 17th Sergeant William F. Pritz, Corporal Edward L. Smith, Corporal Leo L. Kozlow and Private George H. Jenkins, all of Company I of the 108th Infantry, were witnesses to the blowing up of an enemy dugout by Mills grenades thrown by Private Arthur H. Boyle of the same company. The dugout was occupied by an enemy group, but as the whole thing was blown in, the extent of the loss was not known.

Corporal Frank J. Brennan of Company K, 108th Infantry, reported seeing the explosion of a "potato masher," which wounded Corporal Frederick L. Phillips of his company and several others, while the party were engaged in mopping up during the Hindenburg Line operations on September 29th. The Corporal states that, in his estimation, "the 'potato masher' is not half so efficient as the Mills grenade. It makes plenty of noise and throws a large cloud of smoke." This soldier prefers the Mills grenade to any other weapon when mopping up.

Corporal Harold Dunning and Private Salvatore Giametti of the same company reported instances in relation to the use of bombs in line with those already mentioned.

Captain James Riffe, commanding Company L of the 108th Infantry, reported that the views of the soldiers of his company in relation to grenades conform to the general views expressed.

Private Irvin L. Whitman of Company L was on October 14th in a

group near Le Selle River which was attacked by an enemy raiding party who threw "potato mashers." One of the group was killed and another wounded. The soldier killed appeared to have died as a result of concussion, while the one wounded was struck by a piece of tin from the container of the bomb.

Privates Daniel T. Radice and Alfred H. Pierce of the same company reported that enemy "potato mashers" thrown at the men of their company during the Hindenburg Line operations fell short and were not effective.

Sergeant Decatur W. Chilson of the same company had a similar experience. On September 29th his platoon was counter-attacked by German troops using "potato mashers," which had no effect on him or the men about him. He also reported that on October 14th, near Le Selle River, he forced the surrender of ten enemy soldiers hiding in a sunken road by using Mills grenades.

The survivors of the 104th, 105th and 106th Machine Gun Battalions contributed nothing of direct value in relation to the use of the bomb and bayonet.

From these reports, which, of course, do not include statements from wounded who were evacuated to hospitals and who did not return to the division, it would appear that only one soldier of the 27th Division was bayoneted by an enemy soldier. Making due allowance for the absence of so many wounded who were participants in numerous local combats and considering the impressions of company officers, it is probable that no more than twenty men of the division were killed or wounded by bayonets in the hands of the enemy out of more than 9,000 total casualties sustained by the division. In similar manner, it is the opinion of the writer that not more than 100 of the enemy were killed or wounded by bayonets in the hands of men of the division. In all the close fighting all companies, although possessing the spirit of the bayonet in marked degree, when they actually came in contact with enemy groups at close range employed magazine fire, while individual soldiers repeatedly threw Mills grenades.