

CHAPTER VI.

The 27th Division, A.E.F., organized.
War declared against Germany.
Camp Wadsworth, S.C.
The 106th Infantry embarks for France.
Battles and Engagements participated in.

The genesis of the 27th Division, A.E.F., is found in the opening paragraph of General Orders No. 9.H.Q. 27th Division, U.S.A., October 1st, 1917; it reads as follows:

"Pursuant to telegraphic instructions from the War Department dated September 11th, 1917 this Division is organized under the provisions of General Orders No. 101, War Department, 1917."

Under the then existing tables of organization but four infantry regiments were allowed the division. The perplexing question of which of all regiments comprising the National Guard of our state were to be chosen resolved itself in the selection of the 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 23rd regiments; the selection naturally conferred a great honor on each of the organizations thus chosen to represent the Empire State on the Western Front.

The 2nd regiment, Colonel James M. Andrews commanding, re-designated the 105th U. S. Infantry, A.E.F., and the 23rd regiment, Colonel Frank H. Norton commanding, re-designated the 106th U. S. Infantry, A.E.F., comprised the 53rd Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Robert E. L. Michie of the regular army. The 7th regiment, Colonel Willard C. Fisk commanding, re-designated the 107th U.S. Infantry, A.E.F., and the 3rd regiment, Colonel Edgar S. Jennings commanding, re-designated the 108th U. S. Infantry, A.E.F., constituted the 54th Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier General James W. Lester of the New York National Guard; ^{these} ~~both~~ brigades comprised the Infantry of the 27th Division, A.E.F., commanded by Major General John F. O'Ryan also of the New York National Guard. The division remained a tactical unit of the

2nd American Corps from first to last. It has been erroneously stated by the uninformed that Major General George W. Read commanded this Corps from its inception; this is not the fact. It was not until the Le Selle operations in October 1918 that the 2nd Corps operated under the direct command of General Read; prior to that time, the Corps functioned under a Corps Staff of which Brigadier General George S. Simonds of the regular army was chief.

Further remark relative to the composition of the 27th division, except in so far as it relates to the infantry, is omitted. But what of the other infantry organizations of the National Guard less fortunate in not having been selected to participate in the glorious achievements of the 27th division? These were constituted Pioneer Infantry and were designated Corps and Army troops, under the command of Brigadier General Guy Carleton of the regular service. Needless to remark, these troops rendered valuable service overseas within their sphere of activity. In order that we may follow more clearly the rather confusing disposition of individual transfers of officers and men to and from these Pioneer regiments, there will be found in the subjoined table a list of such organizations with old and new regimental designations:-

Old National Guard designation.	New U.S. Army designation.
1st Infantry	1st Pioneer Infantry
10th do	51st do do
12th do	52nd do do
14th do	2nd do do
47th do	53rd do do
71st do	54th do do
74th do	55th do do

The problem of increasing the numerical strength of the four regiments comprising the infantry of the 27th division to the authorized maximum of three thousand six hundred and fifty two each, now presented itself. In accomplishing this, whole regiments were broken up regardless of cherished traditions and without respect of

persons, wholesale transfers of officers and men followed; in the case of the 14th regiment, thirty of its officers and one thousand two hundred and ninety two of its enlisted personnel were transferred to the 106th Infantry, which in turn lost ten officers, transferred to the Pioneers. It must be borne in mind that through no professional shortcomings or personal animosity were the transfers made; in every case this seemingly unwarranted treatment was accepted incident to the exigencies of war. Following is a tabulation of officers affected:-

Transferred from the 106th Infantry A.E.F.,
under the provisions of G.O.No.9, H.Q.27th
Division A.E.F., October 1st, 1917.

Rank.	Name.	To duty with.
Lieu't Col.	Morris N. Liebmann	105th Infantry, A.E.F.
Major	Matthew D. Addison	52nd Pioneer Infantry (12th N.Y. Inf.)
Major	John R. Sawyer	52nd Pioneer Infantry (12th N.Y. Inf.)
Cap't	Charles M. Ward	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)
Cap't	William J. Evans	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)
Cap't	William A. Ronalds	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)
Cap't	George A. Johnson	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)
Cap't	George M. Keese	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)
Cap't	William F. Simonson	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)
(x) Cap't	Rutherford Ireland	54th Pioneer Infantry (71st N.Y. Inf.)

(x) This officer returned to the 106th Infantry, A.E.F.,
under War Dep't order dated November 15th, 1917.

Transferred to the 106th Infantry, A.E.F.,
under the provisions of G.O.No.9, H.Q.27th
Division, A.E.F., October 1st, 1917.

Rank.	Name.	Transferred from.
Lieu't Col.	John B. Tuck	3rd N.Y. Infantry (108th U.S. Inf.)
Major	Walter A. DeLamater	71st N.Y. Infantry (54th P.I.)
Major	Gabriel G. Hollander	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Major	Harry S. Hildreth	12th N.Y. Infantry (52nd P.I.)
Cap't	Harry C. Starret	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	Foster G. Hetzel	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	William E. Blaisdell	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	Arthur V. McDermott	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	Rossiter Holbrook	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	John C. Hardy	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	Stanley W. Pierce	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
Cap't	James G. Conroy	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
1st Lt.	Joseph L. Gilman	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
1st Lt.	John A. Nelson	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
1st Lt.	Charles G. Ostberg	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
1st Lt.	Matthew J. A. Wilson	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)
1st Lt.	Harry F. Sullivan	14th N.Y. Infantry (2nd P.I.)

Rank.	Name.	Transferred from.
1st Lt.	Murray Taylor	12th N. Y. Infantry (52nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	John F. Callahan	12th N. Y. Infantry (52nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	F. D. Clark	12th N. Y. Infantry (52nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Albert V. Clements	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Ira I. Hodes	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Thomas F. Ward	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Joseph A. Kerrigan	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Alfred J. Hook	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Herbert E. Marshall Jr	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
1st Lt.	Ivan L. Smith	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	John W. Moran	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Louis Peterson	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	James H. Boyle	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Ivan Fenty	12th N. Y. Infantry (52nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	George W. Hermance	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Grover C. Cleaver	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	J. B. Post	12th N. Y. Infantry (52nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Willard M. Webster	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Frank L. Stephenson	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Franklyn J. Jackson	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Joseph F. Curtis	14th N. Y. Infantry (2nd P. I.)
2nd Lt.	Arthur B. Elliman	12th N. Y. Infantry (52nd P. I.)

The following named officers of the Medical Department attached to the 106th Infantry, A.E.F., under the provisions of G.O.No.9, H.Q.27th Division, A.E.F., October 1st, 1917.

Rank.	Name.	Med. Dp't. Attached.
Major	Lucius A. Salisbury	Attached
1st Lt.	Harry H. Worthing	Attached
1st Lt.	Charles F. Nicol	Attached
1st Lt.	Charles D. Keyser	Attached
1st Lt.	Robert S. Cleaver	Attached
1st Lt.	Nils P. Larson	Attached
1st Lt.	Sexton P. Roane	Attached

Subsequent drafts of enlisted personnel from the 47th N. Y. Infantry distributed throughout the regiment filled the gaps caused by further "raids" under requisitions for "specialists" such as interpreters, carpenters, policemen, plumbers, stenographers, motor mechanics etc etc. A unique distinction was enjoyed by the 106th Infantry; composed wholly of Brooklyn men from distinctively Brooklyn regiments a great pride was theirs; nor is it too much to believe that the glorious battle achievements of the regiment will live for ever in the hearts of true Brooklynites.

Its organization completed, the division settled down to

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eight months of intensive training; in addition to field exercises, there were schools in bayonet fighting, musketry, automatic arms, machine gun, one pounder cannon, mortar, gas defense, camouflage and field engineering. Special attention was given the subjects of sniping, patrolling, reconnaissance, transportation, liaison and equitation; there were also courses for teamsters, farriers and packers. A goodly part of each drill period was devoted to rough and tumble games, wrestling and boxing; the natural result was that toward the end of the training period, the division collectively and individually was in perfect physical trim.

The winter of 1917 will be remembered as a one of unusual severity; the camps of the 27th division were much of the time under a heavy blanket of snow and ice. Despite these conditions, field training went forward as per schedule. A series of practice trenches constructed by the 102nd Engineer regiment and occupied by alternating battalions of the infantry for periods of several days duration, accustomed the troops to the rigors of trench life; the result of this training was most noticeable when the 106th Infantry for the first time "took over" from the British in Flanders. In like manner, the infantry occupied the rifle range at Glassy Rock in North Carolina. At first the troops were transported by rail from Fair Forest to Campabelle from which point the march was taken up for Glassy Rock; as time went on and the troops became hardened, transportation by rail ceased. Thereafter the total distance of twenty five miles was made under march tables in the allotted ^t time of three days; the time limit was subsequently reduced to two days and finally to one day.

On one occasion when the 3rd battalion of the regiment was engaged in rifle practice at Glassy Rock, a forest fire in the vicinity of the butts spread rapidly over a considerable area; practice ceased and the men armed with intrenching tools experienced a new thrill in fighting the flames. But the greatest thrill experienced by the regiment was the laying of a creeping barrage across its front! Forming line

one hundred yards in rear of the assumed point of burst, the men waited in silence for the opening shot that would acquaint them with the terrible effects of shell fire. Suddenly the air was filled with that peculiar sound as of escaping steam. A shell screamed overhead! Then another and another crashed in a piece of woods in front, sending rocks, earth and trees skyward! Presently the barrage lifted and moved forward, the infantry following at "high port" but always maintaining its distance of one hundred yards. Fired by unseen and unheard guns of the field artillery far to the rear, the dangerous exercises were concluded without casualties; the demonstration made a profound impression on all ranks and it may be said without fear of contradiction that the experience doubtless contributed to the steadiness of the regiment when first it advanced under shell fire in Belgium.

Changes within the regiment had in the meantime taken place. Colonel Norton had been discharged for physical disability and Lieut Colonel John B. Tuck had assumed command. Under this officer the morale of the 106th dropped to a level bordering on morbid apathy; it was under Tuck's administration that the regiment earned for itself the misnomer, "O'Ryan's Roughnecks". If the 106th was at that time undisciplined, it was only because it refused to submit to Tuck's methods. Heartily despised by officers and men, this officer in whom the regiment placed no confidence, succeeded (fortunately for all concerned) in procuring a transfer before the 106th went into action. Major Sidney G. De Kay of the 105th Infantry was transferred to the 106th during the month of August 1917; he continued with the regiment until detailed to the General Staff College at Langres, France. Major Hollander, transferred to the 2nd Pioneer Infantry while the regiment was still at Camp Wadsworth, was replaced by Major Charles W. Berry, formerly of the old 14th N.Y. Infantry. Major De Lamater went overseas with the 106th and was later detailed to the General Staff College.

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In April 1918, Colonel Charles I. De Bevoise originally of the cavalry, took command of the regiment. The 106th never came to know its second Colonel who through the fortunes of war was shortly thereafter transferred to other fields of activity. The third Colonel of the 106th Infantry was William A. Taylor who took over on May 3rd, 1918. With his coming the regiment snapped out of its morbid lethargy and hitting the stride, regained all that had been lost under Tuck; if ever an officer was loved by his command, it was Colonel "Bill" Taylor. Commencing his military career as private in the 121st Separate Company of the old National Guard, he served in the intermediate grades and ranks, and was on July 5th, 1916, commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd N.Y. Infantry, re-designated the 108th U.S. Infantry, A.E.F., from whence ^{he} came to the 106th regiment with rank of Colonel. Colonel Taylor is a veteran of the Spanish-American war and of the Mexican border expedition; he was graduated from the Army Service Schools in 1915 and with the inauguration of the Third Officers' Training Camp at Camp Wadsworth in January 1918, he was appointed commandant.

In March 1918, the division received its last replacements, until the end of the Somme Offensive in October, 1918, when a very few days before the armistice, fresh though inexperienced replacements were sent to the division and to the various units of the division; these men were of the "National Army" and had never tasted battle. During the stay of the 27th division at Camp Wadsworth, it passed in review before visitors prominent in military and civil life; chief among these were Governor Manning of South Carolina, Governor Whitman of New York, Senator Wadsworth and General Biddle, Chief of Staff of the Army. On one occasion, high pressure government salesmen harangued the troops into subscribing to the purchase of Liberty Bonds; in many instances, the soldier after deducting his allotment to the folks at home, his monthly insurance premiums and his Liberty Bonds, received from the Pay Master a monthly stipend of but seven dollars and fifty

cents; -- this sum being fixed by the laws of a grateful government as his minimum pay.

Religious influences widely spread by regimental chaplains were reflected in the daily life of the troops; recreation centers where the soldier might relax when off duty, were available to each camp of the division. While the Y.M.C.A. went through the motions of ministering to the needs of the soldier, the Knights of Columbus, the Red Cross and the Jewish Welfare Board contributed mightily to the comfort of officers and men alike. The fact that the division collectively showed a rough exterior needs no apology; from a moral, mental and physical standpoint, the 27th division was a clean, healthy organization imbued with high ideals and intensely patriotic. And so as the months passed and the day of departure for foreign fields drew near, the levity of the recruit gave way to the more serious deportment of the seasoned soldier.

May 1st, 1918, marked the commencement of the movement of the 27th Division overseas. On that day General O'Ryan and a selected staff comprising an advance party, sailed on the U.S.S. "Great Northern"; thereafter the several units of the division departed in an uninterrupted stream. On May 6th, the 106th Infantry, less Companies "L" and "M", designated Camp Police under Captain Ireland, marched to Fair Forest where it entrained for Jersey City. The camp area having been policed, and receipts taken by Captain Ireland for all government property therein, a mixed guard of the 3rd Pioneer Infantry and the 104th Field Artillery "took over." Entaining late, the same night, Ireland's detachment rejoined the regiment on the morning of the 7th. Still in doubt as to its destination, the men of the 106th boarded a waiting ferry which they half believed would start the regiment on its way to Camp Mills, L.I. Overjoyed at the prospect of even a short sojourn near the old home town of Brooklyn, a soldier shouted "MINEOLA"! The response

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was both instantaneous and electrifying; in one voice raised to high heaven, the whole regiment shouted the magic word -- "MINEOLA! MINEOLA!" which from that moment was the accepted battle cry of the 106th Infantry.

Heading upstream, the North German Lloyd piers came into view; there was a tense moment of doubt as the ferry glided past. Then the Hamburg-American piers loomed; still doubting, the men gazed wistfully at the New York sky line. Suddenly the boat changed her course hard a port, heading straight for the piers where lay great transport impressive in their war paint. With this, the fondest hopes of the regiment were dissipated and within an incredibly short period of time, the 106th found itself aboard the U.S.S. "President Lincoln". Directly opposite, lay the mammoth "George Washington" loaded with troops and ready to sail; in the early evening the "Washington" slid out of her berth, putting to sea on another perilous voyage across the Atlantic. Within an hour another vessel -- a four piped monster dressed in crazy camouflage occupied the lately vacated berth; such was the precision and despatch of the United States Transport Service.

While the voyage of the regiment was accomplished without mishap, numerous incidents, many of them inconsequential perhaps, yet all of them intimately associated with the life of the regiment afloat, occurred during the nineteen days aboard ship; to attempt a recital of these happenings from memory after a lapse of seventeen years would be impossible; the writer therefore quotes from his war diary which is a faithful record of events as they occurred day by day.

x x x " May 9th: Weather fine and warm: A battalion of the 42nd Engineers came aboard this morning and later, Company "H" of the 129th Infantry; the ship's company is now complete; the "President Lincoln" sails tomorrow."

"May 10th: Weather fair and warm: Today is a red letter day for the 106th Infantry. Some of the men feel a little super-

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stitious because it happens to be Friday; but after all it makes no difference. Here and there a game of cards is the center of attraction with its ever present circle of spectators shutting off light and air. Others are pacing the decks for exercise, and I notice a great number lounging along the rail with faces toward New York; no doubt we are all thinking the same thoughts. It grows hot and sultry; the afternoon drags. It is now four; we sail at five. We are ordered to clear the decks. Presently not a soldier is to be seen; they have gone below and wonder why they cannot wave farewell to those on the pier and to home-going ferry passengers. On the dot of five, the great transport backed out and assisted by lively little tugs, was soon in midstream headed for the open sea. The laughter of the afternoon has given way to almost absolute quiet."

"Entering the officer's mess this evening, we stood waiting for the signal from Colonel Taylor to be seated; but the "Old Man" first requested the Chaplain to ask a blessing which seemed most appropriate, seeing we are embarking on this great adventure. It is now dark and I notice things have been moving since last ^e I was on deck. Our pilot has left and is making for his vessel which is standing by."

"Lifeboats have been swung clear on massive davits; ladders and ropes have been dropped over the sides and within the next hour the ship's Commander is to tell us of the tactics of the submarine; we shall then be assigned to alarm posts. Visited my company below decks and found them well fed and as comfortable as conditions permit; just how they will ^e manage their bunks remains to be seen. Already there is a slight roll of the ship and already some show unmistakable signs of seasickness."

"May 11th: Weather clear. The regiment in good shape and fit. Lock-outs have been posted at intervals along the decks and from the "crow's nest" aloft, our officers scan the horizon. Naval officers pace

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the bridge keeping a weather eye for periscopes; this tireless vigil will be kept until we reach port, and if by any chance of fate we are torpedoed, it will be because every known precaution had failed. Every light in the ship (except those in the inner compartments) went out at nine this evening; hereafter, we shall live in darkness. There are now seven troop-ships in company with ours and a cruiser leads the column; some of our neighbors are camouflaged in most fantastic designs and colors which are most effective even at close range; one small ship, -- small compared with the "Lincoln", is evidently a roller and pitcher combined; she is striped like a zebra and Lord! how she does bounce! The cruiser is dipping her ram-like nose into the long swells, and having not much freeboard, green water surges over her forward decks. The fleet is sailing without lights! A risky proposition, although I suppose we have chosen the lesser of two evils. On our right, the "Covington" is so close, that we hear distinctly her bugle calls."

"May 12th: Clear and smooth. Surprised to find our numbers have increased over night! There are now fourteen ships in all. They tell us this is the largest troop transport yet attempted; if all the ships make port, there will be fifty thousand fresh American troops to stiffen the line! Toward evening the weather thickened a little and we pitched just enough to make it interesting -- for those who like it."

"May 13th: Fog. We were awakened at daybreak by the moaning of the siren and the ringing of alarm bells! It proved nothing worse than our first call to quarters for drill in "abandon ship". At the signal, officers and men "doubled" to their posts, the troops swarming up out of the holds and forming up along the rails. All this transpired without confusion and woe to him who disobeys a command. My post is on the after superstructure and I am charged with lowering a nest of life rafts over the starboard side; ten or a dozen huskies are assigned to me as a station crew. It took just six minutes to clear all compartments and there we stood shivering until broad daylight, all hands encased in bulky life

belts made fast. Whatever may happen, they will not find this squadron napping. I wonder what chance the black gang will have in the event of disaster?"

" May 14th: Fair weather: Sighted a man-of-war off the starboard quarter; we looked her over through glasses; she proved to be a battleship of our own navy; where she is bound for, the Lord only knows. During the morning a yellow bird resembling a canary settled on a life boat and after resting a little, flew off. Schools of dolphins and flying fish came out of the sea and another truly remarkable creature called by sailors, "Portugese Men-Of-War", attracted much attention; these apparently helpless denizens of the deep float lazily on the surface; suddenly they raise a dorsal fin resembling a leg-o-mutton sail and with this set to the breeze, off they go, scooting over the face of the Atlantic!"

" Perhaps I am taking undue notice of these strange things and it may be that to mention so small a detail as the color of the water is entirely out of order, although I must confess that never before have I seen such truly beautiful Prussian blue, changing at times to opalescent as it rolls away from the cut-water. To those used to the sea, the little items I have spoken of would have no charm; but this is my first voyage (and perhaps my last) and I am deeply impressed. A daily paper called the "Rail Splitter" is published on this ship; its an interesting sheet and gives us the news of the day from home, including base ball scores and the like, and a circulating library offers a great variety of good reading for those inclined to while away the hours with writers of fiction."

"May 15th: Fair weather: We assembled for drill this morning, although limited deck space rather cramped our ^schedule. Someone remarked that we shall receive our destroyer escort during the day; under the circumstances, this is cheering news, seeing the Kaiser has put a price on our heads! That is, the ship, formerly a German liner, is known to be one of the largest troop and cargo carriers in the service."

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"May 16th: Fog with clearing: A heavy fog rolled in on us during the night, accompanied by the dismal moaning of ships' fog horns; wallowing through at half speed, the transports, each holding true to its course, emerged from the murky blanket which by sunrise had disappeared. During the forenoon, we experienced a spectacular treat; -- target practice with the big guns. The transports had paired off and were trying out their six inch rifles; the "Lincoln" is armed with four of these, two forward and two aft; her secondary battery consists of four one pounders. It is now the "Lincoln's" turn; another ship is towing a huge cask representing a conning tower; estimated range, twenty five hundred yards. The gun pointer sets his sights; the gunners stand ready. Shot number one registers with a mighty splash! Shot number two falls short and skipping over the water, misses by a narrow margin; making another skip of two, the shell sends up a water spout and settles into the ocean a mile beyond! Considerable money changed hands during this ringside performance."

"May 17th: Fair weather: Everything is snug and the troops in good spirits. The sea is like glass with just enough roll to make it pleasant. We are still holding to the S/E, and are in the following order:- Cruiser leading, with five troopers in the first line, four in the second and five in the third; the panorama is awe inspiring! Far off, a whale wallowed on the surface, spouted, and was gone; with the coming of darkness, we went below and conversed with comrades we could not see."

"May 18th: Rough water: Men in fine fettle. This being Saturday, inspection was in order; never before have I witnessed a naval inspection and it strikes me that there is a lot of gold lace and pomp connected with the ceremony; -- far more than we of the army are used to. The ship rolled and pitched a lot during the night; but by far the saddest happening, is the death of a lad of Company "M" who passed away during the early morning hours. Movies this evening; comfortably

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seated, when the siren let go and that of course ended the show, sending all hands to posts on a run. Now after much study and no little effort, I had devised means for reaching MY post by "cutting corners"; that is, by dropping from the berth deck to the deck below, and then climbing a ladder to the after superstructure, I would avoid bucking the line swarming up from below. I gave it a tryout tonight, never suspecting that most of my route had been freshly painted! With the help of the tailor and gasoline, I finally got back to normal."

"May 19th: Still rough: A bracing, sparkling day overhead, and a rolling, plunging sea which is to my liking. It is Sunday; all the ships of the fleet have broken out their colors and above all flies the Church pennant -- a blue field with the cross of Christ in white. Under this, the Chaplain conducted devine service. The great ship filled with fighting men, the boundless ocean, the sparkling sunlight in which dolphins play, and the knowledge that before us lies the unknown, fills some with emotions difficult to express."

"During the afternoon our escort fired a shot across the bows of a tramp off out port quarter, whereupon she ran up the Union Jack ~~the English~~; this no doubt satisfied our people, for she proceeded on her way. I must correct a statement entered in yesterday's journal: That man did NOT die, although he is very low; the rumor started just because they set a coffin on end in the sick bay."

"May 20th: Continued rough water: The ship is bucking like a bronco and spray flies high above the bridge! The whole fleet is on its ear and the smaller vessels are jumping like corks! Just now, with a mighty crash, the dishes slid off the tables; our sturdy friend the cruiser is under water most of the time. A boat has broken loose and swings free, while a couple of seamen make frantic efforts to secure it; companies at drill resembled lines of drunken men endeavoring to keep their feet; its a great picture and full of action! Five P.M: -- It grows rougher; table racks have been placed for the evening mess.

A sailor suddenly becomes sea-sick and our men are joshing him; but they are "kidding" themselves because a lot of them are quite as sick as he."

"Through the gathering mist of night we sighted a giant torpedo boat rushing headlong toward the fleet of laboring transports; tearing through the heavy seas she did everything but stand on her head -- if such a thing were possible! Shortly after her welcome arrival, something went wrong with a ship in the third line; falling away from her position she signaled for assistance. Instantly the destroyer headed about to lend a hand nor did she leave the laggard until all was well. There is a standing rule that if the column is attacked the unfortunate sister is abandoned to her fate, the rest of the fleet scattering and running for it. Tomorrow we enter the "danger zone"; by this is meant that part of the Atlantic KNOWN to be infested with submarines!"

"May 21st: Fair and not so rough: All hands on the alert. Most everyone seems to be a little ahead of the schedule; for myself, I remained on deck after "stand-to" for no other reason than to watch the sun rise out of the sea; -- one of the glories of nature. I notice the column has closed up and that the ships are forging ahead at top speed, clouds of black smoke pouring from their funnels. I believe every man of the fleet is in full accord with the sentiments expressed by Farragut when he said "to hell with the torpedoes!" It is now midnight and all is well and may the good Lord bring us to our desired haven."

"May 22nd: Fair weather: It was two thirty this morning when the alarm sounded and we jumped for our stations on deck! From my post the sea looked so black and forbidding that it took little imagination to transform each oncoming wave into a submarine; this of course was a simple case of ruffled nerves. Early morning "stand-to" is just about as disagreeable as it is necessary and it is at such times when everyone is on edge that those blessed with a sense of humor help

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a lot; and so it was that one of these humorous chaps made some timely remark, causing no end of laughter; the Major, outraged at such deport- ment, called through his megaphone for less noise, and I, to be courteous, (but in reality to square myself) called back through the darkness, "Sta- tion thirteen in order Sir." At six this morning eight more destroyers arrived out of nowhere and posted themselves around the fleet. Death claimed the sick boy, Private James T. Martin of Company "M"; he died during the night.

"May 23rd: Smooth and clear: This morning finds us still afloat and in the most dangerous sector of the danger zone! We are ordered to wear lifebelts constantly; the water, smooth as glass, makes our position the better for detecting ripples. Following the advice of the ship's commander, we retired this night fully dressed, boots and all," only to be routed out "May 24th: Beautiful weather: We were routed out at two thirty this morning. The shrieking of the whistle, the blasts of the siren, sailors running through the ship ringing hand bells, and the as- sembled Field Music sounding "Assembly", most certainly put the fear of God in our hearts! Surely disaster had come upon us! Making the deck, I saw destroyers dashing here and there ready with depth bombs; a re- port relayed to the fleet, giving warning of the presence of submarines off Brest, was at the bottom of the confusion! Officers and men are on their toes expecting things to happen and wondering why they don't! Our early morning vigil was rewarded at break of day with the sight of land! French patrol boats came out to meet us and swift flying planes circl- ed the fleet; captive balloons called "blimps" tugged at their moorings while observers with marine glasses stood ready to flash firing data to expectant gun crews aboard ship."

"The ships have formed in single file and are making for the narrow inlet; this is indeed a rocky coast studded with innum- erable reefs; on either side of the harbor we saw the sloping hills very green under cultivation. In due time the ships were well within the

breakwater and at anchor, for which the Lord be praised. Reviewing the events of the past fourteen days, and realizing the many dangers safely encountered, let us give thanks to God for his merciful goodness, and let us remember always that we owe a debt of gratitude to the United States Navy into whose keeping we were committed and who have delivered us intact." ~~x x x~~

The first commendation received by the regiment during its stormy career, appears in a communication addressed to Colonel Taylor by Commander P.W. Foote, U.S.N., commanding the U.S.S. "President Lincoln"; the letter follows:-

"U.S.S. "President Lincoln",
May 23rd, 1918.

"My dear Colonel Taylor:-

"As commanding officer of this vessel, I desire to express my appreciation to you and the officers and men under your command on board this vessel, for the splendid spirit of co-operation and willingness which has been exhibited on the present voyage, in carrying out the necessary duties of ship discipline, sanitation, emergency drills etc."

"Immediately after arriving on board, all of the details of organization were mapped out and put into effect, and the rapidity with which the troops became familiar with their stations and emergency drills, was very gratifying."

"Due to the necessary crowded conditions on board, the problems of sanitation and cleanliness always require the greatest attention, and the state of cleanliness which has been maintained by the troops in their living quarters, latrines, deck spaces etc has been especially satisfactory."

"It is with a feeling of great regret that we, the officers and men of this vessel are forced to bid farewell to you and the officers and men under your command, and you may be sure that our prayers and good wishes will be with you during the days of trial which are to come, when every man's courage and devotion to duty will be tested to the utmost."

"With highest personal regards and good wishes, I am,

Most faithfully,

P.W. Foote,
Commander, U.S. Navy.
Commanding U.S.S. "President Lincoln"

To Colonel William A. Taylor,
106th Infantry,
Commanding troops on board. 270

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The officers and men of the 106th Infantry in like manner wished the "Lincoln" a safe return voyage, but this was not to be; for upon leaving the port of Brest after discharging the regiment, she was attacked, torpedoed and sunk in deep water two hundred miles off the coast of France! The fact that she carried convalescent soldiers en route to the United States, -- a fact well known to the German authorities, made not the slightest difference in their determination to rid the seas of this troop and munitions carrier. In passing, it may be said that the U.S.S. "Covington" met a similar fate.

On the afternoon of May 25th, the regiment less Companies "C" and "D" (assigned the arduous duty of assisting in unloading the "Lincoln") was lightered ashore; the march was immediately taken up for Fort Boguen beyond the city of Brest, and here the 106th bivouaced until the 28th. Meanwhile the 52nd Artillery Brigade of the 27th division had been diverted to the port of St. Nazaire where it disembarked. This seemingly strange disposition of our artillery is explained by the fact that the depleted British Infantry demanded immediate re-in^cforcement if its lines were to be held. With respect to artillery support, the British lacked nothing; it was therefore deemed expedient to place the artillery on other fronts where its services would be of greater value. It was not until after the armistice that these arms of the service were re-united as units of the 27th division.

Leaving the fort on May 28th, the regiment entrained at Brest for a place called Noyelles sur Mer; the journey consumed two days of discomfort. It was on this occasion that the men of the 106th became intimately acquainted with rail transportation after the French manner, and more particularly with the secrets associated with the term "40 HOMMES -- 8 CHEVAUX"; but as the regiment at that time had not a single cheval, it was a question of hommes only; told off in groups of forty, the men were loaded without ceremony into cattle cars reeking with the nauseating stench of foul pens and in this loathsome atmos-

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where they wallowed throughout the journey. The officers too experienced a thrill; between Brest and Rennes in Normandy, enemy snipers in ambush along the line, fired into the officer's coaches, narrowly missing their mark! At Noyelles, two air raids sent British veterans flying to dug-outs! But the men of the 106th, not yet realizing the frightful possibilities of such raids, appeared to enjoy the performance much as a child enjoys a circus.

In each instance the air was suddenly filled with that alternating whir peculiar to the German Fokar; piercing rays searching the heavens, caught the plane, holding it in silhouette as anti-aircraft batteries went into action. Thus trapped, escape seemed impossible; but the cunning raider was not to be brought to earth. Rearing upward into the black void, he eluded his pursuers and was gone; -- but not until he had rocked the earth in the vicinity of the camp with his infernal bombs!

Breaking camp early on the morning of May 31st, the 106th Infantry marched for the British training area; in this change of station, the 1st battalion occupied Le Festel, Hanchy and Cumont farm, the 2nd battalion, Oneux, Neuville and the 3rd battalion, Millencourt. Training was continued under the British system and under British instructors. It is interesting to note that of all American divisions of the A.E.F., the 27th and 30th were honored in being selected to remain with the British until the close of hostilities; these divisions it will be recalled, constituted the 2nd Corps. Early in June the 27th Division was for purposes of support and coordination, assigned to the 66th British Division, a depleted unit of the 3rd British Army. Low in numbers and morale through appalling battle losses sustained in the great German drive of the preceding March, this division, a mere skeleton of its former self had been withdrawn from the line for rest and re-organization. Its officers and non-commissioned officers selected

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as instructors were assigned to the 2nd Corps area and under these veterans the 106th Infantry absorbed much valuable knowledge in the art of modern warfare.

Through the sudden death of Brigadier General Michie, on June 4th, 1918, the command of the 53rd Infantry Brigade devolved temporarily on Colonel James M. Andrews of the 105th Infantry. Since the 2nd Corps was to operate with the British, the problem of coordinating the issue of small arms ammunition was solved in an exchange of arms; accordingly, the regiment turned in its "Eddystone" rifles, Cal. 30, on the night of June 6th, thus being without arms until the following day, when it was issued the British "Short Enfield", Cal. 303; this servicable weapon is a ten shot magazine rifle fitted with a knife bayonet in which the "Tommy" places great reliance and in the use of which he is a past master.

Evacuating the St. Valary training area on June 17th, the 106th regiment crossed the river Somme, continuing its march toward the sector held by the 3rd British Army; that night the 1st battalion rested at Helicourt, the 2nd battalion at Gamaches and the 3rd battalion at Montieres. Regimental Headquarters had on the 15th, moved from Coulouvillers to Acheux and thence to Harcelaines; on June 21st, Headquarters and the 1st battalion occupied Quesnoy-le Montant, the 2nd battalion Miaunay, and the 3rd, Hymmeville. On June 22nd, Headquarters moved up to St. Requier, the 1st battalion marching to Millencourt, the 2nd to Neuilly l'Hopital and the 3rd to Hautvillers; the following day Headquarters advanced to Ribeaucourt, the 1st battalion to Epecamps, the 2nd to Gorges and the 3rd to Lanches-Fransu Franqueville. On June 24th the march was again taken up with Bonneville as the objective of Headquarters and the 1st battalion, the 2nd battalion moving into Montrelet and the 3rd battalion resting at Fieffes. These troop movements were not confined to the 106th Infantry alone; the entire 27th division had by now concentrated within the sector and was assigned to the 3rd Army Reserve.

BRITISH
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Enemy air raids had become a nightly occurrence; indeed the troops were subjected to these frightful visitations throughout the entire period of active operations! While in the area of the 3rd Army, troops of the 27th division took over a system of trenches constructed in anticipation of a push-through from the general direction of Arras; these trenches constituted the British reserve line. On one occasion as the 3rd battalion of the regiment was returning to billets, a German plane suddenly appeared overhead! Fortunately the last unit of the battalion had cleared the road, when four bombs were dropped in quick succession! Taking full advantage of natural cover offered by thick foliage skirting a stream paralleling the highway, the battalion splashed through to safety; the plane had by this time disappeared; but a smudge of black smoke rising above the tree tops showed plainly where the road had been badly pitted for a distance of two hundred yards!

The division moved north from Picardy on July 2nd, entraining at Bouquemaison, Doullens and Candas for the sector of the war worn 2nd British Army. In this movement, the 106th Infantry proceeded by rail from Candas, detraining at Arques in Flanders during the night of the 3rd; for the first time in weeks, the regiment was here united. It was at Candas that 2nd Lieu't Samuel D. Davies of Company "I" distinguished himself in rendering heroic service beyond the call of duty. X → A rail-head of considerable importance located within the confines of the town, attracted much attention from the air; enemy planes persisted in bombing the area, hoping to destroy the rail-head. A fire attributed to aerial bombing was discovered in a storehouse filled with live ammunition! Immediately upon its discovery, Lieutenant Davies and a rail-head detachment of the 106th Infantry under his command, entered the burning structure and at great personal risk, succeeded in removing a vast amount of stores and ammunition. For this heroic deed he was cited in the following commendation:-

Headquarters, 27th Division, U.S.A.
American Expeditionary Forces,
France.

June 28th, 1918.

From: Chief of Staff, 27th Div.
To: C.O. 106th Infantry.
Subject: Commendation, 2nd Lt. Davies.

"1: The Division Commander directs me to express his commendation of the excellent work reported to have been done by a detachment of the 106th Infantry under the command of 2nd Lieut. Samuel D. Davies, at a fire which occurred in the village of Candas on the night of June 26th, 1918."

"2: The report referred to was submitted by Captain Edward Miller, Q.M.C., N.G.U.S., and indicated that by the efforts of Lieutenant Davies and his detachment, a vast amount of property and munitions were salvaged under exceptionally difficult circumstances."

"3: A copy of this letter will be furnished to Lieutenant Davies for his information and one copy will be filed with his efficiency report."

Stanley H. Ford
Lieut. Col., Gen'l Staff.
Chief of Staff.

(Circumstances)

"Fire was apparently started by a bomb dropped by enemy aircraft."

Honorable mention is also due the men of the detachment who by their devotion to duty contributed to the success of the dangerous enterprise.

At midnight of July 3/4th the regiment marched from Arques enveloped in clouds of dust. Veterans will agree that this night march proved one of the three outstanding hikes of the regiment in the war. Entering the city of St. Omer a mysterious uncanny atmosphere seemed to grip the marching column; this was a dead city -- repelling, silent as the grave! The unbroken rhythm of hobbled boots on rough cobbles the absolute silence in ranks and a full moon creating a shadowy regiment keeping step with the 106th transformed the living into a ghost army on some unearthly mission! The troops were now well within a labyrinth of crazy narrow streets with no guiding light, no reassuring ray from windows heavily boarded.

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As the column penetrated still further, isolated patrols of British Infantry darted from ever deepening shadows with startling suddenness, their bayonets flashing in the moonlight, and satisfied that all was well, disappeared as suddenly into some dark lair! Emerging at last from this realm of silence, the regiment hit off over open country and presently skirting a canal, held to it for miles; hospital barges moored to improvised docks, bore mute testimony of their mission in those parts. An outpost guarding a bridge barred the way; but it was only for a moment; the regiment was off once more across the fields.

Heavy firing far to the right told the positions of the guns; the roar of enemy planes, punctuated with blinding flashes indicated the locality of bursting aerial bombs dropped from the sky in an attempt to locate and destroy the gunners. And so the march was continued until dawn of the 4th of July when the goal was reached; staggering under the weight of full packs and singing some favorite marching song, -- ending always with the battle cry "MINEOLA"!- "MINEOLA"!; the plucky regiment went into billets; this was at Lederzeele in Flanders. In keeping with the spirit of the day, the band headed by the inimitable Barney Toy, marched and countermarched through the town, playing patriotic airs and popular medleys in a vain attempt to revive the weary troops but to no avail for by now the men were wrapped in slumber.

Mention has already been made of the depleted 3rd British Army and of the 66th Division of that army with which the 27th division trained. Before continuing, let us refresh our memory with a synopsis of the stirring events surrounding the operations of the 2nd British Army prior to the arrival in Flanders of the 2nd American Corps. Following the great German offensive launched against the Channel Ports in March 1918, resulting in the retirement of the 3rd Army south of Ypres between Fontaine-les-Croisilles and La Fere, the rout of the 5th Army, which in reality formed the right of the British line, and the breaching

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of the line on its right, a situation most favorable for a push-through to the coast and indeed to Paris, confronted the Allies!

The eyes of the world were now on Marshal Foch, General-in-Chief of the allied armies in France. Through superb strategy and supporting French divisions, the gap was closed and the German drive was stopped at Villers Bretonneux, south of the Corbie-Amiens line near Amiens, but not until enemy patrols had actually penetrated the environs of that city. If Foch contemplated a counter offensive, his plans fell flat; for with the swiftness of lightning the Germans, on April 9th, launched another offensive! -- this time against the 2nd British Army in Flanders, on a front extending generally from Ypres along the canal de la Bassée to the river Lys and thence to Armentieres. The German push on this front created the Ypres salient.

Flushed with initial successes, his assaults became even more violent! In quick succession Armentieres, Ploegsteert and Messines fell to the invaders! Realizing fully the extremely dangerous situation, numerous French divisions were rushed to the aid of the hard pressed crumbling British defensive positions which had been literally blown from Wytschaete Ridge east of Mt. Kemmel, and finally from Mt. Kemmel itself, thus losing to the enemy a position of great strategic value. With bull dog tenacity the British with backs to the wall, carried on for King and country as best they could, hoping for the early arrival of fresh American infantry; this hope was realized with the coming early in July of the 2nd American Corps, whereupon the 27th division of that corps moved forward to the Oudezeele area.

In this situation the disposition of the 2nd American Corps placed the 27th division with the 19th British Corps and the 30th division with the 2nd British Corps, operating on the north of the first named. Meanwhile the 2nd Army, contesting every inch of ground lost, had gained a foothold west of Mt. Kemmel and had established several defensive lines; of these, we confine our observations to the three principal

systems. The first extending roughly from Scherpenberg Hill on the south, to a point within the area of the 2nd (British) Corps, north and east of Dickebusch Lake, constituted the first or front line. The second, known as the Westoutre Line, followed a general course embracing the town of Westoutre, Meath Farm, Ouderdom, Wellington and Ottawa Farms; behind this, a third line (including the lesser Wippenhoek and Reninghelst systems) extending from Anjou Farm on the north, to Condiment Cross and thence to Mersey Cross on the south, constituted the line of resistance and was known as the East Poperinghe Line.

On July 7th, 1918, the 2nd American Corps received orders to take over the "East Pop" line; at the same time, the 27th division, charged with the responsibility of developing and defending that portion of the line within its allotted sector, -- a front of approximately three thousand yards, prepared to move forward. Clearing the Oudezeele area, the 106th Infantry entrained at Winnezeele on July 14th, detraining at St. Momelin. Marching from the rail-head, Headquarters and the 2nd battalion rested at St. Martin-au-Laert, the 1st and 3rd battalions occupying Tilques; in this movement by rail a shortage of box cars compelled the loading of troops on open "flats", the journey being accomplished in a driving rain.

In the defense of the East Poperinghe Line, alternating battalions manned the trenches; upon being relieved, these troops were marched to the rear for rifle practice and training. Veterans of the regiment will recall trekking along the bloody Steenvorde-Abeele road with intervals of five hundred yards between battalions, and one hundred and fifty yards between companies; this road constantly subjected to artillery shelling, crossed the French-Belgian frontier at the town of Abeel; it was the main axial road for troops and supplies moving up into the lines.

On July 25th the 106th Infantry moved forward to the front line shoulder to shoulder with its English cousins. Thus we find the 1st battalion carrying on with the 122nd and 124th Brigades, B.E.F., the 3rd battalion with the 10th West Kents facing Mt. Kemmel, and the 2nd battalion in reserve behind the Wippenhoek Line in the vicinity of Chile Farm. These changes of station were accomplished at night over dismal wastes and trails made slippery by constant rains; add to these disheartening surroundings persistent shelling and aerial bombing with ever increasing casualties! On August 6th His Majesty, King George of England, visited the 27th division area inspecting units in the immediate vicinity. On that day Lieut. Colonel Morris N. Liebmann of the 105th Infantry was killed by shell fire! Colonel Liebmann had served for many years in the old 23rd Regiment having commenced his military career in the National Guard of the State of New York, as Private, Company "I" as did his lifelong friend Captain Jerome F. Langer, Commanding Company "I" who on this sad occasion lay desperately wounded; his miraculous escape from sudden death reads like fiction!

Having completed a tour at the front with the 41st (British) division, he, 1st Lieut. Albert V. Clements and a detachment of men under the guidance of a British soldier attempted a withdrawal from the trenches. All went well until the little party reached the western slopes of the Scherpengerg, when without warning they were subjected to severe shelling from the direction of Mt. Kemmel! Several of the detachment including the guide were blown into eternity! Captain Langer, suffering no less than sixteen wounds carried on and by his heroic example the survivors managed to reach their lines, many of them including Lieut. Clements severely wounded! The high standard of loyalty manifested by officers and men of the regiment was reflected not only in courageous performance of duty but in innumerable instances by acts of valor far beyond the call of duty. Realizing the futility of any attempt to publish in this history a faithful record of those deserving special

mention, the writer respectfully declines to treat with so delicate a subject; the reader is referred to Appendix , in which will be found a complete roster of those cited in orders.

With the receipt of orders on August 15th directing the defense of the Dickebusch Line by the 27th division it was realized that for the first time, the division would be "on its own"; the withdrawal of the 6th (British) division commenced during the night of the 21st was completed under heavy high explosive shelling; with this forward movement Division Headquarters advanced from Oudezeele to Douglas Camp near Abeele. In the defense of the East Poperinghe line, -- July 9th to August 23rd inclusive, the 106th Infantry lost twenty six men killed in action or died of wounds, one officer and seventy three men wounded and six men gassed.

With the assignment of Colonel Andrews of the 105th Infantry to the temporary command of the 53rd Infantry Brigade and the death of Lieut. Colonel Liebmann of that regiment, the 105th found itself without a head. Major Berry of the 106th Infantry was accordingly assigned to the command of the 105th Infantry and was subsequently commissioned its Lieutenant Colonel. By this circumstance, Captain Hetzel of Company "F" assumed command of the 2nd battalion; with the subsequent arrival of Major Sidney G. De Kay who shortly thereafter was assigned to the 106th, the command of that battalion was relinquished by Captain Hetzel.

This brings us to the disposition of the division during the occupation of the Dickebusch Line from August 24th to August 30th inclusive. The 105th and 106th regiments comprising the 53rd Infantry Brigade were honored in being assigned to the front line; the less fortunate 107th and 108th regiments comprising the 54th Infantry Brigade, were designated the Reserve. During the night of August 23rd the 53rd brigade moved forward under heavy gas shell-

ing. The following morning, found the 106th Infantry in the vicinity of Micmac Farm and Gretna Redoubt, the 2nd battalion in regimental reserve; the 105th Infantry occupied strong positions on the left of the 106th. The defense of this important sector, comprising the general vicinity of Dickebusch Lake, showed considerable aggressive activity in making and repelling raids. Under perfect observation from enemy positions on Mt. Kemmel, the lines were subjected to almost constant shelling, machine gun fire and gassing; snipers, always a source of annoyance, harassed the Americans from well chosen points difficult to locate. Enemy formations opposing the 27th division in this sector comprised units of Prince Ruprecht's group of armies. Battle casualties sustained by the 106th Infantry in this action were fifteen men killed in action or died of wounds, one officer and forty nine men wounded and four officers and one hundred and six men gassed!

Leaving what is officially known as the "Defensive Sector", the division entered the bloody "Ypres-Lys Offensive." Intelligence reports indicating the evacuation of Mt. Kemmel by the enemy, were received on August 30th; if these reports proved true, the Ypres-Lys salient would in all ^{probability} probability cease to exist; these reports corroborated the same day through prisoners of war, were supplemented by information that the Germans would that very night withdraw to powerful defensive positions on Messines Ridge! High command decided at once to ~~take the offensive and give battle.~~ On the morning of the 31st, reconnaissance patrols pushed well forward, gaining contact with the enemy; subjected to machine gun fire and sniping, they were held up and unable to further advance, fought their way back with a loss of nine men wounded and twelve missing. The 53rd brigade had in the meantime received its battle orders.

We digress for the moment to show the disposition of the 106th Infantry in the ensuing battle and to tabulate the names of officers ~~comprising the Field and Staff and of Company officers participating in the action.~~ ~~comprising the Field and Staff and of Company officers participating in the action.~~

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Headquarters.
Colonel William A. Taylor, Commanding.
Captain Joseph A. S. Mundy, Adjutant.
Captain James P. Cooks, Personnel Adjutant
Captain Arthur V. Mc Dermott, Operations Officer
Captain William E. Blaisdell, Supply Officer
1st Lieu't William A. Hunter, Intelligence Officer
Major Lucius A. Salisbury, Medical Dep't., Att.
1st Lieu't Joseph L. Gilman, Gas Officer.
Chaplain Frank I. Hanscom
Chaplain George C. Eilers
Captain G. W. B. Witten, 6th Div. R. F. A., Attached.

ASSAULT ECHELON.

(Right sub-sector)

First Battalion.

Less Cos "A", Plus Cos "G".

Major Ransom H. Gillet, Commanding.
1st Lieu't Ames T. Brown, Batt'n Adj't.

Company "C"

Captain John T. Sheehan
1st Lieu't John A. Nelson
2nd Lieu't James A. Malloy

Company "G"

1st Lieu't Albert G. Reinert
2nd Lieu't Frank A. Knowles

(Left sub-sector)
Third Battalion

Major Henry S. Hildreth, Commanding.
1st Lieu't Chester P. Jones, Batt'n Adj't.
1st Lieu't Erdmann Brandt, attached with
six trench mortars and three 37mm guns.

Company "K"

1st Lt. Edward A. Gray
1st Lt. Willard M. Webster

Company "L"

1st Lt. H. C. Stevens Jr.
1st Lt. Ira A. Hodes

Company "M"

Cpt. Harry F. Sullivan
2nd Lt. Horace B. Scanlon
2nd Lt. Edward L. Bonney

"SUPPORT ECHELON.

(Right sub-sector)

Company "D"

1st Lieu't Matthew J. A. Wilson
1st Lieu't Edward L. Ryan
2nd Lieu't Frederick W. Rozeck

Company "B"

1st Lieu't Charles Ostberg
2nd Lieu't George W. Turner

(Left sub-sector)

Company "I"

1st Lieu't Louis Peterson
2nd Lieu't John R. Clark

RESERVE.

Second Battalion

Less Co."G":Plus Co."A"

Major Sidney G. De Kay, Commanding.
1st Lieu't Frederic K. Long, Batt'n Adj't.

Company "H"

Company "A"

Company "E"

1st Lt. Lennox C. Brennan 1st Lt. Gilbert P. Rudkin 1st Lt. Thomas F. Ward Jr.
2nd Lt. Frank P. Ulrich 1st Lt. James B. Post 3rd.

Company "F"

Capt. Foster G. Hetzel
1st Lt. York W. Brennan

Note:

ATTACHED.

Captain Nils P. Larsen, Med. Dep't.
1st Lieu't Robert S. Cleaver, Med. Dep't.
1st Lieu't Joseph E. Adams, Med. Dep't.
1st Lieu't Sexton C. Roane, Med. Dep't.
1st Lieu't Walter C. Tilden, Med. Dep't.
1st Lieu't Harry E. Rice, Dental Corps.
1st Lieu't George C. Eilers, Chaplain.

Early morning of August 31st, found the 53rd Infantry Brigade on its mark, with the 54th Brigade in reserve. The battle of Vierstraat Ridge, the opening engagement of the Ypres-Lys offensive, commenced with the advance of the 105th Infantry shortly before noon of that day without a covering barrage denied by the British as unwarranted. The 30th division on the left of the 27th, advancing within its sector, maintaining liaison with the 105th Infantry, pushed on to Voormezele which was promptly occupied. In the vain hope of checking the advance of the American Infantry, German guns rained shells across the entire front; the bombardment answered in turn by British artillery of all calibres, reduced to a minimum the menacing fire.

In the early afternoon the 105th Infantry attacked and carried Major's Post and Captain's Post, while on the right, the 106th Infantry with dash and determination advanced to, and crossed Cheapside and York Roads; the entire line was now consolidated.

By referring to the accompanying map it will be noticed that the task assigned the 106th Infantry called for turning the right of the line from its original front to one facing due east; with the 105th Infantry acting as a pivot the 106th advanced its right elements; it will at once be seen that in executing the swing the regiment bore the brunt of the advance; to prove this assertion, it is but necessary to compare battle casualties of the regiments participating.

105th Infantry Aug. 31" - Sep. 2"					
Killed in action:	Died of wounds:	Wounded:	Gassed:	Missing:	Captured
21	2	69	52	2	none

106th Infantry Aug. 31" - Sep. 2"					
Killed in action:	Died of wounds:	Wounded	Gassed:	Missing:	Captured
44	3	267	41	7	5

Within the regiment Major Hildreth's battalion appears to have taken the most punishment. It was during the early stages of the battle that Major De Kay had selected three dug-outs in the reserve line one of these dug-outs served the purpose of Battalion Post of Command, while the remaining two were to shelter battalion personnel. Accordingly, a detachment of four men, 1st Sergeant William J. Doherty, Corporal James A. Harlington, Corporal John A. Tyack and Private 1st Class John J. Michaels entered one of these dug-outs. The Major had in the meantime left the vicinity on a tour of inspection; suddenly with a terrifying roar an explosion demolished the dug-out in which the detachment had taken shelter killing instantly the whole party!

By evening of the 31st the first phase of the action was history with added glory achieved by the gallant troops of the 53rd brigade in this their first battle. Early the following morning the 106th continued the turning movement pivoting its 3rd battalion on the 105th

at Vierstraat. In this advance of September 1st, the 106th took Chinese trench and held the Vierstraat-Wytchaete road. Counter-attacking, the Germans retook Chinese trench, driving Sullivan's company to cover! His retirement was however, but momentary; seeing their comrades in distress, groups of the regiment rushed to his assistance, retaking the trench with severe losses to its defenders. The regimental Machine Gun Company being then at Busseboom, did not participate in the battle; but the deficiency was overcome through staunch support received from the 105th Machine Gun Battalion. As the battle progressed, Company "D" moved to the right of Company "G" and Company "B" to the left of Company "C". By hard fighting the 106th Infantry succeeded in advancing its line to the railway in the vicinity of Wytchaete Ridge which was firmly held throughout the night in the face of heavy bombardments.

The final objective, reached during the morning of September 2nd, established a line from Northern Brickstaff on the south, to Middle Farm on the north. The brigade was withdrawn under cover of darkness, September 2nd, the 106th Infantry being relieved by the 122nd British Brigade and the 5th East Surreys; the regiment thereupon marched to Napier entraining (via narrow gauge) for the Rattekot rest area preparatory to entraining for Doullens. Thus terminated the service of the 27th division with the 2nd British Army. To those who participated in the actions of the "Defensive Sector" and in the battle of Vierstraat Ridge, the memory of Sherpenberg, La Clytte, Gordon Farm, Milky Way, Hallebast Corners, Indus Farm, Ouderdom, Reninghelst, Anjou Farm, Hague Farm, Dickebusch Huts and Remy Siding will endure as long as life lasts. Of the officers listed in the foregoing roster, the following named were killed in action:-

~~1st Lieu't Edward A. Gray~~
2nd Lieu't Frank A. Knowles

WOUNDED IN ACTION

Maj or Lucius A. Salisbury, Med. Dep't
1st Lieu't Ira A. Hodes
2nd Lieu't George W. Turner
2nd Lieu't SAM BLAIR

X
2nd Lieu't Horace B. Scanlon
2nd Lieu't Edward L. Bonney
2nd Lieu't John R. Clark
2nd Lieu't Frank P. Ulrich

In this battle the line was advanced two and one half miles; the total number of prisoners taken were forty seven. Of enemy material, there ^{rare} was captured sixty three machine guns, eleven minnenwerfers and one field piece. The enemy opposite the 27th division in the battle of Vierstraat Ridge were the 236th Infantry Division, 8th Infantry Division and 52nd Infantry Division.

With the assignment of Brigadier General Albert H. Blanding to the command of the 53rd Infantry Brigade on September 1st, 1918, Colonel Andrews returned to the 105th Infantry. General Blanding is of the Florida National Guard and at present (1936) holds the responsible and dignified post of Chief of the Militia Bureau with rank of Major General. In the movement by rail from Waayenberg to Mondicourt, the 106th Infantry took with it rolling kitchens, officers' mounts and draft animals; in short, the entire impedimenta of the regiment accompanied it on this journey south to the Beauquesne area. Detraining at Mondicourt on September 5th, the march was taken up with Doullens as the objective; here the troops were billeted, a portion of the regiment occupying the Citadel --- a grim fortress of mediaeval origin older than the ancient city itself. Taking full advantage of this respite from battle service, the regiment proceeded to clean up and rest while it might, little dreaming of the fierce ordeal through which it was destined to pass before the end of that eventful month.

Between September 5th and 22nd, the 106th continued its training, participated in maneuvers, stood innumerable inspections, re-organized its somewhat depleted ranks and re-fitted. In the midst of these activities, rumors of impending battle were circulated throughout the area of the 2nd Corps; that these rumors were well founded there is abundant proof. During the afternoon of the 22nd, the regiment numbering

X
thirty nine officers and two thousand and fifty eight men marched from Doullens accompanied by a train of sixty limbers. Entraining very early in the morning of the day following, the 106th journeyed to the dismal Tincourt area which was reached the same night; detrainning, the regiment went into bivouac.

It seems proper at this point to give a résumé of events culminating in the now famous battle of the equally famous Hindenburg Line in which the 2nd American Corps in general and the 106th Infantry in particular were to play an eminently important part; the pertinent facts relevant to the operations and achievements of the regiment will be recorded in detail hereinafter.

The great Hindenburg defensive system comprised not only the Main Line, but several intermediate Lines running generally north and south; of these we are more particularly interested in the study of that portion of the system lying within the tactical boundary of the 2nd American Corps and more especially within the sector assigned the 27th Division. Protected by great masses of barbed wire erected in successive belts extending far to the front, the Hindenburg Line was further secured by a series of Out-Works known as Strong Points; these in the order named marked the northerly, center and south erly limits of the sector subsequently assigned the 27th Division. THE KNOLL overlooked the Macquincourt valley. Fifteen hundred yards to the south lay battered GUILLEMONT FARM overlooking Claymore Valley. The third Strong Point, QUENNEMONT FARM, lay between Dirk Valley and Malakoff Wood; the Main Line lay approximately twelve hundred and fifty yards to the east of the Out-Works.

Facing the Out-Works of the Hindenburg Line, numerous posts dotted the British Works; most prominent of these were Tombois Farm, Egg Post, Doleful Post, Duncan Post, Cat Post, Bull Post, Benjamin Post, Rifleman Post and Hussar Post; these positions figured prominently in the advance of the 106th Infantry and are therefore

mentioned by name. In the ensuing battle the 53rd Infantry Brigade of the 27th (American) Division covered a front of no less than four thousand yards! The initial attack on the out-works commenced on the morning of September 18th when the Australian Corps assaulted and carried their first objective; in this the Australians were supported by seven hundred and fifty 18 pounder guns and two hundred and twenty five howitzers! On the right the 9th (British) Corps had with great difficulty taken the first objective while on the left, the 3rd (British) Corps had failed! Three divisions comprising this Corps had failed in a task subsequently given over to the 27th American Division!

Again on September 19th the 9th and 3rd (British) Corps failed utterly in carrying their objectives! In the meantime the Australians and 74th (British) Division had taken and were holding the Out-Works covering the southerly half of the tunnel sector later taken over by the 30th division of the 2nd (American) Corps. This then was the situation confronting the British on the morning of September 20th. Still confident, the attack was resumed on the 21st by the 3rd (British) Corps; in this the 74th division of that Corps advanced on Quennemont Farm, Quinnet Copse and Guillemont Farm, while the 18th ^(BRITISH) division struggled on toward the Knoll. Again the desperate enterprise failed with severe losses in battle casualties to the now utterly exhausted British! Once more at midnight of the 21st/22nd the attack was pushed forward in a forlorn hope which as before ended in dismal failure! It is at this point that the 27th (American) division appears on the scene.

It may here be remarked that the question of which of the two divisions of the 2nd (American) Corps, i.e.: the 27th or the 30th would be assigned to the northerly sector of the Corps area was decided personally by ^{General} Major [^]Read who justified his selection of the 27th division in his belief (based on personal observation) that

the experience and training of this division warranted its being given that honor. At a conference of Corps, Division, Brigade and Regimental Commanders, the situation and general plan of attack was stressed with respect to the all important task assigned the troops which would operate in the dangerous northerly sector. In his book "The Story Of The 27th Division" Major General O'Ryan, Commanding the division states that Lieut. General Monash Commanding the Australian Corps stipulated that but ONE regiment of the 27th division would be assigned to make the attack across the entire divisional front! All other regiments of the division must be held in reserve for participation in the attack on the Main Line scheduled to commence on September 29th; it was later decided that one regiment would support the regiment which was chosen to assault.

During the conference General Monash inquired of General O'Ryan which regiment would be selected to lead off; to this General O'Ryan replied that the 106th Infantry would be the ONE regiment and that the 105th Infantry would support the 106th. It appears significant that in comparing the numerical strength of the several regiments of the division as of September 26th the 106th mustered but two thousand and thirty seven men; to compare the comparative rifle strength of these regiments the reader is referred to the following table:

	<u>105th Infantry</u>	
<u>Officers:</u>		<u>Other ranks:</u>
73		2659
	<u>106th Infantry</u>	
41		2037
	<u>107th Infantry</u>	
86		2895
	<u>108th Infantry</u>	
82		2978

Accordingly, the 106th Infantry worked itself forward during the night of September 24th; by daylight of the 25th, all units of the regiment were in the front lines supported by the 105th Infantry which lay to the east of Ronssoy; by this disposition the 74th and 18th (British) divisions had been relieved by troops of the 27th division.

During the afternoon of September 26th, General O'Ryan visited Colonel Taylor in the latter's Post of Command located near Ronssoy; a conference of officers ensued. Reviewing in detail the general plan of attack which would commence early the following morning, final instructions were given. The 106th Infantry at that time had but one Major, Ransom H. Gillet. Upon being apprized of this fact, Major Leslie Kincaid, Division Judge Advocate, promptly volunteered his services as battalion commander; his proffer was as promptly accepted. For this act of heroism Major Kincaid was cited in orders.

Thus we find the 1st battalion commanded by the indomitable Major Ransom H. Gillet, the 2nd battalion by Major J. Leslie Kincaid and the 3rd battalion by an officer of great promise, Captain William E. Blaisdell; the final organization of the respective battalions proceeded with dispatch. There follows a roster of the Field and Staff and of company officers participating in the battle of the Out-Works of the Hindenburg Line on September 27th, 1918:-

HEADQUARTERS

Colonel William A. Taylor
Cap't Murray Taylor, Acting Adj't.
Cap't James P. Cooke, Personnel Adj't
Cap't Arthur V. McDermott, Operations Officer
Cap't George E. Bryant, Machine Gun Officer
1st Lieu't William A. Hunter, Intelligence Officer
2nd Lieu't Frank S. Paris, Supply Officer
Major Lucius A. Salisbury, Medical Dep't, Att.

FIRST BATTALION

Major Ransom H. Gillet
1st Lieu't Ames T. Brown, Batt'n Adj't.
1st Lieu't Leaman S. Broughton, Attached
with 4 M/G's and 2 T.M.

(Right)
ASSAULT ECHELON:

Company "C"

Company "B"

Company "A"

2nd Lt. James A. Malloy. 1st Lt. Charles Ostberg. 1st Lt. Gilbert P. Rudkin.

(Right)
SUPPORT ECHELON:

Company "D"

1st Lt. Matthew J. A. Wilson
1st Lt. Edward L. Ryan

SECOND BATTALION

Major J. Leslie Kincaid
1st Lieu't Albert G. Reinert, Batt'n Adj't.
2nd Lieu't William B. Behrens, Attached with
4 M/G's and 2 T.M.
1st Lieu't Franklyn J. Jackson, Attached with
1 37 mm gun.

(Center)
ASSAULT ECHELON

Company "F"

1st Lieu't Alfred J. Hook
2nd Lieu't York W. Brennan

Company "H"

1st Lieu't Lennox C. Brennan

(Center)
SUPPORT ECHELON

Company "E"

1st Lieu't Thomas F. Ward Jr.
2nd Lieu't William H. Boulee

Company "G"

Cap't John C. Hardy
2nd Lieu't Lane S. Anderson

THIRD BATTALION

Captain William E. Blaisdell
1st Lieu't Chester P. Jones, Batt'n Adj't
1st Lieu't Ivan L. Smith, Attached with
4 M/G's.
2nd Lieu't James F. Curtis, Attached with
2 T.M. and 1 37 mm gun.

(Left)
ASSAULT ECHELON

Company "K"

Capt Harry F. Sullivan. 2nd Lt. Louis Peterson.
2nd Lt. Willard M. Webster.

Company "I"

Company "L"

2nd Lt. Fred'k W. Rozeck

(Left)
SUPPORT ECHELON

Company "M"

Capt John F. Callahan
2nd Lt. Horace B. Scanlon

7

In confining ourselves to the listing of none but the Field and Staff and Company officers, it is to impress on the reader the rapidity with which the complexion of combat units changed under battle conditions; this explanation is made in justice to those officers assigned to transport duty whose names do not appear on the rosters referred to. In like manner, the names of officers of the regiment who from time to time were placed on special duty or detached service, thereby being deprived from participating in battle with their respective companies on specific occasions, are omitted; as previously stated, the names of all officers of the overseas regiment will be found in Appendix .

Throughout the night of September 26th working parties milled about in the darkness taping the "start line"; by four thirty on the morning of the 27th, the broken battalions of the 106th Infantry were on their mark. Sensing an attack, the enemy plainly nervous were now sending up their S.O.S. rockets while over the pitted area, star shells casting a lurid light, filled the air; isolated machine guns fired on any and every object resembling the attackers, and with each burst, enemy artillery increased the intensity of its fire!

At exactly 5.30 on the morning of September 27th, our artillery augmented by the 105th and 106th Machine Gun Battalions opened simulataneously with mighty crashes that shook the earth! The hellish terrifying barrage had been laid! With this, the 106th Infantry moved forward enveloped in a heavy smoke screen; groping their way toward the out-works, the troops were presently lost to view in the yellow fog of battle! By seven o'clock the 3rd battalion had gained the KNOLL and were sending up "success" signals. Concentrating his artillery on that vital spot, the enemy tried hard to dislodge our men, which he partially succeeded in doing; by 9.30 the 1st and 2nd battalions had gained their objectives! Heavy and fierce fighting now raged across the entire

front in which the gallant 3rd battalion seemed to be having the most trouble; three hours later the 2nd battalion had taken and were holding Claymour Trench against terrific odds! The enemy tried hard to blow them out of this position, but failed.

In the meantime a fierce counter-attack had dislodged the 3rd battalion, forcing its retirement to Tombois Farm; in this the battalion lost not only its objective, but three thousand yards as well. In this desperate situation, our artillery flashed to the support of the battling 3rd battalion, enabling it to successfully counter-attack, driving the enemy back and inflicting severe punishment! The artillery support in this action consisted of no less than nine brigades of British ^{guns} artillery; the 18 pounders firing at the rate of three shots per minute and the 4.5 howitzers, two shots per minute; twelve heavy tanks were assigned to assist in the advance.

The 1st battalion suddenly confronted with determined enemy counter-attacks from the direction of Malakoff Wood, stood like a rock, while units of the 30th division on its right poured a withering fire into the Germans at that point! Throughout the afternoon fighting of the most desperate character raged in all sectors of this inferno! By five o'clock the 3rd battalion had, with the assistance of Companies "K" and "M" of the supporting 105th Infantry, retaken the Knoll and by nightfall of the same day the 106th Infantry occupied generally all three Strong-Points; while these positions had not been consolidated, it may be truthfully said of the regiment that it had accomplished its mission.

But what of the cost in human lives and suffering in achieving the glorious victory of that day? In the action of September 27th, battle losses sustained by the enlisted personnel of the regiment are variously given; from available records, a fluctuation in reported casualties appears to lie in the number carried on the rolls as "missing in action". There can be no doubt that of those so carried

many eventually found their way back to the lines. Upon careful checking, we group the battle losses under the headings "Killed in action," "Died of wounds," "Wounded," "Gassed," "Missing in action," and "Captured," as eight hundred and fifty four! Of the officer personnel, we arrive at the following startling facts! In the 1st battalion every company officer with one exception was killed or wounded! In the 2nd battalion every officer was killed or wounded! In the 3rd battalion every officer was killed or wounded! Add to this, three officers attached to Battalion Headquarters, killed!

Battle Casualties-Officer personnel
106th Infantry.
September 27th, 1918.

Capt George E. Bryant	Killed in action.
Capt John F. Callahan	do
Capt John C. Hardy	do
1st Lt Alfred J. Hook	do
1st Lt Charles Ostberg	do
1st Lt Gilbert P. Rudkin	do
1st Lt Franklyn J. Jackson	do
1st Lt Willard M. Webster	do
2nd Lt Louis Peterson	do
2nd Lt Frederick W. Rozeck	do
2nd Lt James A. Malloy	do
2nd Lt William B. Behrens	do
2nd Lt Horace B. Scanlon	do
2nd Lt James F. Curtis	do
2nd Lt Frank S. Paris	do
2nd Lt Lane S. Anderson	do

Wounded in action.

Capt Harry F. Sullivan	-- Taken prisoner.
1st Lt Lennox C. Brennan	
1st Lt Matthew J. A. Wilson	
1st Lt Thomas F. Ward Jr.	
2nd Lt York W. Brennan	
2nd Lt William H. Boullée	

With respect to the 105th Infantry whose valiant close support of the struggling 106th Infantry contributed in no small measure to the achievement of the latter, and to the unflinching 105th and 106th Machine Gun Battalions, be it said to their everlasting glory that they too made possible the ragged yet successful advance of the 106th Infantry against what has been termed the most formidable field

fortification ever constructed! We now focus our attention on the 54th Infantry Brigade which to now had constituted the divisional reserve. On the morning of September 28th that brigade occupied a line of trenches from which the 106th had debauched the previous day; working forward under a withering fire, these troops succeeded in reaching and relieving what remained of the thoroughly exhausted 106th Infantry; in effecting this relief, the 107th Infantry took over the northerly sector and the 108th Infantry the southerly sector. Upon being relieved, the 106th Infantry retired to the vicinity of Villers Faucon.

The mental and physical condition of the regiment may well be imagined. Without sleep since the 26th, hungry and dirty, many showing unmistakable signs of shell-shock and all in a stupor following a natural reaction after the terrible ordeal through which it had passed, these soldiers had reached an area of fancied relaxation; but their work was not yet finished! In the battle of the 29th when the Main Line was attacked, the 106th Infantry was called upon to make one more supreme effort as "moppers up"! Immediately following the issuance of the order which by all the laws of average spelled the complete annihilation of the 106th Infantry, General O'Ryax appeared personally before the survivors of the battle of the 27th, imploring them to finish the job; the response to this harangue was nothing more than the blank stare of men stunned by what appeared to them as brutal audacity; quick to sense their reaction, the General with great tact and apparent feeling inquired whether these veterans were satisfied to abandon their wounded comrades who at that very minute were groaning in agony where they had fallen! Roused to a state of frenzy, the men of the 106th accepted the challenge, determined to carry on!

The order referred to called for the formation of a Provisional Battalion to be composed of every officer and man of the

106th capable of shouldering a rifle; by this, non-commissioned staff officers, cooks, clerks, teamsters and survivors lately relieved, were gathered in and formed into three companies designated companies "X", "Y" and "Z"; this heterogeneous aggregation was commanded by one well fitted for the job, Major Ransom H. Gillet. Following is a roster of officers assigned to the Provisional Battalion:-

Major Ransom H. Gillet, Commanding.
1st Lieu't Ames T. Brown, Batt'n Adj't.

Company "X"	Company "Y"	Company "Z"
1st Lt George Archer:	Capt Arthur V. McDermott:	Capt William E. Blaisdell
1st Lt Arthur B. Elliman:	1st Lt Erdman N. Brandt:	1st Lt Edward L. Ryan
1st Lt Joseph L. Gilman:	1st Lt Lucius H. Doty:	1st Lt Chester P. Jones
1st Lt Herbert C. Rosboro:	1st Lt Albert G. Reinert:	2nd Lt Harold C. De Loiselle:

The organization of the battalion progressed rapidly under the direction and supervision of Colonel Taylor; the numerical strength of the Provisional command approximated three hundred and fifty all ranks; -- the LAST offering of the 106th Infantry! Recovering from the shock of the intelligence imparted by the General, all evidence of fatigue, grumbling and bewilderment disappeared; keenly alive to the vital importance of the enterprise, officers and men worked rapidly and silently. No time was to be lost; -- the day was far spent! In the transport all was hurry and bustle collecting and delivering supplies; hot rations were handed out lavishly; this was to be their last meal for the present; -- for many, their last meal on earth! Extra canteens were filled; pick axes and shovels, grenades, flares and rockets were distributed; ammunition in great quantities carried in bandoleers and in belts added to the already heavy burden of the soldier. In short, every detail incident to fierce combat received scrupulous attention!

As darkness settled, a Boche plane roared overhead intent on gaining information; a vivid narration of the incident is

given by an officer of the 106th; says he, "Officers and non-coms were assembled at Headquarters to receive the last words of advice and instruction. The Major, standing in their midst addressed them; but hardly had he begun when the rat-tat-tat of a machine gun distracted the attention of those present. Groping searchlights reaching aloft in every direction were sweeping the sky in search of the invisible combatant of the air! In the light of a searching beam appeared the fleeing plane; frantically it twisted and ducked to escape, but too late! Another light focused on it! Then another!-- six!-- ten! The plane, its sinister black crosses plainly visible, darted this way and that, but in vain; the relentless rays followed; there was no escape. From the darkness poured a stream of red flashes --- seemingly into the very heart of the twisting Boche plane! Turning suddenly, it fell, but as suddenly was off again; a feint; but still the lights held it; --rat-tat-tat!"

"The thrilling spectacle lasted for ten minutes; time and again illuminated traced bullets seemed to reach the vitals of the plane which by now was ducking, falling and twisting, only to rise again apparently unharmed! Slowly it worked its zig-zag course to its own lines as one by one the searchlights now outranged, flickered out; the plane was gone! "

Black night had now swallowed completely the picture of horror, changing all into a blurred smudge with nothing to give semblance of form but the glare of rockets and the flash of heavy guns. In answer, a constant roll, punctuated with crashes came from the German lines; this terrifying artillery duel took heavy toll as the night wore on! With intermittent flashes crouching forms groped their way unafraid, in the fulfillment of a ghastly mission! The battalion formed on the tape at ten forty five; the men knew that the fields stretching away to the front were red with the blood of their comrades! They knew too, that many of the living standing in ranks would shortly be numbered among

the dead!

The column moved forward heading for the Ronssoy road, yet none knew the destination; upon reaching the road the battalion found itself part of a struggling mass of men, horses, lorries and tanks, each vying with the other to hold the road and quicken the pace toward the front. Backing and filling, the men fairly sobbing with exhaustion, the march continued. The infantry, choking the road, must be in position at "Zero"; the tanks by fair means or foul, must be ready to clear the way for the infantry; if a barrage was to be laid, the lorries must deliver the ammunition!

Finally the battalion left the road, heading eastward across shell-torn fields; groups of figures silhouetted against the first faint rays of light showed plainly the front lines. Protecting planes hovered above watching for isolated machine gun nests; those who were hit lay where they fell until the arrival of ambulance men. Again the enemy grew nervous; their flares and rockets filled the sky, creating a pyrotechnic display of blue, green and red, terrible in its import yet gorgeous; in these demonstrations, the defenders of the Main Line were calling for help.

And now the land took form; day was breaking; a great battle was about to commence! What must have been the thoughts of those responsible for the slaughter to follow! It was now five fifty and "Zero!" A single machine gun spoke; this was the signal! With a roar and crash the barrage came down; the earth trembled! Waves of silent figures dashed forward; the fate of the Hindenburg Line hung in the balance! Following the 3rd battalion of the 107th Infantry, the provisional battalion of the 106th fought its way through with reckless determination, bombing enemy groups and engaging in an orgy of killing unparalleled in earlier operations! A striking incident of fierce personal combat is that of an officer of the 106th Infantry who being attacked by a German of great

size and strength, was forced to the expedient of gouging out an eye of his powerful adversary, and hooking a finger into the socket and a thumb between his jaws, he held his prisoner screaming in agony while he reached for his dirk with which he disemboweled him! Numerous incidents equally repugnant might be cited; such was the passion of the regiment on that horrible occasion!

Major Gillet had been seriously wounded early in the action. At Lone Tree Trench, units of the 107th were hung up by machine gun fire from Guillemont Farm which they could not combat because of heavy fog; in this sticky situation they stood fast until the fog lifted, when they again pushed on toward their objective. On the right, the 105th Infantry had by hard fighting, gained Knoll Switch, Willow Trench, Island Traverse and Causeway Lane. The 108th Infantry on the extreme right in conjunction with the 3rd Australian division (which during the morning of the 29th had leap-frogged that regiment, thus placing it in support in subsequent attacks) reported passing over small groups of the 106th Infantry still holding what they had gained in the fighting of the 27th!

On the left, units had become badly mixed; thus it appears that portions of the 105th and 106th regiments attached themselves to the 107th regiment, and with it, advanced. By noon of that day (September 29th) units of the 27th division had actually gained the Main Line and were holding against terrific odds! German artillery had in the meantime concentrated on the Americans from the direction of Bony east of the tunnel. By evening of the same day, the supposedly impregnable Hindenburg Line had fallen to our troops! The 106th Infantry, a mere skeleton in effective strength, relieved during the night of September 30th, retired to Villers Faucon; but it was not until the day following that all units had come in.

In this operation, -- between September 24th and 30th inclusive, the battle losses of the 106th Infantry reached the

appalling figure of ONE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIVE, all ranks! Of the officers who served with the Provisional Battalion in the battle of September 29th, the following named were killed or wounded:-

KILLED IN ACTION.

Captain William E. Blaisdell

WOUNDED IN ACTION.

Major Ransom H. Gillet, Commanding.
Capt Arthur V. Mc Dermott
1st Lt Edward L. Ryan
1st Lt Chester P. Jones
1st Lt Erdmann N. Brandt
1st Lt Lucius H. Doty
1st Lt Arthur B. Elliman
1st Lt Joseph L. Gilman
2nd Lt Harold C. De Loiselle

In the battle of the Hindenburg Line, the enemy confronting the 27th division were the

54th Infantry Division
121st do do
105th do do
75th Rifle Division
2nd Guard Division
232nd Infantry Division

No previous mention has been made of the Medical Department. In the battle of the Hindenburg Line as well as in subsequent actions, Captain Nils P. Larsen, senior medical officer of the regiment during the absence of Major Lucius A. Salisbury then in hospital recovering from wounds received at Vierstraat Ridge, rendered efficient service in caring for the wounded; in this he was ably assisted by Lieutenants Lee A. Hadley, Robert S. Cleaver, Walter C. Tilden, Watson S. Rowan and Joseph E. Adams, all of the Medical Department. The regimental Chaplains, Frank I. Hanscom and George C. Eilers, -- the former of the Protestant Faith, the latter of the Church of Rome, ministered to the spiritual needs of officers and men; both these officers were cited for gallantry in action. Chaplain Warren T. Powell, assigned to the regiment September 26th, 1918, served with honor until his muster out

of service.

Still another group seldom referred to yet deserving of honorable mention, is the Transport; through their devotion to duty under the most dangerous and trying circumstances, these brave men (and their officers) made it possible to carry on at the front where ammunition and rations must be delivered. We also pay tribute to the never failing army horse and his sure footed cousin, the army mule; faithful unto death, these dumb yet sagacious brutes played their humble parts without flinching as was attested by enormous casualties in the forward areas of riding and draft animals.

Following the relief of the 27th division (commenced during the night of September 30th) the 3rd and 5th Australian divisions pushed the advance eastward of the Main Line, the 106th Infantry changing station on October 2nd, resting at Halle Wood where its broken ranks were re-organized. The following morning burial detachments accompanied by the Chaplains left for the lately evacuated Hindenburg Line areas; in carrying on the work of burying our dead, these details were from time to time fired upon by the enemy! As the bodies of our officers and men were identified, they were laid tenderly by the roadside and were later transported by wagon to a military cemetery outside the town of Bony; in long trenches, side by side, lay our glorious dead. Co-incident with these interments, appropriate services conducted on the spot by the Chaplains, insured to each a Christian burial; a simple white cross suitably inscribed marked each grave. On the afternoon of the fifth day the burial details (numbering two hundred) rejoined the regiment at Templeux.

Before continuing the narrative of subsequent achievements attained by the 106th Infantry in the October Offensive, we turn to letters of commendation emanating unsolicited from higher authority; the sentiments expressed in these letters show clearly the ^a high regard in which the 2nd Corps and the regiments comprising that

Corps were held by the British and Australian high commands. But first let the reader peruse the following letter of commendation addressed to the Commanding Officer, 106th Infantry by Major General, John F. O'Ryan, Commanding the 27th Division:-

HEADQUARTERS 27th DIVISION
AMERICAN E.F.
FORCES.

October 22nd, 1918.

From: Commanding General.
To: Commanding Officer, 106th Inf.
Subject: Commendation.

1: Now that we have inspected the captured defenses of the Hindenburg Line, the magnitude of the task assigned the 106th Infantry in the attack of September 27th becomes even more apparent than it then appeared. On that occasion the 106th Infantry, on a front of 4000 yards, attacked the outer defense system composed of highly organized trenches with a maze of wire protection, based upon the three Strong-Points of QUENNEMONT FARM, GUILLEMONT FARM and the KNOLL, the whole defended by a vast number of machine guns and trench mortars, supported by artillery.

2: Any impression made by attack upon these defenses would have been worthy of remark. That the 106th Infantry, after most of the tanks had been put out of action, broke through them and secured footings in these Strong-Points, thus disorganizing the enemy's defense, now seems an extraordinary feat. The valor of the officers and men of the regiment is well indicated by the location of the bodies of their gallant comrades who fell in the battle and by the large number of enemy dead about them.

3: It was undoubtedly the fierce attack of the 106th Infantry which shook the enemy's morale and made possible the subsequent attack by the remainder of the Division.

(Signed) JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.

Bulletin
No. 101:

Headquarters, 27th Division,
American E.F., France.
October 22nd, 1918.

The following telegram, received by the Commanding General, II Corps, A.E.F., from British General Headquarters, dated October 20th, 1918, is published for the information of all concerned.

"General Read, 2nd 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 everlasting esteem and admiration of your British Comrades-in-arms whose success you have so nobly shared.*

(Signed) D. Haig.
By command of Maj. Gen. O'Ryan.
Stanley H. Ford,
Colonel, G.S.
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Headquarters 27th Division,
American E.F. France.
October 24th, 1918.

Bulletin
No. 102:

The following letter from the Commanding General, 3rd Australian Division is published for the information of the Division.

"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 a particularly happy omen for the success of the 27th."

Very respectfully,

(Signed) I. GELLIBRAND,

Major General

Major Gen'l,

O'Ryan,

Commd'g 3rd Australian Div.

Commanding 27th American
Division.

(OFFICIAL)

Commenting on the fighting qualities of the 2nd (American) Corps, General H.S. Rawlinson, Commanding the 4th (British) Army,

remarks:- X X X " Now that the American Corps has come out of the line for a well deserved 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 x x x constitutes a

series of victories of which each officer,
N.C.O., and man has every reason to feel proud." x x x

Again we quote from a letter addressed to the Commander of the 2nd(American)Corps by Field Marshall Haig,Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies; this communication dated November 18th,1918, is a farewell message to the 2nd Corps upon its withdrawal from the British zone of operations. Referring to the battle of the Hindenburg Line he says:-

x x x " On the 29th of September you took part with 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. I rejoice at the success which has attended your efforts and I am proud to have had you under my command." x x x

Note:- The original documents here quoted may be seen in the Memorial Collection of the 106th Infantry.

We now turn our attention to the operations and achievements of the 106th Infantry in the October Offensive of the year 1918, which opened upon a chapter in the life of the regiment replete with action and no less honorable achievement than that attained in the fierce fighting just ended. Blown from positions believed impregnable, his morale badly shaken, the enemy now on the defensive, had retired his lines preparatory to making another stand against the advancing allied hosts. In this retrograde movement, the loss of ground contested with stubborn tenacity had exacted heavy toll in battle casualties.

The 4th(British)Army had on October 1st, taken over from the 2nd(American)Corps and by evening of the 3rd was in full possession of Mannequin Hill, Montbrehain and Beurvoir; on October 5th, Read's(2nd)Corps received warning orders to again prepare for action; these orders contemplated the relief of the Australians by the 30th

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division in assault, supported by the 27th division. To those unacquainted with the fibre of the troops comprising this splendid Corps, one might very naturally suppose that to soldiers not yet fully recovered from the reaction following the shock of battle, the receipt of these orders would tend to lower that mental state which renders men capable of endurance and of exhibiting courage in the presence of danger; yet with the men of the 2nd Corps, anticipation of further action rather stimulated the esprit de corps of all ranks.

Still resting at Halle Wood, the 106th Infantry terribly depleted yet self confident, hastened the work of re-organizing its shattered ranks. In this process of re-organization, there was assigned to the regiment on October 2nd, Lieutenant Colonel John M. True; this officer, a fine type of the old army, at once caught the spirit of the regiment, rendering most efficient service, at the same time endearing himself to the men of the command. He was later cited in orders for courage, cheerfulness and untiring energy exhibited in action. Colonel True remained with the 106th Infantry until its muster out, when he returned to the regular army.

The 1st battalion, commanded by Captain Euston F. Edmunds, seriously wounded October 13th, passed to 1st Lieu't Ames T. Brown; the 2nd battalion fell to Captain Rutherford Ireland and the 3rd battalion to Captain Robert M. Dashiell who had come to the regiment as a replacement. The 106th Infantry received its fourth Colonel on October 10th while at Bellicourt, when Franklin W. Ward took over the command. This officer, well known throughout the division, had for many years served in the National Guard both in the line and on the staff; that he was eminently fitted for this important command is evidenced in subsequent commendations and citations for courage and resourcefulness in action. Replacement Lieutenants received at this time completed the re-organization of the regiment.

With respect to commissioned replacements, it is interesting to note that through these, no less than twenty three states, the District of Columbia and one foreign country were represented within the officer personnel of the regiment; to wit: New York, Texas, New Jersey, Delaware, Alabama, Massachusetts, Oregon, Michigan, Illinois, Virginia, Wisconsin, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Indiana, California, Florida, Colorado, Oklahoma, Georgia, South Dakota, the District of Columbia and Argentine Republic, S.A.

It is equally interesting to note the professions, callings and trades represented within the officer personnel:-

Contractor	Newsprint Mfg'r.	Munitions Inspector
Dairy Farmer	Transportation Agent	Superintendent
Banker	Bank Clerk	Woolens Jobber
Coffee Broker	Illustrator	Electrical Engineer
Chemical Engineer	Designer	Marine Insurance
Insurance Broker	Civil Engineer	Newspaper Correspondent
Financial Correspondent	Draftsman	Chemist
Bank Teller	Insurance Adjuster	Lawyer
Accountant	U.S. Army Officer	Professor
Carpenter	Insurance Placer	Farmer
Secretary	Hotel Manager	Agricultural Expert
Match Mfg'r.	Manufacturing Sup't.	Insurance Underwriter
Locomotive Fireman	Physician	Railway Construction
Live Stock Dealer	High School Teacher	Protestant Clergyman
Stenographer	Handwriting Expert	Catholic Priest
Telephone Engineer	Plumbing Inspector	Electrician
Buyer of Oils	Photographer	Mercantile Credits
Sales Manager	Student	Jewelry Salesman
Real Estate Operator	Clerk	Dentist
Machinery Inspector	Stock Broker	Dep't Store Manager
Train Despatcher	Automobile Dealer	Mortgage Salesman
Mechanic	Salesman	Shipping Clerk
Marine Underwriter	Insurance Inspector	Interpreter

In scanning the list, the question of social standing looms high; yet in spite of the marked divergence of interests, there never was an instance of class distinction among the officers of the regiment. In the following roster there will be found the names of officers credited with participation in the October Offensive; of these, one was killed in action and twenty two were wounded between October 17th and 20th inclusive!

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Colonel Franklin W. Ward
'A' Colonel of the
106 Infantry

~~1918-19~~

1918-19

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Colonel Franklin W. Ward, Commanding
Lieu't Col. John M. True
Capt James P. Cooke, Adjutant
1st Lieu't William A. Hunter Jr., Acting Personnel Adj't.
Capt Murray Taylor, Plans and Operations
Capt Frank F. Farwell, Supply Officer
1st Lieu't Thomas L. D. Cronan, Intelligence Officer
Capt Nils P. Larsen, Medical Dep't Attached
1st Lieu't Frank I. Hanscom, Chaplain Attached
1st Lieu't George C. Eilers, Chaplain Attached
1st Lieu't Warren T. Powell, Chaplain Attached

FIRST BATTALION
(Assault)

1st Lieu't Ames T. Brown, Commanding
2nd Lieu't James Polka, Batt'n Adj't.
2nd Lieu't Irving G. Davis, Intelligence Officer
1st Lieu't Robert S. Cleaver, Med. Dep't Attached.
1st Lieu't Watson S. Rowan, Med. Dep't Attached

<u>Company "A"</u>	<u>Company "B"</u>	<u>Company "C"</u>	<u>Company "D"</u>
1st Lt Arthur B. Guttzeit, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Grant H. Sibley:	1st Lt Robert H. Trask, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Harry F. Lossing:	1st Lt Herbert V. Davis, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Thomas Spencer: 2nd Lt William E. Ludtke:	1st Lt Arthur J. Henrici, Comd'g: 1st Lt James B. Post: 2nd Lt Otto W. G. Marquard:

SECOND BATTALION
(Support)

Captain Rutherford Ireland, Commanding.
1st Lt. Frederic K. Long, Batt'n Adj't.
2nd Lt John R. Clark, Intelligence Officer.
1st Lt Lee A. Hadley, Med. Dep't Attached.

<u>Company "E"</u>	<u>Company "F"</u>	<u>Company "G"</u>	<u>Company "H"</u>
1st Lt Winslow B. Watson, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Norman E. Hudson: 2nd Lt Ivan L. Fenty:	1st Lt Frank C. Vincent, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Martin H. Shuford: 2nd Lt Allen G. Carson:	1st Lt David R. Adamson, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Fred N. Lowry:	1st Lt George R. Dunspaugh, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Robert S. Moore: 2nd Lt Harold B. Longfellow:

THIRD BATTALION
(Reserve)

Captain Robert M. Dashiell, Commanding.
1st Lieu't William B. Clayton, Batt'n Adj't.
2nd Lt Mason Walker, Intelligence Officer
2nd Lieu't Charles J. O'Hara
1st Lieu't Joseph E. Adams, Med. Dep't Attached.
1st Lieu't Walter C. Tilden, Med. Dep't Attached

Company "I"	Company "K"	Company "L"	Company "M"
1st Lt George W. Turner, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Charles B. Smith:	1st Lt Herbert E. Marshall Jr., Comd'g: 2nd Lt Orville E. Clifford:	1st Lt Chester P. Jones, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Herbert P. Demer: 2nd Lt John C. Gilmore: 2nd Lt Sam Blair:	2nd Lt Walter D. Keller, Comd'g: 2nd Lt John H. Potts:
Machine Gun Company	Supply Company	Regt'l H.Q. Company	
Capt Stewart D. Tiffany, Comd'g: 1st Lt Leaman S. Broughton: 1st Lt Ivan L. Smith: 2nd Lt Charles A. Rice:	Capt Frank F. Farwell, Comd'g: 1st Lt Wm F. Brill: 1st Lt Fred B. Mayor: 1st Lt Herbert G. Roseboro:	1st Lt Grover C. Cleaver, Comd'g: 2nd Lt Edward H. Frevert: 2nd Lt Medary A. Prentiss	

Temporarily Assigned.

Captain Frank H. Richardson, Med. Dep't.

With the advance of the 27th division on October 6th, 1918, the 106th Infantry moved forward to Tincourt Wood. Entering this forbidding area at nightfall in a heavy downpour, the regiment floundered about in the inky blackness of the forest seeking shelter in improvised "fox holes" and caves. During the afternoon of the day following, the march was resumed to the badly battered Hargicourt area, the 1st battalion bivouacing within the ruins of the town, the 2nd beyond Templeux and the 3rd in Templeux.

The 30th division, pressing forward, had on the 8th gained Brancourt, advancing its line to Becquigny and Busigny. By a night march commenced at dusk of the 9th, the 106th Infantry moved eastward to Bellicourt; this city lay directly in rear of the Hindenburg Line and to reach its objective the regiment was confronted with the problem of picking its way through a veritable labyrinth of craters, tangled wire and shell torn terrain; a light drizzle added to the already hard going and to the general discomfort of the troops. In the horse drawn transport matters were even worse; animals plunged and wallowed; drivers coaxed and swore in encouragement; wagons slid off the road and were hauled back by the infantry. A medical cart turned turtle and was aban-

done; officers unable to further guide their horses, marched with the column. Reaching its goal, the weary regiment again bivouaced in the open fields. This was a night not to be forgotten and may be counted one of the outstanding hikes of the 106th in the war.

Unusually persistent aerial bombing, the glare of some conflagration far to the front, and a seemingly endless stream of prisoners of war going to the rear under guard, indicated the success achieved by the 30th division which by October 10th had gained the town of St. Souplet which it now held against strong resistance from the heights overlooking the Le Selle River. It was here that the enemy whirled suddenly about to give battle! His artillery pounded the line far into the night; his airmen roared over the fields bombing indiscriminately vainly endeavoring to shake the morale of his pursuers, but to no avail; the indomitable spirit of the 2nd Corps showed not the slightest evidence of weakening; the 30th division in close contact, supported by the 27th division, was not to be shaken off.

On this, as on many other occasions, officers and men excavated (each for himself) little trenches resembling open graves and in these they lay perfectly safe from aerial bombs -- direct hits excepted; the British transport units employed similar means in conserving their horses against destruction from the same devilish agency; long pits with ramps at either end served well the purposes of their construction. With the coming of daylight, shivering groups dried wet clothing over fires and it was not long before hot tea and crackers revived the spirits of the troops. While awaiting orders to move forward, officers availed themselves of an opportunity of studying that portion of the Hindenburg system in the immediate vicinity. Numerous concreted openings leading downward into the St. Quentin tunnel were discovered; in most instances these openings were blocked with the dead bodies of enemy machine gunners! Along the grassy slopes were to be seen the remains of infantry groups; these scattered bodies were not entrenched

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but appeared rather to have been deployed in skirmish order when blotted out; intermingled with these, were the mutilated remains of British and Australians, -- victims of shell fire! Penetrating still further, we found their billet barges and the presence of large iron caldrons within the tunnel brought to mind weird stories circulated by the propagandist! On a rise east of the town, a prison pen constructed of barbed wire was filling rapidly. Shortly after noon^{of} the 10th, the 106th cleared the unwholesome area.

The transfer of Colonel William A. Taylor of the 106th Infantry on October 8th, 1918, to the command of the 27th Division Trains and Military Police, came as a decided shock to the regiment; at the earnest request of Colonel Wand, who, as previously stated, succeeded to the command of the 106th, and by leave of Headquarters, Colonel Taylor continued with the regiment throughout the October offensive, rendering valuable service; indeed his very presence infused a feeling of confidence. Preceded by its band, the regiment headed east across open country and penetrating the LeCatelet-Nauroy Line beyond which lay the town of Nauroy, the march was continued to shell torn Joncourt. From here to Ramicourt the regiment held to the highway passing through the Beaufevrier-Fonsomme Line at Swiss Cottage; this line of less importance than the Hindenburg line, though formidable in itself, formed a part of the great German defense system. Clearing Ramicourt, the 106th marched for Montbrechain where it bivouaced.

Determined to slow up the advance of the Americans, the retreating enemy had saturated the town with heavy concentrations of "Green Cross", commonly known as tear gas; the persistency of this noxious eye, nose and throat irritant caused much suffering among the troops. It will be recalled that the Australians had not long since fought their way through Montbrechain which showed plainly the scars of fierce combat! At daybreak of the 11th, the 106th

was subjected to heavy shelling; the line had been formed preparatory to moving out when this unexpected bombardment commenced! Men dropped here and there, but the line stood fast! The sheer grit exhibited by our splendid troops as they stood in ranks drenched to the skin, with shells screaming and bursting overhead was nothing short of glorious! Forming column, the regiment slithered out of town on a run with the city of Premont as its objective.

It was now the 27th division's turn. Accordingly, the relief of the 30th division was effected during the night of October 11th; during the same night the 106th Infantry marched from Premont under British guides and at daybreak rested on its arms within the Butry Wood west of Busigny. Hardly had the men thrown off their packs, when the enemy proceeded to search the area with gas and shrapnel, claiming one casualty in the 1st battalion! The regiment was now to take position; at ten o'clock on the morning of the 12th, the column emerged from the wood and under the guidance of Captain Ireland (who in company with Lieutenant Long had very early the same morning made a personal reconnaissance of the line to be occupied,) marched across the fields en^urote to its allotted position in support. In evacuating the area, the Germans had very cleverly obstructed all avenues of approach to and through the town, crowning his efforts by felling telegraph poles and trees across the line of march; in the absence of pioneer troops, the regiment, picking its way through masses of wire and barricades, struggled on!

Clearing Busigny, the pace was quickened; following the Busigny-Le Cateau road to a point called le Mont de Bagny, and turning abruptly eastward, the 106th deployed across the fields establishing its ⁿfront line probably one thousand yards west of Escaufourt where it promptly entrenched. In this position the regiment covered a front of fifteen hundred yards with the 3rd battalion holding the right, the 2nd the left and the 1st in reserve. By

evening of that day, the situation showed the 54th Infantry Brigade facing the Le Selle River from St. Benin on the north to Vaux Andigny on the south, with the 53rd Infantry Brigade in close support. This line of approximately eleven thousand yards, -- out of all proportion to the depleted numerical strength of the 27th Division, was therefore shortened.

On Sunday, October 13th, Busigny experienced a bombardment inflicting considerable damage not only to our troops, but to civilians as well; thereafter, working parties and formations were fired upon. So well timed were these visitations, that it seemed as though some sinister agency informed the enemy of every movement within the American lines! As the days passed, enemy artillery activity increased until the divisional areas were subjected to a veritable rain of shells!