

## CHAPTER VII

The October Offensive.

The Armistice.

Embarks for the United States.

Mustered out.

Federalization of the New York Guard.

The re-construction period.

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The decision to attack was made known on the morning of October 15th; the general plan contemplated a push toward the St. Maurice River focusing on Catillon. In this the 2nd (American) Corps together with the 2nd and 13th (British) Corps were to participate. With the 27th division on the left of the Corps sector and the 30th division on its right the Americans would push forward the center with the British on either flank.

Upon receipt of battle orders the 106th Infantry prepared for immediate action. Field Message No. 1 distributed by runners from Headquarters located at Escaufourt indicated the "Zero" hour as 5.20 a.m., "Z" day, October 17th. The sector assigned the 53rd Infantry Brigade covered a front of approximately twelve hundred yards and a depth of twelve thousand yards; the attack was to be supported by batteries of the 4th Australian Divisional Artillery. Heavy tanks would open the way for the infantry and a Squadron of the 20th (British) Hussars would operate on the flanks; concentrations of smoke would screen the advance. Jone de Mer Farm the first objective lay to the east of a ridge eight thousand yards from the "jump-off" line; the second objective Jonquiere Farm (known locally as North Chimney) twelve hundred yards beyond and located on a gentle rise, offered natural advantages as a defensive position; beyond this to the eastward the area of exploitation sloped downward to the St. Maurice River. Reference to the accompanying map will enable the reader to better orient the situation; also the

foregoing synopsis of the general plan of attack lays emphasis on the magnitude of the last drive participated in by the 106th Infantry wherein were fought two battles and one lesser engagement, with a rifle strength of about FOUR HUNDRED!

Early in the afternoon of the 16th the enemy again showed unmistakable signs of nervousness; sensing unusual activity on the American front he opened with heavy field guns in savage bursts, forcing our infantry under ground. The Australians replying with vigor and in salvos failed in silencing the German gunners; by evening, artillery activity on both fronts had grown to considerable proportions! Amid this pandemonium the infantry huddled in slimy trenches, awaited the eventful Zero hour! At 4.20 on the morning of October 17th the 106th Infantry under cover of darkness and in a soaking drizzle formed on the tape; the 1st battalion in assault, the 2nd in support and the 3rd in reserve; -- each in "artillery formation" deployed in depth with greatly extended intervals. Extremely heavy fog plus the yellowish smoke screen, reducing visibility to a minimum persisted throughout the early stages of the action. At irregular intervals the enemy searched the area for assembly points; with the passage of time his fire increased. During this uncomfortable and dangerous interim the regiment stood fast in the murky half-light of dawn awaiting the opening gun!

At 5.20 a.m. the earth trembled with a simultaneous crash of artillery! The battle of St. Souplet had commenced! Three minutes later the barrage searched the terrain to the eastward. With a deafening roar the enemy counter-barrage came down across the American front! At 6.20 a.m., our barrage lifted and crept forward the infantry following. Brown's Battalion led off, encountering gas in a depression immediately in his front; holding due east,

his next problem lay in hurdling a trench system well calculated to impede his progress. Getting through, his battalion pushed on to the Le Selle where it halted awaiting the arrival of Lieut. Colonel True who was to lead the regiment forward from that point. Ireland's battalion following a course generally north by east arrived at the cross-roads (indicated on the accompanying map) directly in line of fire of an Australian battery! Fortunately for these troops the error was discovered in time to change direction; the battalion now in the center of the brigade sector moved forward to the sunken road south of the Weaving Mill, sliding down the embankment onto the heads of a company of the 102nd Engineers; these gallant troops engaged in a futile attempt to lay foot bridges across the river for the passage of the infantry, had taken temporary shelter in the depression. Correctly assuming that troops advancing would seek this fancied haven of security, the enemy registering on the road was now placing high explosive shells with startling accuracy! Reforming, the 2nd battalion scaled the steep embankment and pushed on to Marsh Mill.

The 3rd battalion commanded by Dashiell having lost contact with the 2nd, followed a course holding to the northerly limits of the brigade sector, advancing its line to a point north of the Weaving Mill previously mentioned. It must be admitted that liaison between the battalions of the regiment was poor throughout the early stages of the battle; making due allowance for weather conditions and resulting low visibility, the deficiency was nevertheless unjustifiable. In the meantime the 1st battalion had effected a crossing of the Le Selle and had advanced under Colonel True in accordance with orders. Shortly thereafter the 2nd battalion arriving at the ford had halted and taken cover awaiting the arrival of Colonel True (who unknown to Captain Ireland had already crossed

with Brown's battalion) but a short time before the arrival of the 2nd battalion. Assuming that the 1st Battalion had crossed and realizing that Brown relied on the 2nd battalion for support, and in the absence of higher authority Ireland ordered his battalion to cross the river. For this he was charged with deliberate disobedience of orders by General Blanding (Commanding the 53rd Infantry Brigade) and recommended for a General Court Martial. The fact that this scandalous incident has on numerous occasions been referred to either directly or by sly innuendo, prompts the writer to state the case in detail.

In justice to the defendant it may be stated that the alleged disobedience of orders is in direct contradiction of the provisions of paragraph 374, Infantry Drill Regulations, 1911 which reads:- "When circumstances render it impracticable to consult the authority issuing an order officers should not hesitate to vary from such order when it is clearly based upon an incorrect view of the situation, is impossible of execution, or has been rendered impracticable on account of changes which have occurred since its promulgation. In the application of this rule the responsibility for mistakes rests upon the subordinate, but unwillingness to assume responsibility on proper occasions is indicative of weakness. Superiors should be careful not to censure an apparent disobedience where the act was done in the proper spirit and to advance the general plan."

The basis of the defense having been brought to the attention of General Blanding charges were withdrawn; but this action did not satisfy the defendant. Smarting under the humiliation of so unjust an imputation, and realizing that to place such a charge against his efficiency record would bring discredit upon his regiment, he promptly called for a Court of Inquiry. Fully exonerated, Captain Ireland continued in his command, withdrawing his request.

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The advance to St. Martin Rivere a town located on the heights overlooking the river at the point of crossing was immediately undertaken and accomplished; numerous prisoners were here taken by the 106th Infantry. Establishing liaison with units of the 30th division on its right, the 2nd battalion advanced to the railroad one thousand yards east of the town taking cover under the embankment and ignorant of the fact that enemy troops occupied dug-outs on the opposite side within TEN YARDS of the 2nd battalion! With this startling discovery the dug-outs were bombed and more prisoners taken; these were marched forward with the battalion in the correct belief that through them enemy positions might be more easily identified.

Strong resistance encountered at Jonc de Mer Ridge was overcome with rifle fire and in a frontal attack, the 2nd battalion cleared the trenches at the point of the bayonet; examination of this line of trenches disclosed a veritable shambles! Upon entering the town of Aubre Guernon and seeing no evidence of friendly troops in the vicinity it was believed that the 105th Infantry had pushed on toward the final objective; the 2nd battalion of the 106th therefore took cover awaiting the arrival of the 1st and 3rd battalions preparatory to moving forward in close support of the 105th.

While in this position, the battalion was fired on by unseen machine guns hidden from view in nearby thickets. Strong patrols were immediately ordered forward and backed by Lieut. Smith's Vickers, the menace was quickly and thoroughly disposed of. In the meantime the 1st battalion had arrived and skirting the main axial road proceeded to dig in; the 3rd battalion having advanced to a position west of the Aubre Guernon-Advantage Farm road, halted and dug in. It was now that Captain Mc Arthur of the 105th Infantry arrived on the scene with units of that regiment and being senior officer on the spot assumed command of the line. By his orders the 105th

Infantry established a line of resistance east of the town with the 106th in support; in this disposition the 2nd battalion entrenched at a point probably three hundred yards in rear of the line held by the 105th, the 1st battalion lay in "fox holes" along the road already referred to and the 3rd in trenches somewhat retired west of Advantage Farm.

From well chosen positions Smith's machine gun platoon enfiladed the main axial road. Thus disposed, the 53rd Infantry Brigade rested from its labors of that memorable day. Rifle fire had ceased but shelling continued throughout the night; -- the 1st battalion taking the most punishment; its effective strength had by the following morning been reduced to ten officers and thirty eight men! Of the tanks but one penetrated as far as Aubre Guernon where it now lay blocking the cross-roads and drawing fire.

In this battle the 27th division captured twenty three officers and five hundred and seventy four soldiers together with a considerable amount of material including one locomotive and many cars. The battle losses of the 106th Infantry were five men killed in action, two men died of wounds, three officers and forty seven men wounded, forty three men gassed and three men missing in action; total casualties one hundred and three all ranks. Enemy units opposite the 27th division on October 17th:-

204th Infantry Division		
243rd	do	do
3rd Naval		do
24th Infantry		do
15th Rifle		do

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The disposition of the 53rd Infantry Brigade in the battle of Junc de Mer Ridge, fought October 18th, fell to Lieut. Colonel True of the 106th Infantry; in the original plan covering this action the 106th was to leap-frog the 105th; but the depleted

106th being too weak in numbers to assume the responsibility, its 2nd battalion was merged with the latter and with it, advanced toward the final objective, Jonquiere Farm.

The battle commenced at 5.30 on the morning of October 18th when the barrage came down along the Aubre Guernon-Le Cateau road; this was answered almost immediately by an enemy counter-barrage of great intensity! The assault echelon had advanced probably a thousand yards when liaison with the 30th division on the right suddenly failed! By this the advance was hung up and the troops dug themselves in awaiting developments. Wounded very early that morning, Captain Ireland had been evacuated to the rear; the command of the 2nd battalion therefore fell to the dependable and efficient Second in Command, 1st Lieut. Frank C. Vincent. Ireland returned to the line the following day. Through a blunder there now existed a gap between the right elements of the 27th division and the left of the 30th division; -- a situation extremely dangerous! Patrols of the 105th Infantry working southward to ascertain the reason of the break in the line were fired on from the direction of Mazingheim, a town within the sector of the 30th division, still held by the Germans! S.O.S. messages flashed to Headquarters brought one company of the 102nd Engineers to the rescue; this splendid company entered the lines at Advantage Farm. A serious error had been committed! Through this error the 9th (British) Corps had been ordered to advance at 11 A.M. instead of 5.30 A.M.! Fearing to lose contact on its right the 30th division stood fast while the 53rd Infantry Brigade of the 27th division had gone forward in total ignorance of the situation on its right! The misinformed British being apprized of the error and realizing fully the grave possibilities hurried into

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action; but it was not until the same night that liaison was again established between the right of the 53rd brigade and the left of the 30th division!

The 1st battalion of the 106th had in the meantime offered its feeble support at Advantage Farm, the 3rd battalion bolstering the 1st as best it could, both battalions continuing in action throughout the day. With little advantage gained the battle terminated with the line somewhat retired along the Mazingheim-Jonc de Mer road: in this battle the 106th Infantry lost ten officers and seventy one men wounded.

The engagement of Jonquiere Farm commenced at 5.30 on the morning of October 19th constituted what is known as a "Holding Engagement" on the line of the final objective, involving the advance and attack on enemy artillery, infantry and machine gun nests, in which parts of the divisions named constituted the enemy opposing the 27th American Division:-

204th Infantry Division		
243	do	do
24th	do	do
15th Rifle		do

In this engagement the 2nd (American) Corps was flanked by the 9th (British) Corps on the right and the 13th (British) Corps on the left. Within the sector of the 27th division the 53rd Infantry brigade held the right and the 54th Infantry brigade the left: within the sub-sector of the 53rd brigade the 105th Infantry held the right and the 106th Infantry the left, with the second battalion of the latter in assault supported by the 1st and 3rd battalions. The 54th Infantry brigade operating on the left extended the line northward to the tactical boundary of the 2nd Corps.

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In describing this action the writer again refers to his war diary wherein is found a more intimate recital of incidents associated with the operations of the 106th Infantry than is shown in the official record. "The regiment was on its mark deployed in skirmish order in four waves; there was no covering barrage. The picture will never fade; first the miracle of daybreak with its changing forms and colors; then the sun rising majestically over the land, gradually dispelling that peculiar haze common in these parts, and then broad daylight."

"It was almost frosty; a heavy dew had fallen during the night; trees and grass were shimmering. A bird started its morning song; others took it up until the air was filled with singing and gladness. To the casual observer the scene would have filled his soul with a sense of profound peace. Suddenly a whistle blast! From the dripping grass there arose the men of the 2nd Corps in unbroken lines to the right and left as far as the eye could see! We heard them calling "Lets Go!" -- "Lets Go!" To this the men of the ragged 106th screamed: "MINEOLA! HOLA! MINEOLA!" "At the signal the men surged forward bayonets catching the glint of the early morning sun; it was glorious! Another five hundred yards and we fouled the enemy; their gun emplacements were everywhere in front! Rifles cracked, machine guns barked, grenades exploded! We found groups sprawled across their machine guns, dead; it has been said of these Germans that they were chained to their guns! We saw nothing of the kind; to the contrary these soldiers were free to free to run away if they chose. All honor to brave men who in the face of certain death uphold the honor of their flag be they right or wrong."

"One of their wounded begged to be put out of his

misery; he was accommodated on the spot with the aid of a steel jacket. Repugnant as this seemingly brutal act may appear I believe it was justifiable. The brigade was making good headway but on our right things were different; the 118th Infantry of the 30th division had been stopped by enemy fire delivered from the town of Mazingheim; a gap appeared on the right of our line. The 118th held on yet could not advance! Reinforcements from the 27th Division Reserve were immediately rushed forward; one troop of the 20th Hussars, Company "F" 102nd Engineers and a platoon of the 104th Machine Gun Battalion comprised this reserve; these troops undoubtedly saved the day."

Fearing a sortie from the besieged town by way of the Mazingheim-Jonc de Mer road, offering excellent opportunities for a raking enfilade fire, the 105th Infantry pushed forward strong combat patrols in the direction of the town; as before these patrols were fired upon and stopped. On our left we heard firing; the 54th brigade was battling forward under strong opposition. Upon gaining the Mazingheim road the 2nd Battalion of the 106th Infantry halted and took cover; a high masonry wall on the other side blocked the way. Calling for pickaxes the road was crossed by rushes, the wall breached and scrambling through, the battalion again advanced. In this, the 1st and 3rd battalions covered the 2nd. Beyond lay the orchard -- indicated on the map as a "danger spot"; splintered trees and trampled hedges told the story. The natural advantages offered snipers had not been overlooked; these pests had left a hot trail behind."

"We entered in open order taking cover within the outer fringe; beyond, Jonquiere Farm spread itself before us. Pushing forward combat patrols the regiment lay very still yet ready."

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The extremely dangerous duty assigned these patrols calling for courage and initiative compelled our admiration. We watched the human ferrets as they milled about the old farm; after a bit a patrol leader straddles an upper window of the main building and signaling "All Clear" we move forward. In permitting the patrols to move unmolested about the premises the enemy had employed the old ruse of reserving his fire for bigger and more profitable game."

"The line was at once established east of the farm extending from the road on our left to a point one thousand yards on our right where it hooked up with the 30th division; the 54th Brigade held the extreme northerly sector of the 27th division with the 107th Infantry on our immediate left. The main farm building served the purpose of Headquarters and aid post; the stable adjoining designated Battalion Headquarters housed the personnel of those units, and a large barn across the barnyard housed the supports, while still another barn just behind the lines offered splendid concealment for sniper, observer and machine gunner; the Reserves were quartered in a shed nearby."

Lieutenant Smith of the Machine Gun Company (affectionally called "Happy Smith" ) always ready to achieve the impossible had managed to get a pair of his Vickers up a rickety ladder into the cupola of the barn and was already rendering good service in silencing enemy groups which he had picked up through glasses. From this elevated perch we watched the enemy milling about his works; presently one of them climbed out sauntering along over the top to shorten his journey -- which he most certainly succeeded in doing! The distance between the respective lines was uncertain; we wanted the range. The Lieutenant, a sniper and I made a guess and these we averaged; the sniper set his sight; the average proved correct!"

"Retracing our steps down the shaky ladder we started

for Headquarters. Noticing what appeared to be puffs of brick dust about the entrance we stopped short! Focusing my glasses I saw unmistakable signs of chipping which spelled CAUTION! The enemy too had estimated to a nicety the range between his nest to the exact center of that peaceful looking front door! At timed intervals we heard the spatter of his bullets! It was a case of studying his timetable; the instant he ceased firing a dash was made for the entrance! In spite of his nicely laid plans he never got one of us.!"

"I believe the Adjutant and I were the first to enter. A rather spooky atmosphere prevailed the old house; just that uncanny unreal atmosphere of expectancy felt by credulous folks who believe in ghosts. In our case I suppose it was what they call premonition; -- or it may have been a case of "nerves"; but whatever it was our apprehension was justifiable. In exploring the corridor we were startled by repeated groans! Forcing a door we burst into an inner room almost stumbling over the **objects of our search** our surprise was complete! There on German litters we found two badly wounded American soldiers! They had been gathered in a few days before by enemy ambulance men and had received every attention possible! They told us that when it became apparent that their positions were no longer tenable they (the Germans) had, in spite of the resulting confusion incident to retreat, placed them in the farm house in reach of water and rations; in short the enemy had not neglected their humane duty to these wounded prisoners of war. To the truth of their statement I can testify: for did I not see these things? It was just another instance of cold facts conflicting with the widely preached propaganda of German frightfulness. While we stood talking with these men the initial bombardment of

the farm commenced with considerable fury!"

"Ordering our wounded comrades removed to the cellar, we ourselves had no sooner left the room when a burst on the hard road just under the windows spattered the apartment with splinters, taking with it both windows and frames! The Adjutant and I agreeing that "a miss is as good as a mile" let it go at that. Entering the dining room -- more recently the operating room we came upon a ghastly memento left by our retreating predecessors; under the table lay a freshly amputated leg still wearing its hobbed marching boot and scarlet piped pantaloons! With that, in comes a fellow of the Sanitary Corps and picking up the gruesome thing he gives it a swing or two intending to throw it through the open window: -- and out it went but with only the boot; -- for the trouser had been jerked loose and there stood the fellow who had done the job with the dangling cloth in one hand, a cigarette in the other and a surprised look on his face! As for the naked leg, it crashed into the bushes and I suppose some day the bare bones will adorn the mantle shelf as a souvenir of the stirring days of "eighteen."

"Our casualties though few continued to mount; not from shell fire alone but from persistent sniping. We set to work to silence the offending guns which by now had made life miserable for those of us whose duty it was to enter and leave the house. Not only did they send volleys through the doors but they riddled the windows as well! Indicating to Smith the probable locality from which the shots came this ever smiling officer gave to his gunners the firing data; not a hedge escaped his attention; indeed he fired on anything and everything that resembled in the slightest degree enemy activity. It was under his covering fire

that our patrols operated that day; backed by his guns the patrols crawled to within throwing distance; armed with grenades they lopped them over and pressed on. By evening the menace had abated and we were free to enter the house without fear of being sniped."

"Reconnaissance pushed energetically forward had reached the St. Maurice river and returning, reported enemy positions on our left front at that point; the German artillery had taken new positions beyond the river and were registering on the farm. At four o'clock on the afternoon of October 19th a heavy bombardment was laid across our front! The Australians had in the meantime advanced their batteries and were pounding the enemy at long range. To the reader the following incident will appear altogether inconsistent; it happened during the bombardment. Not a man was hurt physically, although the pride of those involved must have been deeply wounded."

"It seemed to us that each succeeding shell came just a little closer and that it would be only a matter of time when they would get us like rats in a trap! With these thoughts we huddled close within the smelly confines of our stable headquarters. There we sat gazing across the barn yard and wishing ourselves in the company of those in the large barn; -- homelike because it teemed with human society and for no other reason. There we were; they on their side of the yard and we in our stable. Suddenly the air was filled with the familiar yet always terrifying scream! Overcomes a high explosive shell barely skimming our roof and crashing squarely through that of the barn, sending skyward showers of slate and timber! Out poured the supports who but a moment before rested in fancied security! Panic stricken, each vied with his neighbor in a wild dash for the only exit; some were

dressed, some undressed; some were awake others asleep when the crash occurred. One laggard, the last out bounded across the yard as naked as the day he was born staggering under the load of all his earthly possessions piled into a huge bundle slung over his shoulder."

"The time worn adage, "Any port in a storm" must have hit him squarely between the eyes; without hesitation he headed straight for a pig sty forcing himself with might and main through the narrow opening on all fours; as for the huge bundle it simply couldn't be done! So there he was stuck fast -- half in and half out! Those on our side howled with delight and derision at the sad plight of this unfortunate doughboy whose curses were of no avail. Seizing the glorious opportunity one of his pals darted from cover and wrenching loose a stout fence rail belabored our hero with such telling effect that he abandoned his bundle and wriggled home."

"Through the night we heard the wounded calling for help from that desolate region called "No Mans Land." At five o'clock on the morning of the 20th the enemy again shelled our positions; it was a veritable nightmare! Lieutenant Vincent came in painfully wounded; with apparent disregard of what had happened this officer exhibited a coolness and nerve unsurpassed. Litter bearers brought in a lad dangerously hurt; if he lives he will never walk again! We prayed that the game kid might die. Sergeant Frank Conklin of the Machine Gun Company came through during the afternoon; his luck was certainly with him! Driving a team of Kentucky males hooked to a limber filled with ammunition, he had run out of his sector and trailing the 30th division into Mazingheim galloped off across the fields finally reaching his objective. When it was pointed out to him that he had paralleled the front, he only smiled!

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Through his devotion and sheer grit the gunners were able to carry on."

In this situation the regiment had plenty of ammunition but nothing to eat. In the late afternoon limbers heavily loaded with rations arrived at the front; the transport commanded by the plucky Lieutenant Rosboro had experienced some difficulty in coming up. Straightening out his steaming teams the Lieutenant related how he had been hung up by impassable hedges; for although the infantry had wriggled through it couldn't be done with teams and limbers; halting the train he waited his chance. A shell burst squarely on the hedge! This was his cue; the teamsters saw it; -- the horses sensed it! Away went the transport and so our rations came through."

Relief came during the night of the 20th when the 50th and 6th (British) divisions took over. The retirement of the 106th Infantry from North Chimney constitutes the third outstanding march of the regiment in the great war. Utterly exhausted the column moved on its nerve alone! Somewhere en route to Escaufourt a crew of welfare workers dispensed hot chocolate and crackers from a rolling kitchen, the men grabbing the welcome ration as they passed. Many failed to grasp what was transpiring; -- they were asleep! At times the column became tangled as some exhausted man fell in his tracks and was cursed into wakefulness by others who stumbled over him! Double loads were carried by the stronger who supported their weaker comrades. At two on the morning of the 21st, the men were pushed under cover without ceremony; this was at Escaufourt. At two thirty the regiment was ordered up! The Colonel appreciating the situation demanded transportation, and presently lorries came rolling in; the process of loading accompanied with no little diffi-



culty due to the state of exhaustion of the troops was finally accomplished.

With Brancourt as its objective the regiment passed through Busigny and Bohain en route arriving at its destination at noon of the 21st where it went into billets. On the morning of October 2nd the regiment marched to Bellicourt via Montbrehain and Fresnoy le Grand. Passing through what was once the thriving little city of Hargicourt, now a pile of ruins where fast growing weeds would soon hide the shame of it all, the 106th continued to Temple-oux Le Guerard, broken and deserted and so to Hesbecourt where it bivouaced under the stars. Breaking camp early on the morning of the 23rd the regiment in a chill atmosphere of rain and fog marched on Roisel where transportation by rail would carry the troops to their appointed rest area. Upon reaching Roisel, arms were stacked and the men relaxed in a false hope of soon entraining; in this position the regiment lay until early evening. Suddenly an ominous roar expanding into a terrifying crash brought officers and men to their feet! With the suddenness of lightning, roadbed and rails, wagons and teams shot skyward! Transport men who but a moment before the explosion chirped encouragingly to their teams were catapulted into eternity.

The enemy had exploded a land mine and by this had cut the line of communication! A gang of prisoners of war working near the railhead, unable to restrain from laughing at what they considered a joke, were brought to a sudden realization of their error. Several of their number were shot on the spot by British guards! Instinctively reaching for their rifles, our men were now running toward the scene of the explosion; but a line of guards posted immediately following the disaster prevented further bloodshed.

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With no alternative the march was taken up for Tincourt in a driving rain storm. Arriving at a late hour the laborious task of loading the regiment commenced and at four o'clock on the morning of October 24th with all aboard the 106th rolled out of the yards bound for the city of Corbie; it will be recalled that this battered city figured conspicuously in the earlier actions along the Corbie-Amiens Line, where the Australians won for themselves everlasting glory.

Detraining in the early afternoon of that day, the march was taken up for the stuffy little hamlet of Bussy les Daours where the tired regiment was to rest, reorganize and refit preparatory to once more moving forward. General Blanding had in the meantime relinquished command of the 53rd Infantry Brigade; he was succeeded by Brigadier General Charles I. De Bevoise. The arrival of replacements -- the first received since the days at Spartanburg, gladdened the hearts of the survivors of the battle torn division; in distributing these replacements the 106th Infantry received its fair quota. The consignment came from the National Army and had not yet tasted battle; but finding themselves attached to veteran infantry they at once caught the spirit of the regiment with a determination to measure up to its traditions and glorious achievements; subsequent drafts were received on the 30th of that month. During its stay at Bussy the regiment experienced constant and heavy rains transforming the area into a veritable mud hole.

Captain James P. Cooke had on October 8th been relieved as Personnel Adjutant and assigned the post of Regimental Adjutant vice Captain Joseph A. S. Mundy, returned to the command of Company "D" as of that date; his service with the 106th Infantry terminated on December 10th, 1918 when he was transferred to Division

Headquarters as Assistant Adjutant. Early in November rumors of peace proposals by the German High Command spread through the camps of the 2nd Corps! Continued fighting appeared to mock these rumors. Within the 27th division intensive training in battle exercises went forward in the firm belief that the division would return to the front. On Sunday, November 10th a field memorial service in remembrance of our dead was participated in by all units of the division; a blanket of snow seemed to accentuate the impressive stillness of the scene; following sacred music rendered by the massed bands, prayers were said for the dead and for the living.

Wild rumors persisted! The Kaiser had fled! A Regency had been established! Germany was in the throes of a revolution! The army had revolted! November 11th, 1918 made memorable through the signing of the Armistice, found the 27th division ready to advance; but all was changed; at eleven o'clock on the morning of that eventful day firing ceased! Peace reigned supreme on the Western Front! The greatest war of all times had ended! Remarkable as it may appear no unusual demonstration by our troops greeted this cheering intelligence. On the other hand, the French exhibited what might be termed a hysteria of unbounded joy; and well they might. During that night displays of fireworks brightened the sky in the vicinity of the forward areas as rockets, flares, star shells and bombs were expended. The following communication was published to the division on November 12th: -

UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 12th, 1918.

Major General John F. O'Ryan;-  
Headquarters, 27th Division, U.S.A.  
American Expeditionary Force.

My dear General O'Ryan;-  
Permit me to congratulate you and the

men of the 27th Division for the splendid service rendered our country in France.

The war is over, and with it will come the return of your men to the great Empire State. The work you have done will live in the annals of our Commonwealth as long as time lasts. May I congratulate you, and through you, the men in your command.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William M. Calder.

A detachment of two hundred men representing the various units of the 2nd American Corps left for England as guests of the British Government on November 14th; this detachment commanded by Captain Ireland of the 106th Infantry returned to France following a leave of seven days of genuine relaxation. On November 12th a communication from Marshall Foch addressed to the officers and men of the United States Armies in France and to the Allies, was published by command of General John J. Pershing.

G.Q.G.A. le 12 Novembre, 1918.  
OFFICERS, SOUS-OFFICERS, SOLDATS DES ARMÉES ALLIÉES:

Après avoir résolument arrêté l'ennemi, vous l'avez, pendant, des mois, avec une foi et une énergie inlassables attaqué sans répit.

Vous avez gagné la plus grande bataille de l'histoire et sauvé la plus sacrée: la Liberté du Monde.

Soyez fiers!

D'une gloire immortelle vous avez paré vos drapeaux.

La postérité vous garde sa reconnaissance.

Le Maréchal de France,  
Commandant en Chef les Armées Alliées.  
(Signed) F. Foch.

The regiment marched from Bussy late during the night of November 27th in a hard rain storm and through mud ankle deep, arriving at Corbie shortly after midnight; the task of loading the regiment commenced immediately; horses, wagons, kitchens, stores and finally the troops. The speed with which this laborious job was accomplished may be judged when we note that the 106th

steamed out of Corbie at two thirty on the morning of the 28th! In this movement, company cooks remained with their kitchens which had been ramped onto "flats"; exposed to the elements, these loyal men prepared the morning mess en route. At Buchy the regiment rationed on hot coffee, crackers and bacon. Continuing its tiresome journey the 106th moved southward to the Department of the Sarthe and to the Le Mans area, designated the American Base. Rattling on through city and hamlet the regiment reached its destination at midnight of the 28th.

Detraining at Connerre' the battalions marched to their allotted areas; daylight found the 1st battalion at Nuille le Jalais, the 2nd at le Breil, the 3rd at St. Michel and Dollon, regimental headquarters at Thorigné. Following the signing of the armistice, it was ordered that existing vacancies be filled by officers of appropriate rank; accordingly the officers named were sent to the regiment as battalion commanders: Major J. Scott Button assigned as of November 18th, Major Ransom H. Gillet re-assigned as of December 1st and Major Arthur D. Hill assigned as of December 1st; by this ruling, Captains in temporary command of battalions were for purposes of administration, re-assigned to companies. Between November 24th and December 25th the regiment carried out a schedule of drill and training in a constant downpour of rain and sleet. Following a regimental custom, Christmas day devoted to the children brought with it much happiness; fir trees had been erected in the public square of occupied towns and Santa Claus (the chaplain in costume) distributed gifts and sweets to all; not a child was forgotten. The band alternating between towns played popular medleys in the American style and these made a big hit with the French both young and old. A light feathery snow added much to the Christmas spirit; as for the troops, each company held its own family party;

it was a day long to be remembered.

On December 29th a warning order promulgated for the information of the division gladdened the hearts of the troops; the order follows:-

27th DIVISION,  
A.E.F.

WARNING ORDER:

29th December, 1918.

1: Instructions have been received from G.H.Q., to the effect that the Commanding General, S.O.S., has been directed to prepare the 27th Division for return to the United States. Further advices have been received to the effect that the S.O.S., plans to commence about January 10th, 1919 the movement in preparation for the embarkation of the Division at some later date.

By Command of Major General O'Ryan.  
W.H. Raymond, Col. G.S. Chief of Staff.

On December 31st the 106th Infantry assembled at St. Michel for inspection and review, finishing with a march of twelve miles through sticky mud and a drenching rain. January 1st, 1919 called for certain observances peculiar to New Years Day. Chief among these was a reception at division headquarters at Montfort tendered the officers of the 27th division by General O'Ryan; the journey by truck proved an exciting event. Filled with the spirit of the day our driver hit only the high spots; approaching a railroad crossing at remarkably high speed and discovering the gates down, he ploughed through taking gates and gateman's shanty with him! But after all, it was New Years Day!

Desiring to remain on foreign service, the officers named were at their own request transferred to the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Captain Rutherford Ireland, to 89th Division, Jan. 20th, 1919.  
Captain John Newman, to 89th Division, Dec. 14th, 1918.  
1st Lieut. Wesley E. Light, to 42nd Division, Jan. 14th, 1919.  
1st Lieut. Allan G. Carson, to 42nd Division, Jan. 14th, 1919.

Shortly after the arrival of the 27th Division in the Le Mans area the approved Division Insignia made its appearance; irrespective of whether or not officers or men had participated in the battle of the division, all were authorized to wear this badge; the interpretation of the design follows:- The astronomical significance of the design is expressed in seven stars, -- Seven sisters of the Pleiades, -- comprising the Constellation Orion. On the background of black are the stars in crimson with a monogram "N.Y.D." (New York Division) likewise in crimson; these colors have a significance also; the black for iron, the crimson for blood;-- the Iron and Blood Division! Through a happy coincidence the word "Orion matches well with the name "O'Ryan" -- John F. O'Ryan, Commanding the division.

January 21st, 1919 proved a gala day for the 27th Division. Assembling at "Belgian Camp" the division appearing at its best, passed in review before General John J. Pershing; in this formation, the troops and more especially the transport received well merited commendation. Co-incident with the review the ceremony of presentation preceded the march-past, the recipients of Congressional awards taking the review with the Commander-in-Chief. Fully conscious of the great honor conferred upon these Honor men of the division, we are doubly conscious of the fact that countless officers and men who rightfully deserve the decoration, yet who through some unfortunate circumstance will probably never receive it, stood in ranks too brave and too modest to give expression to their emotions. Presently the massed bands of the division crashed out a stirring march! Through tear dimmed eyes we watched the glorious 27th pass in review! Any attempt to adequately describe the solemn grandeur of this military spectacle would be impossible; many

expressed the sincere belief that the spirits of our illustrious dead marched with the division that day. But of this we may be sure; the benediction of God Almighty descended upon us.

Again on February 18th a battalion review and ceremony of presentation occurred at "Belgian Camp" when the British bestowed military decorations upon officers and men of the division. A roster of those decorated will be found in Appendix I. With the return of officers and men from hospital and prison camps, the numerical strength of the division assumed normal proportions; and so in the fullness of time the 27th moved toward the port of embarkation. Upon the arrival in Brest of the 106th Infantry late in February, its assignment to Pontanezon Barracks, remembered for its mud and slippery "duck boards" terminated the hardships of the nine months just passed.

On February 24th, 1919 the 106th Infantry in company with the 105th Infantry, the 105th Machine Gun Battalion, Headquarters Troop and other units, boarded the U.S.S. "LEVIATHAN." With upward of thirteen thousand troops aboard comprising approximately one half of the entire division the monster troop carrier sailed from Brest on the 26th arriving at New York on the 6th of March. Disembarking at Hoboken the regiment proceeded to Camp Mills at Mineola, L. I., remaining there until March 23rd when it returned to Brooklyn for parade purposes, the occasion being a "WELCOME HOME" arranged by the Borough and citizens of Brooklyn. In this parade the regiment was escorted by the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard; the demonstration attending the welcome home of the overseas regiment surpassed anything of its kind ever witnessed in Brooklyn! Receptions both public and private accorded the returning division baffle description!

But the crowning climax of all this occurred March

24



25th when the entire 27th Division paraded in Manhattan; it is estimated that three million persons witnessed this home coming celebration! Hardly had the parade commenced when the surging throngs blocked the avenue, overwhelming the police who throughout that memorable day were absolutely powerless in maintaining their lines! The military unable to move forward was stopped until some semblance of order had been restored! Such was the joyous welcome given the division! At the conclusion of the parade the 106th Infantry with other units proceeded to Camp Upton, L. I., where on April 2nd, 1919 it was mustered out of the federal service; thus the famous regiment ceased to exist. But what was the price of the glory which was theirs? This is the record!

Killed in action or died of wounds	-- 588
Wounded in action	1078
Gassed	400
Missing in action	113
Captured by the enemy	142
<b>TOTAL BATTLE CASUALTIES</b>	<b>2321</b>
<hr/>	
Percentage of casualties:	63.5

Note: The roll of the dead inscribed on the bronze Memorial Tablet in the armory shows three names which do not properly belong on that roll: i.e.,

- (1) MORRIS N. LIEBMANN: Killed in action while serving as Lieut. Colonel, 105th Infantry.
- (2) LOUIS C. ESELGROTH: Died 1920 of disease not service connected.
- (3) OSCAR L. WESTGATE: Still living. (1930)

The following names have been erroneously omitted from the roll:-

- (1) HERBERT F. NEU: Killed in action.
- (2) BENJAMIN CHESTER: Killed in action.

The name OTTO G. DIETTER is a misspelled duplication of OTTO G. DEITTER: both appear on the roll.

Total of killed in action or died of wounds, remains as shown.

With the muster out of service of the 27th Division,

A.E.F., the authorities formulated plans for building up a strong federalized National Guard within the state which would supplant the then existing military establishment known as the New York Guard which at best was but a makeshift organized to meet an emergency. On January 1st, 1919 the strength of the 23rd Regiment of the Guard was one thousand and fifty three all ranks; by the end of that year the regiment mustered but seven hundred and thirty. The decrease may be attributed to the fact that during the reconstruction period many officers and men of the New York Guard aware that the emergency had passed, took their discharges; the regiment in the meantime hastened its preparation for federal recognition.

Let us now consider briefly the outstanding events in the life of the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard during the period immediately preceding its federalization. A review tendered Major General John F. O'Ryan on October 23rd, 1919 was taken by Brigadier General Charles I. De Bevoise, second Colonel of the 106th Infantry, A.E.F., General O'Ryan finding it impossible to be present through circumstances quite beyond his control. Immediately following the review, an impressive ceremony attending the return of the war colors of the 106th Infantry, A.E.F., to the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard, held the immense audience in a state of awe! The presentation made by Colonel William A. Taylor, third and dearly beloved commander of the 106th overseas, to Colonel Louis J. Praeger of the 23rd moved many of the spectators to tears. In presenting the colors Colonel Taylor said:-

"I have the honor to return to you the colors of the 106th United States Infantry, of which I became custodian in May 1917. These colors accompanied us across the sea and floated to the breeze in front of regimental headquarters at our first billet in the shelled area of Northern France,"

We return them emblazoned with the immortal record of Kemmel Hill, Hindenburg Line and the Le/Selle River. In accepting these colors from my predecessor, I felt that we were also receiving into our care the tra-

ditions of the 23rd Regiment, and we believe that we have lived up to these traditions."

"These were the colors of the 23rd Regiment borrowed by Colonel Norton when the 106th Infantry was organized October 1st, 1917. While overseas an officer of the regiment had the silk ribbon embroidered with the designation of the 106th Infantry and sewed over the old regimental designation; just as behind the "106th" on this flag is found the "23rd" so in the 106th Regiment the spirit of the 23rd Regiment was found back of its noble achievements."

In accepting the hallowed colors of the overseas regiment, Colonel Praeger fittingly replied:-

"On behalf of the 23rd Regiment, New York Guard, designated as successor of the old 23rd Regiment National Guard of New York, and the 106th United States Infantry, I receive these colors, hallowed by so many glorious memories. You may rest assured they will be guarded with the greatest reverence and most loving care and they will be an inspiration to all who serve in the regiment."

Entwined in the story of these flags is a little known circumstance bearing on the mysterious loss of the regimental color and its return to the regiment through what may be termed an Act of Providence. The writer, at the time of the remarkable occurrence was in Calais, France, on ordered duty salvaging missing property; the following entry taken from his war diary is dated July 7th, 1918:-

"Still another day in the warehouses along the docks of Calais. Only a small part of our property has been recovered; yet I feel well repaid for I have found something infinitely more precious than company records! Buried under a pile of salvaged material, was the silken regimental color of my regiment!"

"It was by mere chance that I noticed a strip of yellow fringe as I passed the spot and being curious, stopped to examine it. Ordering a coolie to dig into the pile, I soon recovered the flag! At first I decided to wrap it under my shirt and deliver it to my Colonel when I re-joined the regiment; on second thought I rather doubted the propriety of such action; so tagging it, I delivered it to Captain Conover, Q.M.C., who was officer commanding the dump."

"This I argued with myself, would insure its safe keeping for the time being. I have the Captain's guarantee for its safe and speedy return to the 106th

Infantry which at this moment I cannot locate."

"When next we meet I shall relate this eerie experience to Colonel Taylor, handing over to him my receipt signed by Captain Conover."

---

The color was in due time restored to the regiment somewhere in Flanders; yet to this day the mystery of its finding so ignominious though temporary a resting place in the salvage dump at Calais has never been solved.

A regimental publication called "VIGILANTA" appeared in June 1919; this journal marked the revival of a previous publication bearing the same title. Lieutenant Colonel Fairservis, Captain Kerby, Lieutenant Robert Vincent, Lieutenant Cotter and Sergeant Frank H. Smith constituted the editorial staff; but like most regimental journals it was short lived; its publication ended with the July 1920 issue. During the spring of 1919 the regimental rifle team won a match with the 7th Infantry, New York Guard, scoring an aggregate of 1029 with a winning margin of 236 points; in the matches shot at Caldwell N. J., on August 25th of that year, the 23rd failed to capture any of the prizes; but in the 2nd Brigade Match shot at Peekskill N. Y., during September the regiment won with an aggregate of 1458 the 47th Infantry taking second place with a total of 1387 points. In the Adjutant General's Match the 23rd lost to the 71st; in the State Match the 23rd took fifth place and in the Governor's Match the regiment finished sixteenth. Major Metcalf Reed, a graduate of West Point, was assigned to the regiment as U. S. Instructor during the year 1919.

Colonel Praeger retired from active service November 28th, 1919; he was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Fairservis, commissioned Colonel, December 4th of that year. Captain Vivian L. Outerbridge was on December 20th promoted Lieutenant Colonel. Of the Majors, Ethelbert Green resigned August 11th, 1919 and Clifford

L. Lamont resigned October 30th. They were succeeded by Lennox C. Brennan, commissioned Major, December 12th and James P. Cooke, commissioned Major, January 29th of the year following. A high powered Christmas stag held in the armory on the evening of December 19th brought to a close the year 1919.

The year 1920 marked the commencement of an era of what may be termed military-social activity within the regiment which in brilliancy had never been paralleled. Regimental reviews tendered national and international figures not only kept the 23rd Regiment on the front pages of the press, but stimulated recruiting; if in these remarkable achievements honor is due the palm very properly belongs to Colonel Thomas Fairservis who in his inimitable way eclipsed all other units of the National Guard in keeping his regiment in the public eye. Its re-organization completed the 23rd regiment received federal recognition as of March 31st, 1920. By this, the status of the regiment was changed from that of a unit of the New York Guard to that of a unit of the New York National Guard; the following table shows the dates of federalization by companies.

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Date of federalization:</u>
Company "A" _____	January 22nd, 1920
do "B" _____	November 20th, 1919
do "C" _____	November 20th, 1919
do "D" _____	January 7th, 1920
do "E" _____	February 20th, 1920
do "F" _____	January 7th, 1920
do "G" _____	June 30th, 1919
do "H" _____	March 26th, 1920
do "I" _____	January 31st, 1920
do "K" _____	February 27th, 1920
do "L" _____	March 20th, 1920
do "M" _____	March 20th, 1920
Howitzer Company _____	March 6th, 1920
Headquarters Company _____	March 31st, 1920
Supply Company _____	March 26th, 1920
Machine Gun Company _____	March 6th, 1920
Sanitary Detachment _____	March 10th, 1920

There follows a roster of officers comprising the

Field and Staff of the regiment as of the date of its federal recognition, together with the names of Company Commanders as of that date.

(x) Indicates overseas service.

Colonel: Thomas Fairservisidge

Lt. Col: Vivian L. Outerbridge

(x) Major: James P. Cooke

(x) Major: Lennox C. Brennan

(x) Major: Frereric K. Long

(x) Capt: William A. Hunter, Adjutant

1st Lt: Howard S. Hadden, I.S.A.P.

(x) Major: Frank R. Herriman, Med. Dept. Attached

(x) Capt: Frank I. Hanscom, Chaplain

Co."A"Capt: Frederick C. Stecher	(x)	Co."I"Capt: Rutherford Ireland
(x) Co."B"Capt: William A. Ronalds	(x)	Co."K"Capt: George R. Dunspaugh
Co."C"Capt: John Kochendorfer	(x)	Co."L"Capt: York W. Brennan
Co."D"Capt: Robert M. Forman	(x)	Co."M"Capt: William J. Evans
Co."E"Capt: Joseph P. Disbrow	(x)	Machine Gun Co. Capt. George M. Keese
Co."F"Capt: Raymond L. Taft	(x)	Supply Co. Capt. William H. McMullen Jr
(x) Co."G"Capt: Frank C. Vincent	(x)	H.Q. Co. Capt: William A. Hunter
Co."H"Capt: William E. Robitsek	(x)	San. Dept. Att. Major Frank R. Herriman

Attached.

Note:- The Battalion Headquarters companies organized during  
Note the year 1921, are listed hereinafter:

April 8th, 1920 marked the passing of Colonel John N. Partridge; buried with full military honors the regiment escorted the remains of its old Commander. On May 13th of that year, the 23rd was reviewed in its armory by General John J. Pershing, Commanding the Armies of the United States. In passing, we note the weapons with which the regiment was armed following the war:-the United States Rifle Cal.30, Model 1903; the Browning Machine Gun and the Browning Automatic Rifle, both Cal.30; the Colt Automatic pistol and the Smith and Wesson service Revolver, both Cal.45; its auxiliary weapons were the 37 mm cannon and the Trench Mortar. Considering that prior to the Mexican Border service, the only weapon of the Infantry soldier was the rifle and bayonet, the comparison is striking.

Field training (available only to those units to which had been extended federal recognition) was in 1920 authorized for the first time since the war; under this ruling the 23rd Infantry occupied Camp Upton, L. I., for a period of two weeks commencing August 1st. During that year, the War Department

authorized special courses of instruction for officers of the National Guard at various service schools; -- that for the Infantry at Fort Benning in Georgia. In the matches shot on the Peekskill rifle ranges for the year 1920 the 23rd Infantry achieved nothing; nor were any records broken in the forty eighth regimental games held in the armory November 27th. Following are the changes in the Field and Staff for that year. James P. Cooke took his Majority, January 29th, 1920. Captain Frederic K. Long was on January 29th promoted a Major and on December 8th resigned to accept a commission as Captain of Infantry in the regular establishment; he was succeeded by Captain Rutherford Ireland, commissioned a Major, December 8th, 1920. During that year, Lieutenant Colonel George E. Stewart of the regular army succeeded Major Metcalf Reed as U. S. Instructor; the assignment as Band Leader fell to John J. Gartland appointed April 15th, 1920.

We now enter the eventful year 1921 which brings to mind the second anniversary of the return of the 106th Infantry from France. The occasion celebrated by a review tendered Colonel William A. Taylor on February 26th, filled the armory to capacity; following the ceremonies, Colonel Taylor in the name of the State of New York, presented the CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS to veterans of the overseas regiment cited in orders for gallantry in action; those whose names are here recorded received the decoration:-

Colonel William A. Taylor	1st Lt. Erdman N. Brandt
Colonel Franklin W. Ward	1st Lt. Thomas F. Ward Jr.
Major Ransom H. Gillet	1st Lt. Frederic K. Long
Major Lucius A. Salisbury M/D	1st Lt. York W. Brennan
Major Sidney De Kay	1st Lt. Herbert G. Rosboro
Capt. Euston F. Edmunds	1st Lt. Frank C. Vincent
Capt. Rutherford Ireland	Sergt. Charles W. Mattson
Chaplain Frank I. Hanscom	Sergt. Carl J. Juchatz
Chaplain George C. Eilers	Sergt. Dudley D. Conroy
Capt. Arthur V. Mc Dermott	Corp. Meyer M. Berger
Capt. Lennox C. Brennan	Corp. William E. Dunn Jr.
Capt. Joseph A. S. Mundy	Pvt. 1st Cl. Alfred R. Guthrie
Capt. William H. Mc Mullen Jr.	Pvt. 1st Cl. George M. Berry
Capt. James P. Cooke	Pvt. 1st Cl. Edward A. Crawford
1st Lt. George R. Dunspaugh	Bugler Gordon Babcock

Note: Rank or grade given as of date of citation.

The lamentable death of Colonel Frank H. Norton on February 19th, brought spontaneous expressions of sorrow from all who knew him; on February 22nd the remains of this highly esteemed officer the eleventh Colonel of the old 23rd Regiment and the first commander of the 106th Infantry, A.E.F., were escorted with full military honors to their final resting place. Under revised tables of organization the Supply Company was on June 1st, 1921 redesignated the Service Company and the Machine Gun Company became the Howitzer Company. Three new units were organized; these units designated Battalion Headquarters Companies, received federal recognition on the dates indicated. The 1st on April 29th, 1921 the 2nd on April 28th and the 3rd on April 25th. By authority of the Secretary of War the following named officers of the regiment were detailed to attend the Infantry School at Fort Benning; 1st Lieut. Frank A. Conefrey and 1st Lieut. Albert F. Hogle. Again as in the preceding year the regiment achieved nothing in the several matches shot at Camp Perry and at Peekskill.

On the afternoon of May 23rd, 1921 the regiment enjoyed the unique and unprecedented distinction of receiving as its honored guest the President of the United States! On this auspicious occasion His Excellency Warren Gamaliel Harding accompanied by the First Lady of the land were the central figures at a formal luncheon given in the armory; then followed a regimental review by the President. At the conclusion of the military ceremonies the Presidential party escorted to the palatial Council Room, graciously received the officers and their ladies and prominent guests. Commemorative of the gala occasion, President Harding was made the recipient of an exquisitely wrought medal of fine gold; a replica of the decoration may be seen in the regimental Memorial collection.



Commencing May 29th the regiment participated in two weeks of field training at Peekskill; two important events occurred during this period. On June 1st the numerical designation of the 23rd was changed to the 106th Infantry, N.Y.N.G., and the 2nd Brigade became the 53rd Infantry Brigade; thus the 105th and 106th regiments (constituting the 53rd Infantry Brigade ) found themselves once more under the cherished war time designation. While in camp the regiment entertained a distinguished guest; the Baron de Cartier de Marchienne, Ambassador from Belgium to the United States, not only reviewed the regiment in the field but remained in camp two days, evincing a lively interest in the various camp activities.

On June 26th the 106th Infantry participated in the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of a monument in Prospect Park to the everlasting memory of the men and women of Brooklyn who lost their lives in the World War. Certain re-designations of units within the regiment became effective as of October 18th, 1921:-

Company "B"	re-designated	Company "D"
do "D"	do do	do "B"
do "L"	do do	do "M"
do "M"	do do	do "L"

Changes of status in the Field and Staff for the year 1921 appear in the order named:- Captain Adjutant William A. Hunter Jr., resigned February 2nd and Captain George R. Dunspaugh received his appointment as Adjutant April 16th. Captain William H. McMullen Jr., was on April 15th appointed Regimental Supply Officer. 1st Lieut. Albert F. Hogle assumed the duties of Plans and Operations officer May 27th and Captain George M. Keese received his majority as of April 20th. Chaplain Frank I. Hanscom resigned December 31st. The regiment was reviewed in its armory on November 9th by Lieutenant General Baron Alphonse Jacque of the Belgian Army;

with pomp and ceremony the 106th passed before the rugged campaigner whose reassuring message to his sovereign, "Je tiendrai" (I shall hold) still rings in the ears of all true Belgians. Following the review General Jacque in the name of his King, Albert of Belgium, conferred the CROIX de GUERRE BELGE upon twelve officers and men of the 27th Division; of this number the following named served with the 106th Infantry in battle:-

Sergt. Frank O. Kretchman  
Sergt. Frank A. Conefrey  
Sergt. Edmund S. Massel  
Corp. Herbert Walsh  
Pvt. John J. Feely

Note: Rank and grade given as of date of citation.

During the year 1921 an intensive recruiting drive entered into by all organizations of the National Guard of our state, bore fruit in abundance; through the medium of regimental stags and motion pictures the membership of the 106th Infantry had by the end of that year increased to one thousand three hundred and forty seven all ranks. The command of the newly organized 53rd Infantry Brigade fell to Brigadier General Franklin W. Ward on December 19th of the same year.

The year 1922 was ushered in with a grand banquet given in the armory on the evening of February 18th in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the birth of the 23rd Regiment. There were three regimental reviews during the early part of that year; the first on February 20th by Brigadier General Franklin W. Ward Commanding the 53rd Infantry Brigade; the second on May 12th by that distinguished soldier of the Crown, Field Marshall French, Earl and Viscount of Ypres and High Lake and the third on May 25th by the Hon. John F. Hylan Mayor of the City of New York. The regiment bivouaced at Sheepshead Bay June 17th returning to Brooklyn the following day; in this exercise the recruit enjoyed a beneficial

taste of camp life preparatory to his first tour commencing July 9th when the 106th went into camp at Peekskill for two weeks of field training. During this period the regiment was reviewed by several notable personages; on July 15th by Dr. Grouitch, Zecho Slovakian Minister to the United States; on July 16th by U. S. Senator William M. Calder; on July 18th by Major General Kamayi of the Imperial Japanese Army and on July 22nd by Colonel William A. Taylor. In the efficiency contest between rifle companies of the regiment during the summer encampment of that year the banner went to Company "I."

With each returning transport came the bodies of our dead; during the years 1921 and 1922 no less than five thousand of New York's soldier dead were received and given burial with full military honors. Memorial services held at the armory on the afternoon of November 11th, 1922 marked the unveiling of a bronze tablet of heroic size and great beauty dedicated to the memory of those of the overseas regiment who died in the great war; the memorial is set in the wall of the armory facing Bedford Avenue.

The 106th passed in review before Monsieur Georges Clemenceau, War Minister of France, on November 22nd; the event held in the armory attracted a large and enthusiastic audience. But one officer 1st Lieut. Edward J. Gilchrist attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning. In rifle marksmanship for the year 1922 the 106th Infantry had no representation on the State team, nor did it compete in any of the nine authorized matches. With the re-assignment of Lieut. Colonel Stewart the post of U. S. Instructor devolved upon Captain Adelbert B. Stewart, U. S. A., who was assigned to the 106th Infantry during that year.

Under the provisions of G.O.No.29, A.G.O., December 12th, 1922 color bearing organizations of the National Guard of the

State of New York were required to submit for approval, designs for regimental insignia; these designs based on the science of heraldry must, express in armorial bearings the outstanding achievements of the organization. Up to that time there had never been available in the Militia Bureau or the War Department, proper, of any historical data so compiled as to make it possible to trace the history of such organizations; in like manner the regular army and the National Guard of the United States were required to comply with a similar order emanating in the first instance from the War Department.

Charged with the execution of the order, Major Ireland submitted a design with supporting affidavits through channels; the insignia was approved by the Secretary of War under date of June 21st, 1924 and a new silken regimental color bearing the device replaced the now obsolete color previously carried. A description of the insignia in the language of heraldy follows:-

**SHIELD:** Azure on a chevron embattled to chief grey; fimbriated argent between in chief. The badge of the regiment (a Greek Cross of white enamel edged with gold; in the center the numerals "23" in gold surrounded by a blue garter) proper, and in base a lion rampant or a pale of the field fimbriated of the third (argent) all within a narrow bordure of the last (argent) and gules, the latter to the edge of the shield.

**MOTTO:** "Fidelis et Constans."

The significance of the insignia is given in simpler terms:-  
**SHIELD:** Of Infantry blue, signifying the arm of the service. Scarlet piping, the color of the BROOKLYN CITY GUARD, the parent organization of the 23rd Regiment; White piping and blue of the field, the colors of the old 23rd Regiment; All three colors, red white and blue, represent the national colors:-

The Greek Cross is the badge of the 6th Army Corps in the Civil War, to which the 23rd Regiment was attached as a unit

of the 11th Brigade, 1st Division, Department of the Susquehanna, assigned to the Army of the Potomac:

The Lion Rampant, taken from the Royal Arms of Belgium commemorates the fact that the 106th Infantry, A.E.F., was the first American regiment to fight on Belgian soil in the World War:

The broken Chevron immortalizes the crowning achievement of the 106th Infantry A.E.F., in the World War:- Its successful assault upon the Out-Works of the Hindenburg Line and its participation in the smashing of the Main Line:

SCROLL: Inscribed "FIDELIS et CONSTANS"-- Constant and Faithful:

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The following changes in the Field and Staff occurred during the year 1922: Captain George R. Dunspaugh relinquished the post of Regimental Adjutant January 6th and Captain Frank C. Vincent succeeded in that appointment as of the same date, thereafter Captain Dunspaugh commanded Company "F." The Rev. Harry Knight Miller, appointed Chaplain with rank of Captain January 9th resigned from the service July 6th of the same year. Captain Edward J. Bonney succeeded 1st Lieutenant Hogle as Plans and Operations officer May 24th.

During March 1923 the Bedford Avenue armory suffered considerable damage through a fire originating in the room of Company "F"; spreading to the library on the second floor flames and smoke took heavy toll of priceless paintings, rare editions and costly furnishings! Fortunately, the paintings comprising a gallery of former Colonels of the regiment could be restored; the company room completely destroyed was rebuilt. Conservative estimates of the damage to building and contents reached the appalling figure of \$100,000.00!

The regiment was reviewed on March 24th by Brigadier General George Albert Wingate, Surrogate of the County of Kings,

and on May 15th the 14th and 106th regiments, one Troop of the 101st Cavalry and a Battalion of the 105th Field Artillery participated in the ceremonies attending the official opening of the Coney Island Board Walk.

The regiment paraded as escort to the remains of Colonel (Brigadier General by brevet) William A. Stokes whose sudden death on June 5th, 1923 caused genuine sorrow throughout the National Guard.

The 106th occupied the State Camp -- now called "Camp Smith" in honor of Governor Alfred E. Smith from July 1st to 15th inclusive; a feature of this tour was a review tendered Major General Robert L. Bullard on July 3rd on which occasion 1st Lieut. Thomas F. Ward Jr., was decorated with the Order of the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry under fire while serving with the overseas regiment in the World War. Again Company "I" won the efficiency banner for highest rating during the period of field training for the year 1923. Another review occurred July 7th when the regiment marched before Major General Charles W. Berry Commanding the 27th Division. This was followed by still another, tendered General John J. Pershing, Commanding the Armies of the United States on July 10th. The day following Governor Alfred E. Smith in company with Major General George C. Rickards, Chief of the Militia Bureau reviewed the troops.

A memorial service and parade of the regiment on August 8th, 1923 in honor to the memory of the late Warren Gamaliel Harding, President of the United States, terminated regimental activities for the summer. In the matter of rifle marksmanship, we fail to find any representation of the regiment on any team for the year 1923 nor did the 106th win any prizes. The regiment was reviewed on November 10th by His Excellency, the Baron de Cartier de

Marchienne and the final review of the year 1923 was tendered Brigadier General George R. Dyer, Commanding the 87th Infantry Brigade, N.Y.N.G., on December 12th. Changes within the Field and Staff for that year follow:-- Lieutenant Colonel Vivian L. Outerbridge retired to the National Guard Reserve August 1st and Major Rutherford Ireland was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel as of August 27th. Captain Adjutant Frank C. Vincent received his Majority October 17th and Captain William H. Mc Mullen Jr., was appointed Adjutant October 5th. Captain Albert J. Nelson was on October 22nd appointed Regimental Supply Officer vice Mc Mullen re-assigned. Chaplain Frank I. Hanscom, now a Major, Adjutant General's Department, was detailed to active duty with the 106th Infantry as of June 14th and Warrant Officer Lawrence M. Matt took over the Regimental Band vice Gartland, honorably discharged February 28th, 1923. There were no assignments to the Infantry School, Fort Benning for the year 1923.

Prominent events in the activities of the regiment during the year 1924 appear in chronological order. By Executive order, the colors of the 106th were draped for a period of thirty days in respect to the memory of the late Woodrow Wilson, ex-President of the United States whose death occurred February 3rd of that year. A review tendered Brigadier General Edward J. Westcott, Adjutant General, State of New York on February 20th was followed by another on May 9th when Major General Robert L. Bullard was the guest of the regiment. On May 20th the 106th participated in a parade commemorating the 300th anniversary of the settling in New Netherlands of the Wallons in 1624; the occasion marked also the dedication of the Hainault Memorial to the memory of these pioneers. The annual Memorial Day parade followed on the 30th.

Lieut. Colonel Rutherford Ireland resigned from the

service June 30th, 1924; he was succeeded by Major Lennox C. Brennan, commissioned Lieutenant Colonel July 3rd. Captain Adjutant William H. Mc Mullen Jr., received his commission as Major July 3rd; he was succeeded by Captain C. Pemberton Lenart appointed Adjutant as of the same date. The regiment proceeded to Camp Smith on August 10th for a two weeks period of field training. In rifle marksmanship for the year 1924 the regiment failed utterly; the 105th Infantry took first place in the 53rd Brigade Match. 2nd Lieut's, Louis H. ~~E~~richs Jr., and Eugene M. Cunningham attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. The first review of the fall occurred on the evening of September 12th when the regiment passed before the Hon. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce of the United States. In the sudden death of U. S. Instructor Major John Berg, U.S.A., assigned to the regiment in 1924 the 106th lost the valued service of one well fitted for the post.

The regiment passed in review before the Hon. George J. Ryan, President of the Board of Education of the City of New York on March 20th, 1925; this event was followed by a review tendered the Hon. James W. Wadsworth Jr., Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, U. S. Senate on May 22nd, and on the 30th the 106th participated in the Memorial Day parade in Brooklyn. The period of field training assigned the regiment for that year commenced June 28th and ended July 12th. Two notable events occurred during October; the first, a parade in honor of the Parmentier Centennial Celebration on the 17th; the other a review tendered Brigadier General George R. Dyer, Commanding the 87th Infantry Brigade on the 30th. The regiment was reviewed by the Veteran Association on December 18th.

There was no representation in the National or State Matches for that year; the 105th Infantry again won the 53rd Infantry



Brigade Match. Numerous changes in the Field and Staff occurred during 1925. Captain Harry A. March, Medical Department was assigned to the regiment January 13th and on March 27th Major George M. Keese retired to the National Guard Reserve. The assignment as Plans and Training Officer fell to Captain Samuel D. Davies on December 28th, 1925 vice Captain Bonney resigned. Warrant Officer Frank E. Houts received his appointment as Band Leader June 27th vice Matt resigned. Captain George R. Dunspaugh was on August 27th promoted a Major and Major William C. Waggoner Medical Corps resigned November 27th; he was succeeded by Major Charles F. Nicol appointed as of the same date. George F. Price commissioned a 1st Lieutenant Medical Corps December 15th was assigned to the 106th Infantry. Two officers, Captain Samuel D. Davies and 2nd Lieut. Joseph J. Scanlon were detailed to the Infantry School at Fort Benning during the year 1925 and in that year Captain R. L. Gibbons of the regular army succeeded the late Major Berg as U. S. Instructor. The numerical strength of the 106th Infantry at the close of the year 1925 was one thousand one hundred and forty five all ranks.

On December 31st, 1925 Major General Charles W. Berry, Commanding the 27th Division was transferred to the National Guard Reserve in order that he might assume the duties of Comptroller of the City of New York; the temporary command of the division therefore fell to Brigadier General Dyer. On January 28th, 1926 Lieutenant Colonel William N. Haskell of the regular army was commissioned a Major General of the Line and placed in command of the 27th Division, N.Y.N.G.; it will be recalled that this experienced and efficient officer commanded the old 69th N. Y. Infantry on the Mexican border in 1916.

Through the death of Brigadier General Edward J. Westcott, Adjutant General State of New York, on February 9th, 1926

Brigadier General Franklin W. Ward commanding the 53rd Infantry Brigade was on February 15th appointed to that important post. Thus, Colonel Ransom H. Gillet assumed command of the 53rd Brigade with rank of Brigadier General; the 10th Infantry was for purposes of administration attached to that brigade. The regiment was reviewed by the Hon. Alfred E. Smith Governor of the State on February 19th and by the U. S. Grant Post, G.A.R., - on April 23rd. Of changes within the Field and Staff we note the following for that year:- Captain Adjutant C. Pemberton Lenart was on May 10th assigned to the command of Company "D" pending his subsequent assignment on August 31st to the Adjutant General's Department at Albany. Captain Casper V. Gunther received his appointment as Regimental Adjutant May 10th. Captain Samuel D. Davies took his Majority June 9th and Captain Thomas F. Quinn succeeded him as Plans and Training officer on June 14th.

Field training for the year 1926 commenced June 27th the regiment returning to Brooklyn on July 11th. The following named officers were detailed to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga:- Major Frank C. Vincent, Captain Frederick A. Gillette, Captain Clarence E. Blake-Lobb and Captain Edwin K. Johnson. The regiment passed in review before Major General Charles P. Summerall on October 16th and on the afternoon of the 23rd was reviewed by no less a personage than Her Majesty Queen Marie of Roumania. Another review tendered Major General William N. Haskell, Commanding the 27th Division, N.Y.N.G., occurred December 3rd bringing to a close the year 1926.

Before passing on let us return to the subject of rifle marksmanship; in sharp contrast with the remarkable achievements of earlier years, the regiment persisted in failing to win any and all matches in which it was authorized to compete; in the

year just ended the recently attached 10th Infantry captured the 53rd Infantry Brigade Match.

Five parades and reviews occurred during the year 1927; the first, tendered Brigadier General Franklin W. Ward the newly appointed Adjutant General, was held in the armory March 30th; on June 13th the 106th paraded in Manhattan upon the occasion of the home coming of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh following his daring transatlantic flight. Again on July 18th the regiment paraded in Manhattan in honor of the return of Commander Richard Byrd, U.S.N., from the antarctic. Brigadier General Ransom H. Gillet reviewed the 106th on November 19th and on December 14th a review was tendered Rear Admiral Louis M. Josephthal, Commanding the New York Naval Militia. Following a custom of many years standing detachments of the regiment participated in the Military Tournament at Madison Square Garden.

The 106th occupied Camp Smith from June 26th to July 10th engaging in field training and battle exercises. Major George R. Dunspaugh retired to the National Guard Reserve March 11th and Major Thomas F. Quinn commissioned in that rank April 4th, 1927 was transferred to the reserve as of August 4th of the same year; in the meantime Captain Frank A. Conefrey had been designated Plans and Training Officer, his assignment dating April 25th. Captain Harry A. March of the Medical Department promoted a Major April 14th succeeded Major Charles F. Nicol of that department whose resig-

nation dates from March 5th, 1927. Captain Frank A. Conefrey received his Majority August 23rd of that year, and the post of Plans and Training Officer fell to Captain John O. Green as of September . The following named officers were detailed to the Infantry School at Fort Benning:- Major Samuel D. Davies, Captain Thomas M. Allison and Captain Harry R. Moore. With respect to marksmanship the 106th again failed to achieve a standing; as in the previous year the 53rd Brigade Match was won by the 10th Infantry.

The commencement of the year 1928 found the regiment in a healthy prosperous condition and as ever hard at work. The first review occurred February 13th and was tendered His Excellency, George Cretziane, Minister from Roumania to the United States; again on April 30th the 106th Infantry paraded in honor of Baron Gunther von Huenfeld, Major James Fitzmaurice and Captain Herman Koehl the intrepid Trans-Atlantic flyers. Major General William N. Haskell reviewed the regiment on the evening of May 10th.

Field training covering a period of two weeks commencing June 17th terminated the activities of the regiment for the summer. On the afternoon of Sunday, September 30th, 1928 an Anniversary Memorial service <sup>for</sup> of the dead of the regiment was held in the armory; this solemn occasion marked the unveiling and dedication of a bronze Memorial Tablet erected by the Veterans of the regiment, whereon are inscribed the names of those of the overseas regiment who died in the great war; the tablet has been appropriately placed near the entrance of the Council Room on the second floor of the armory. Participating in the services were the 106th Infantry, the 14th Infantry, the 27th Division Trains (old 47th Infantry) and all veteran bodies and organizations including the

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U. S. Grant Post and the Winchester Post of the Grand Army of the Republic; a deeply interested public filled the balconies overlooking the drill floor.

On November 13th the regiment passed in review before Sir Esme Howard, Ambassador from the Court of St. James to the United States and on December 8th a review tendered His Excellency Nobile Giacomo de Martino, Ambassador from Italy to the United States terminated the season of like ceremonies. In marksmanship for the year 1928 the 106th Infantry achieved nothing; for the third consecutive year the 53rd Brigade Match was won by the 10th Infantry. The regiment was not represented at the Fort Benning schools for that year. The assignment to the 106th Infantry of Captain William E. G. Graham of the regular service as U. S. Instructor followed the resignation from the army of Captain Gibbons.

Lieut. Colonel Lennox C. Brennan resigned from the service December 11th, 1928 and was succeeded by Major Frank C. Vincent, commissioned Lieutenant Colonel, December 14th. Captain Albert F. Hogle was on the same day promoted a Major. Warrant Officer (band leader) Frank E. Houts honorably discharged May 7th was succeeded by his son Elmer V. Houts, appointed band leader May 19th of that year.

The regiment was reviewed by Brigadier General Franklin W. Ward, Adjutant General, S. N. Y., on March 23rd, 1929 and by Brigadier General George R. Dyer, Commanding the 87th Infantry Brigade on April 29th. The first public appearance of the 106th Infantry in its newly adopted full dress uniform on May 30th elicited the most favorable comments as the command headed by Shannon's matchless band marched to the old time standard of popular quicksteps; the new uniform is a revival of the grey which through the exigencies

of campaign was abandoned in the year 1916. The customary two weeks field training commenced June 16th; in the Major Matches in rifle marksmanship for that year the regiment achieved nothing; for the fourth consecutive season the 10th Infantry captured the 53rd Infantry Brigade Match; in armory range work the 106th won the National Guard and Naval Militia trophy. The first regimental review of the fall tendered Major General William N. Haskell, Commanding the Division occurred November 13th and on December 16th the Veteran Review was held in the armory. There were no appointments to the Infantry School at Fort Benning for the year 1929. Private Thomas O'Connor Company "D" appointed to the U.S.M.A., June 30th, 1929 was graduated a 2nd Lieut. with the class of 1933.

Changes of status in the Field and Staff of the regiment for the year 1929 follow:- Major Harry A. March, Medical Department resigned February 15th and was succeeded by Major Walter V. Moore as of March 9th. Captain Adjutant Casper V. Gunther resigned November 19th; he was succeeded by Captain Edmund S. Massel appointed December 23rd. Band Leader Elmer V. Houts took his discharge as of June 6th and the day following Thomas F. Shannon once more took over as band leader. Captain Harry H. Fields of the 2/5 Manchesters, B.E. F., continued with the regiment as "attached."

Ceremonies for the year 1930 opened with a review by the Hon. Royal S. Copeland, U. S. Senator from New York on March 17th; this was followed by another review tendered the Hon. Henry Hesterberg, President of the Borough of Brooklyn on the evening of May 26th. On June 7th the regiment participated in what is referred to as the "Governor's Review" held at Van Cortland Park; in this ceremony the major portion of the military forces of the State passed in review before His Excellency, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor of the State of New York. The 106th commenced its annual tour

of field training at Camp Smith June 29th where it remained until July 13th. Appointed to the United States Military Academy in 1930 Corporal Wilford E. H. Voehl of Company "L", graduated four years later was, by virtue of his high standing assigned to the Coast Artillery. 1st Lieut. Frederick M. Dardingkiller represented the regiment at Fort Benning, Ga. It is gratifying to note the winning of the 53rd Brigade Match for the year 1930 by the 106th Infantry with an aggregate of 1606 points. In that year Captain John W. McCormick succeeded Capt. Graham as U. S. Instructor.

Two reviews occurred during the month of April 1931; the first by Major Donald C. Strachan, President of the 27th Division Association of the World War; the second by Colonel Frederick W. Baldwin, Commanding the 14th Infantry, N.Y.N.G. The period of field training assigned the 106th for that year commenced June 28th and terminated July 12th. Captain David M. Johnson and 1st Lieut. John C. Allison represented the regiment at Fort Benning. In addition to his other duties Colonel William R. Wright, Chief of Staff, 27th Division assumed command of the regiment following the resignation of Colonel Fairservis on August 21st, 1931. Relieved of the assignment January 12th, 1932 Colonel Wright was succeeded by Lieut. <sup>Colonel</sup> Frank C. Vincent commissioned Colonel as of that date.

The military career of Colonel Vincent commenced with his enlistment in Company "G" (~~Brooklyn City~~ Guard) 23rd Regiment N.G.N.Y., on February 6th, 1906; passing through the non-commissioned grades he served with the 23rd on the Mexican border in 1916 as 1st Sergt. of his company and was commissioned a 1st Lieut. May 1st, 1917 while serving on the aqueduct. Lieutenant Vincent while with the 106th Infantry, A. E. F., won distinction for gallantry under fire; wounded October 20th, 1918 he was invalided to England. Promoted a Captain November 13th of that year he rejoined

the 27th Division in December; during February of the year following Captain Vincent was ordered to the Military Police School at Autun, France, from which he was graduated with high honors. Thereafter he remained on Military Police duty until his return to the United States and to Camp Upton, L. I., where on July 28th, 1919 he was mustered out of federal service. The following orders were conferred upon him for conspicuous service in the World War; the Purple Heart (U. S.); the Silver Star (U. S.); Conspicuous Service Cross (State of New York); Croix de Guerre with palm (Belgian); Officer of the Crown (Roumanian); Colonel Vincent's military record speaks for itself with respect to his gallantry in combat, his experience and his ability.

In rifle marksmanship for the year 1931 the 106th achieved nothing; the 53rd Brigade Match was won by the 105th Infantry. An impressive celebration commencing October 16th commemorating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis was held at Yorktown, Va; a provisional battalion of the New York National Guard in which the 106th Infantry was represented by a platoon of picked men commanded by Captain Edwin K. Johnson, participated in the ceremonies, returning to Brooklyn on the 19th. A review tendered the 23rd Regiment Veteran Association on December 12th marked the revival of the award of the Regimental "Iron Cross" for long and faithful service. The Veterans Guidon for company efficiency for the year 1930 went to Company "F." Major William H. McMullen Jr., and Chaplain Frank I. Hanscom resigned as of September 22nd, 1931 and Major John O. Green commissioned October 27th was for the second time appointed Plans and Training Officer October 29th of that year; in this he succeeded Captain Conefrey.

On January 5th, 1932 the 106th Infantry which during the preceding year had been detached from the 53rd Infantry Brigade



and attached to Division Headquarters, was re-assigned as a unit of the 53rd Brigade. Numerous changes in the Field and Staff occurred during that year; the promotion of Colonel Frank C. Vincent to the command of the regiment has been cited. Major Samuel D. Davies was on March 22nd commissioned Lieutenant Colonel and on April 29th the Rev. Charles H. Webb received his appointment as Chaplain with rank of Captain; a veteran of the World War, Chaplain Webb holds the profound respect of all who know him and it may be said without fear of contradiction that his keen understanding and sympathetic nature endears him to the command. For the second time, Major Albert F. Hogle took over the post of Plans and <sup>Training</sup> ~~Training~~ Officer and on June 1st, 1932 was so assigned, vice Green returned to the Line. Captain Edmund S. Massel promoted a Major June 7th was succeeded as regimental adjutant by Captain David M. Johnson, appointed as of the same date. Band Leader Thomas F. Shannon resigned June 17th; an entirely new enlisted band under the leadership of Arthur M. Wildigg appointed June 21st, 1932 introduced a scale of music which in quality and tone differed in all respects from that rendered by his noted predecessor.

Major General William N. Haskell reviewed the regiment in its armory on May 16th; following the ceremony the Regimental Memorial rooms in which are to be found cherished mementos associated with the Brooklyn City Guard, the old 23rd Regiment, the overseas regiment and the present 106th Infantry, were formally dedicated with appropriate services by Chaplain Webb; the priceless collection continues to grow through donations of material by veterans and active members of the regiment.

The fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the State Camp of Instruction at Peekskill, N. Y., on July 1st, 1882 by the 23rd Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y., was fittingly celebrated by the 106th

Infantry in the field. A representation of surviving members of the old regiment visited the camp as guests of Colonel Vincent and a regimental review in honor of the occasion was followed by happy re-unions. Two officers were detailed to the Fort Benning schools during 1932; Major Frank F. Hogle and 2nd Lieut. Edmund E. Shoucair.

Following a review of the regiment on September 29th by Major General Franklin W. Ward, the Adjutant General, a group of sixty six overseas veterans were decorated with the Order of the Purple Heart in the name of the United States; the ceremony of presentation in which Colonel William A. Taylor assisted brought forth prolonged applause from the thousands that filled the armory. It may interest the reader to know something of this beautiful and significant decoration: The Order, established by General George Washington in 1782 authorized the award to those who while serving in the army performed singularly meritorious acts of extraordinary fidelity or essential service to the country; in establishing the Order, General Washington writes: "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all; this Order is to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered as a permanent one." Strange as it may seem the Order of the Purple Heart appears to have been forgotten; no awards were made subsequent to the Revolution until its revival in the year 1930 when by Act of Congress the perpetuity of the rare decoration was authorized. So far as known records show this badge of honor was bestowed on but three soldiers of the Continental Army.

The annual regimental memorial service held in the Central Congregational Church on Sunday, November 13th attracted an unusually large and deeply interested audience. In rifle marks-

manship for the year 1932 the regiment achieved nothing; again the 53rd Brigade Match went to the 10th Infantry. The 106th Infantry contributed a platoon (commanded by Captain Edwin K. Johnson) to a provisional battalion ordered to participate in the ceremonies attending the opening of the Port of Albany; needless to remark the efficiency of the regiment on this occasion was reflected in the appearance and performance of the detail; the event was celebrated June 7th, 1932.

The year 1933 found the regiment gaining steadily in efficiency and morale. A review tendered Brigadier General George R. Dyer on May 20th followed by the ceremony of presentation, gave to the Medical Detachment, the Regimental Efficiency Banner for highest percentage in the year preceding; the Admiral Josephthal Marksmanship Trophy went to Company "E" and the Attendance Trophy to Company "B" whose percentage for the year 1932 was 93.82. In the Memorial Day parade held May 30th the 106th took the honors for precision and appearance. A two weeks period of field training at Camp Smith commenced June 25th showed plainly the result of theoretical instruction imparted during the armory drill season; in record shooting qualifications far exceeded those of the preceding year; field maneuvers, dispositions and the handling of troops warranted the most favorable comment; in camp sanitation the regiment excelled.

The annual memorial service in memory of the dead of the regiment held in the armory Sunday November 12th filled the drill hall galleries to capacity; these services had now become a fixed event in the minds of the public. Upon the occasion of a review tendered the Hon. John J. Bennett Jr., Attorney General of the State of New York, on the evening of December 9th a newly designed



Regimental  
100% Duty Medal.

Adopted 1933.

Regimental 100% Duty Medal was presented to those of the regiment with a perfect record of attendance for the preceding year; in sharp contrast with the original bronze decoration adopted in the year 1888 this medal an object of rare beauty and design reflects the fine artistic touch of its originator Colonel Vincent.

The regiment was represented at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., season of 1933 by 1st Lieut. James E. Humphrey. Again as in the preceding year the 106th failed to win any of the authorized Matches shot at Peekskill; the 53rd Brigade Match went to the 105th Infantry. The honor of appointment as Aide on the Staff of Governor Herbert H. Lehman came to Colonel Vincent on January 1st, 1934 and on the 27th of that month the 106th was reviewed by Brigadier General George Albert Wingate; in this ceremony the regiment passed in review under the command of none but non-commissioned officers; following this unique performance the Efficiency Banner for the year 1933 went to the Medical Detachment which for the second time won the distinction of the award. It was during the year 1934 that Major John W. Foss of the regular army succeeded Captain McCormick as U. S. Instructor.

The regiment occupied Camp Smith from June 24th to July 8th; two reviews occurred during this period of field training; the first on June 29th by Major General William N. Haskell accompanied by Lieut. Colonel Simon B. Buckner Jr., Commandant of Cadets, U.S.M.A.; the second on July 1st by Rear Admiral Frank R. Lackey, Commanding the New York Naval Militia. Co-incident with the eighth biennial convention and re-union of the 27th Division Association held in Brooklyn the 106th paraded on October 13th in company with the 245th Coast Artillery, the 14th Infantry and the 27th Division Trains; the procession was reviewed by Governor Lehman, Major General Nolan, Commanding the 2nd Corps Area, and

Major General O'Ryan. Band Leader Wildigg resigned April 9th, 1934 and was succeeded by Arthur Danner, Warranted October 8th of that year.

The annual regimental memorial service held in the armory on the afternoon of November 11th was as usual attended by a representative audience. December 4th, 1934 marked the retirement of Major General Franklin W. Ward the Adjutant General, S. N. Y; as a fitting tribute to long and faithful service a mammoth review was arranged in his honor. This review of no less than six regiments held in the armory of the 258th Field Artillery, December 4th was without precedent. The regiments participating were the 244th Coast

Artillery, 106th Infantry, 212th C.A., A.A., 14th Infantry, 245th Coast Artillery and 258th Field Artillery. Major General, the Adjutant General, S.N.Y., Franklin W. Ward was succeeded by Brigadier General Walter G. Robinson as of December 11th, 1934.

The year 1935 opened with the re-appointment of Colonel Vincent as Aide on the Governor's Staff. An innovation for the raising of funds to be devoted to the sufferers of infantile paralysis, resolved itself into so called birthday parties to be held throughout the land on the birthday of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself a victim of the dread disease; the Brooklyn party held on the evening of January 30th at the Hotel St. George was sponsored and attended by the wealthy and socially prominent, the mother of the President acting in the capacity of hostess. A guard of honor comprising detachments of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the National Guard added color to the eminently successful affair; the 106th Infantry was represented in this military group by a detachment in full dress.

A review tendered Colonel William A. Taylor and his veterans of the 106th overseas on the evening of February 16th, 1935

proved unique; a feature of the review was the promotion of Brigadier George Albert Wingate to the rank of Major General; the oath of office administered by Colonel Vincent was followed by the presentation of silver stars indicative of rank to Major General Wingate; the presentation was made by Colonel Vincent. The regiment engaged in field training for a period of two weeks commencing June 16th; for the first time in its history, the 106th accomplished its change of station by motor trucks. During its training period the regiment was reviewed in the field by Postmaster Francis J. Sinnot of Brooklyn. In marksmanship the 106th won nothing but the satisfaction of increasing the number of qualifications over the preceding year. In rifle marksmanship the regiment qualified 21 experts, 50 sharpshooters and 154 marksmen. In automatic rifle marksmanship there were qualified 7 experts and 32 marksmen. In Machine Gun marksmanship the regiment qualified 2 experts, 3 first class and 99 second class marksmen, and in Howitzer firing, 4 experts, 29 first class and 5 second class marksmen.

Turning to the efficiency report covering the 1935 period of field training we find the following remarks:-

xxx "Marked improvement in morale, efficiency and co-operation. A regiment considerably improved over 1934 as evidenced by higher morale, enthusiasm of officers and men and marked improvement in percentage of qualifications with rifle and machine gun and of efficiency of headquarters companies." xxx

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xxx "The Commanding General of the Brigade adds herewith his commendation and congratulations to the C. O. 106th Infantry and the regiment of the fine record made during its tour of field training. He feels certain that this will be an added incentive to still greater accomplishment and that the 106th Infantry will continue to move forward and make outstanding records in the future," xxx

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Efficiency awards for records attained during the preceding year follow:- Veteran Efficiency Banner, to Headquarters Company; Veteran Marksmanship trophy to Company "L": The Walter V. Moore Efficiency Banner to Company "B" and the Attendance Plaque to 1st Battalion Headquarters Company. The year 1935 closed with a regimental drill and Christmas Tree party.

A review tendered Brigadier General Walter C. Robinson, the Adjutant General, S. N. Y., on the evening of March 28th, 1936 proved a colorful event; following the ceremonies the officers named received the Order of the Silver Star for gallantry in action while serving with the 106th Infantry A. E. F.:-

Colonel Frank C. Vincent  
Major Frank A. Conefrey  
Captain Clarence E. Blake-Lobb

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Still another feature was the presentation of efficiency awards to those units which during the year 1935 excelled in marksmanship, attendance, indoor baseball and general advancement in the prescribed curriculum:- Veteran Association Trophy for Rifle Marksmanship to Company "E"; the Walter V. Moore Efficiency Banner for rifle companies to Company "E"; the Admiral Josephthal Trophy for Rifle Marksmanship -- Class "B" to Company "E"; the Veteran Association Banner for Headquarters Companies to Headquarters Company; the 106th Infantry Attendance Trophy to 1st Battalion Headquarters Company; the Regimental Baseball Championship Trophy to Company "H."

Through the persistent efforts of Colonel Vincent, numerous improvements were made within the armory between the years 1933 and 1936; chief among these were the re-construction of waste spaces into modern company quarters, a tailor shop, a band practice room, the installation of an oil burning system replacing an antiquated coal burning plant, an officer's club embracing a commodious dining room, a modern kitchen, reception, card and tap room, lava-



teries and locker room; the rich furnishings and decorations of the officer's club are worthy of especial comment. Other projects submitted and approved by the Armory Board and the Works Progress Administration contemplate the construction of a dance floor and modern cafeteria for the comfort and pleasure of the enlisted personnel. Still another important improvement was the re-construction of the armory rifle range; through the manipulation of steel curtains it is now possible for twenty one men to fire the sub calibre courses simultaneously; the range was adapted to standard Cal.30 practice as well. In accomplishing these projects it may be said of Mr. Charles W. Cameron, supervising engineer, that through his efficiency and cheerful co-operation the work was greatly facilitated. A reception and dance on the evening of March 14th, 1936 marked the formal opening of the officer's club.

The regiment commenced a two weeks tour of field training at Camp Smith on June 28th, 1936. But one officer, 1st Lieut. Milton C. Baillie attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning during that year.

In rifle marksmanship for the year 1936 the 53rd Brigade Match went to the 105th Infantry with an aggregate score of 1660 the 106th Infantry taking second place with 1613. The New York State Match went to the 102nd Engineers with an aggregate of 3835; the 165th Infantry held second place with 3728 and the 106th Infantry third with 3671. The regiment was represented by Corporal D. A. Wills and Private J. Nicolai on the Governor's Honor Roll for that year; this roll consists of thirty members of the National Guard and Naval Militia of the State of New York attaining the highest aggregate score in all individual matches of the State and the New York State Rifle Association.

Corporal Milton D. Lederman of Company "I" appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, June 23rd, 1936

successfully passed the entrance examinations and was duly admitted to the First Class. The untimely death of Colonel William R. Wright on October 21st, 1936 brought expressions of sincere sorrow from those whose privilege it was to know him; an officer of unquestioned ability and understanding, Colonel Wright first joined the National Guard as a private Squadron "A" in 1896; passing through the non-commissioned grades he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Cavalry in 1902, a 1st Lieutenant in 1907, a Captain in 1908, a Major in 1919 and on March 21st, 1921 he was promoted a Lieut. Colonel, Acting Chief of Staff of the 27th Division, N.Y.N.G. He was appointed Chief of Staff with rank of Colonel in 1930; his subsequent association with the 106th Infantry as its Colonel has been previously stated. Colonel Wright served in the war with Spain in 1898, on the Mexican Border in 1916 and in the World War, 1917-1919; he was succeeded by Lieut. Colonel Joseph A. S. Mundy, a Veteran Officer of the 23rd Regiment and of the 106th Infantry overseas, appointed Chief of Staff, 27th Division with rank of Colonel, October 29th, 1936.

The annual Memorial Service in honor of the dead of the regiment, held in the armory on the afternoon of Sunday November 8th attracted a large and devoutly interested audience; the active regiment in full dress, veteran organizations including posts of the Grand Army and the invited public filled the drill hall. Appropriate music rendered by the regimental band and anthems by the vested choir of St. Bartholomew's Church contributed much to the solemnity of the occasion. A New Years Eve party held in the officers' club brought the year to a close and with this entry, volume one of the history of the regiment is concluded as of December 31st, 1936.

The End.

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