

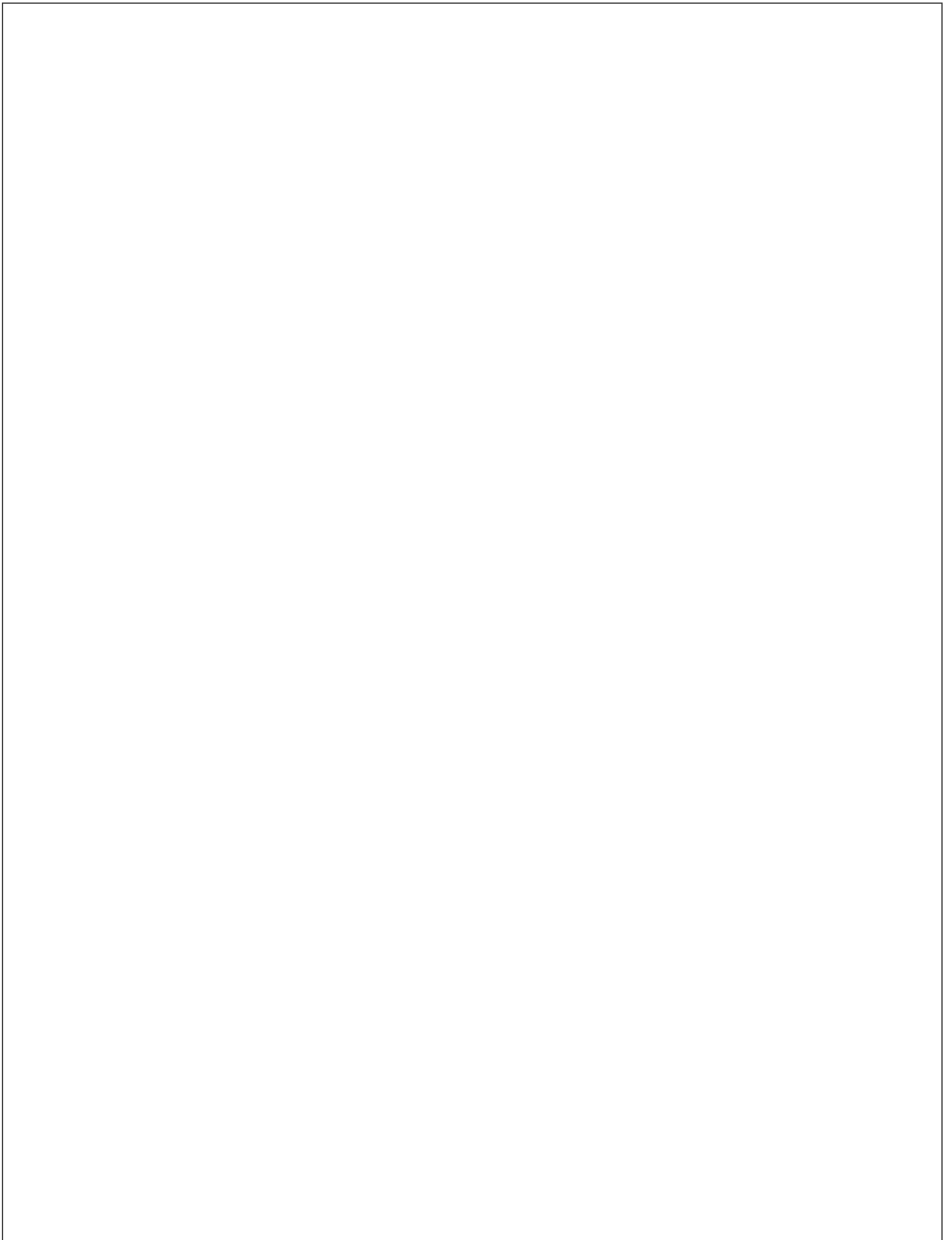


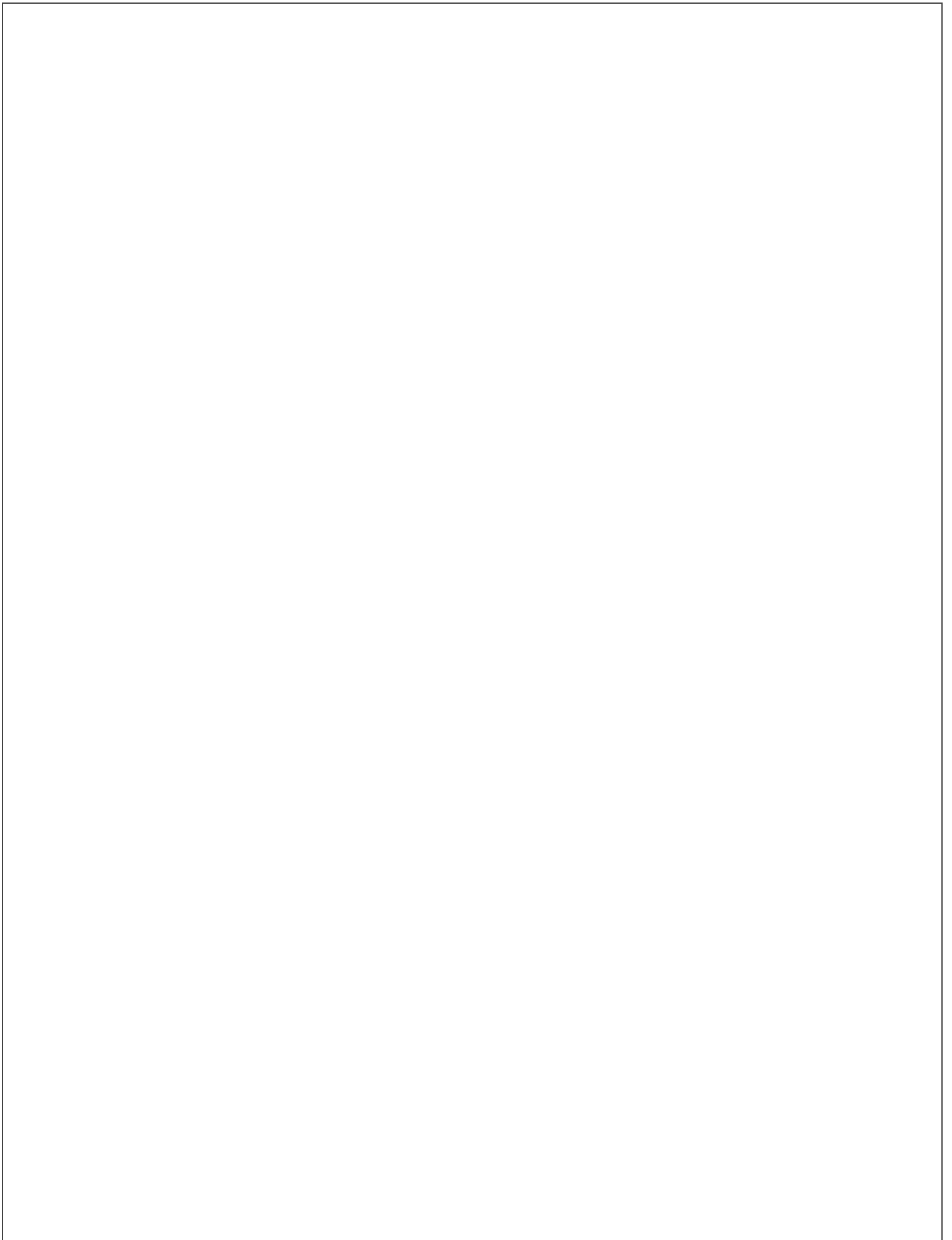
X Grandpa's War

following in the World War 1 footsteps of  
Lawrence Anton Zielinski

1917-1919

by Mark Zielinski





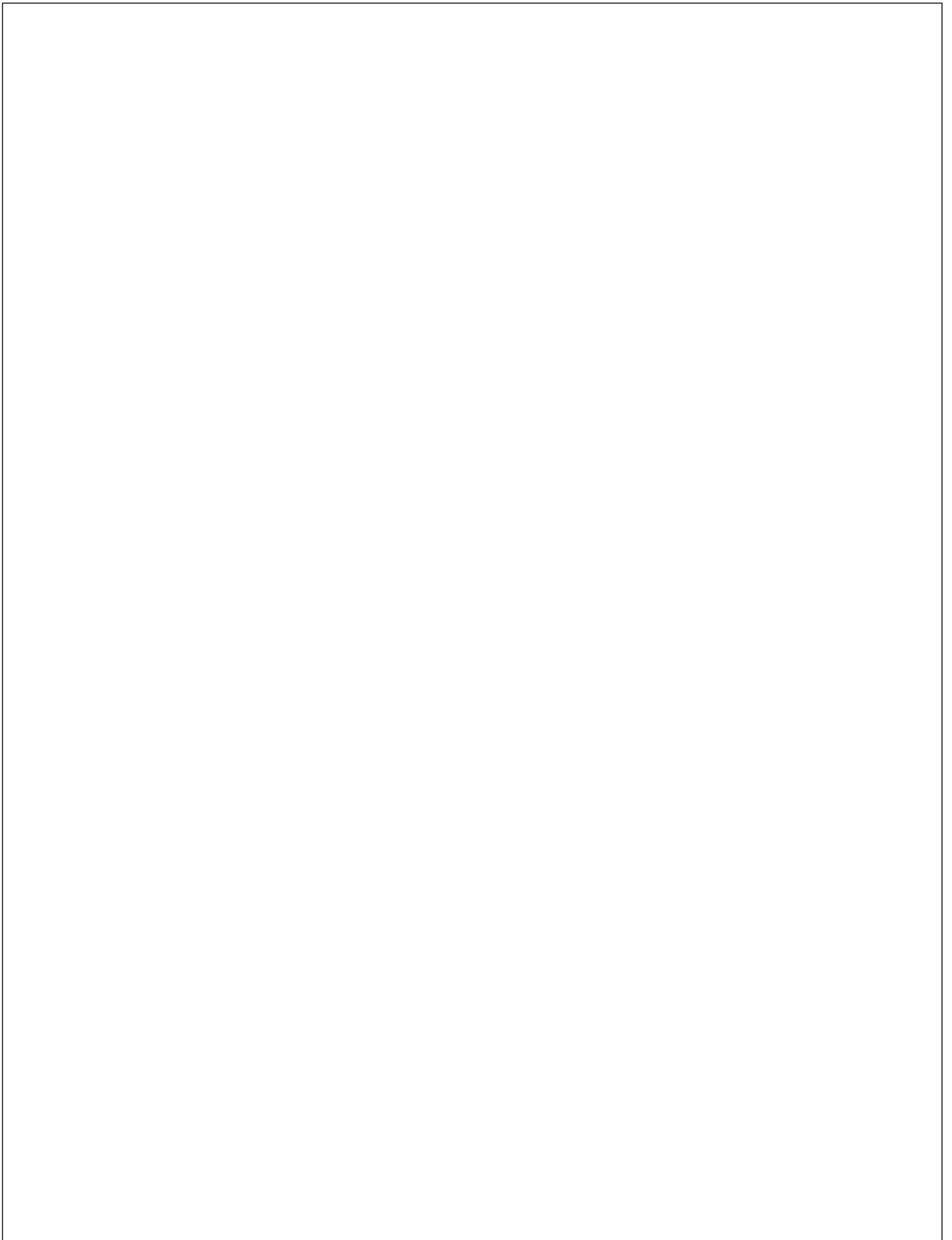
# ~ Grandpa's War ~



following in the World War 1 footsteps of

Lawrence Anton Zielinski

1917-1919



*In memory of my Grandfather and Father,  
both fine soldiers and great men*

*~ 2021 ~*

## **Author's Note**

Quite by accident, I happened across some newspaper articles of World War I mentioning my Grandfather. While I've always had great interest in the Civil War and World War II, I've never had much interest in, nor knowledge of, World War I. These newspaper articles changed all that, and led me down the road to researching my Grandfather's experiences in the Great War. That led to more research, and more research, and more research! Eventually, as I tried to organize all this research, I decided to make it into a book. My intent was to try and account for almost every day in the life of Private Lawrence Anton Zielinski during the war, so that his footsteps in France could be easily retraced. I yearn to stand where he stood, to imagine what he saw, to try and feel what he must've felt, and to understand what his war might have been like. Lawrence kept no diary that I am aware of, which made this task infinitely more difficult. He died when I was just a young boy, but from people who knew him well, he did not speak much of the war - a trait common to most war veterans. But, through multiple resources, I believe I have established a very real, very detailed account of Lawrence's experiences from enlistment to discharge. Lawrence didn't win any medals or promotions; he was a Private throughout the war; but he was one of the many unsung, courageous American heroes, who answered the call of duty for his country and went about his soldiering work quietly and professionally. And in doing so, he became an inspiration to me.

Mark Zielinski

December 2021

## **Book notes:**

For ease of understanding, I have highlighted text that indicates significant events for Lawrence or a unit of which he was a part. LOCATIONS ARE CAPITALIZED. Dates are boldened, as are specific references to Lawrence or his unit. While his unit was assigned to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, as happens in war, it was often detached from the 32<sup>nd</sup> and fought with other divisions. I have used blue text when describing events of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division that Lawrence was not a part of, yet which are important to the overall story.

Cover photo:

**Lawrence and friends in uniform. Date and location unknown, assumed somewhere in France. Lawrence is seated at left. His good friend Frank Gatza, who would not survive the war, stands above Lawrence. Other two are unknown to me.**

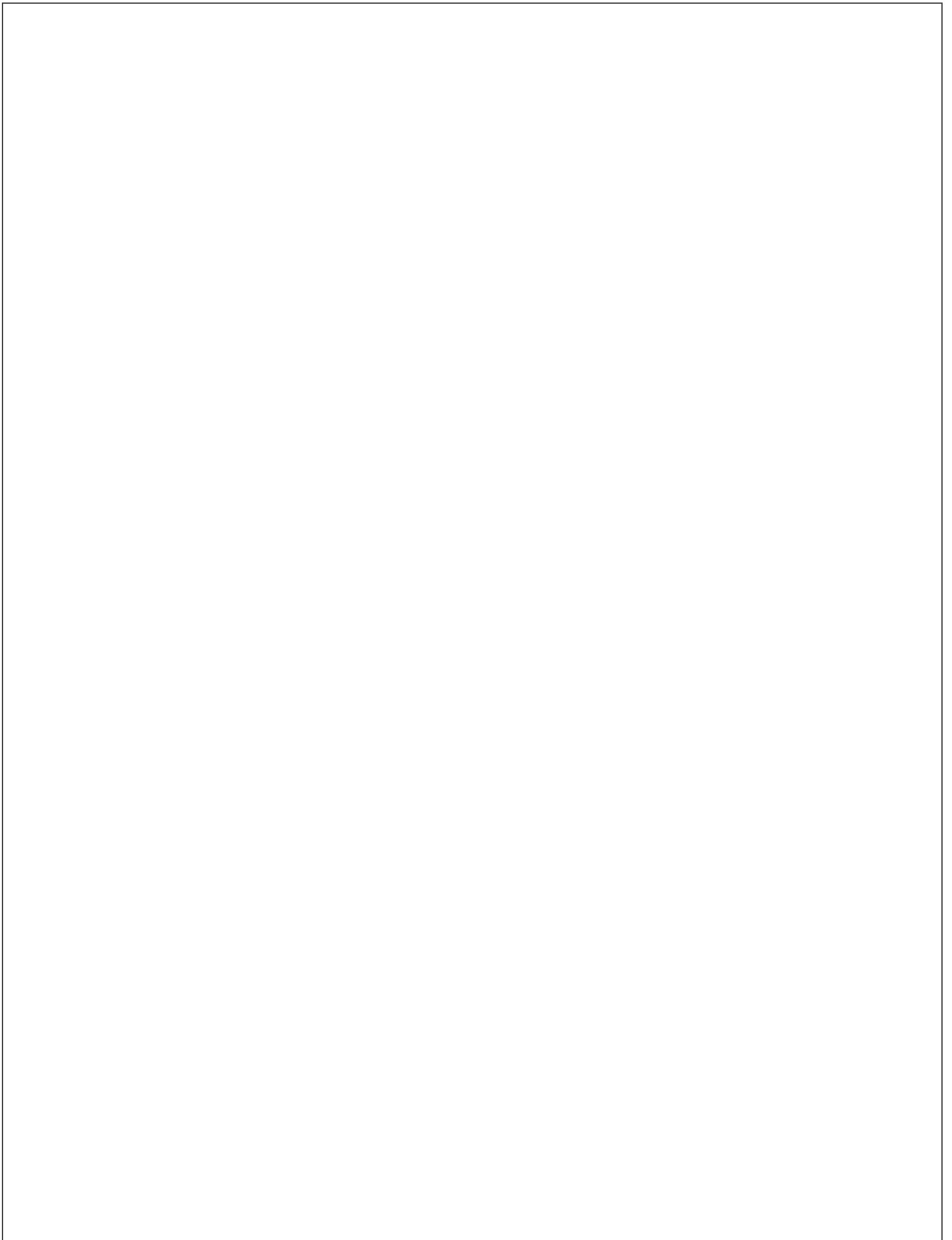
Title Page photo:

**Lawrence proudly displaying his uniform. Date unknown, but assumed prior to departure for France.**

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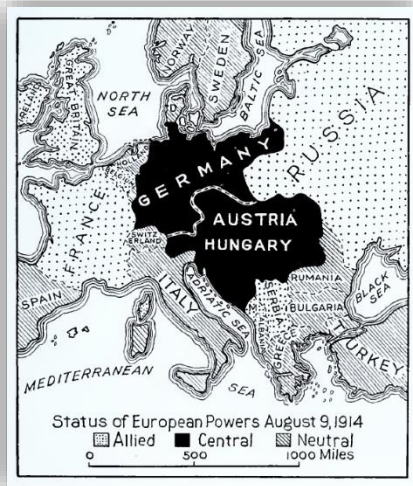
1. Alsace: 7 June - 21 July 1918
2. Aisne-Marne: 22 July - 23 August 1918
3. Oise-Aisne: 25 August - 6 September 1918
4. Meuse-Argonne: 21 September - 8 November 1918
5. March to the Rhine: 17 November 1918 - 18 April 1919  
(minus the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade)



# Prologue

In early 1917, the "war to end wars" had already been raging in Europe for two and a half years. The United States was officially neutral with a strong desire on the homeland to stay out of "Europe's War". At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the United States was largely populated by immigrants and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation ancestors of immigrants. The majority of those were German, and had little interest in going to war against the fatherland. The Polish immigrants, on the other hand, saw the war as an opportunity to rid their homeland of the controlling powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary) and re-establish an independent Poland. They were very much in favor of joining the war against Germany.

Despite its desire for neutrality, the United States was leaning more and more towards joining the war. German U-boats, in their desire to rule the Atlantic and stop supplies from reaching the Allies, were sinking ships at an incredible rate. Many of these ships carried American citizens and indeed some of those sunk were American vessels. The United States filed protest after protest, but the destruction of unarmed ships continued unabated. In early 1917, when Germany announced her intention to engage in unrestricted submarine warfare, President Woodrow Wilson broke off diplomatic relations.



Then, in late January, the British government intercepted a telegram from the German Secretary of Foreign Affairs to the German Minister in Mexico City. It proposed that, in the event of war between the United States and Germany, an alliance be formed between Mexico and Germany and that Mexico would be allowed to "reconquer her lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona". The effect of the publication of this telegram upon the American people was instantaneous and widespread. It crystallized public opinion into a strong feeling of hostility towards Germany.

Meanwhile, the sinking of American ships continued and on **2 Apr 1917**, the President addressed Congress, stating that under Germany's new policy, "vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board." He advised Congress that war be declared against the Imperial German Government. Congress agreed with nary a dissenting vote.

The United States declared war on Germany on **6 April 1917**, entering into the "Great War", World War I.

Slightly more than a month later, **Lawrence Zielinski** enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard. He was 20 years old and on the cusp of a great adventure.

This is his war story.



I.  
MENASHA, WISCONSIN  
27 March to 10 Aug 1917



**27 Mar 1917** MENASHA city leaders applied to the Wisconsin National Guard requesting the organization of a military company made up entirely of MENASHA boys.

**3 Apr 1917** MENASHA's request for a military company was given favorable consideration, provided it could furnish 83 men and a building suitable for drilling purposes.

The local newspaper, *The Menasha Record*, was strongly encouraging young men to enlist, so that MENASHA could complete its quota and get its own Company. Almost daily, it posted front-page articles pleading with the young men of Menasha to enlist, in some cases almost threateningly so, as on **27 APR 1917**:

**MENASHA MAY HAVE NO MILITARY CO.**

**But Every Young Man, Unmarried and of Eligible Age, Will be Compelled to Serve Somewhere Unless He Volunteers**

The City of Menasha will lose her proposed new military company unless the company is recruited to required strength at once. Cities throughout the state which are much smaller than Menasha have the required number of men enlisted and ready to be mustered into the service if the city of Menasha fails to meet requirements.

The fourth unit of the Wisconsin National guard will be completed without the city of Menasha unless local action is taken immediately.

The above information was brought here today by Major McCoy, representative of the regular staff.

Unless the young men of Menasha come forth and join the Menasha company voluntarily they will be compelled to enter the service in some other way. Selective conscription is bound to come in the immediate future and this will take every young man of eligible age into the service. They may be given military duty with their home company, providing their home

city has a company, or transferred to a company in a strange city, or they may be ordered into any branch of service for their country at military pay. Every unmarried young man will be subject to selective conscription and the best way to make certain of the future is to join the Menasha company and have a company in our own city.

A mass meeting is to be held at the Germania opera house this evening and it is hoped that every patriotic citizen will be on hand. The following gentlemen will talk at the meeting:

- Mayor N. G. Rammel
- F. D. Lake
- Rev. John Helmes
- Major J. B. Schueller
- Rev. G. A. Clifford
- Rev. S. G. Ruegg
- Rev. John Hummel
- Rev. Peter Kurzejka
- Prof. John Callahan
- Major McCoy, representative of the general staff



**30 Apr 1917** Whether due to the newspaper articles or other factors, MENASHA's new military company reached 150 applicants, including 90 in a 24-hour span! **Lawrence** was one of those applicants. The new company would be known as Company K. At this time, there was not yet a military draft in the United States, but there was little doubt one was coming.

**Lawrence** must have felt that, by joining the Wisconsin National Guard, he could better control his military career and fight side-by-side with other MENASHA boys. At the time, federal law prohibited the use of national guardsmen outside the borders of the United States. This may have also entered into **Lawrence's** decision to join the Guard, rather than being drafted into the Army. However, the domestic restriction on guardsmen wouldn't last long.

**9 May 1917** Five days before his 21st birthday, **Lawrence passed all examinations and was officially enlisted into the Wisconsin National Guard as a Private 1st Class with the 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry.**

**14 May 1917 Lawrence celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.**

Lawrence was born on May 14, 1896, the second child of Frank and Margaretta "Sophie" Zielinski. His older brother John had passed away in 1906 at the age of 11. A younger brother, Frank, passed away as an infant in 1902, and a sister Maryanna passed away at age 5 also in 1906. Four younger brothers (Joseph, Ben, Ed, and Roman) and a sister (Martha) completed the family, which resided at 631 5<sup>th</sup> Street in MENASHA.

**21 May 1917** As expected, Congress passed a law establishing the draft. All young men between the ages of 21 and 31 were required to register for the draft. Registration would take place on **5 Jun 1917**, "Duty Day", and would include all residents and resident aliens regardless of marital status. This was significant, because America at this time was still populated in large part by immigrants and descendants of immigrants, many of whom had not yet become citizens. But with this law, alien status would not exclude them from being drafted.

**22 May 1917** MENASHA's Company K numbered 84 members who had passed all physical and medical examinations, thus reaching the number necessary to be mustered into service as a Company. However, in true military fashion, the Wisconsin National Guard then increased its requirement to form a Company from 83 men to 200.

**5 June 1917 "Duty Day"** 668 young men from MENASHA registered for the draft, including **Lawrence**. Even though he was a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, he was still required to register for the federal draft. **Lawrence** was the only member of his family eligible for the 1917 draft. His younger brother Joseph would become eligible and register the following year.

The serial number assigned to **Lawrence** was stamped on the top left corner of his draft registration card, #1874. A random drawing of serial numbers would determine the order in which one was drafted into the army.

**19 Jun 1917** Wisconsin National Guard units are activated at their armories.

Form 1 1874 REGISTRATION CARD No. 72		REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1 Name in full	LAWRENCE ANTON ZIELINSKI	1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)?	Med
2 Home address	651 5th Wisconsin Wis	2 Color of eyes? Color of hair? Build?	Blue Light Pro
3 Date of birth	May 14 1896	3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?	No
4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	Natural Born Citizen	I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
5 Where were you born?	Wisconsin Wis	E. V. Weber (Signature of registrar)	
6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	U.S.A.	7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Hooper
8 By whom employed?	Wisconsin Wooden Shoe Co	8 Where employed?	Wisconsin Wis
9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)?	No	9 Preinct	4th Wisconsin
10 Married or single (which)?	Single	10 City or County	Wisconsin Wis
11 What military service have you had? Rank? years? N or S?	Private Infantry 2 mo Wis Natl Guard	11 State	Wisconsin
12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	No	12 Date of registration	June 5-17
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
Lawrence Anton Zielinski (Name of registrant)			

Lawrence's WWI Draft Card, dated 5 Jun 1917, serial number 1874



26 Jun 1917 Lawrence (far left) at his cousin Leonard Brodzinski's wedding.

**7 Jul 1917** The MENASHA military company officially came to be known as **Company E of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Brigade, Wisconsin National Guard**. Commanded by Captain Richard T. Hill, the unit would consist of 150 enlisted men and 3 officers, all from MENASHA. Of note, Company G of the same regiment was made up of ANTIGO men.

**12 Jul 1917** Headquarters for **Company E** were established at the MENASHA City Hall. Desiring to reach 150 members in Company E, local MENASHA newspapers continued to push young men to enlist:

*"Would you rather be drafted to serve alone as private among strangers under regular army officers? If not, enlist now in **Company E** with your own boys, your own company, the pride and love of Menasha."*

*"We want 150 men this week. If you can't enlist, urge your son, brother, or friend to add his name to the MENASHA ROLL OF HONOR and keep drafted men whom we do not know out of our ranks"*

*- The Menasha Record, 12 Jul 1917*

**15 Jul 1917** The Wisconsin National Guard, along with many other state guard units, was ordered into Federal Service by President Wilson. This meant the federal government could control their use, rather than the state. They still could not be used outside the borders of the United States, however. That change was still to come.

On **17 Jul 1917** the War Department announced that the Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard units would be moved to CAMP MACARTHUR, near Waco, Texas, after being mobilized, to complete training before departing for overseas.

As of **18 Jul 1917**, **Company E, 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment**, Wisconsin National Guard consisted of 144 enlisted men, 6 short of the number needed for war strength. Twice daily, the boys of **Company E** would fall in at MENASHA City Hall and march to the ballpark where they were put through a rigorous drill program. The Company planned to move to CAMP DOUGLAS, Wisconsin for additional training as soon as sufficient equipment became available.

**18 Jul 1917** The 32nd Division of the United States Army was organized under War Department orders, to be made up of National Guard troops from Wisconsin and Michigan. Eventually, this would become **Lawrence's** division.

**20 Jul 1917**, Congress gave the soldiers a pay raise. *"The pay of the guardsmen has been fixed as follows: Private, \$30 per month; Private 1st Class, \$33 per month; Corporal, \$36; Sergeant, \$38; 1st Sergeant, \$51; 2nd Lieutenant, \$150; 1st lieutenant, \$167; Captain, \$200. In addition, the men are allowed 75 cents a day for subsistence."*

Organization of the Wisconsin National Guard, as of 20 Jul 1917:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Brigade - Brig Gen Charles R. Boardman of OSHKOSH, commanding
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Brigade - Brig Gen Randolph A. Richards of SPARTA, commanding
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment - Col. Robert B. McCoy of SPARTA, commanding; 47 Officers, 200 enlisted men
    - Company E, MENASHA - Captain Richard T. Hill of MENASHA, commanding; 3 Officers, 150 enlisted men. Lawrence's unit upon entering the guard.
    - Company G, ANTIGO - Captain Otto A. Miller, commanding
    - 14 other companies complete the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Field Artillery Regiment - Col. Philip C. Westfahl of Milwaukee, commanding
  - Battery A, MILWAUKEE
  - Battery B, GREEN BAY - Captain Harvey F. Smith, commanding; 5 Officers, 176 enlisted men; Lawrence would eventually become part of this unit
  - Battery C, RACINE
  - Battery D, MILWAUKEE
  - Battery E, GREEN BAY
  - Battery F, RACINE
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry Regiment
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Engineer Battalion
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Signal Corps Battalion
- Sanitary Troops

**20 Jul 1917** The initial draft lottery got under way with Secretary of War Newton Baker drawing the first of 10,500 numbers from a bowl. Lawrence's serial number, 1874, was the 4,968th pick, making him the 305th of all MENASHA draftees. Since MENASHA's quota was 70 draftees, there was little likelihood that Lawrence would have been drafted, at least for this initial draft. But in short time, that would become a moot point.

**26 Jul 1917** Company E, 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, Wisconsin National Guard exceeded its full war strength, consisting of 159 members. That number would reach 200 before Company E moved out to CAMP DOUGLAS. The necessary equipment had arrived at camp and the men were awaiting orders.

**31 Jul 1917** Promotions announced for Company E, 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment including Edward H. Lewandowski (Lena's 1st cousin) to Corporal.

**4 Aug 1917** Battery F, 121st Field Artillery regiment, was the first unit of the newly formed 32<sup>nd</sup> Division to assemble at CAMP MACARTHUR, Texas. This regiment was formerly the **1st Wisconsin Field Artillery Regiment**, and Battery F was made up of men from RACINE. The Commanding Officer of the **1st Wisconsin Field Artillery Regiment**, Colonel Philip C. Westfahl, now became Commander of the new **121st Field Artillery Regiment** of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. (note: this was NOT **Lawrence's** unit yet.)



Col. "Phil" C. Westfahl, 121st F. A.

**5 Aug 1917 Lawrence's** draft number became a moot point when, by proclamation of President Wilson, every soldier in the National Guard of every state was essentially discharged from the Guard and immediately drafted into the United States Army. This proclamation was necessary because of the constitutional restraint upon the use of National Guard troops beyond the borders of the United States. Thus, **Lawrence** immediately became a member of Uncle Sam's army, opening the door for him to serve his country in foreign lands.

All Menasha arose when the mid-summer sun crept over the eastern hills this morning and four thousand men, women and children joined in one of the greatest demonstrations which this section of the state has ever known as the members of Company E left for Camp Douglas.

Things about Menasha moved with military precision today. Friends gathered about the city hall as early as 5:30 o'clock and one hour later the boys who are to wear the khaki strapped into line and marched briskly to the depot. The last good-byes were said, the signal was given and the train disappeared around the curve to the west.

The scene at the depot was one which will live forever in the minds of those present. The Twin City band and Fox River Valley Drum corps furnished music at the city hall, on the march to the depot and at the depot. Thousands of relatives and friends packed every foot of space about Capt. Hill and his men and many ventured into the train before the big steel messenger pulled out of its station and poked its nose off toward Douglas. The members of Company E are as fine a lot of young men as ever honored any city and Menasha showed this morning that she is with them, heart and soul. The trip to Camp Douglas will be made by way of Stevens Point and Portage. The Menasha company will be joined at Waupaca by the company of that place, and the Stanley company will climb onto the train at Portage.

Below is given a complete list of the members of Company E:

Rank	Name
Sgt.	Henry A Jankowski
"	Henry P Gaertner
"	Earl J Hill
"	Ernest S Peters
"	Henry Kellohauser
"	Harry Shedlewski
"	Clarence Schmidt
"	Archie Fint
"	Henry Johnson
"	Winthrop Forby
"	Waldo Friedland
Cps.	George Mariels
"	Harry Luka
"	John Millets
"	Leslie Rimmel
"	Fred Geisler
"	George Malenofsky
"	Lyall Remich
"	Raymond Henk
"	John C Weisber
"	Martin Brezinski
"	Russel Lorenson
"	Harold Weckert
"	John Seaton
"	Albert Rosenow

"	Edward Lewandowski
"	Michael Zielinski
"	William Schmitzer
Buglers	Edward Latondress
"	Joseph Mattie
Mechanics	John Gamsky
"	Ben Hart
Cooks	James Mackin
"	Dennis Lewandowski
"	Arthur B Mott
Pvt.	John Allen
"	Clarence Anderson
"	Rudolph Arnemann
"	Henry J Arndt
"	Oliver Baenke
"	Alfred Baenke
"	Herman A Beckman
"	William C Berglin
"	George Bodner
"	John Bodner
"	Emmett Boyce
"	John Brzycki
"	Urban Bergeron
"	Edward Bauernfeind
"	James Calder
"	John C Calder
"	Frank Cheslock
"	Riley Cleveland
"	Kenneth Carrick
"	Earl W. Cole
"	Felix Ciestelski
"	William Chapleau
"	Mike Cheslock
"	Alex A Dombrowski
"	Mike Dombrowski
"	Cecil Dougherty
"	Emil J Duerrwachter
"	Thomas DeLorme
"	John P Dombrowski
"	Hugo F Dragawski
"	Ferdinand F Flenz
"	Emil Flenz
"	Albert Flenz
"	Fred Fenski
"	Emil Fenski
"	William Ferguson
"	Alexander Gajewski
"	William Garrow
"	Arthur Goesser
"	Stanley Gracyaloy
"	John Gryniel
"	Frank Gatzka
"	John M. E. Hart
"	Andrew Heckner
"	Otto Hildebrand
"	Fred Heckner
"	George W Herman
"	George C Hookstock
"	John F Hafemeister
"	Edward Heinz
"	Anton Jedwabny
"	George Jaskolske
"	Ignatz Jokubek
"	Nels A Jensen
"	William J Jones
"	Steve P Kolasinski
"	Ben A Konetzke
"	Frank L Konetzke
"	Carl A Kowalkowski

"	Maryan Koslorek
"	Ben Kozlowski
"	Nick Kuepper
"	Frank J Kozlowki
"	Joseph F Kolasinski
"	John Lorenze
"	Phillip Leonard
"	Thomas Lefave
"	Joseph M Lefave
"	George J Parker
"	John A Pozolonski
"	Victor Panfel
"	Edward F Pocky
"	Walter J Raleigh
"	Harold G Rank
"	Levitte D Rohrer
"	August J Rohde
"	John Reischl
"	Frank Reischl
"	Anton A Romsek
"	Harry Romsek
"	Wilbert J Reese
"	George T Ryan
"	Emil H. Schmidt
"	Benjamin J Sobulz
"	Joseph Scovoronski
"	Leo Scovoronski
"	Frank Skalmosky
"	Ben Skalmosky
"	Guy E Smith
"	Calice R LaSalle
"	Joseph P. Mottl
"	Richard Marquardt
"	Henry W Otto
"	Earl B O'Brien
"	Mike O'Brien
"	Ealter B Smolonski
"	Joseph Steffans
"	Carl T Steffenhagen
"	Joseph J Suhodolski
"	Leo V Suchodolski
"	Fred M Stulp (Clerk)
"	Mike Silwanowicz
"	Frank Seksetarski
"	John E Seymour
"	John Scheffer
"	Frank Spilske
"	Adolph E Stepanski
"	Ben J Schrieber
"	John Shedlewski
"	John A Shediowski
"	Charlie Steffens
"	Clarence Sobrowski
"	Arthur H. Tratz
"	Edward Tratz
"	Harvey Tennesen
"	Charles W Thalke
"	John J Urban
"	Carl Ulrich
"	Ambrose B Weisgerber
"	Fred J Wickeham
"	Stephen J Wisniewski
"	Frank Wipplich
"	James Wilson
"	Clarence J Walker
"	Lawrence T Zielinski
"	Ignatz Zielinski
"	Joe Ziolkowski
"	William Francart
"	Raymond Daniels

Roster of Company E upon departure for Camp Douglas, 11 Aug 1917



II.  
CAMP DOUGLAS, WISCONSIN  
11 Aug to 25 Sep 1917





**11 Aug 1917 Lawrence's Company E**, 162 strong, left MENASHA for CAMP DOUGLAS at 7:00 a.m. via special train, picking up the rest of the **4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment** along the way. This would be Lawrence's first extended time away from home, and he would not return for nearly two years. Family and friends gathered to see him off, and no doubt, many tears were shed.

At the depot in Menasha, a crowd of 4,000 relatives, friends, and citizens gave the boys a rousing send off. Others of note in **Company E** included: **Edward Lewandowski (Lena's 1st cousin)**, **John Pozolinski (Lawrence's 1st cousin)**, and Michael and Ignatz Zielinski (no known relationship).



**CAMP DOUGLAS, Wisconsin - 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiments**

CAMP DOUGLAS was located just outside of NEW LISBON, WI, approximately 115 miles west of MENASHA. Contrary to what the name would imply, CAMP DOUGLAS does not owe its name to the military. It dates from 1870 and was founded as a logging camp. The men were quartered in pyramid-shaped tents, built to sleep 8, but often 10-12 soldiers shared a tent.

**13 Aug 1917** While at Officers Training School in FORT SHERIDAN, Illinois, **Edward H. Lewandowski (Lena's 1st cousin)** was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Also, it was announced that Mike Zielinski (no known relation) was one of 8 boys of Company E dismissed due to failing the rigid medical exam. (*The Menasha Record*)

**14 Aug 1917** Life at Camp Douglas:

"The grounds are policed daily and are as neat as a private yard. The rules governing garbage disposal are very strict and rigidly enforced, resulting in a noticeable absence of flies. The food is great and abundant. The water and milk supplies are especially high grade.

The YMCA has set up special tents with writing tablets and free stationery, and are maintaining a library from which books are loaned to the boys. French classes are being conducted by instructors from the University of Wisconsin.

Camp Douglas is a mighty fine camp and the men from Menasha are receiving splendid treatment."

- The Menasha Record, 14 Aug 1917



**Drilling and inspections at CAMP DOUGLAS**

**12 Sep 1917 Lawrence** received his honorable discharge from the Wisconsin National Guard due to being drafted into the US Army on **5 Aug 1917**.

# National Guard of the United States



AND OF THE STATE OF Wisconsin

To all whom it may concern:

This is to Certify, That Lawrence T Zielinski  
Private, First Class Company E 4th Wisconsin Infantry  
† National Guard as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL

SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the NATIONAL GUARD of the  
UNITED STATES and of the State of Wisconsin by reason of

† Being drafted into Federal Service Aug 5, 1917

Said Lawrence T Zielinski was born  
in Menasha, in the State of Wisconsin

When enlisted he was 21 years of age and by occupation a Latherman  
He had Blue eyes, dark hair, light complexion, and  
was 5 feet 7 1/2 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Camp Douglas Wisconsin this  
17 day of Sept, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen

A. E. Martin  
Major 4th Wis Inf  
Commanding.

Form No. 525-1, A. G. O.  
(For National Guard.)  
July 18-17-400,000.

\* Insert grade and company and regiment or corps or department; e. g., "Sergeant, Company A, 1st New York Infantry;" "Corporal, Georgia Quartermaster Corps;" "Private, First Class, Illinois Ordnance Department."  
† Insert "National Guard" or "National Guard Reserve," as the case may be.  
‡ If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date, and source of order or description of authority therefor.

ENLISTMENT RECORD.

Name: *Lawrence T Zielinski* Grade: *Private First Class*

Enlisted *May 9*, 191*7*, at *Menasha Wisconsin*

\*In the service of the United States, under call of the President, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Serving in *First* enlistment period at date of discharge.

Prior service: † *None*

Noncommissioned officer: *Never*

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: ‡ *No Practice*

Horsemanship: *Not Mounted*

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: *None*

Knowledge of any vocation: *Latherman*

Wounds received in service: *None*

Physical condition when discharged: *Good*

Typhoid prophylaxis completed *August 28, 1917*

Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed *August 28, 1917*

Married or single: *Single*

Character: *Excellent*

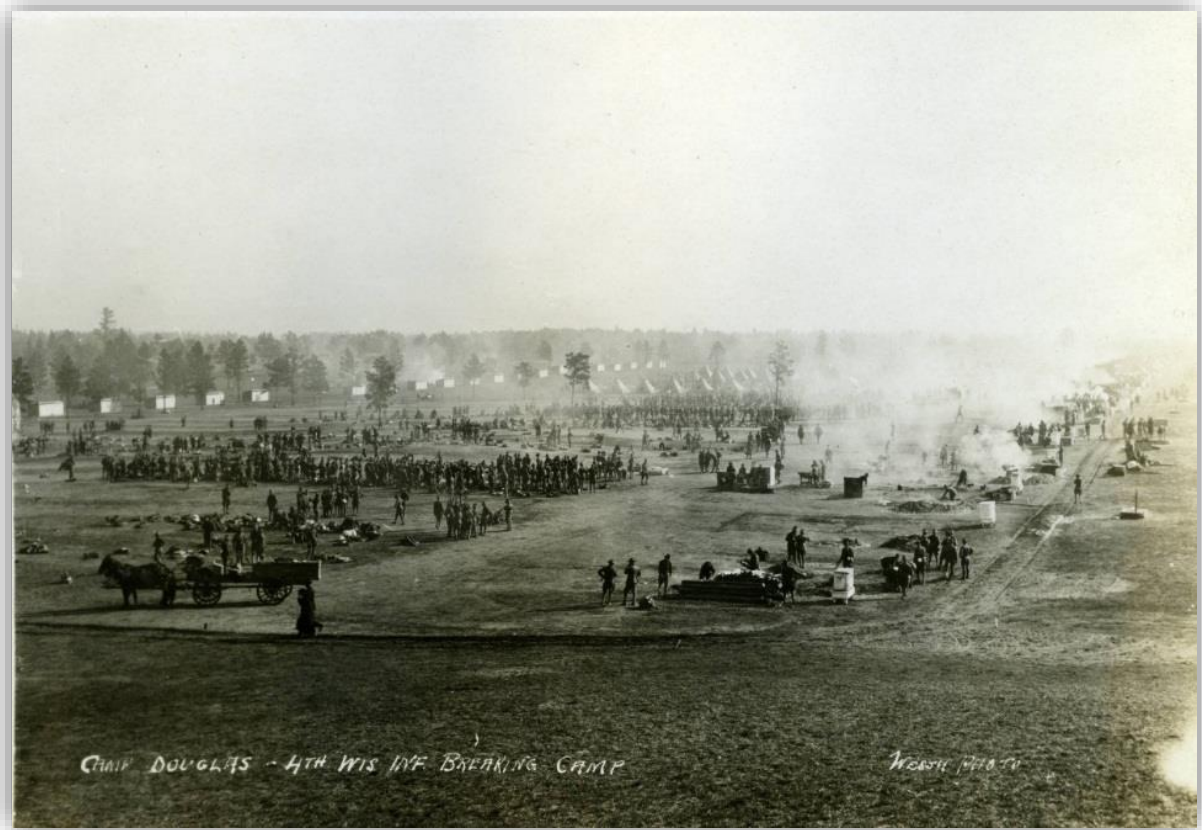
Remarks:

Signature of soldier: *Lawrence T Zielinski*

*W J Hill*  
Captain 4<sup>th</sup> Min Inf  
Commanding Company 'E'

\* Strike out line if the soldier was not in the Federal service during this enlistment.  
† Give company and regiment or corps or department, with inclusive dates of service in each enlistment.  
‡ Give date of qualification or rating and number, date, and source of order announcing same.

25 Sep 1917 After 45 days of training at CAMP DOUGLAS, the **4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment (Lawrence's unit)** departed for CAMP MACARTHUR, Texas, near Waco, where they would receive several months of additional training in preparation for overseas duty.



*4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry breaking camp at CAMP DOUGLAS*



**III.**  
**CAMP MACARTHUR, TEXAS**  
**28 Sep 1917 to 4 Feb 1918**





**28 Sep 1917** The **4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment**, including **Lawrence** and **MENASHA's Company E**, arrived at **CAMP MACARTHUR**, Texas by train from **CAMP DOUGLAS**. Upon arrival, the regiment was immediately broken up and merged into the 127<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> regiments of the 64<sup>th</sup> brigade in order to fill those regiments to war strength. The 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade had been composed of the old 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> regiments of the Wisconsin National Guard.

As part of the reorganization, Captain Richard T. Hill, formerly commander of **MENASHA's Company E**, formed a Motor Truck Company in the Ammunition Train of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. He took with him 86 of his boys from **Company E, 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment**. **Lawrence** was not among them.

*"Most of the balance of the company have expressed a desire to go into the artillery. I think they are making a wise choice." - Captain Hill*

49 of those *wise men* of **Company E**, including **Lawrence**, were re-assigned to **heavy artillery, Battery "B" of the 121st Field Artillery Regiment, 57th Field Artillery Brigade, 32nd Army Division**. Prior to this transfer, Battery B had been an all-Green Bay battery. The Menasha men became the self-proclaimed "Jolly 49". **Lawrence** would remain in this battery and regiment for the duration of the war.



**CAMP MACARTHUR, Waco, Texas - 11 Oct 1917**

CAMP MACARTHUR was named in honor of Lt. General Arthur MacArthur, who entered the Army from Milwaukee and was awarded the Medal of Honor while serving as a lieutenant with the 24th Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War. He stayed in the Army after the war and also served with distinction during the Spanish-American War. At the time of his death in Milwaukee in 1912, he was the highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Army, and his son, Major Douglas MacArthur, a member of the general staff of the Army, and would go on to become a very famous 5-star General during the next world war.

CAMP MACARTHUR was one of 16 National Guard Training Camps established in 1917 to train World War I National Guard units and organize them into Federal divisions. The reservation encompassed some 10,700 acres with a capacity of 45,000 men, though no more than 28,000 ever lived inside the compound at any one time. It was completed in November 1917 at an eventual cost of \$4,500,000.

It was here in Waco, Texas that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was organized and trained. The first commander of the Camp was Major General James 'Galloping Jim' Parker who also became commander of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. The first elements of the 32<sup>nd</sup> arrived at CAMP MACARTHUR in August 1917, and departures for France began in January 1918. At the end of the war, CAMP MACARTHUR became a demobilization center until it was abandoned on 15 May 1919. The land it encompassed was incorporated into the city of Waco, and materials from the camp were used to build houses. It is now a residential area.



*another view of Camp MacArthur*

## The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division - The "Red Arrow" Division

The American combat forces were organized into divisions, which were the largest on the Western Front, consisting of some 27,000 officers and men. By comparison, the British divisions numbered about 15,000, and the French and German divisions about 12,000 each.

The American divisions from 1 to 8 were Regular Army divisions; from 26 to 42 were National Guard divisions; from 76 to 93 were National Army divisions (draftees). The number of American divisions totaled 43.

The 32nd Division was organized on **18 Jul 1917**, under War Department orders, to be made up of National Guard troops from Wisconsin and Michigan. Wisconsin furnished approximately 15,000 and Michigan 8,000 troops of all arms. Later, before leaving for France, 4,000 National Army troops (draftees) from Wisconsin and Michigan were transferred into the Division.

It was at CAMP MACARTHUR where the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division first assembled for training. Major General James 'Galloping Jim' Parker assumed command of the 32nd Division on **17 Aug 1917**, and was responsible for the organization and training of the Division while at CAMP MACARTHUR.



*Major General James "Galloping Jim" Parker  
First Commanding General, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division*

On **18 Sep 1917**, Brigadier General William G. 'Bunker' Haan, who had been commanding the **57th Field Artillery Brigade**, became acting commander of the 32nd Division, officially assuming that command in December, when Major General Parker was transferred to the 85th Division.



Maj.-Gen. W. G. Haan, Commanding 32nd Division (Center)

In time, the 32nd would become known as the "Red Arrow" Division. Their symbol, a red arrow with a line thru the shaft, signified the Division's knack for piercing thru enemy defenses. They would also be known as the "Iron Jaws" Division. The French bestowed a fitting nickname upon them - *Les Terribles*.



## Organization of the 32nd Division in 1917

32nd Division Headquarters - MG James "Galloping Jim" Parker, until Dec 1917  
- BG William G. 'Bunker' Haan, Dec 1917 - Nov 1918

- 63rd Infantry Brigade
  - 125th Infantry Regiment - Michigan
  - 126th Infantry Regiment - Michigan
  - 120th Machine Gun Battalion - Michigan
- 64th Infantry Brigade
  - 127th Infantry Regiment - Wisconsin
  - 128th Infantry Regiment - Wisconsin
  - 121st Machine Gun Battalion - Wisconsin
- **57th Field Artillery Brigade** - BG William G. Haan, until Dec 1917
  - BG E.F. McGlachlin, Dec 1917 - Mar 1918
  - BG G. Leroy Erwin, Mar 1918 - Nov 1918
  - 119th Field Artillery Regiment (24 75mm guns) - Michigan
  - 120th Field Artillery Regiment (24 75mm guns) - Wisconsin
  - **121st Field Artillery Regiment** (24 155mm howitzers) - Wisconsin
    - Col. Philip C. Westfahl
    - **Battery B - Green Bay and Menasha, WI \*\*\*Lawrence's unit\*\*\***
    - 5 other batteries, see below for more info
  - 107th Trench Mortar Battery (12 6" trench mortars) - Antigo, WI
  - 107th Mobile Ordnance Repair Shop
- 119th Machine Gun Battalion - Wisconsin
- 107th Engineer Regiment - Wisconsin and Michigan
- 107th Field Signal Battalion - Wisconsin and Michigan
- 32nd Military Police Company
- 107th Train Headquarters
  - 107th Supply Train - Wisconsin
  - 107th Sanitary Train - Wisconsin and Michigan
  - 107th Ammunition Train - Wisconsin
    - Company A - Menasha, Wisconsin
  - 107th Engineer Train
  - 107th Motor Supply Truck Unit

MG = Major General            BG = Brigadier General

### **Military Units (as used during WW1):**

**Battery** = artillery unit consisting of a specified number of guns, usually four, and the personnel to man them; Commanded by a Captain. 200 men, 5 officers

**Company (Infantry)** = 256 officers and men, commanded by Captain

**Battalion (Infantry)** = 1,027 officers and men, usually consisting of an HQ and 4 companies, commanded by a Major

**Regiment (Infantry)** = 3,770 combatants commanded by Colonel, composed of HQ, 3 battalions, HQ Company, supply company, machine gun company

**Brigade (Field Artillery)** = 4,908 combatants, 48 guns, 24 howitzers, 12 trench mortars; comprised of HQ, 2 regiments of 75mm guns, 1 regiment of 155mm howitzers, one 6" trench mortar battery; commanded by Brigadier General

**Division** = 28,105 officers and men made up of 2 brigades of infantry and 1 brigade of artillery plus HQ, engineer, machine gun, signal, medical, and transportation units commanded by a Major General.

**Corps** = HQ, 2 or more divisions, and auxiliary troops, commanded by Major General or Lieutenant General.

## 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade - The "Iron Brigade"

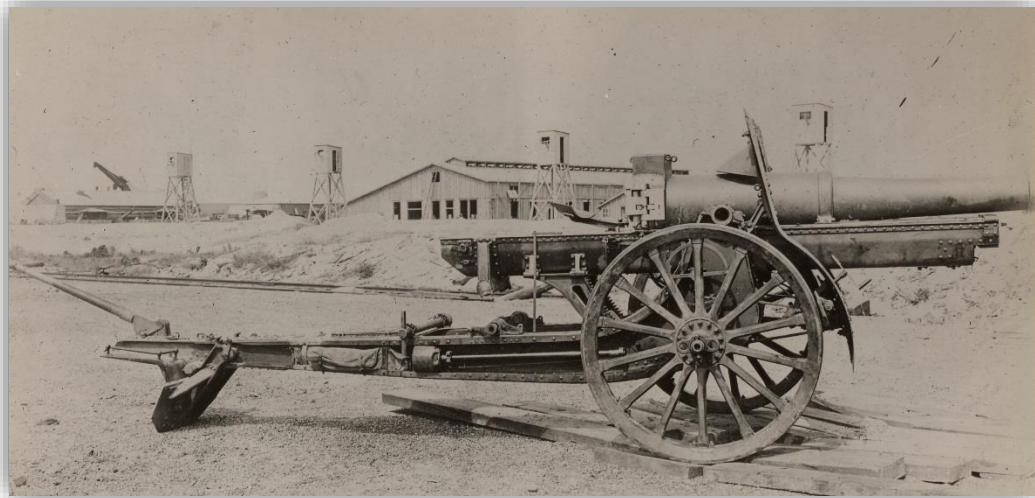
The **artillery** is the main support of the infantry in action, protecting it in positions, shielding its advance, destroying enemy works, and warding off attack or pursuit. The artillery units (especially the heavy artillery) operate well behind the front lines, possibly a key factor in **Lawrence's** decision to join the artillery, and definitely a key factor in his ability to survive the war. The death rate among the artillery is considerably lower than among the infantry. Had he not made this fateful decision, it is quite possible none of us would be here!

Nearly 5,000 strong, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** was the artillery unit of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Brigadier General William G Haan was brigade commander from formation until December of 1917, when he was promoted to General commanding the entire 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Brigadier General E. F. McGlachlin took over the **57<sup>th</sup>** and led the brigade into France, but was transferred to more responsible duties almost immediately upon arriving on French soil. He was succeeded by Brigadier General G. Leroy Irwin, who would lead the unit through all its battles in France.

The brigade was made up of 3 artillery regiments and a trench mortar battery (plus support units):

- o 119th Field Artillery Regiment, from Michigan - Maj. Chester B. McCormick, commanding
- o 120th Field Artillery Regiment, from Wisconsin - Col. Carl Penner, commanding
- o **121st Field Artillery Regiment, from Wisconsin - Col. Philip C. Westfahl, commanding** **\*\*\*Lawrence's unit\*\*\***
- o 107<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery, from Antigo

The 119<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup> Regiments each consisted of 24 75mm guns, while the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (Lawrence's)** consisted of 24 155mm howitzers - the heavy artillery of the brigade. The 107<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery consisted of 12 6" trench mortars.



*155mm Howitzer - the type manned by Lawrence and his Battery B*

## 121st Field Artillery Regiment

The **121st Field Artillery Regiment** was created from the **1st Wisconsin Field Artillery Regiment** of the Wisconsin National Guard. On **22 Sep 1917**, the regiment officially became part of the **57th Field Artillery Brigade** of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. It was the **heavy artillery unit** of the **57th Field Artillery Brigade**.

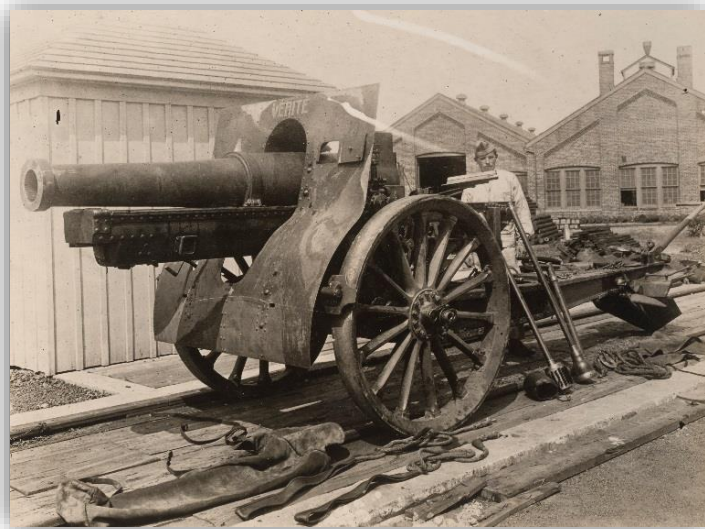
Initially the regiment was made up of 3 batteries, later doubled to 6:

- Battery A from MILWAUKEE
- **Battery B, from GREEN BAY plus the "Jolly 49" from MENASHA - Captain Harvey F. Smith, commanding; 5 Officers, 176 enlisted men.**  
**\*\*\*Lawrence's unit\*\*\***
- Battery C from RACINE
- Battery D from MILWAUKEE
- Battery E from GREEN BAY
- Battery F from RACINE

Col. Philip C. Westfahl was the commanding officer of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** until 19 Jul 1918 when he was selected for work in the Service of Supply. He was replaced by Major Arthur, but retook command in April of 1919.

Each battery had a strength of 200 men and 5 officers for 4 guns. The total strength of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** was about 1300 men and officers (included Supply Company, Medical Detachment, and regimental Head Quarters Company).

The guns employed by the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** were the 155mm Schneider howitzers. These behemoths had a firing range of 7 miles and weighed 7,300 pounds! Each shell weighed 100 pounds by itself. The guns and support equipment were all horse-drawn during the war (after the armistice, it became motorized). An experienced gunnery crew could fire up to 3 rounds per minute.



*another view of the French 155 mm Howitzer*

**October and November 1917** provided little more than routine drill, hike, review, and inspect. The troops were learning to become soldiers and to work together as



a unit. The town of Waco welcomed and embraced the troops, and on occasion, provided entertainment during leaves. Several of the boys returned to Waco after the war to marry southern girls, whom they had met, wooed, and won during the months spent at CAMP MACARTHUR. Thankfully, Lawrence was not one of them!

**Early December 1917** Having drilled for 3 months, the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** had their first practice firing weapons at the China Springs range, 20 miles away. Guns were in short supply and the practicing was done with the few 3-inch guns available, as well as guns made from logs and cart wheels! Nevertheless, here they were pronounced ready for overseas service. For another month, the regiment awaited orders and continued the tiresome drills.

**Late December 1917** During the holiday week, a Texas "Norther" and severe blizzard relieved the monotony. The canvas tents offered little shelter from the piercing wind. Construction of trenches and battery positions in the limestone rock served to keep the men warm by day, but the nights were miserable. General Haan informed the officers that the departure for Europe would not be postponed much longer, and that orders might be expected any time after New Year's Day.



*Santa Claus visiting Camp MacArthur, Christmas Eve, 1917. For many, including Lawrence, it would be their first Thanksgiving and Christmas away from home.*

In those days, information regarding troop movements was closely guarded, but before Christmas, it was generally known that the 32<sup>nd</sup> was on the "sailing list" for France. Many officers and men desired furloughs to say good-bye to the folks at home; but the journey north was a long one, and there was considerable

uncertainty as to just when the movement would begin, so leaves were impractical. Relatives who took the hint that there might shortly be "something doing" came to Waco to say their final farewells. It is doubtful that Lawrence's family made that trip.

**2 Jan 1918** War Department reports to Washington indicated the 32<sup>nd</sup> was more advanced in its training than any other division then in the United States. Consequently, the division began leaving CAMP MACARTHUR on **2 Jan 1918** for the port of embarkation in HOBOKEN, New Jersey - the first leg of its journey to France. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was the sixth division of the U.S. Army to join the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France.

The **artillery** was not part of this initial movement, but from that day forward, the movement was steady, until CAMP MACARTHUR was cleared by **1 Mar 1918**. The infantry was moved first, followed by the **artillery** in February.

**January 1918** For the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, firing practice continued, along with road marches, hikes, and schools to prevent idleness. Training with horses was a large part of the agenda also, as these would be used in France to transport the heavy guns.

Finally, **late in January 1918**, entraining orders were received for the **artillery** for **5 Feb 1918**. Horses were turned in to the mount depot, and all equipment was put in order and reduced preparatory to moving out. Like their predecessors, the **artillery** would travel by train from WACO, Texas to HOBOKEN, New Jersey and CAMP MERRITT. From there, they would embark for France and enter the Great War.



*32<sup>nd</sup> Division soldiers stand in formation during reveille at Camp MacArthur*



**IV.**  
**BOUND FOR FRANCE**  
**5 February to 20 March 1918**



**5 Feb 1918** Regiments of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, including the **121st Field Artillery Regiment**, finally began movement out of CAMP MACARTHUR. By supper time, the entire regiment was on its way east, each battalion train going over a different route. Their destination was CAMP MERRITT, New Jersey, near New York City, for staging prior to sailing for France.

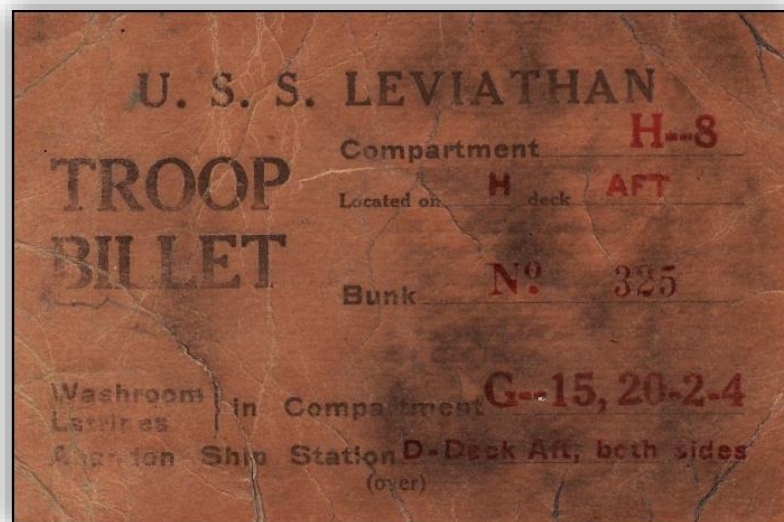
On this date, the 32nd Division suffered its first casualties of the war when the *SS Tuscania* was sunk by a German submarine while crossing the Atlantic. The 107th Engineer Train, 107th Military Police, 107th Supply Train and parts of other 32nd Division units were aboard. Thirteen men from those units died as a result of the attack. Other American units were also aboard the *Tuscania*. All told, 230 soldiers and crew members died in the attack.

**11 Feb 1918** The train carrying the **121st Field Artillery Regiment**, including **Lawrence**, arrived in CAMP MERRITT. For the first time since mobilization, the men slept on real beds, in barracks, as opposed to cots in tents. Here also, they were issued dog tags just before they embarked for France, no doubt a sobering experience.

Aside from a mild epidemic of measles and scarlet fever which developed almost as soon as these outdoor soldiers began to live inside of barracks, there was little of importance regarding the stay at CAMP MERRITT. About half of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** got 24 hour passes to visit NEW YORK CITY, and half of the rest went anyway! Frequent physical inspections and distribution of winter clothing completed the preparations for departure to France.

**24 Feb 1918** The first 32nd Division Command Post in Europe was set up near PRAUTHOY, Haute Marne, France, the designated training ground for the infantry units of the division. The artillery would train elsewhere.

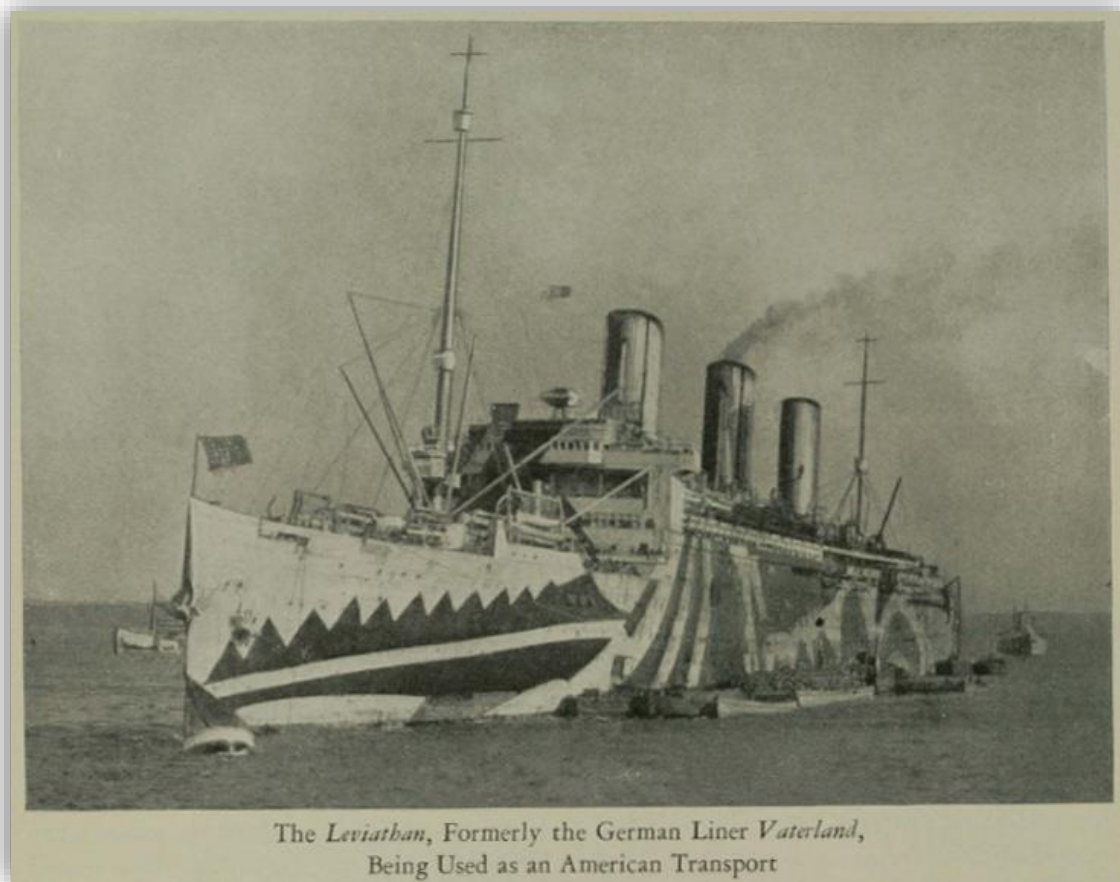
**3 March 1918** **Battery B** and other units of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** left CAMP MERRITT and went by train to HOBOKEN, New Jersey, where they marched 3 blocks to the docks and filed aboard the *USS Leviathan*.



*Lawrence's pass to board the USS Leviathan*

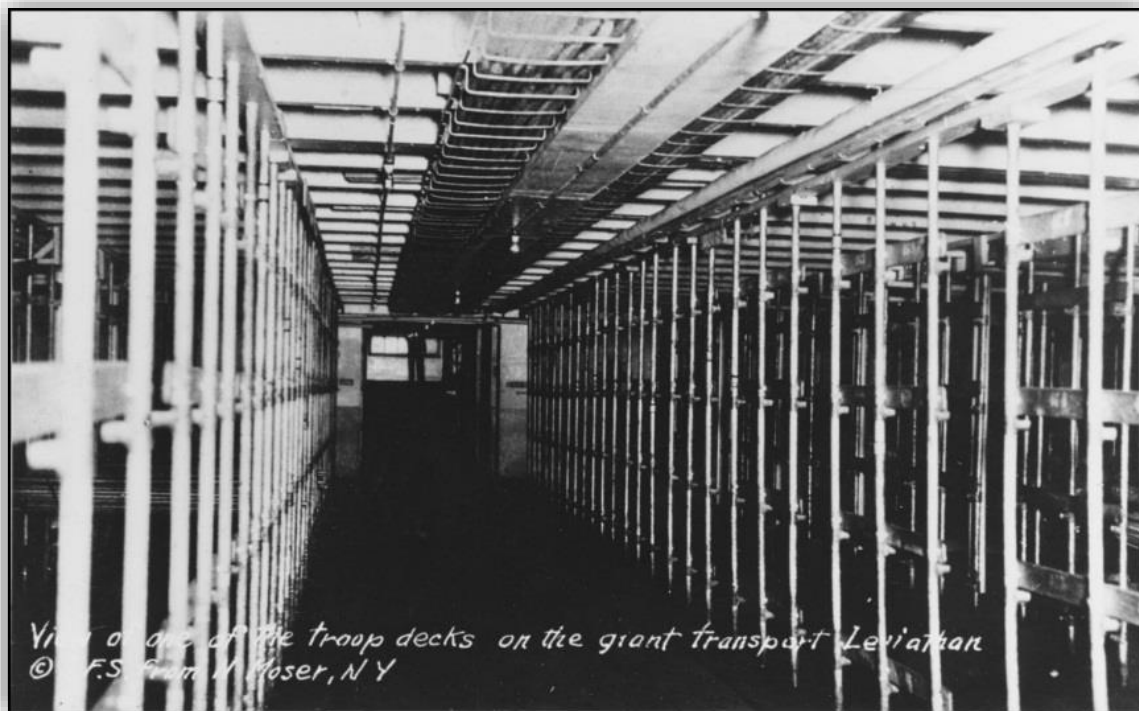
**4 March 1918** The *USS Leviathan* left HOBOKEN at noon, in convoy, with the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** and the remainder of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** aboard, destined for Europe. The ship had a capacity of 12,000 troops and 2,000 crewmembers, but on this trip carried a total of 8,500 troops plus a crew of almost 1,000. **Lawrence** was one of those troopers. Almost 33 years earlier, his father Frank had sailed in the opposite direction as a 13-year-old boy with his family, crossing the Atlantic Ocean and immigrating to the United States. Now, for the first time since, a member of the family was returning to Europe.

The *Leviathan* was formerly the *Vaterland* of Germany's Hamburg America Line. After the U.S. declared war on Germany, it had been impounded by the United States while docked at HOBOKEN. It was converted into a troop ship and renamed the *Leviathan*. At the time, it was one of the largest and fastest passenger ships afloat.



***The Leviathan displaying its camouflage paint scheme***

As massive as it was, the *Leviathan* became pretty crowded with 8,500 troops aboard. "The officers were crowded pretty tightly on the top two decks, but below these the entire interior of the vessel down to the tops of the boilers was filled with canvas bunks, four deep and separated by aisles 18 inches wide. The only exceptions were the spaces used for mess halls and the storage of baggage. Throughout the whole ship, hung the odor of disinfectants, while of ventilation there was almost none."



#### *USS Leviathan troop bunks*

But they were at last moving in the direction that had been the focus of their thoughts and dreams for 6 months or more. In many respects, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** was more fortunate than most soldiers. The *Leviathan* would not require much more than a week to complete the journey, whereas many of the convoyed vessels spent 20 days or more at sea.

The threat of attack by German U-boats was taken seriously, especially in light of the sinking of the *Tuscania*. While enroute, life belts were worn or carried at all times, and abandon ship drills were held daily. The drills were useful in showing the men the methods of getting out of their quarters below the water line to the deck above, but they were also discouraging in that they demonstrated that, in case of really abandoning ship, there were not enough lifeboats or rafts to sustain a tenth of those onboard. When questioned, officers admitted that the best thing to do if sinking, would be to jump overboard and try to swim around until picked up by someone!

As the *Leviathan*, zig zagging across the ocean toward England, entered the danger zone off the western coast of Ireland, there was a torpedo scare. The vessel was running with lights out and between decks it was as dark as a cellar. Almost everyone had retired early, as there was nothing else to do. Suddenly, about 22:00, the ship lurched violently while changing her course. There was a terrific explosion on H deck, below the waterline, followed by a crash of splintered wood and rushing of many feet. There were several cries of "Torpedo!", then mostly silence. Before any real panic set in, it was discovered that it was an exploding steam pipe and the capsizing of a pile of tables in the mess hall.



On the morning of **11 Mar 1918**, three destroyers flying the American flag appeared out of the fog and took their places as escorts of the transport. Within 24 hours, the green hills of Wales appeared, and then the rugged cliffs of Ireland became visible thru the fog. Finally, the sun came out gloriously and the last 4 hours to Liverpool were made in perfect weather.

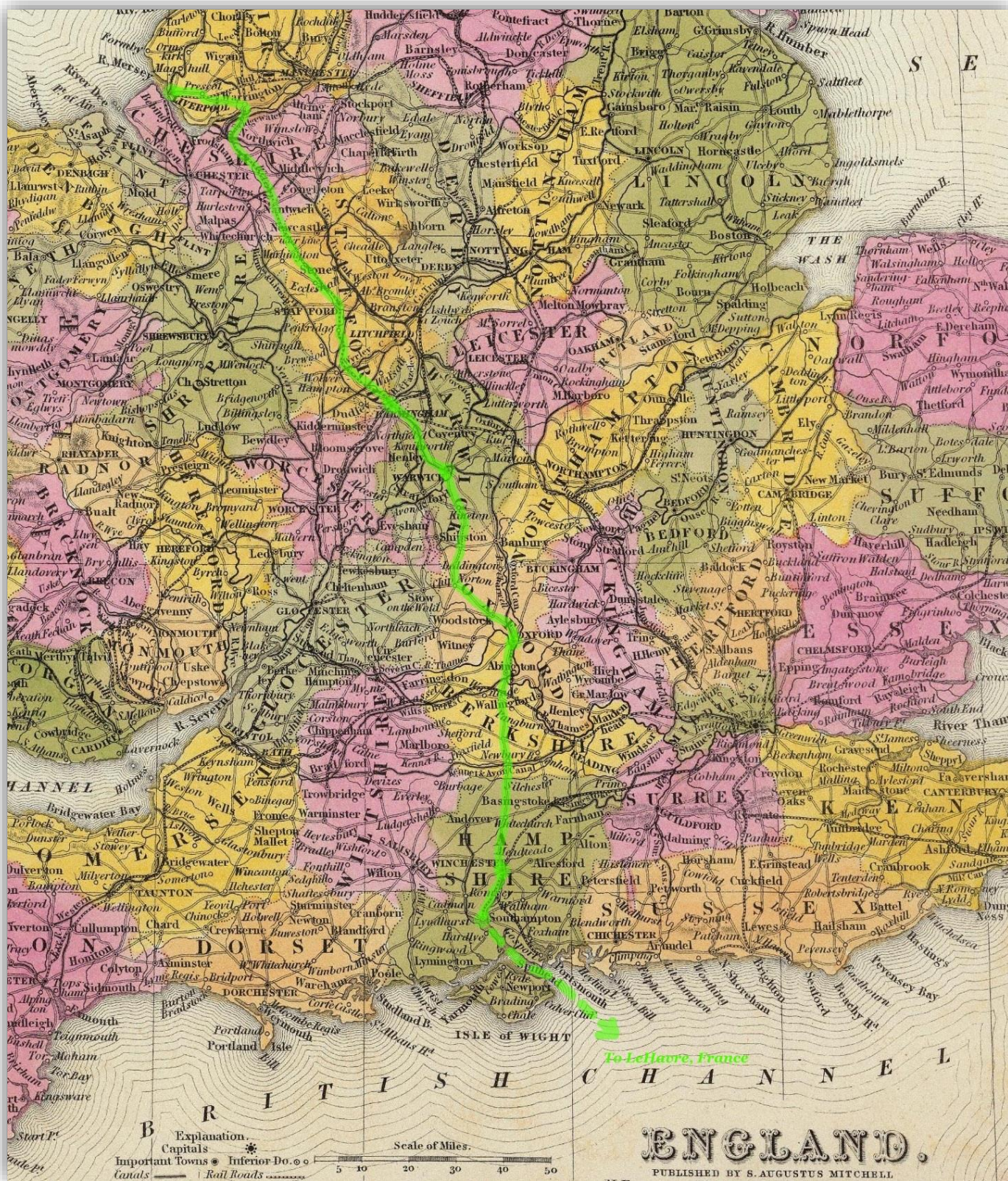


*on board the USS Leviathan enroute to France*

On **12 March 1918**, the *Leviathan* pulled into the River Mersey and anchored as it reached Liverpool, England. The *Leviathan* would go into drydock while in Liverpool.

**14 Mar 1918** After two days at anchor, the units finally disembarked and were sent to CAMP WINNALL DOWNS, near Winchester, England by train. They entrained with their baggage in cute little compartment cars at the London and Northwestern Station. For 12 hours the trains sped through Birmingham, Warwick, and Oxford, finally arriving in Winchester.

Once detrained, the **artillerymen** were met by a blasted British drizzle, which soaked through their winter overcoats and made their packs heavier than lead. Then, for 3 miles they marched in pitch darkness through narrow streets and up hills and more hills until at last, the presence of long lines of barracks made themselves felt through the gloom. After 2-3 hours, the English sergeants gave assignments to the visitors for their shelters, where 3 wooden planks made for a bunk.



route across England, 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 14-18 Mar 1918

Upon waking on their first morning in the UK after their arduous journey, the men were hoping for a large breakfast. They were somewhat disappointed when they were served a modest portion of cheese, bread, and tea, which was repeated for most of the meals during their short stay at WINNAL DOWNS.

Even though they were beginning to realize "war was hell," it didn't take the American soldier more than one meal to rechristen the camp "Camp Dwindle Down", although many also referred to it lovingly as "Camp Cheese."

A couple days were spent here, and the men gained a little culture by visiting the famous Winchester Cathedral, the old castle with Cromwell's battery positions, and the original Round Table of the Knights of King Arthur.



*American troops passing through Winchester, England*

**18 Mar 1918** The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** shouldered its packs and entrained for SOUTHAMPTON. There, they boarded "cattleboats", each about the size of a river tug, and the first contingent started across the English Channel just as the sun was setting. The trip was only 6 hours, but it was plenty. There was barely standing room amid the "fragrant" stalls and sties.

*"It was an uncomfortable night. Out thru Spithead past the Isle of Wright, with the city of Portsmouth on our left, we sailed and before entering the channel waited for our convoy to be made up. Flash lights soaring into the heavens were searching for enemy aircraft all about us. The distance from SOUTHAMPTON to*

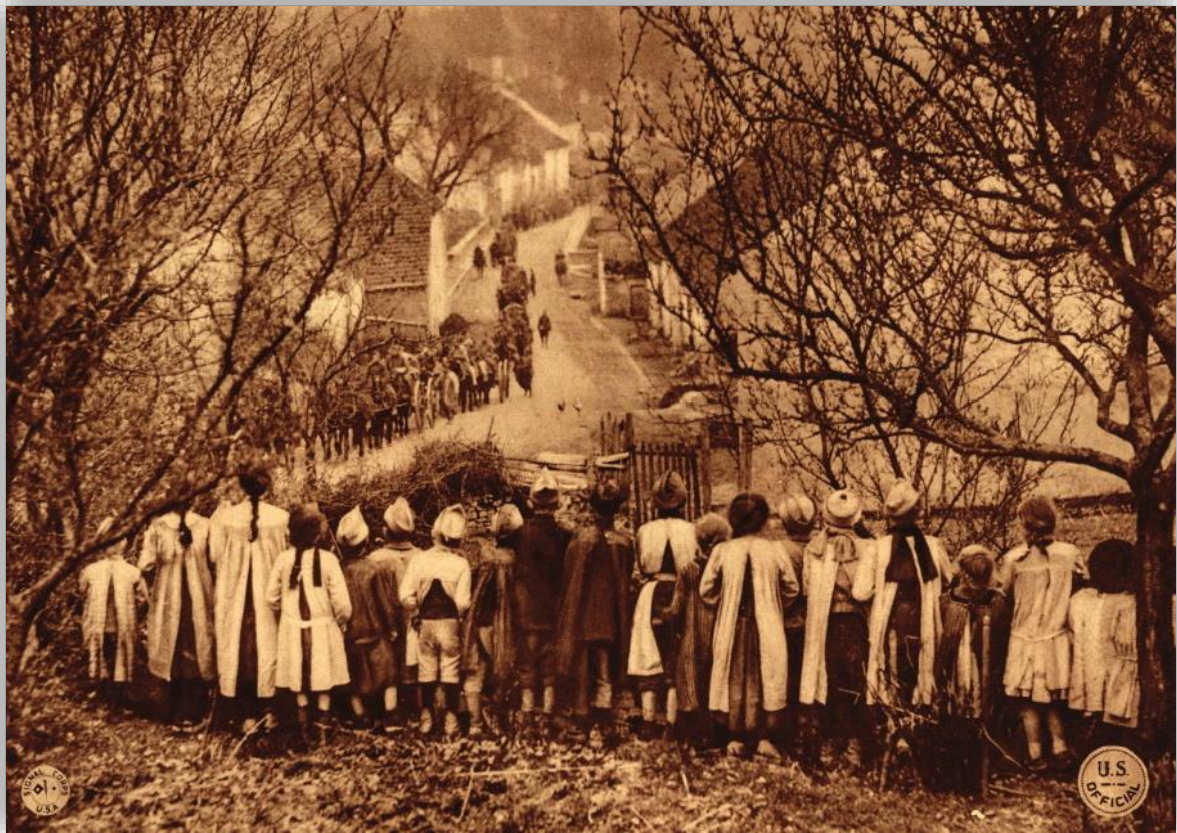
*LEHAVRE is 106 nautical miles and our zig-zag course probably increased the distance one-quarter."* - John C. Acker, 107<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train

The landing in France was made at LEHAVRE, and here again the men discovered that "rest camps" always seem to be located on the top of high hills! The weather was hot, and so were the woolen uniforms, overcoats, caps, and underclothes.

The men laid 3-deep in 12-bed tents at CAMP SANVIC, near LEHAVRE. Meat was suitable for stew, but hardly suitable to eat on its own. However, there appeared on the scene vendors of champagne at 5 francs a bottle and vin ordinaire at 2 francs. It was worth buying if for no other reason than because it was so cheap.

Parts of the infantry units of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division went to Training Area #10, headquartered in PRAUTHOY, France. The 125th, 126th and 127th Infantry Regiments were assigned as temporary labor troops immediately after their arrival in France, and went to work on important projects in the Service of Supply (mainly constructing supply depots). Because of this, only scattered detachments reached the Training Area during the first month the Division was in France.

The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, however, was headed elsewhere. They would do their training in Brittany, France at a Camp called COETQUIDAN.



*Curious French school children watching the coming of the Americans*

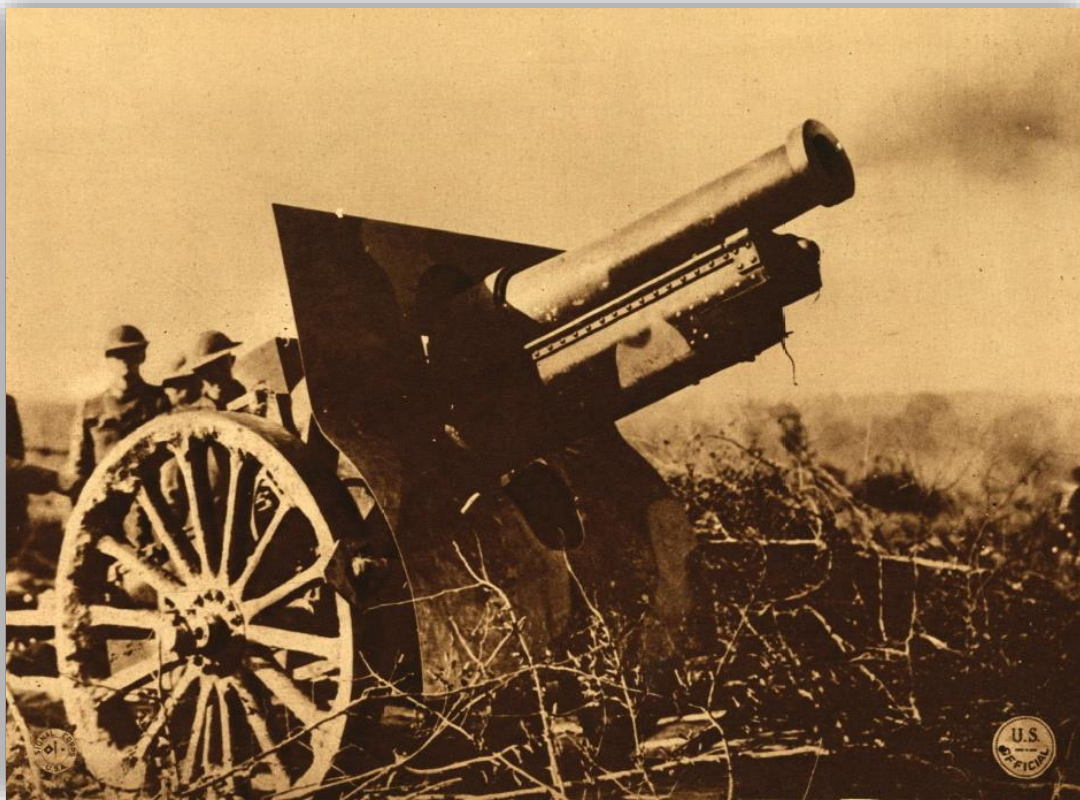


V.  
CAMP COETQUIDAN, FRANCE  
21 March to 6 June 1918



**21 Mar 1918** The **121st Field Artillery Regiment** was sent via train from LEHAVRE, 30 hours later arriving in GUER, France. They went via ROUEN, EVREUX, CHARTRES, LEMANS, and RENNES. The actual distance from LEHAVRE to GUER is about 250 km, but the circuitous route took them almost 525 km. Once again, packs were shouldered, and in a broiling sun, the regiment marched the two miles to the artillery training area at ancient CAMP COETQUIDAN. Here the entire **57th Field Artillery Brigade** would remain for almost 3 months. Instructors were provided by the French army who, through hardened battle experience, knew just what had to be learned.

It was at CAMP COETQUIDAN that the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** was finally and officially declared a "heavy" field artillery unit, and each battery was promptly equipped with material - 75mm guns to the 119th and 120th regiments and 155mm Schneider Howitzers to the **121st Field Artillery Regiment**. Additionally, each battery received 8 caissons, a battery wagon, a rolling kitchen, a water cart, and 100 French horses. The job of teaching those beasts to understand English was another matter! Many soldiers went into the hospital for treatment before the education of the animals was completed.



*155mm Schneider Howitzer, nicknamed "Calamity Jane"*

CAMP COETQUIDAN was ideally situated for artillery training. A village in the targeting area had been formerly used to isolate cases of a contagious disease and for years had been deserted. This was used as one of the target objectives. With its shattered village, torn trees, and trench system complete with bomb craters, it very much resembled the actual front.



Firing of the new guns began almost immediately. There was firing on the range every day and many nights, with only a field map for adjusting aim. Half of each day was spent in various classes learning map-making, equitation, mechanics, firing board work, signaling, wireless, field telephones, construction of shelters, using and surviving gas attacks, and dozens of other things that veteran French soldiers taught them.



*training with the 155mm Howitzer on the firing range at Camp Coetquidan*

The camp was near several villages, the streets to which were lined with cafes, restaurants, and small stores all catering to the soldier trade. Beer and wine were plentiful with wine selling for a half-Franc per glass and beer one Franc per bottle. A Franc was worth about 17½ cents.

**23 Mar 1918** General Chamberlain assumed command of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** from General Irwin. He was a strict disciplinarian, a severe critic, and at times harsh in his judgements, but he certainly kept the brigade working from morning until night. (not exactly a ringing endorsement!)

After 6 weeks of training, the French instructors declared the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** ready for field service.

**12 May 1918** Brigadier General G. LeRoy Irwin returned, to once again take over command of the **57th Field Artillery Brigade**. He would lead them through all the offensives of the summer and fall of 1918. He was also a strict disciplinarian, but he understood his men, and he was respected and loved by all of his subordinates. On this date, Colonel Phillip C Westfahl commanded the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** and Captain Harvey F. Smith commanded **Lawrence's Battery B**.

14 May 1918 Lawrence celebrated his 22nd birthday while at CAMP COETQUIDAN, his second since joining the Army, and his first away from home.



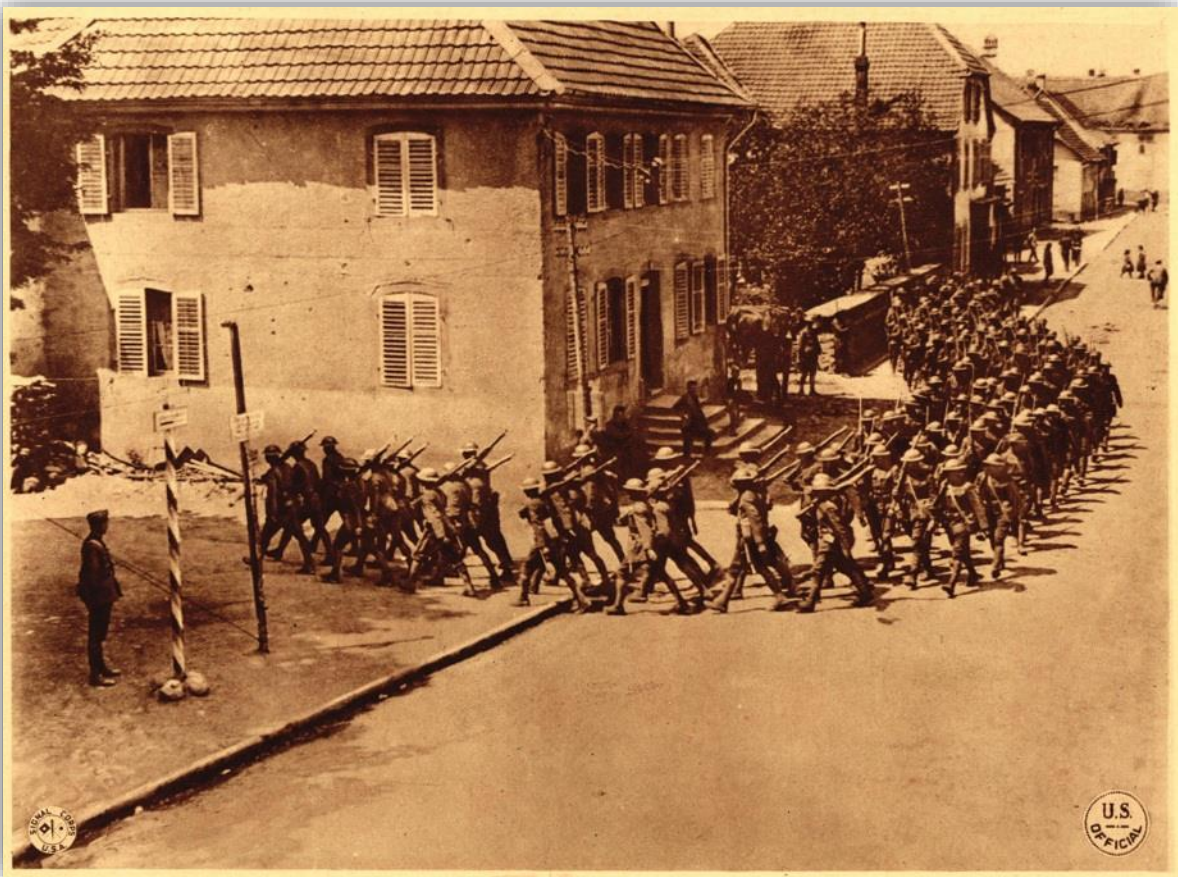
*Brigadier General G. Leroy Irwin, 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, Commanding*



*Camp Coetquidan in Brittany, France, where the artillery units of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division received three months of extensive training.*

**18 May 1918** The 32nd Division, less **artillery** and engineers, was assigned to the French 40<sup>th</sup> Corps in the ALSACE region in the vicinity of LA CHAPELLE-SOUS-ROUGEMONT, with the French 7<sup>th</sup> Army near BELFORT. Thus the 32nd Division were the first U.S. troops to set foot on German soil (ALSACE was part of Germany when the war started in 1914).

The 32nd Division had initially been declared a replacement division and for a time it looked like the regiment would be disbanded and scattered to fill other units. However, after the German offensive of **21 May 1918** began, the need for combat organizations increased, and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was declared a "temporary combat division". Once in action, however, there was never again any thought of breaking up the division. The 32<sup>nd</sup> proved to be one of the best of many good fighting divisions.

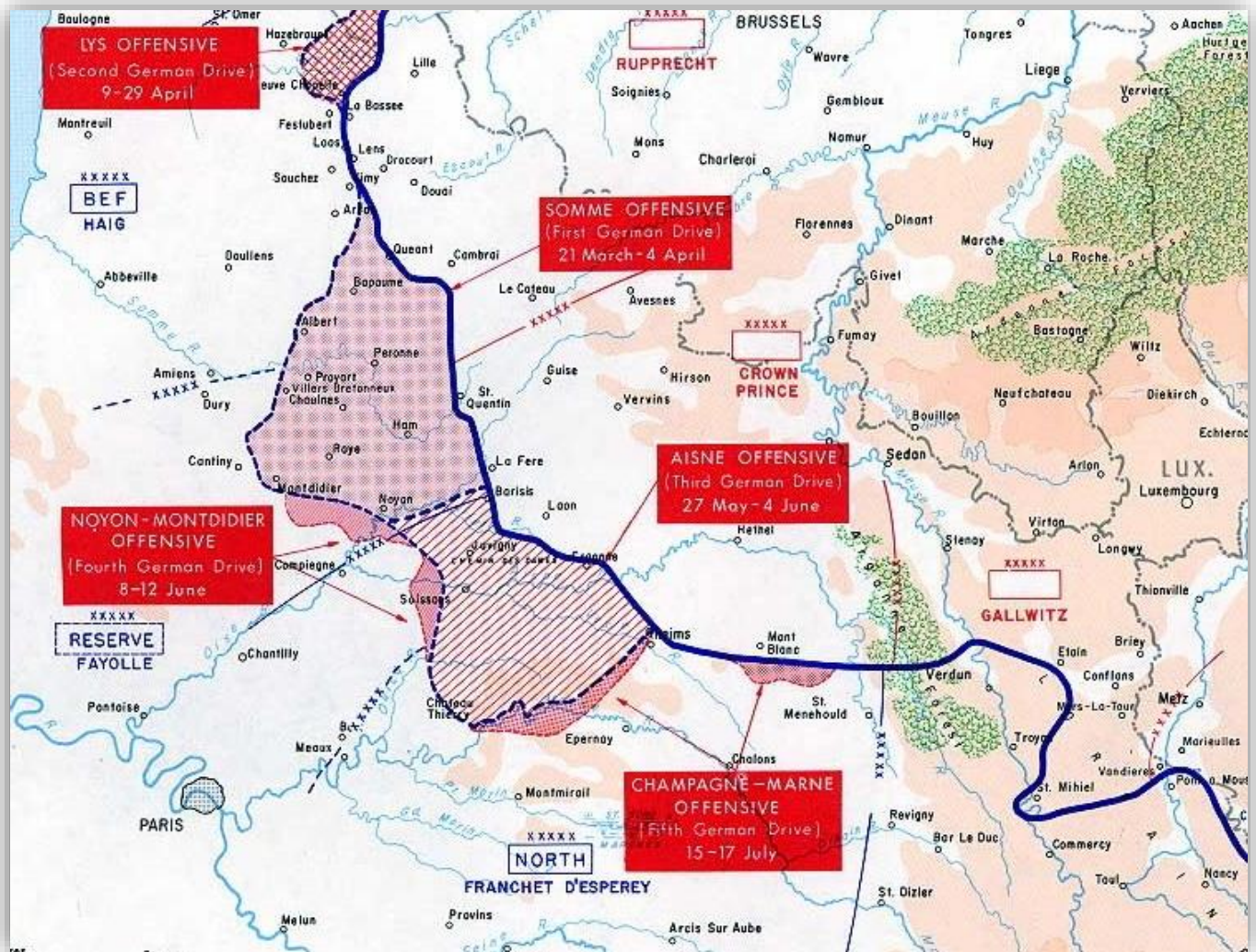


*Major General Haan's 32<sup>nd</sup> Division crossing the German frontier at Sentheim, Alsace on May 29, 1918. The marching column is Company A, 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry.*

In **early June 1918**, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** was ordered to prepare for active service and entrain to "somewhere" to rejoin the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division and support its own doughboys. Only a very few select officers knew the final destination. Even the train operators were only given an interim destination; where, upon arrival, they would then pick up orders for the next interim destination.

## SITUATION ON THE WESTERN FRONT, JUNE 1918

The enemy had commenced his drive for Paris. In 3 days, it swept from the AISNE River southward across the VESLE and the OURCQ down to the banks of the MARNE, engulfing SOISSONS, flanking REIMS on the west, and thrusting a spearhead into CHATEAU-THIERRY. It cut a deep salient into the Allied lines with SOISSONS at the northwest, REIMS at the northeast, and CHATEAU-THIERRY at its southern point. This triangle formed the famous MARNE SALIENT.



*Western Front, showing the extent of the German drive towards Paris. After five great offensives, the enemy was 45 miles from Paris.*



VI.  
ALSACE SECTOR, FRANCE  
7 June to 21 July 1918



**7-8 Jun 1918** The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** departed CAMP COETQUIDAN for "destination unknown" to rejoin the 32<sup>nd</sup> division. They traveled by train from GUER through the most beautiful and historic part of France. They were given a 12-hour leave in RENNES, then continued thru LEMANS, TOURS, BOURGES, NEVERS, DIJON, and finally, on **9-10 Jun 1918**, BELFORT, where they de-trained. Here they had their first taste of the huns, as German airmen flew over the city several times while they were unloading. Several buildings near the station were destroyed in the raids. Only 2 hours were allowed for unloading each train, and immediately they were off on a 20 km march to their area near ASPACH-LE-BAS [German: NIEDER ASPACH].



*Artillery unit marching towards the front*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ was in ROUGEMONT-LE-CHATEAU, in the chateau of course! The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** HQ and **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** HQ were set up in the village of ROUGEMONT-LE-CHATEAU. The individual batteries established their HQ in the village of ETTEUFONT.

ROUGEMONT-LE-CHATEAU and its neighboring villages made a picturesque Alsatian settlement, just within the French side of the boundary between France and Alsace. During 1914, the French had penetrated clear to MULHAUSEN, 32km to the east, and then fallen back to a line east of the French border, where they had been stationary ever since. The firing batteries of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** were over the line in ALSACE - so they could properly claim that they had reached German territory!



The understanding between the French and the Germans had been excellent in this sector and, away from the actual front lines, there was little sign of ruin or destruction. Villages well within range of the German guns were unmolested. The civilians went about their business as though they had never heard of a war. Women often cut hay in broad daylight along the edge of trenches and barbed wire entanglements.

"If this is war," remarked a gallant corporal, "may there never be peace!"



*The Menasha Record, June 5, 1918 (Mike Zielinski, no relation to Lawrence)*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> was assigned to the 40<sup>th</sup> Army Corps of the VIII French Army. The 57<sup>th</sup> **Field Artillery Brigade** was put in with the French divisional artillery, occupying positions near the French batteries. They remained under the guidance of these veterans for a month.

By **15 June 1918**, eight battalions of the 32nd Division were in the front lines (the other four battalions were in support). The Division's sector of the front stretched 27 kilometers, from ASPACH LE BAS [NIEDER ASPACH] to the Swiss border. At this time, the 32nd Division was practically complete, except for the shortage of about 2,000 enlisted men, mostly from the infantry. **Battery B** was given the honor of firing the first shots at the enemy, because it had the best record of all 18 batteries.



**FRONT LINE TRENCH AND OBSERVATION POST IN ALSACE**

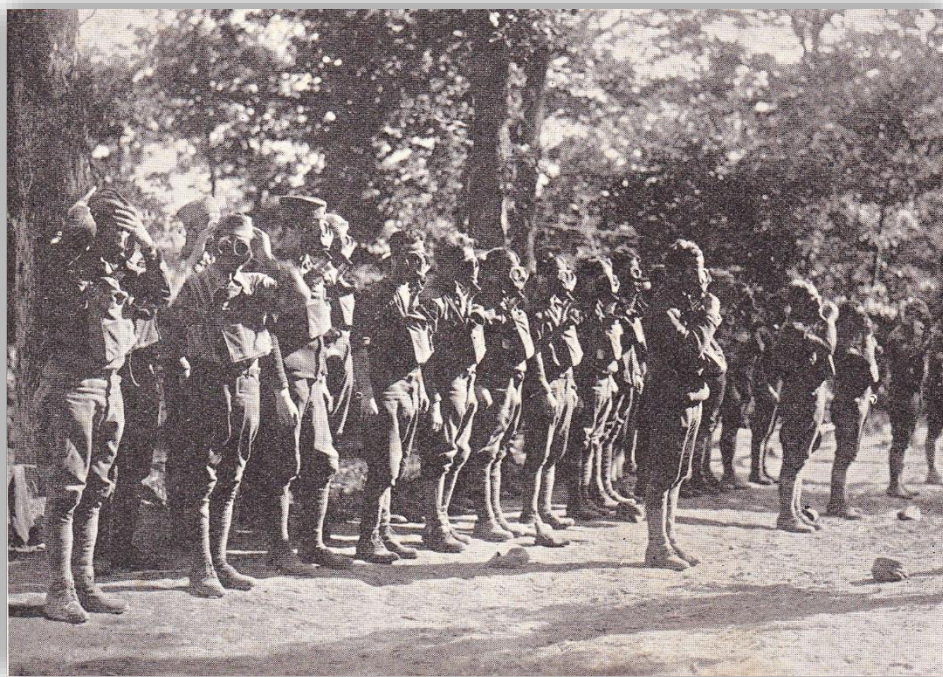
*"After our 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade arrived, there was increased activity both in front and behind the Observation Posts"*

The 32nd was sent here to complete its combat training in order to prepare to be sent to a more active sector in the future. This area was considered a quiet sector; no major combat activity was taking place at the time. No considerable amount of artillery was necessary in this sector, so the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** was set back 10 km from the front lines. In this way, they frequently relieved those in forward positions to continue their training. Aggressive patrols and raids were the normal activity here. Patrols from both sides met and clashed in "no man's land" almost nightly. This continued thru the month of June.

**18 Jun 1918 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, Battery B (Lawrence's Battery)** experienced a gas attack on their position lasting for about an hour during the early morning before breakfast. Several men were evacuated, none in serious condition. The boys were becoming familiar with the smell of mustard gas.

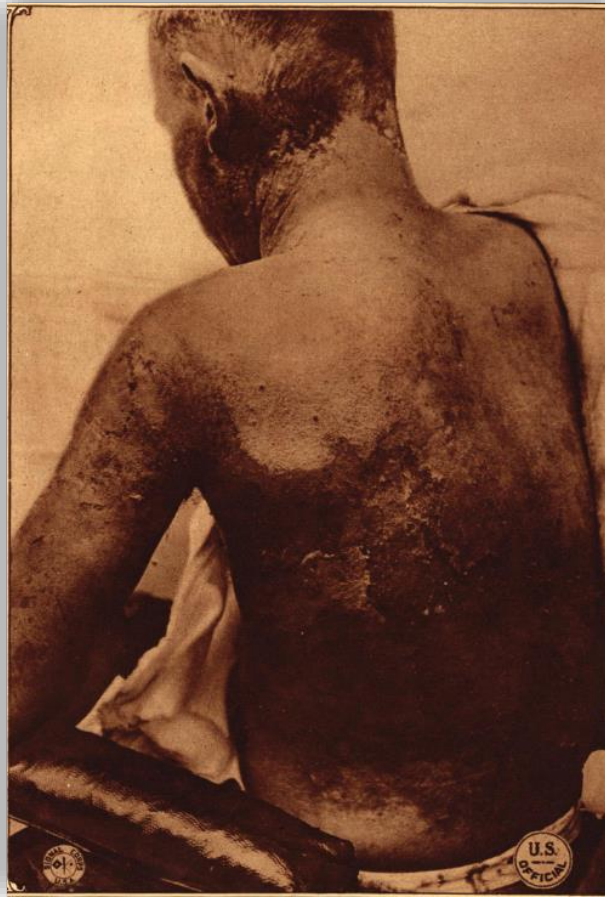
**27 Jun 1918** The 9<sup>th</sup> French Division moved out of the sector and left General Haan and his 32<sup>nd</sup> Division in charge. The formal training was now over.

**29 Jun 1918** The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** sent about a thousand gas shells across the lines, which were met with equal return.



***57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade at gas defense drill in Alsace***

**30 Jun 1918** at 2100, all **artillery batteries** opened intensive fire on the enemy's front lines in front of BURNHAUPT LE HAUT [German: OBER BURNHAUPT]. The 125<sup>th</sup> infantry moved forward and penetrated the front-line trenches, but no prisoners were found. The German response was prompt and heavy, but was directed against the raiding party and trenches. The **artillery batteries** had taken temporary shelter and were not located by the enemy. Only one casualty was reported among the artillery.



*Mustard gas was a weapon employed by both sides during the war. Here the effects of this gas on the skin can be seen.*

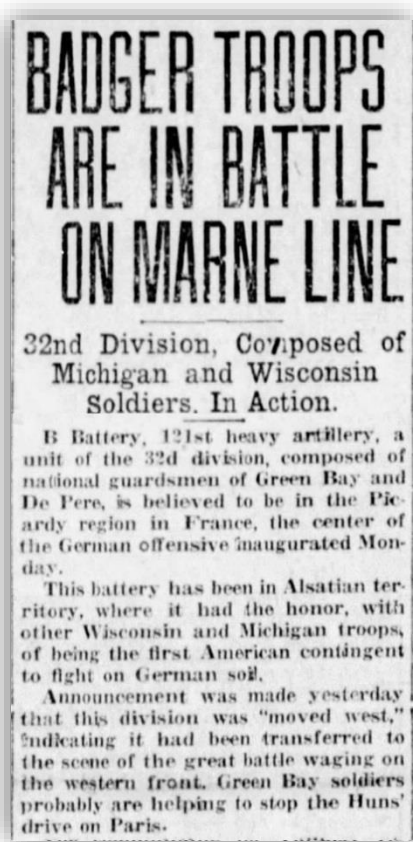
**1-15 Jul 1918** For two weeks, the sector remained quiet. Alsatian women continued to cultivate their fields right up to the very edge of "no-man's land". Americans picked wild strawberries and raspberries and garnished them with milk, which was plentiful. The inhabitants of the villages did all they could to show hospitality to the Americans.

**15 Jul 1918** At 2:30 a.m., all **artillery batteries** participated in a diverting fire at a position distant from a planned raid, the purpose being to deceive the enemy until prisoners could be captured. It was unsuccessful, but provided hardening experience for the **artillery** as they not only fired a considerable number of rounds, but they also drew the enemy's fire onto their own positions.

**17 Jul 1918** A chance shot from one of the batteries set fire to the BOIS DE NONNENBRUCH, just south of the town of CERNAY. Dry conditions and high winds spread the fire rapidly. These woods were a populous nest for German batteries, stores, and barracks, and it seemed worthwhile to encourage the fire, which the Germans were energetically trying to subdue. Accordingly, all incendiary shells within the sector were poured into the north part of the woods, while shrapnel was dropped on the Germans trying to fight the fire, to lessen their interest.

By the morning of **18 Jul 1918**, the entire northeast quarter of the wood was burning, and had the incendiary ammunition been sufficient, certainly the entire BOIS DE NONNENBRUCH would have been cleaned out.

Later that day, the 53<sup>rd</sup> French Division began coming in to the sector to relieve the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. The Division had suffered 440 losses from all causes while in ALSACE. The boys did not know their destination, but there was no doubt they were heading towards a much more active sector.



**Wednesday, July 17, 1918**  
**Green Bay Press-Gazette**

*"Battery B, 121<sup>st</sup> heavy artillery, a unit of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, composed of national guardsmen of Green Bay and De Pere [and Menasha] is believed to be in the PICARDY region of France, the center of the German offensive inaugurated Monday.*

*[Interestingly, the Battery would not be in this area until the 29<sup>th</sup> of July - 12 days after this article was written.]*

*This battery has been in ALSACE territory, where it had the honor, with other Wisconsin and Michigan troops, of being the first American contingent to fight on German soil.*

*Announcement was made yesterday (16 Jul 1918), that this division was "moved west", indicating it had been transferred to the scene of the great battle waging on the western front. Green Bay soldiers probably are helping to stop the Huns drive on Paris."*

On **19 July 1918** the 32nd Division began to pull out of ALSACE. Around this time, a sad blow was received when **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** commander and organizer, Col. Philip C. Westfahl, was selected to take charge of construction work in the Supply of Service (SOS). Major Arthur, who took command of the regiment, was found to be a very able and considerate commander, and all agreed that no better successor could be asked for.

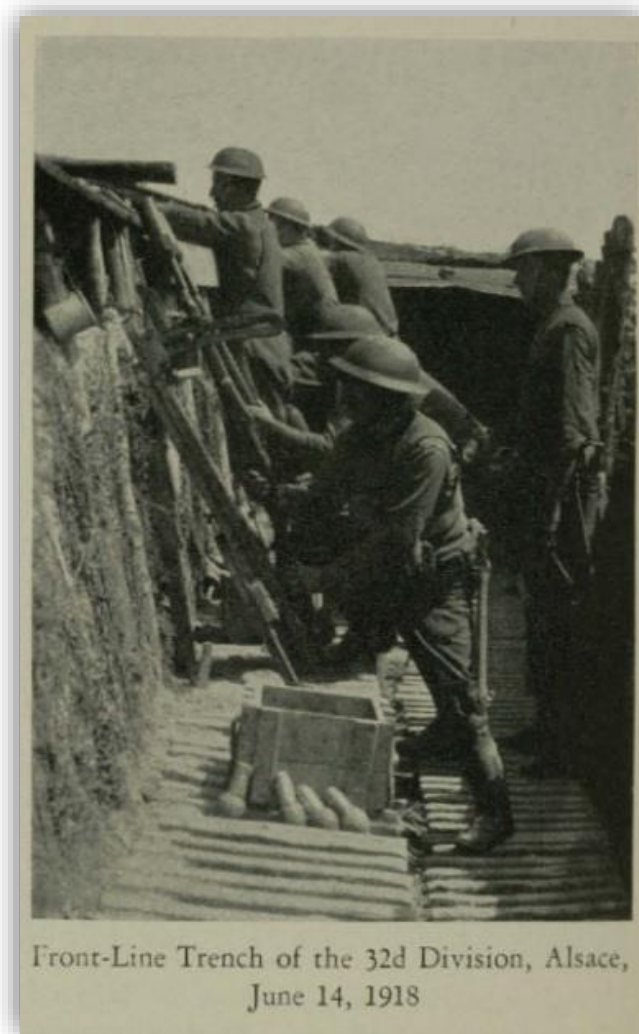
The regiments of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** were relieved from ALSACE on the nights of **20-21-22 Jul 1918**.

**21 Jul 1918** The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** concentrated near BESSONCOURT, and two days later marched to BELFORT to entrain for parts unknown. Their time in Alsace was over, and the troops would now be heading to more active areas of the war.

During the tour in ALSACE, the principal locations for **Battery B** were ETEUFFONT (ETUFFONDS), LOAW (LAUW), LACOLLONGE, FULLEREN (FALLEREN), BREBOTTE, and

VEZELOIS. The experience in ALSACE was valuable because it gave the men confidence, showed them they were capable of handling themselves properly under fire, taught them the best ways of providing cover in emergencies, and made them realize the need for discipline and submission to orders at all times at the front. Considerable experience was had in taking artillery positions, observing fire, and utilizing observation posts.

*"Our time in ALSACE will never be forgotten. We thought we were real soldiers when we pulled in to our first firing position around 22:00 on a very dark night. Word was passed that there would be no more talking, all lights out, and stay alert. The nervous strain was broken when 2 or 3 Frenchmen came down the road with a lantern singing as loud as they could. We had dandy dugouts to sleep in, a nice place to take a bath, located less than 1 km from a little town, nothing to do but eat, sleep, and be happy. Very few evenings passed without a few bottles of beer, a bottle of wine or champagne served in the dugout. Many a happy evening was spent there."*

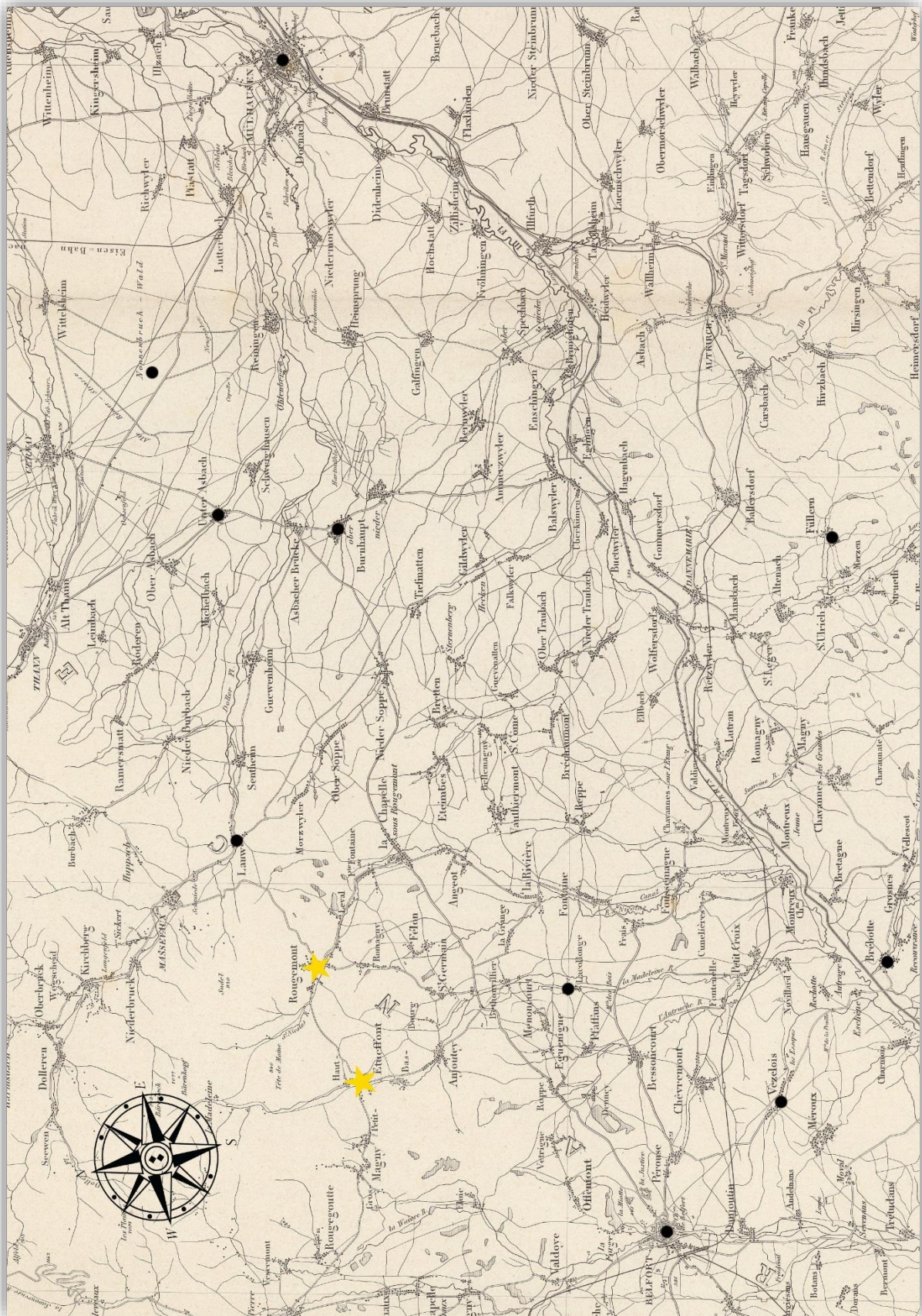


Front-Line Trench of the 32d Division, Alsace,  
June 14, 1918



Above: Map of France showing 32<sup>nd</sup> Division sector in Alsace

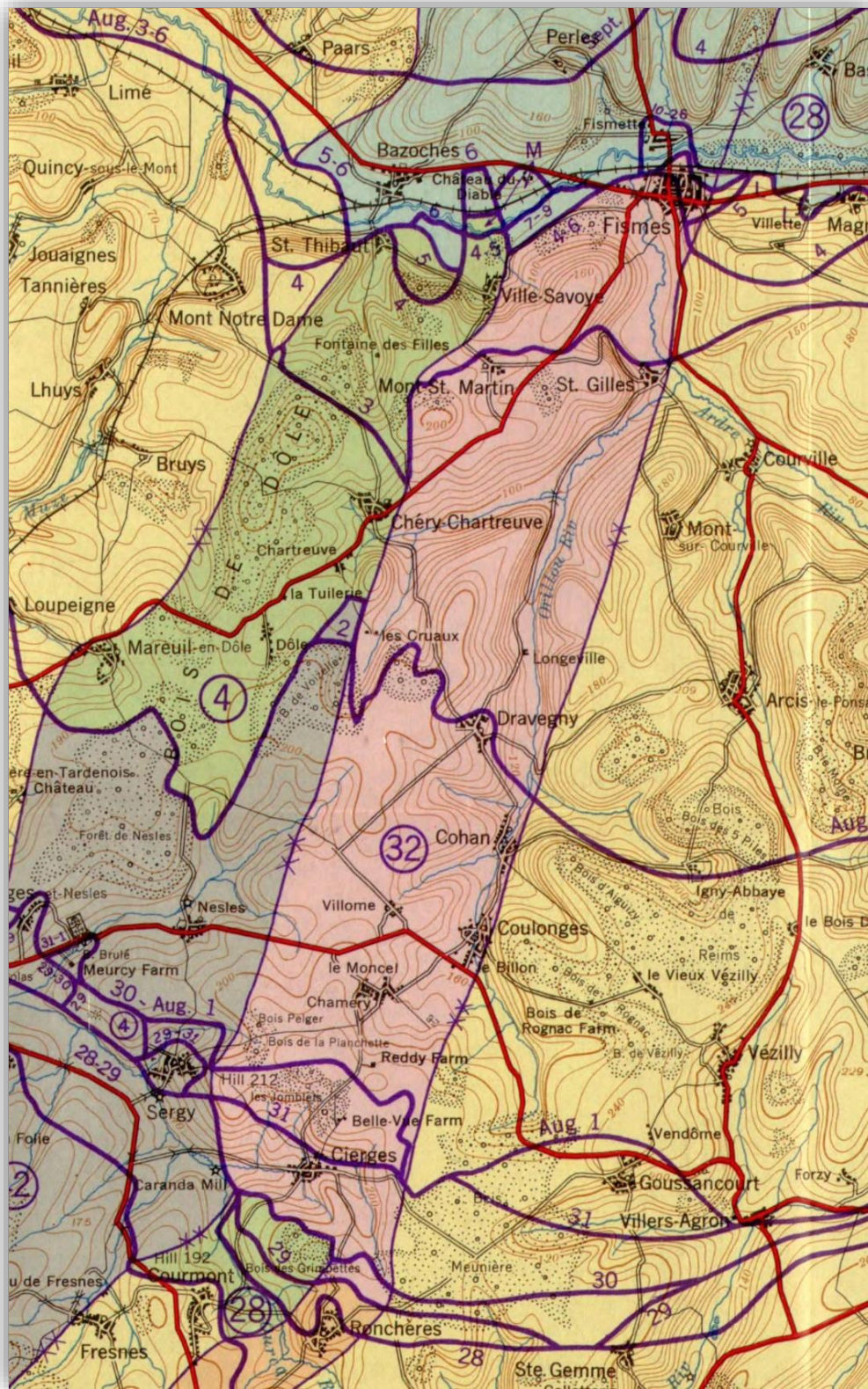
Right: Principal areas of operation of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (black dots) and the Division, Brigade, and Regimental Headquarters (yellow stars) in Alsace.







**VII.**  
**AISNE-MARNE OFFENSIVE**  
**22 July to 23 August 1918**



*32<sup>nd</sup> Division operations during the Aisne-Marne Offensive (in pink); from Cierges to Fismes, they continually pushed the Germans back.*

**22 July 1918** Loading of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division units at BELFORT began at 1:00 p.m. and the first train left at 5:00 p.m. Thereafter, day and night, for 48 hours trains departed hourly. Fifty trains were needed to move the entire Division, each train consisting of 49 or 50 cars. Once again, the boxcars were the storied '40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux,' (40 men or 8 horses), often referred to simply as 'Forty and Eight'.



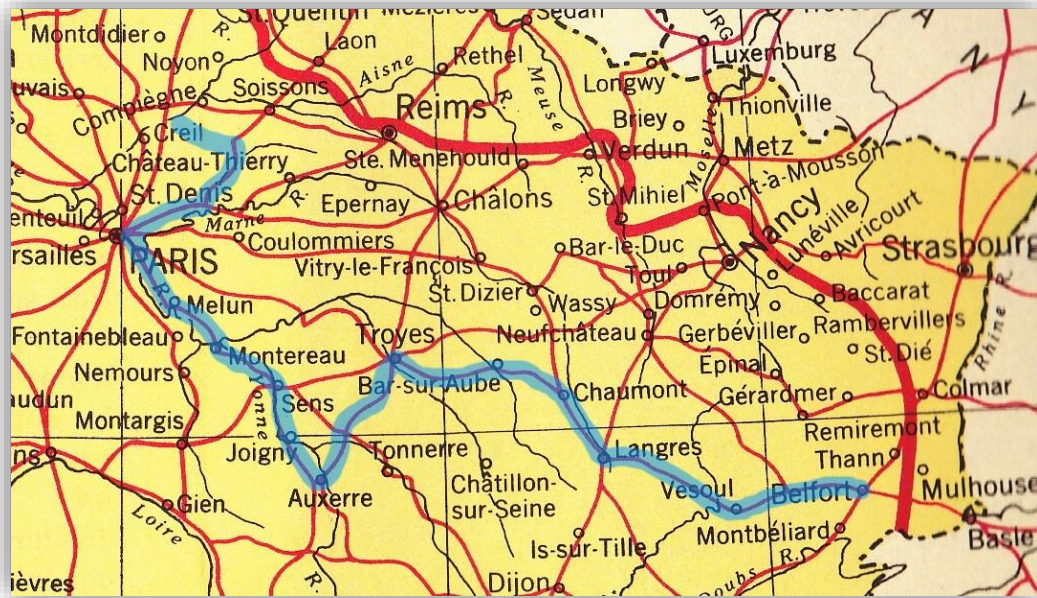
*The infamous French "40 Hommes/8 Chevaux" boxcars*

**23 Jul 1918** The 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment entrained at BELFORT for parts unknown. Each Battery required one train to carry men and material. By midnight, all units had entrained. The evening started with a pouring rain and wended up with several hours of beautiful moonlight. The 6 long trains moved north thru LURE and VESOUL.

**24 Jul 1918** The last train carrying troops of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division departed BELFORT at 5:00 p.m. The 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment trains continued on, passing through CHAUMONT, TROYES, JOIGNY, SENS, MELUN, and finally, the eastern part of PARIS on the second night. The Eiffel Tower, the Avenue Vincennes and a few prominent buildings could be seen. The French people were very cordial and cheered the Americans as they continued along. Any hope for a rest period among the city of lights was quickly dispersed, however, as the trains continued on northeastward towards ORMOY-VILLERS, where they would finally disembark after 38 hours of travel.

**25 Jul 1918** They were now in ground that had been fought over and retaken from the German invaders of 1914. Roadside graves and other scars of battle appeared everywhere. From ORMOY-VILLERS, it was a 25 km march thru ST. MARD [AUGERS-SAINTE-VINCENT], RULLY, VILLENEUVE[-SUR-VERBERIE], PONTPOINT, and finally PONT-SAINTE-MAXENCE, on the Oise River, their point of assembly.

Many units billeted in vacant warehouses and factories in town, but the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** and the entire **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** marched thru town and made camp in the neatly groomed forest to the south. Here they would remain for two days awaiting orders. Brigade HQ was set up in the vacant, but well-kept Chateau in PONT-SAINTE-MAXENCE.



*Artillery route from Alsace to Pont-Sainte-Maxence 23-25 July 1918 in blue; front lines of battle in bold red*



*Pont-Sainte-Maxence on the Oise River and the forest south of town where the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment camped for 2 days.*

Initially, the 32<sup>nd</sup> was sent here because the French High Command had intended to send them to SOISSONS in preparation for an offensive. Instead, they were needed in CHATEAU-THIERRY by a sudden change in plan, resulting from a call for fresh divisions to push the Germans across the VESLE. The SOISSONS offensive would be postponed, and the 32<sup>nd</sup> found itself 45 miles from their new destination.

**27 July 1918** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was assigned to the French 6<sup>th</sup> Army. Orders arrived at 0400 to move out, and by 1030 all regiments were swinging into a long column for the march to CHATEAU-THIERRY. The line of soldiers extended 12 km from head to rear. The troops ahead held up the procession for the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** for nearly 6 hours, when they had trouble pulling their guns over a steep hill. It was dark before they started, and instead of reaching their first night's destination by dark, they were on the road all night, hiking through FLEURINES, VILLERS-SAINT-FRAMBOURG[-OGNON], and VILLENEUVE[SUR-VERBERIE], turning into their blankets at GLAIGNES and ROCQUEMENT, near CREPY[EN-VALOIS] at 0400.

**28 Jul 1918** After a short rest, all hands were lined up before noon and the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** marched all afternoon and all night, with 10 minutes rest each hour and 2 stops for lunch. In the pitch darkness, they passed through VAMOISE, THURY[-EN-VALOIS], and SAINT-QUENTIN to DAMMARD, where they drew into a swampy field at 0500, having been on the road 18 hours.



*Route taken by the artillery to Chateau-Thierry 28-29 July 1918*

**29 Jul 1918** The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was ordered to be ready at 0900 and after just four hour's rest, horses were harnessed and hitched and the column lined up on the road side of DAMMARD. Other divisions got in ahead and the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was unable to start until 1600, so it was a weary and disgusted crew that took up the hike at that time. By nightfall, however, they were on the outskirts of CHATEAU-THIERRY.

The hike for the **artillery regiments** from PONT-SAINT-MAXENCE had been conducted with great efficiency, not a man, horse, or cart being lost along the way. They had covered 70 miles in 45 hours of actual marching time. The infantry units, however, had made the trip by truck so that they would be ready for the attack the next day.

Major Paul V. Kane took command of the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion** of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, consisting of **Batteries A and B** and Capt. E.V. Cook assumed charge of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**, consisting of D and F batteries. Capt. Drum remained in command of **Battery B**.

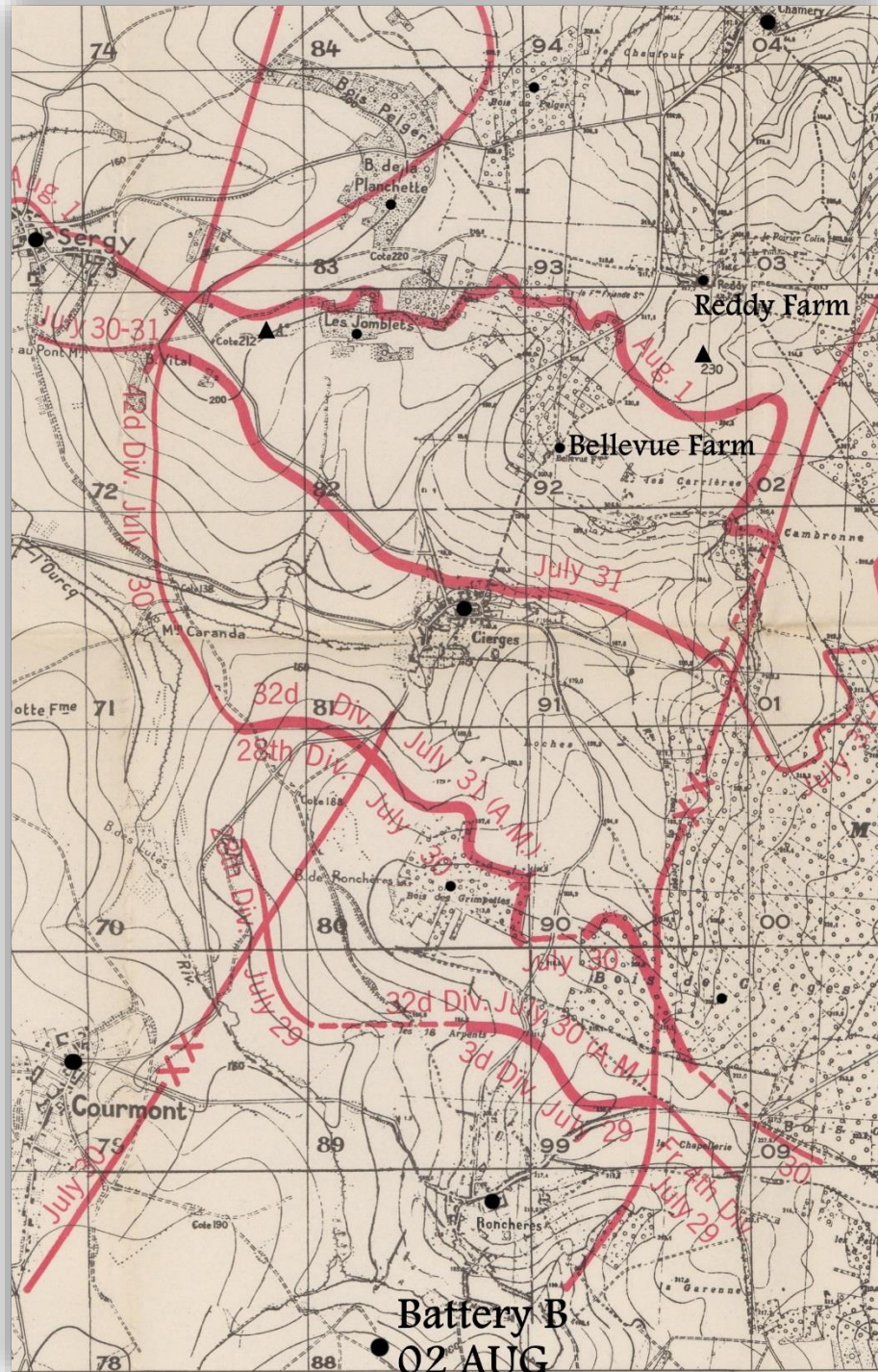


American soldiers on their way to the battle-front at Chateau Thierry.

After nightfall on **29 Jul 1918**, the 64th Brigade of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division (127th and 128th Infantry) began to filter forward to the northeast to relieve the 3rd Infantry Division in the front line, on the OURCQ in the vicinity of RONCHERES. The 3rd Division had been fighting continuously since the German offensive started, about 15 July, and was exhausted, being at the time held up by strong German resistance in the BOIS DE GRIMPETTES.

**30 Jul 1918** Dawn found the front-line infantry battalions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division in position facing the strongly-held lines of the enemy in the woodland jungles of the BOIS DE CIERGES, the BOIS DES GRIMPETTES, and the BOIS MEUNIERE, flanking the road between RONCHERES and CIERGES east of the OURCQ. At 1100, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division relieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division north of RONCHERES.

The 32nd Division received its baptism of fire (first major offensive action) at 14:30 when the 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade (127<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry) went over the top and followed a rolling barrage into the BOIS DES GRIMPETTES, which had been retarding the progress of the 28<sup>th</sup> division on the left.



32nd Division 30 July - 01 August 1918;  
 red lines indicate location of front at end of day



"Directly north of RONCHERES and extending for 400 yards, was an open field, which had been used as a pasture, and just beyond that was a forest known as the BOIS DE CIERGES. This wooded tract was covered by a dense growth of large elm trees which had not felt the wrath of German artillery. It was about 500 yards deep and extended east several miles beyond RONCHERES."

"Concealed in the trees were eight German machine guns and snipers hidden in the trees. The pasture was strewn with bodies of dead and wounded. The casualties were so heavy that Company E had only 46 out of the original 200 men left standing." - Captain Paul Schmidt, Company C, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Commanding, 5:20 p.m., 30 July 1918

The 127th pushed through the woods until they were stopped by machine gun fire from the right flank in the BOIS DE CIERGES. The Germans continued to oppose every effort to advance, but the 127th Infantry gained the edge of those woods and established themselves there, with the French on the right and the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, holding the heights south of CIERGES (pronounced "sir-gay") on the left.

**30 Jul 1918** Meanwhile, crossing the MARNE a day behind the infantry, the **artillery battalions** passed through CHATEAU-THIERRY and 10 miles of battle-scarred rural country. The ground was strewn with discarded German equipment, dead horses, broken ordnance, and occasional bodies of Germans. Fresh-made graves lined the roadside at frequent intervals.

Souvenirs were so numerous that the men quickly got over collecting them. They were too heavy to carry and they knew they weren't going home anytime soon. Souvenir collecting could also be a dangerous game. One soldier picked up a pair of binoculars. The focus wasn't right when he looked thru them. As he adjusted the lens, his head was blown off. A book left on a table had a wire that ran down the leg of the table and connected to a mine ready to blow when the book was picked up. Everything had to be regarded as suspicious.

Late in the afternoon, the batteries of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** reached the woods north of MONT-SAINT-PERE, where horses were unhitched and picketed. Water was scarce. The ground was covered with debris and gruesome relics of the recent conflict. All night long, artillery fire could be heard off to the north, and the sky was lighted by flashes from the guns.



**155mm Artillery battery in action**

On the front lines, during the night of **30 Jul 1918**, the Germans launched a counter-attack against the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division infantry at 22:00 from the BOIS DE MEUNIERE. Rallying quickly, with bayonets fixed and using their rifles as clubs, a deadly hand-to-hand conflict ensued. A bayonet melee raged for hours in the dark, tangled woods, until the attacking force was finally routed, most of them lying dead beneath the trees or in flight back to their lines.

*"Illumination rockets were used a great deal by the Germans during this attack. At times the entire fighting area was almost as bright as day. Imagine an extremely severe electric storm combined with a pyrotechnic display. To the glare of illuminating rockets, the flashes from cannon and the long streaks of fire when the machine guns spit forth their death-dealing steel, must be added the terrific detonations of exploding cannister and the rat-a-tat of machine gun bullets as they whiz around one's head with a sound of a thousand bat wings. Then try to think of the terrible strain of waiting and expecting every moment to feel the sting of a bullet or the laceration from exploding shrapnel." - Captain Paul Schmidt, Company C, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, Commanding*

During this night, the 63rd Brigade (125th and 126th Infantry) moved up from support to relieve the 28th Infantry Division. This extended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Divisional front to over 4 km, from the BOIS DE CIERGES to CIERGES itself, thence along the slope of HILL 212 to LA GRANGE AU PONT MILL.

On the morning of **31 July 1918**, both Infantry Brigades of the 32nd Division (63rd and 64th) went into action side by side. Directly in front was the long, open slope of the Ourcq Valley, reaching to the woods of LES JOMBLETTES on HILL 212, a spur of HILL 230. This objective constituted one of the strongest German positions on the line of the Ourcq, and the success of the contemplated operation meant the breaking of the Kaiser's last formidable line of resistance south of the VESLE. LES JOMBLETTES was not only holding up the 32nd Division, machine gun nests there and in the BOIS PELGER, further back, flanked the open ground in front of the 42nd Division and absolutely prevented any advance by the "Rainbow Division".

On the left, the 63rd Brigade promptly reached its objective, HILL 212, after some wicked fighting. They dove into LES JOMBLETTES and mopped it up and then cleaned out the BOIS PELGER, allowing the 42nd Division to advance. On the right, the 127th Infantry pushed their attack through the village of CIERGES and passed beyond, only to be held up by a withering hail of machine gun bullets from BELLEVUE and REDDY FARMS, which had been organized into a very strong center of resistance which the **artillery** had failed to smother.

While moving forward, however, the French on the right, meeting desperate opposition in the BOIS DE MEUNIERE, were unable to advance in unison with them. The 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade, driving ahead, found itself by evening in a salient swept by terrific crossfire on both flanks, which compelled them to retire during the night to a position near CIERGES. German strongpoints were still held at BELLEVUE and REDDY FARMS, on HILL 230, and in the BOIS DE PLANCHETTE and BOIS DE PELGER facing the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, and in the village and chateau of NESLES and the FORET DE NESLES, opposing the 42<sup>nd</sup> division on the left.

*"After leaving the woods, there was a clear open field stretching north as far as Cierges and sloping downward, which began to gradually rise beyond the town. We could see the Germans withdrawing from CIERGES towards BELLEVUE FARM. In crossing this open field, we were subjected to extremely heavy artillery and machine gun fire. We continued to advance in the face of this fire, while our*

*men were mowed down like grass before a scythe. A Private from Illinois was literally blown to atoms by a high explosive shell. There was not a single portion of his body or uniform found, and only for the fact that other men witnessed the tragedy, his absence would have remained a mystery ever after."*

*"It was here that we received our first experience with gas. The Germans began a heavy shelling of our position with gas shells, and several of our boys were severely gassed before they could attach their masks." - Captain Paul Schmidt, Company C, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, Commanding*

**31 Jul 1918** At noon, the fire batteries of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** were all ordered to move from the woods north of MONT-SAINT-PERE, and by 1800 they had picked their way through the shattered roads to LE CHARMEL, about 5 miles southwest of the front. They had seen houses willfully despoiled, and property maliciously ruined, above and beyond the destruction to be expected in the course of war. In houses that were left standing, pictures had been slashed and destroyed, and books torn and burned.

On the night of **31 Jul 1918**, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** completed the relief of the French 39<sup>th</sup> and American 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Artillery. The **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery** supported the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry in the right sub-sector. The 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade HQ was established at LE CHARMEL Chateau. The Chateau had been completely looted and badly damaged by shell fire and bombs, but the little chapel, not 20 yards away had miraculously escaped damage. Within the chapel was a painting of Saint Francis, old, but well-preserved. Pistol balls perforated a pattern on all sides of the figure, although none had struck it. Evidently, it was not bad marksmanship, but a fear of violating the Saint himself. The remaining units of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** established an echelon at JAULGONNE.



*Le Charmel Chateau (left) and Jaulgonne (right)*

The attack was renewed early in the morning of **1 August 1918**. The objective of the 63rd Brigade was HILL 230. The mission of the 64th was to take BELLEVUE

FARM, which had stopped the attack the day before. The Germans resisted desperately and were amply supported by machine guns, artillery, and airplanes. In the first forward rush, HILL 230 on the right was captured, but, assailed by a crossfire of machine guns from BELLEVUE and REDDY FARMS, they were forced to give it up, while the forces in BOIS DE JOMBLETS on the left, driven back by a fierce counter-attack at 0900 were forced to retire to their former positions.

But "Les Terribles" were not to be denied. The attack was continued, and following closely behind an **artillery** barrage thrown down on the BOIS DE JOMBLETS. the 125<sup>th</sup> infantry recaptured that strongpoint. In the afternoon, the 127<sup>th</sup> wrested control of BELLEVUE FARM and HILL 230, though REDDY FARM to the north remained in German hands. After dark, the 32nd Division dominated HILL 230. The Germans were forced to retreat after they lost this commanding high ground.

Lunging forward again on the left, the 125<sup>th</sup> infantry took both BOIS DE PLANCHETTE and BOIS DE PELGER, though compelled to relinquish the latter during the night.



*Camouflaged gun of the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery brigade*

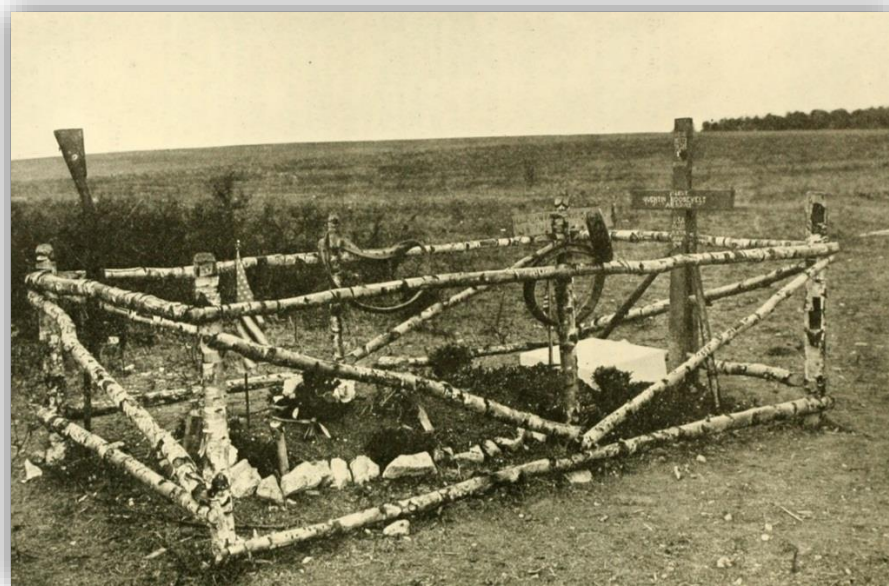
**1 Aug 1918** In the evening, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** suffered its first battle casualty. The **1<sup>st</sup> battalion** had halted near JAULGONNE for a brief rest around 21:00, when a plane was heard approaching. The soldiers took it for a friendly and stepped into the road to watch. It proved to be German, however, and several bombs were dropped in succession. Private Hutchinson of HQ was in the road and was struck by a bomb fragment, killing him instantly. He was later buried near JAULGONNE.

The situation was now such that the commander of the 6th French Army thought it probable that a consolidated advance could break through. Everything was in

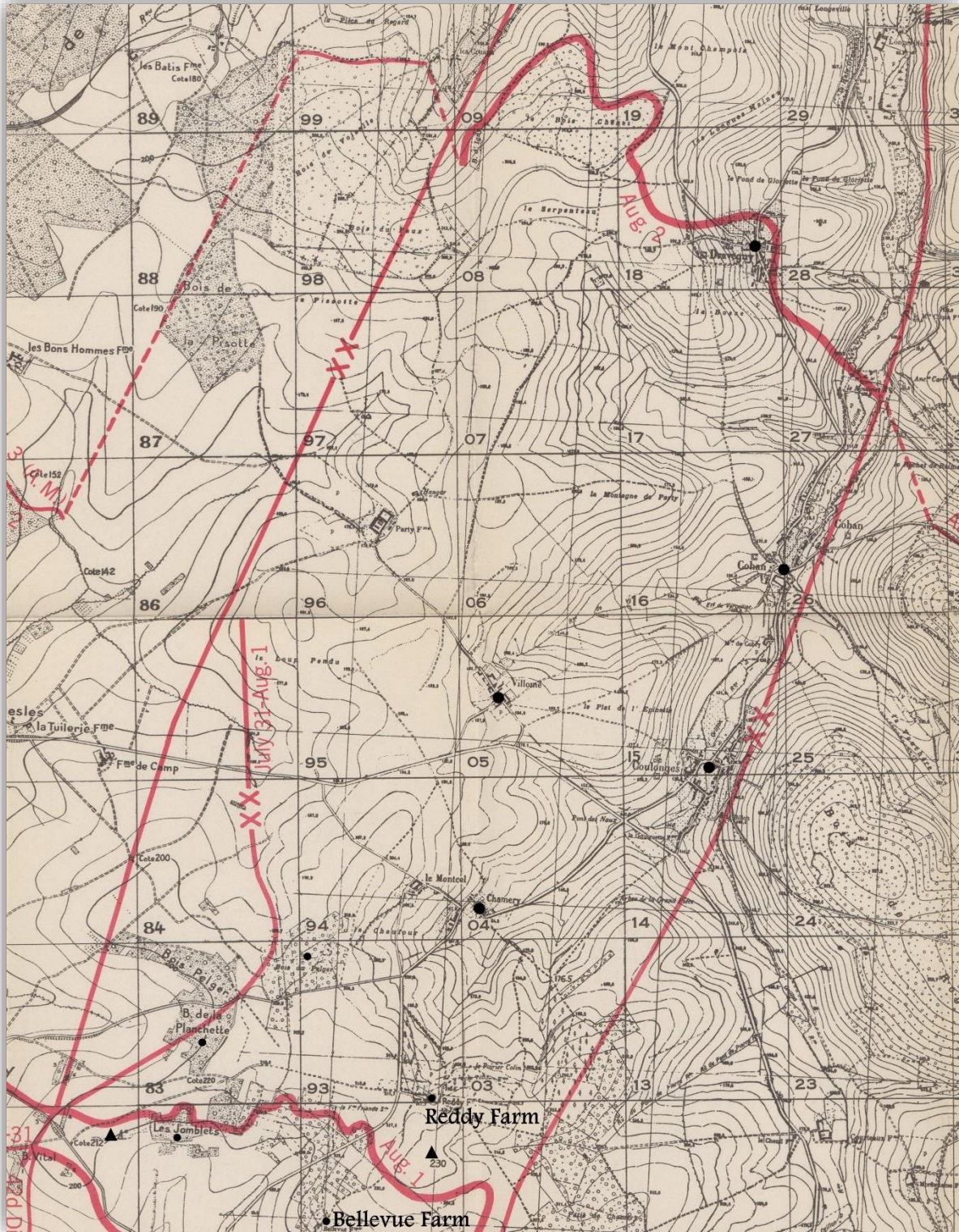
readiness for a concerted attack on the morning of **2 Aug 1918**. The regimental commanders were at brigade HQ past midnight, awaiting the expected orders for the attack which was to begin at 0400. It began to seem impossible that the **artillery batteries** could be ready, with the many charts and plans to be calculated and drawn before the fire of such an attack could begin. Shortly after 0200, the orders finally arrived. At the same time, German planes arrived overhead, which compelled the lights to remain off. Orders could only be given verbally, by candlelight. The attack was to start in an hour and a half, and the commanders still had to navigate 5km of poor roads to reach their respective regiments. Nevertheless, by 0345 the **various batteries** were ready to fire.

The advance began at 0415 on the morning of **2 Aug 1918**. The position of **Battery B, 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was 983.681, approx. 1.5 km southeast of COURMONT. They supported the infantry of the 64<sup>th</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> brigades and furnished covering and special fire. The German resistance was not as stubborn as it had been over the last few days. Some resistance was met at first, but it was soon discovered that the enemy's forces, having withdrawn during the night, were in full retreat toward the VESLE, leaving behind only detachments of machine gunners to offer spasmodic resistance.

As a result, the 32nd Division advanced rapidly. REDDY FARM was passed, and by 0900, the attack became a pursuit through CHAMERY [MONCELLE], COULONGES, VILLOME, and COHAN, leaving behind areas of abandoned trenches. Off toward the Vesle, flames, smoke, and explosions gave proof of the desperate attempts of the Germans to destroy all property before it could be captured. By midnight **2 Aug 1918**, front lines were established north of the village of DRAVEGNY, after an advance of about 6 km.



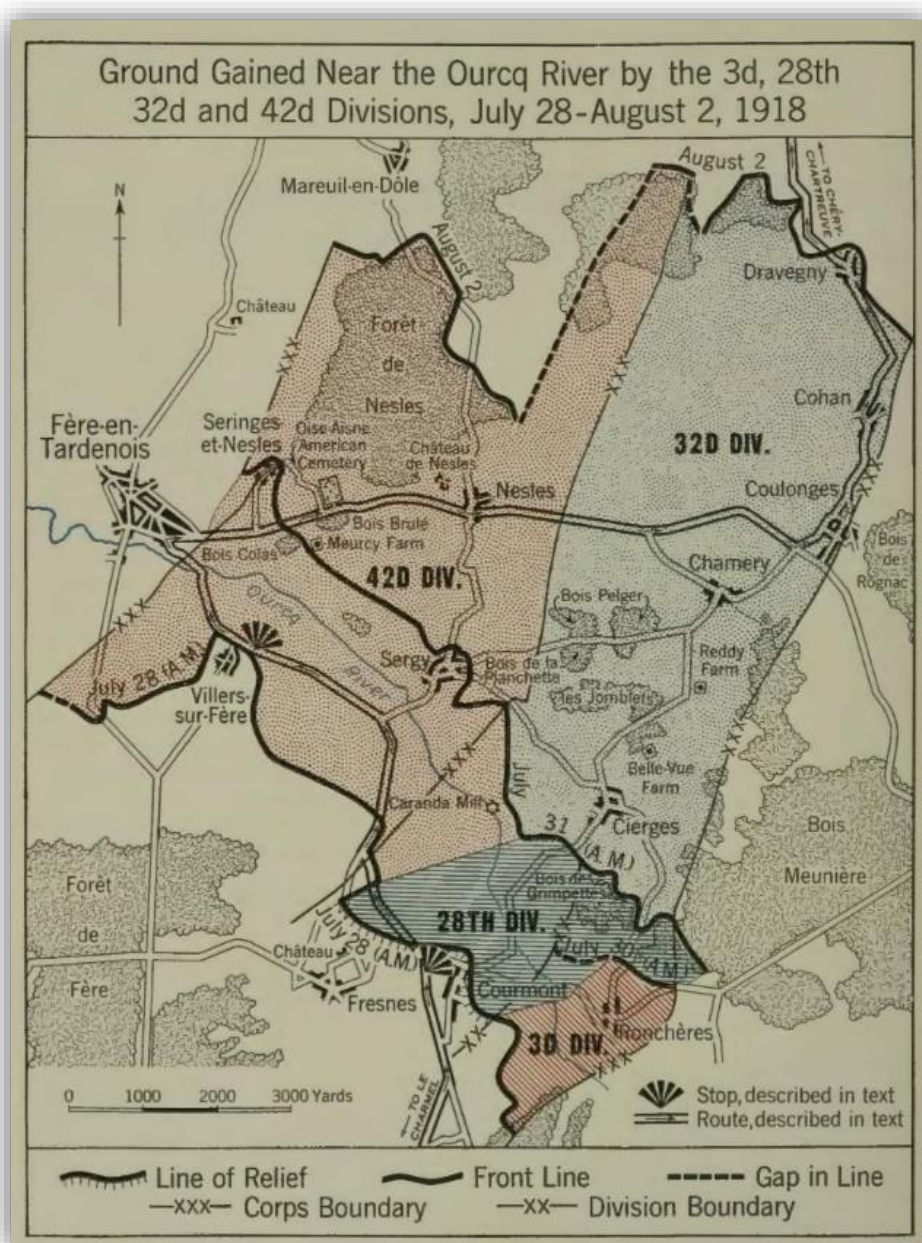
*Near CHAMERY, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division came upon the grave of Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, son of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, killed when his plane was shot down, and buried with honors by his German enemies.*



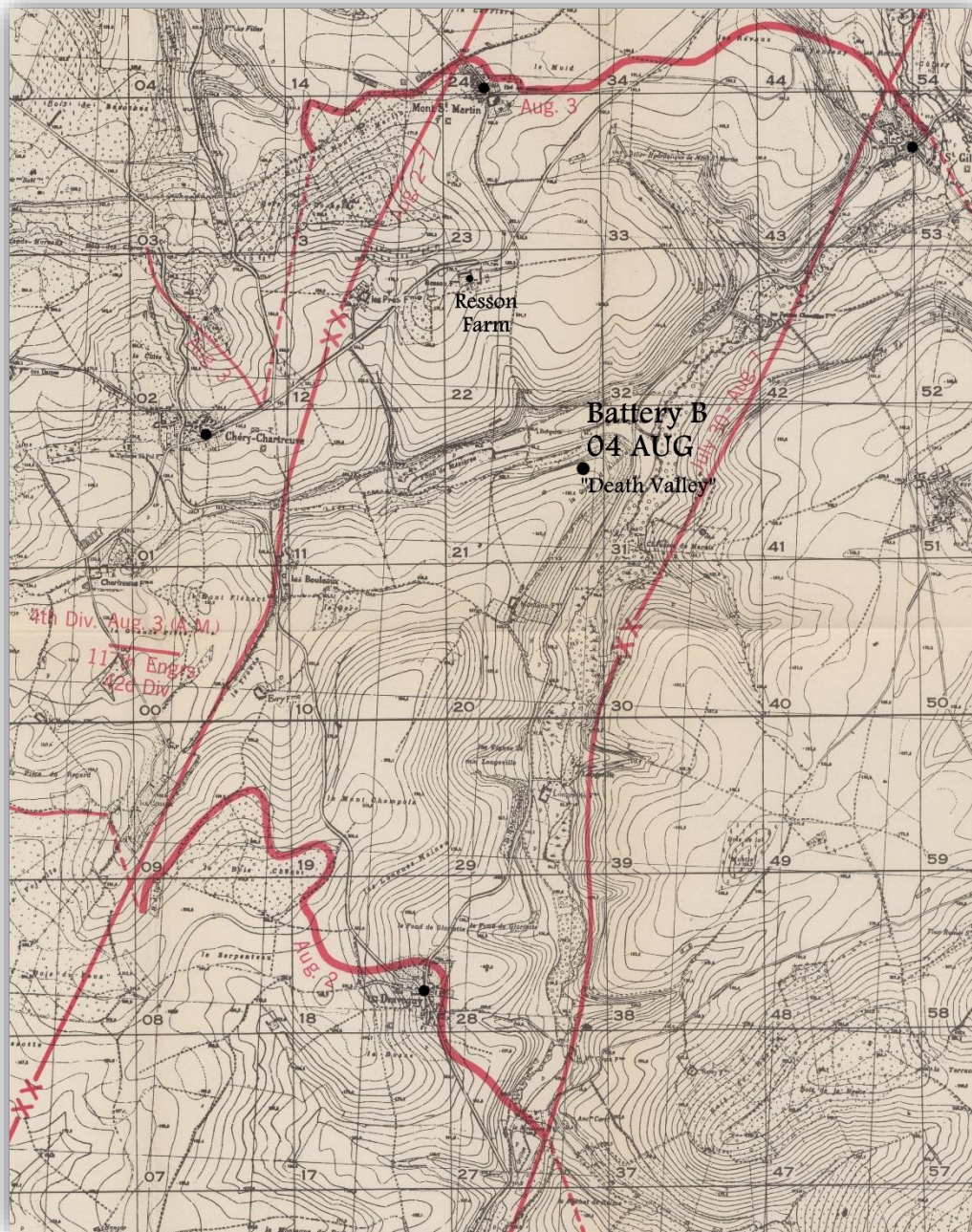
Advance of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, 02 Aug 1918

During the movements now, the artillery was echeloned, one battalion of each regiment going ahead, and as soon as it was ready to fire, the second battalion would move forward to a new advance position. At times, even the two batteries in a battalion were echeloned in a similar way so that they were prepared to aid and advance, defend a line, or check a counter-attack, regardless of the general advance.

Dysentery now began to claim its victims. The dead lay unburied in the fields, carcasses of horses were strewn everywhere. The rapid advance had not allowed time for burials. The water supply was contaminated and the horrible odors of the battlefield permeated everywhere. It was the hottest time of the summer. Clouds of flies and bees followed every kitchen and fought with the men for possession of their meals.



On **3 Aug 1918**, the pursuit was resumed at early daylight and our troops continued to steadily gain ground, although meeting with increased resistance, especially on the left flank, where the 42nd Division was unable to advance as rapidly as the 32nd. By 10:00, the 32nd had reached SAINT GILLES and the RESSON FARM. By the end of the day, the Division's front line had advanced about 7 km to the hills overlooking the valley of the VESLE, about 1 km south of the VESLE on the left and 2 km south of FISMES on the right. Here, considerable resistance was met from the German rear guard, which was making a stand to protect the withdrawal over the river.



*Advance of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, 03 Aug 1918*



On the evening of **3 Aug 1918**, the **artillery batteries** moved forward one by one and took up positions in a deep valley near CHERY-CHARTREUVE, nicknamed "DEATH VALLEY". In a drizzling, cold rain, the guns were dragged across hills, through streams, over muddy fields, and past the wrecked villages of COHAN and DRAVEGNY down to their stations where the Germans had had their bivouacs 36 hours before. The 4 batteries were placed along the base of the ridge, with the horses picketed in a grove behind them. To make things more miserable, the men were greeted upon their arrival by a shower of gas shells that compelled them to wear gas masks for most of the night. The tactical accomplishments of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** at this position consisted mostly of harassing fire delivered at the foe across the river.



American Battery in Action Near Chéry-Chartreuve

In the immediate front lay FISMES, held in strong force by the enemy. Up and down, the VESLE was lined with machine gun nests, capable of sweeping both banks with their fire, supported by artillery in the hills beyond. Swollen by recent rains, the river, over 15 yards wide at this point, was deep and swift; both banks bristled with wire entanglements, designed to check and hold attacking forces in place directly under the muzzles of the machine guns.

In spite of almost overwhelming odds, an attack by the 128<sup>th</sup> infantry was launched against FISMES during the night of **3-4 Aug 1918**. The enemy immediately countered, and with a terrific concentration of fire, threw back the attacking lines with heavy losses. While the leading battalions managed to hold out until late afternoon **4 Aug 1918**, they suffered so severely that the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry was relieved by the 127<sup>th</sup> which succeeded, after desperate efforts, in getting one battalion through FISMES. Gaining the river bank, the battalion dug in and held its ground in the face of an incessant storm of machine gun fire and constant artillery bombardment, which played havoc with its ranks.

**4 Aug 1918** The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC moved to CIERGES, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** PC to DRAVEGNY, and **Battery B** position was 029.816,

approximately 2.5 km east of CHERY-CHARTREUVE. From 4-6 Aug, one attack followed another in an effort to get across the Vesle. The **artillery** barrage on the machine gun nests and trenches on the opposite side of the river was incessant.

On **4 Aug 1918** the 127th Infantry moved out toward FISMES (pronounced 'feem'), while the 63rd Brigade attacked the railroad yards on their front. The enemy had no intentions of yielding without a bitter battle and, by means of very heavy artillery and machine gun fire, was able to hold the town and railroad yards during the early hours of the afternoon. In its attack on FISMES, the 127<sup>th</sup> was badly cut up, and, late in the day, Colonel Langdon organized a provisional battalion out of what was left of his regiment and sent it forward to storm the town. His shattered companies made a desperate assault and finally succeeded, around nightfall, in passing through the town and establishing a position on the south bank of the VESLE. On the left, the 63rd Brigade took the railroad yards and succeeded in getting a few small patrols across the river during the night, but was unable to maintain them, so they were withdrawn.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was the assault battalion for the 127th Infantry's attack on FISMES. They commenced their attack at 1430, covered by machine gun fire from the 121<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion and artillery from the 120<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. The authorized strength of the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion was 20 officers and 1,000 men; it was down to 12 officers and 350 men when they started their assault on **4 Aug 1918**. They suffered many more casualties as they advanced over 2,100 yards of mostly open ground while subjected to intense German artillery and machine gun fire. The 2nd Battalion of the 127th Infantry, also understrength due to the recent fighting, was brought in to assist the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion's push toward FISMES. The 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry was able to capture FISMES, but at terrific cost. That night, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was down to 2 officers and 94 men; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion had 5 officers and 104 men.



***FISMES: "In the eastern part of the town, German and American patrols clashed in fights for possession of sheltering walls."***

*"In FISMES, a terrific conflict was being waged with the Germans, who were fighting in a hand-to-hand struggle. Machine guns were placed along the streets*

*behind barricades of the walls of ruined buildings. Step by step our troops pushed forward in the face of machine gun fire that swept the streets from curb to curb; but undaunted, they fought on against great odds until they had driven the enemy to the south bank of the Vesle. We could see the Germans retreating across the river into Fismette and up the hills on the opposite side, keeping up a heavy fire with artillery and machine guns. After crossing the river, the Germans blew up the bridges and filled the river with wire entanglements.” - Captain Paul Schmidt, Company C, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, Commanding*

**5 Aug 1918** The 107<sup>th</sup> Engineers had brought forward material for pontoons and bridges, but it was impossible to span the VESLE with the north bank still under the enemy's possession. Persisting in efforts to cross the river, the north bank was gained by individuals and small groups, but a crossing in force proved impossible before darkness closed down upon the battlefield. The 127<sup>th</sup> gave their attention to mopping up the town.



*In their retreat, the Germans destroyed the bridges across the Vesle*

On the morning of **6 Aug 1918**, the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry was relieved from FISMES. There were still German snipers in the town, and the 128<sup>th</sup> continued to mop up the place. In the eastern half of the town, German and American patrols clashed and it was nightfall before the Americans could claim anything like control of the city.

The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC moved to VILLOME. The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** directed a destructive fire with the 155mm guns upon the village of

FISMETTE, which wiped out 50 machine gun nests and enabled the infantry to get a footing on the north shore of the stream. It was perhaps the most accurate fire ever delivered by the regiment and the results were immediate and important. Lieut. Col. Arthur claimed credit to the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** for the capture of the town.



*The village of Fismette, on the north side of the Vesle*

During the entire stay in DEATH VALLEY, the firing **batteries** were subject to almost daily shelling, while the echelons at COHAN, DRAVEGNY, and MONT-SAINT-MARTIN underwent frequent bombing and some long-range artillery strafing. **Battery B** lost 10 horses in 10 days, which was far fewer than any of the other batteries. The cannoneers working at the guns were seldom safe. Several casualties occurred while hauling ammunition near "DEATH CURVE", including 1 killed and 2 wounded in **Battery B**.

Generally, the days and nights at DEATH VALLEY included shell fire, gas bombardments, rain, air battles, dug-out construction, disposing of dead horses, dysentery, firing missions, and longing for fresh food! The men also inherited something else from the former German tenants - cooties! The little fellows attacked the tender parts of their persons, and there was little chance to acquire a bath or change of clothing to foil them. Mustard gas burns became an added attraction.

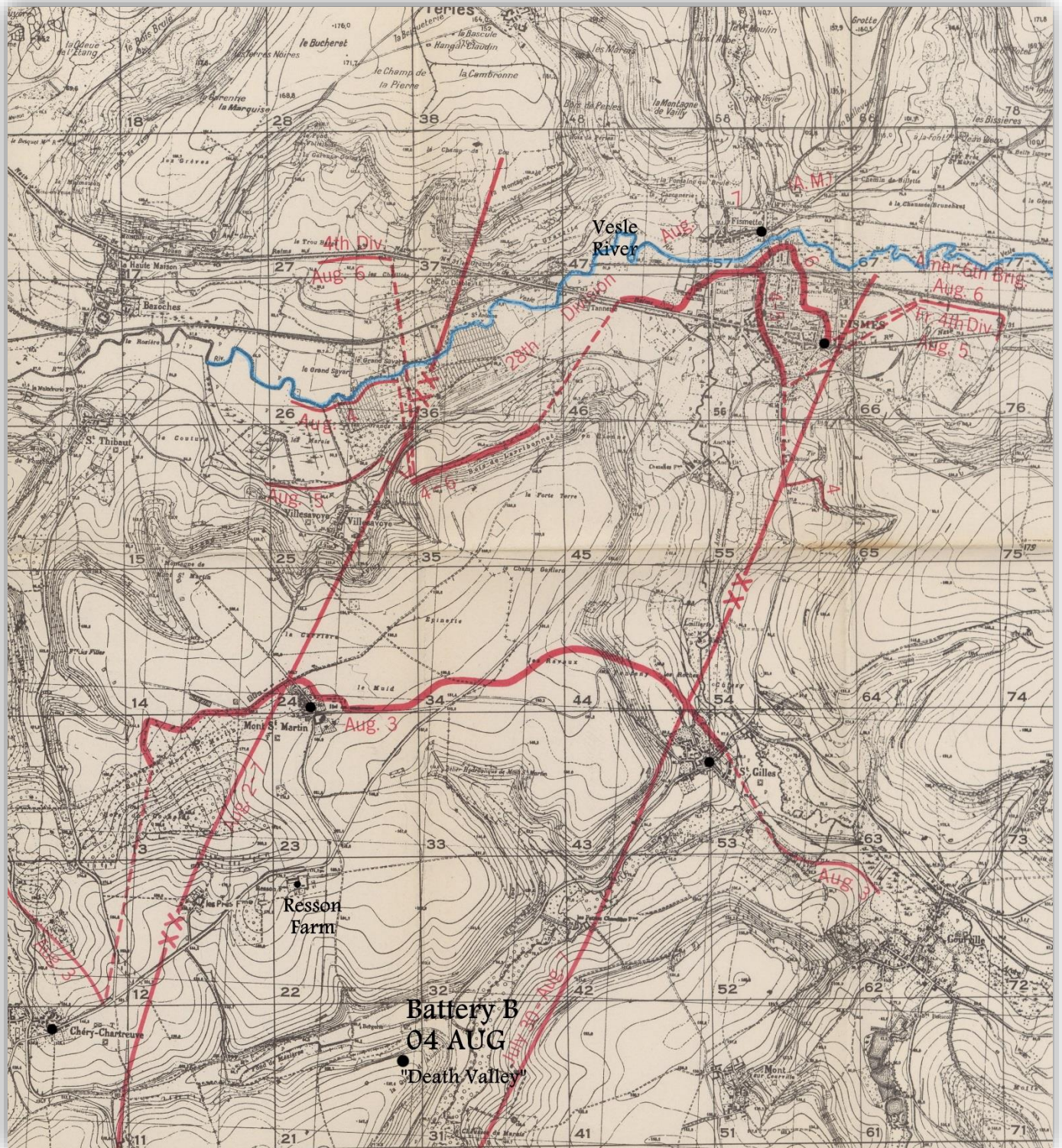


*riding themselves of the "cooties"*

It was during this action that the 32nd Division earned the nickname of "*Les Terribles*". When this fight first started General de Mondesir, the 38th French Corps Commander, under whose orders the 32nd was serving at the time, went to the front to see how the Americans were conducting the battle. After he personally observed the 32nd clearing the Germans out of their powerful positions with regularity and determination, he exclaimed "*Oui, Oui, Les soldats terrible, tres bien, tres bien!*" General Mangin heard of it and referred to the 32nd Division as "*Les Terribles*" when he asked for the Division to join his famous 10th French Army north of SOISSONS. He made the nickname official when he incorporated it in a later citation.

**On 7 August 1918, the 32nd Division was relieved in the front by the 28th Infantry Division. All except the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery that is, which remained in place to support the 28<sup>th</sup> Division.** In the savage fighting that occurred since 30 Jul 1918, the German line was forced steadily back, over difficult ground, from the strongly fortified position on the OURCQ RIVER to the VESLE RIVER, a distance of 19 kilometers. The brilliant and determined American attacks culminated in the 64th Infantry Brigade's capture of the important town of FISMES, and the 63rd Brigade's capture of the important German railhead on the VESLE.

During the week, the Division had captured 18 villages and fortified farms, 11 pieces of artillery, 10 trench mortars, 28 machine guns and hundreds of rifles. One German officer and 96 soldiers were taken prisoner. The 32nd Division casualties were 4,597 losses from all causes, including: killed and died of wounds - 797; severely wounded - 1,153; slightly wounded - 2,009; gassed - 618; missing - 12; captured - 2 officers and 6 men. The 32nd fought its way from RONCHERES, through CIERGES and BELLEVUE FARM, and ended with the capturing of the town of FISMES.



Front lines of the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Divisions, both supported by the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery brigade, 3-23 August 1918

The 32nd Division (minus the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**) was withdrawn from the battlefield to the area between DRAVEGNY and CIERGES for a brief period of rest and recuperation.

**7 Aug 1918** At 19:00, the 28<sup>th</sup> Division Infantry launch a spirited attack across the river toward FISMETTE in spite of being under heavy fire throughout the day. In the face of heavy opposition, they gained the north bank during the night, and swept forward early the next morning (**8 Aug 1918**), capturing FISMETTE. They were supported by a covering fire and rolling barrage laid down by the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**. With this enemy stronghold in their possession, they established forward lines which they held for 2 days, despite an almost constant hurricane of fire.



***Fismette, scene of hard fighting by the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, supported by the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade***

**10 Aug 1918** The 28<sup>th</sup> Division again attacked at 0430 to deepen the bridgehead and increase the garrison north of the VESLE. This was preceded with a combined machine gun and **artillery** barrage. Again, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** laid down a preparatory, covering, and rolling barrage. The attack was met with such resistance that only a few hundred meters were gained during the day, but it was held by a larger number of men. The advance became impossible without annihilating losses. The Germans could not be dislodged, and the attack was finally thrown back, though our forces occupying FISMETTE retained their hold upon the village and their positions north of the river.

The Germans had absolute control of the air. Every night, the **artillery** positions were bombed, and during the day they would swoop down and fire at close range. The positions now occupied by our **artillery** batteries in DEATH VALLEY, south of RESSON FARM, were spotted by German planes and were continually fired upon and deluged with poison gas. In this position, the **Iron Brigade** suffered its heaviest casualties of the war. Between **4-12 Aug 1918**, 25 men were killed, over 200 wounded, and more than 100 horses lost.

On **13 Aug 1918** the Germans did such a job with their gas shells that the poisonous vapor filled DEATH VALLEY like a swamp mist for several hours, obscuring the vision and causing much discomfort. Constant changes took place in personnel due to casualties and transfers.



*gas warfare made life miserable for the troops*

The sector now assumed the character of stabilized entrenched warfare. The Germans had excellent observation of our back areas, and any movement could result in gunfire. A large part of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** were positioned behind the front and were firing on a limited ammunition allowance. Gradually the bulk of this firing was taken over by the 53<sup>rd</sup> Brigade.

Orders for the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** to withdraw on **23 Aug 1918** were received, and welcomed by the men. The firing batteries began their hike at midnight, picking up echelons along the way. They traveled at night, drawing into the woods near FRESNES{-EN-TARDENOIS] as day began to break. On the march, they passed SERGY, where a desperate hand-to-hand battle had occurred some 4 weeks prior. The town was completely destroyed.



Around this time, **Lawrence** wrote a letter home, dated **August 21, 1918** and addressed to his mother, **Sophie**, and his father, **Frank**. The letter was published in *The Menasha Record* on October 25, 1918, two months after being written. In it, **Lawrence** describes "a good life" dodging shells and living on the ground in the rain. Interestingly, though it was written in August, **Lawrence** wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**THE MENASHA RECORD.**

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**GETS LETTER  
FROM HIS SON**

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**Frank Zielinski, 631 First Street  
Receives Message From  
Lawrence Zielinski**

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Frank Zielinski, 631 Fifth street, has received the following letter from his son, Lawrence Zielinski, who is somewhere in France:

August 21, 1918  
Somewhere in France

Dear Mother and Father:

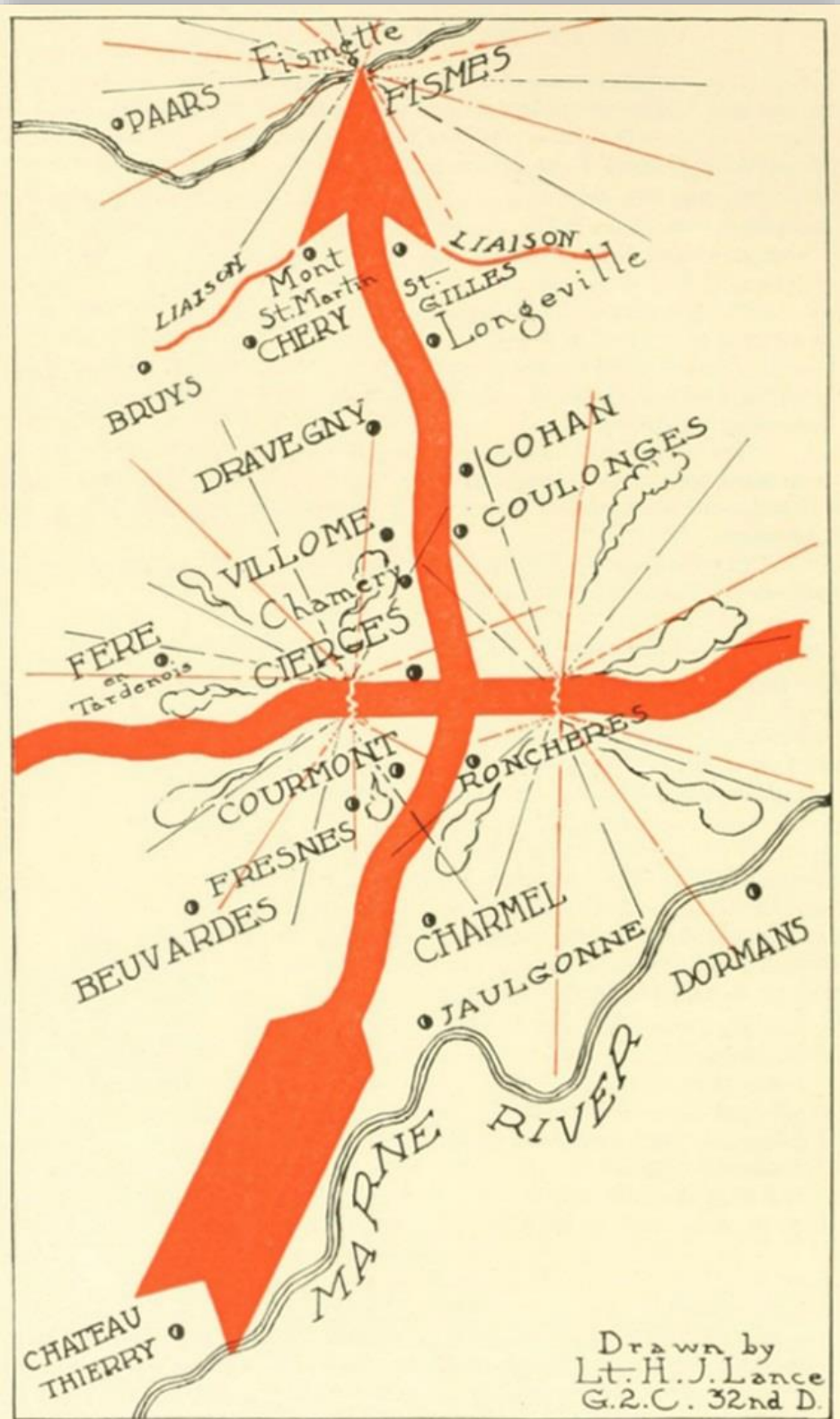
I must drop you a few lines and let you know that I am still alive and in the best of health and hope that everybody is the same at home. The news is scarce here and all we have to do is to dodge shells and they come over with some speed too. I forgot to

write in my last letter that I am back with my battery and all the boys are well and happy. Frank Gatzka is with me, he is in good health and happy. Dear father and mother, I think I will be a tough man if I ever get home, for the last two months I have been living on the ground in the rain and in the water, but I am used to it and it is fun for me. Believe me, dear mother sleeping out doors is why I am in the best of health and haven't been sick. I think this is a good life. I have my Liberty Bond paid up for which I have been paying a couple dollars a month. I am very glad that you received the policy for \$5 000 I took out \$5,000 and a couple of months ago I took out \$5,000 more, so you might receive it any time now. I haven't much more to write so I will close for this time. Best regards to all, and I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Good bye, answer soon, from

LAWRENCE

*Letter from Lawrence dated 21 Aug 1918, published 25 Oct, The Menasha Record*

**Lawrence** and the rest of the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade had been in line continuously for 23 days, always under fire, and had assisted the infantry in advancing 20 km. The losses were approximately 40 killed and 350 wounded and gassed. The regiments went into bivouac in the general area of the BOIS DE MUNIERE, CIERGES, and the BOIS DE FERRE. They would not rest for long.



THE RED ARROW PIERCING THE GERMAN LINES FROM THE OURCQ TO THE VESLE.



VIII.  
OISE-AISNE OFFENSIVE  
25 Aug to 6 Sep 1918



On **23 Aug 1918** the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, less the **artillery**, started movement to a new sector, in the vicinity of PIERREFONDS, near SOISSONS. After a few days in the Army reserve, the Division was sent across the AISNE to a position in the rear of the 127th French Infantry Division, with orders to relieve that division on short notice.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division had been selected to crack the hardest nut on the tree. The French High Command decided on a desperate venture north of Soissons, to relieve the enemy pressure on the Vesle. It was planned to make a thrust toward the rear of the German defenses from the west, by way of Juvigny. The 32<sup>nd</sup> was tasked with capturing a position that could outflank the German hold on the Vesle and bring on a retreat to the Aisne River.

**25 Aug 1918** Leaving their bivouac areas at 0100, all regiments of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** began marching 20 miles, avoiding the main roads, and passing thru COINCY, ARMENTIERES[-SUR-OURCQ], BRENAY, and NEUILLY-SAINT-FRONT, bivouacking that night between TROESNES and NEUILLY. **The 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** bivouacked in a big forest near TROESNES. In ARMENTIERES, they saw 3 old women, the first females to greet their eyes for nearly a month! **The 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC was established in the recently destroyed Chateau of MAUBRY. Congestion was terrific and none of the organizations reached their area until evening.



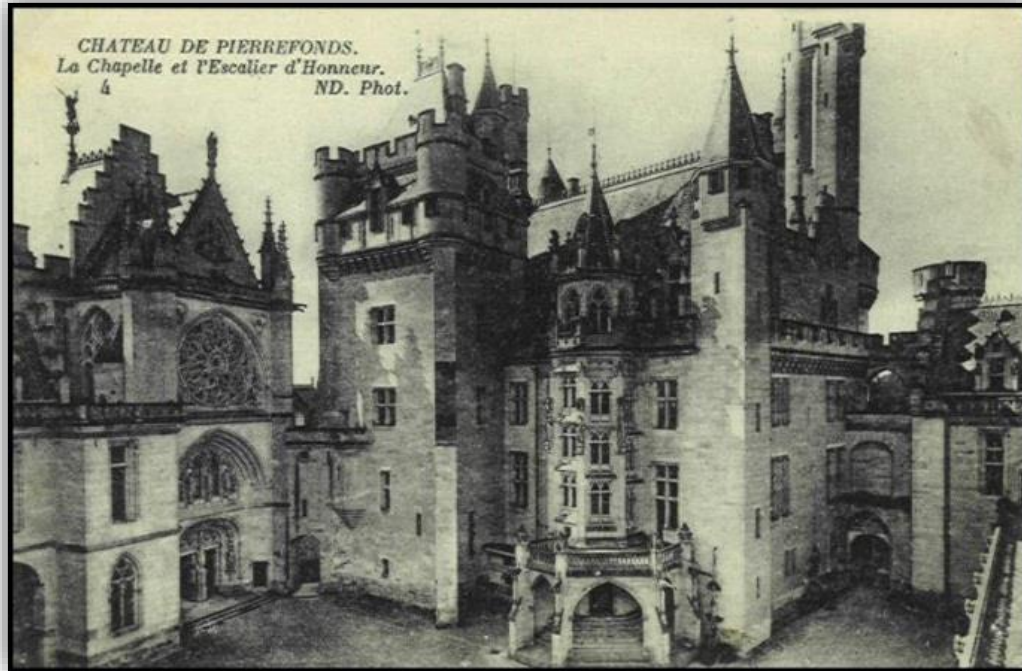
**26 Aug 1918** Again starting early in the morning, the route of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** took them through VILLER-COTTERETS, where the French had set up a display of captured German weapons on the town square, then TAILLEFONTAINE to the billeting area between HAUTE FONTAINE and PIERREFONDS. **The 121<sup>st</sup> Field**

**Artillery Regiment** bivouacked in a beautiful beech forest at SAINT-ETIENNE[-ROILAYE]. The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade PC** was established at CHELLES. That night, all regiments were strafed from the air, but even that could not prevent sleep induced by such a strenuous 16-mile march.



*The encircling route of the 32nd Division from Fresnes to Bieuxy, in order to get in the rear of the German lines at Juvigny, 25-28 Aug 1918*

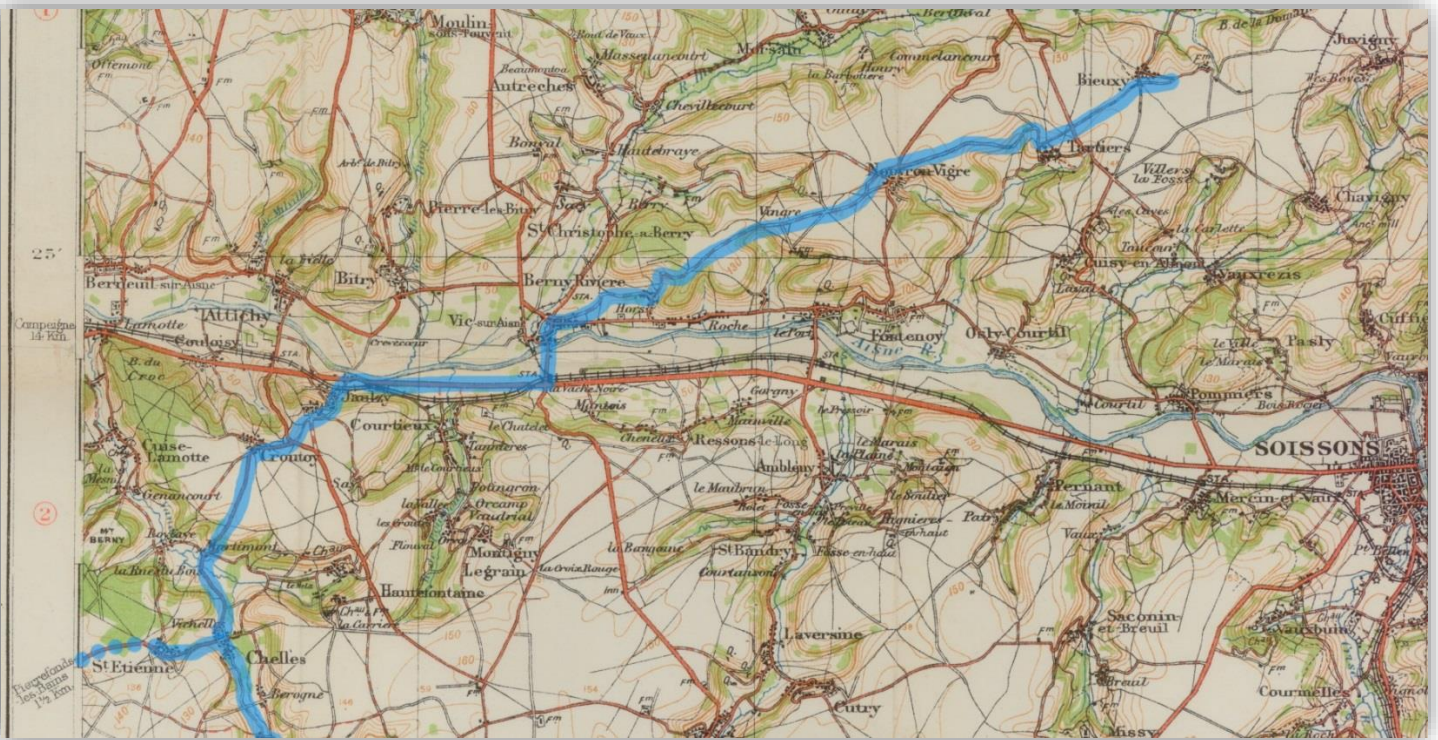
27 Aug 1918 The 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade was allowed to rest during the day at SAINT-ETIENNE[-ROILAYE], before moving out that night. Most likely during this rest period, **Lawrence** took advantage of the break and visited the heavily damaged CHATEAU DE PIERREFONDS, 3.5 km away.



*Chateau de Pierrefonds, before and after bombing.  
Lawrence brought these postcards home with him.*



The night of **27 Aug 1918**, the **121st Field Artillery batteries** continued their march. The two battalions took different routes, but both crossed the AISNE at VIC-SUR-AISNE, the **2nd battalion** being delayed by 2 hours when a French sentry refused permission to let them pass on the proper bridge and directed them over the wrong route.



*final leg of the artillery march to Juvigny, 27-28 Aug 1918*

While the **artillery batteries** were crossing the Aisne, **the Infantry of the 32nd Division relieved the 127th French Division.** In front was the railroad running north and south perpendicularly across the sector and beyond that, less than a mile away, JUVIGNY, nestling at the bottom of a ravine, whose wooded banks and branches form a perfect network of machine gun nests. The village was a "pillar" of the German position, strongly held by Prussian Guards, and the 32nd Division had been brought up to take it.

The 63rd Brigade went into the line and the 64th Brigade went into support (of the 63rd). The Infantry companies were down to 50% of their authorized strength of 250 soldiers as the 32nd Division prepared to enter its second battle. The relief was completed at 0200 on **28 Aug 1918**. The first attack was set for 0700, the precise hour at which command of the sector passed to the 32nd Division Commander, General Haan.

**28 Aug 1918** By dawn, **Lawrence** and the **1<sup>st</sup> battalion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** were in position at the big cave at BIEUXY, roughly 3.5 km from the front, ready to fire the big barrage. The **2<sup>nd</sup> battalion** was established in a valley near VEZAPONIN, and spent the day dodging "whizz bangs" and 150's. It rained all afternoon and evening. The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** PC was established in a huge cave at TARTIERS, along with brigade and divisional PC's. **Battery B** was positioned at 762.041.

*"The Austrian 88mm, known to American soldiers as "whizz-bangs", is a motorized cannon capable of rapid discharge. The shells are 2 feet long of highly polished brass. They travel at lightning speed, making a peculiar noise in transit and explode quickly with a terrific detonation." - Captain Paul Schmidt, Company C, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, Commanding*

SPECIAL ORDER No. 106, by command of Major General Haan, dated **27 AUG 1918**:

*"I. Destructive **artillery fire** on the wire entanglements, trenches, and important points of the enemy lines, up to the limits of the range of the **heavy artillery**, will be commenced as soon as the present order is received and will be continued the days of August 27/28 in order to disorganize as much as possible the enemy's defense as a whole.*

*II. Harassing fire, both continued and irregular, will be carried on day and night by the **heavy artillery** up to the limits of its range.*

*It is important in the present situation to allow the enemy no respite, to harass him energetically..."*

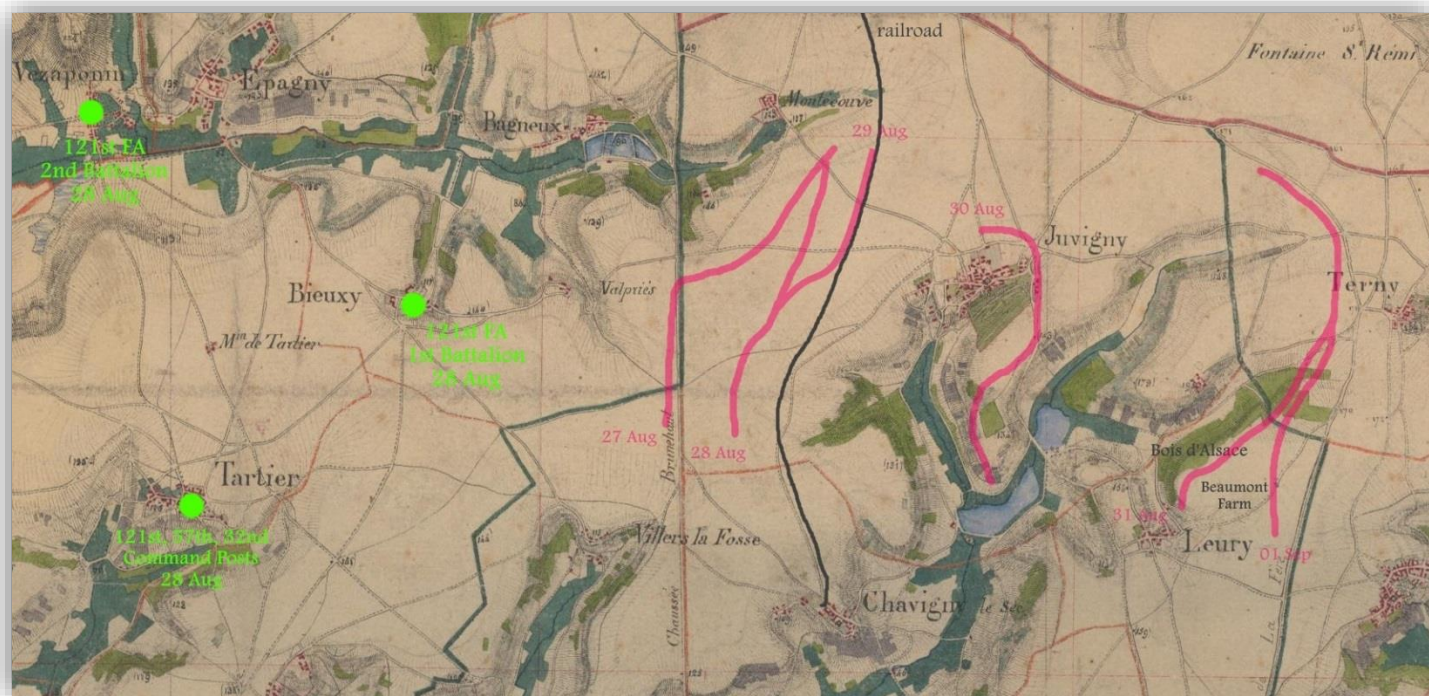


**Eastern entrance to the massive cave at Tartiers, used as Divisional, Brigade, and Regimental HQ, as well as an ambulance dressing station**

The 63rd Infantry Brigade went over the top at 0700 on **28 Aug 1918** to participate in a limited attack to eliminate a dangerous salient in the sector of the 59<sup>th</sup> French Division to the right of the 32<sup>nd</sup>. During the morning, the 32<sup>nd</sup> readily gained their objective - the railroad track west of the village of JUVIGNY. The village was destined to be one of the high spots in the career of "Les Terribles". They attacked the town from the west in the morning and made some progress. The 63rd Brigade turned in over 100 prisoners as a result of their push, and the captured Germans all testified to their complete surprise at the presence of Americans in the sector.

Later on **28 Aug**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> found that the position they had captured was difficult to hold. They were on high, open ground on the slope of a hill facing the enemy. There was little cover, except shell holes, and they were subjected to artillery and machine gun fire from positions that had excellent observation of our front. The exposed position could not be abandoned without endangering the French; as a result, the casualties were high.

Shortly after noon, the Germans counter-attacked to attempt to dislodge the Americans. Our machine gunners held their ground and, aided by the **Field Artillery**, were able to repel the German counter attack. After that, the Germans continued their harassing artillery and machine gun fire on the troops in the vicinity of the railroad tracks.



*The battle for Juvigny, 27 Aug - 2 Sep 1918*

At 1600 on **28 Aug**, the **artillery** laid a rolling barrage before the infantry assisting in another attack on JUVIGNY. The **artillery fire** was most intense. JUVIGNY was taken under heavy fire from the enemy. Due to the determined resistance of the enemy to the south, our infantry withdrew for reinforcement and to await the division on the right. During this time, the **artillery** kept up a continuous harassing fire on roads, battery positions, and infantry concentrations of the enemy, causing great losses to the German forces.

**29 Aug 1918** General Mangin ordered a general attack by the entire 10<sup>th</sup> French Army (of which the 32<sup>nd</sup> was a part) to take place at 0525, with the objective of a complete break through the German line. The movement to outflank the German position on the VESLE began. A tremendous **artillery** preparation had been delivered during the night, followed by a rolling barrage in front of the attacking infantry in the morning, but all this seemed to have little effect on the German machine gun nests, some of which took good advantage of numerous caves in the area.

The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Howitzers** devoted their time to cutting off German reinforcements, and it was learned subsequently that they had caused heavy loss of life among the German support regiment near JUVIGNY.

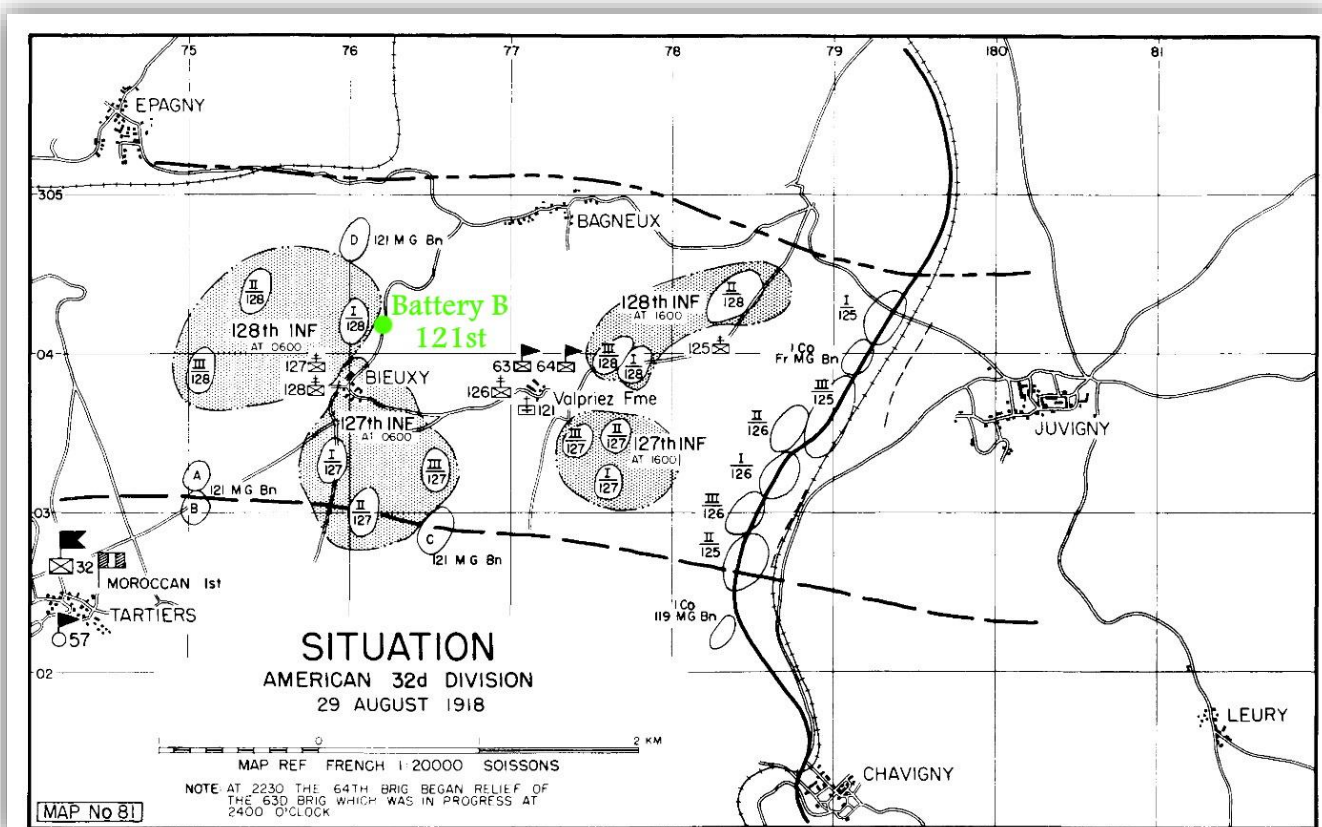
The Germans also laid down an effective counter-barrage, just as our troops jumped off. The entire 10<sup>th</sup> French Army met a determined German defense occupying well-sited and protected positions. Casualties were heavy on both sides and very little ground was gained.



*32<sup>nd</sup> Division Infantry on Valpries Farm, 3 km west of Juvigny, 29 Aug. These men are part of Company K, 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 64<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.*

The infantry dropped back 300 meters west of the railroad and prepared for another attack. At 1730, the **artillery** again supported the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division with a barrage and covering fire. The intensity was greatly increased in this barrage and it was scheduled to advance more slowly, thereby aiding its thoroughness. The infantry again took JUVIGNY, advancing to the road running north-south along the eastern edge of town. Further progress was prevented due to the divisions on our right and left were unable to keep up with the advance.

Because of the heavy casualties, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was relieved by the 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade on the night of **29 August** in preparation for the next general attack, planned for **30 Aug 1918**. The 127<sup>th</sup> was on the right and the 128<sup>th</sup> on the left, each with two battalions in the line and one in support.



*Situation around Juvigny at end of day, 29 Aug 1918*

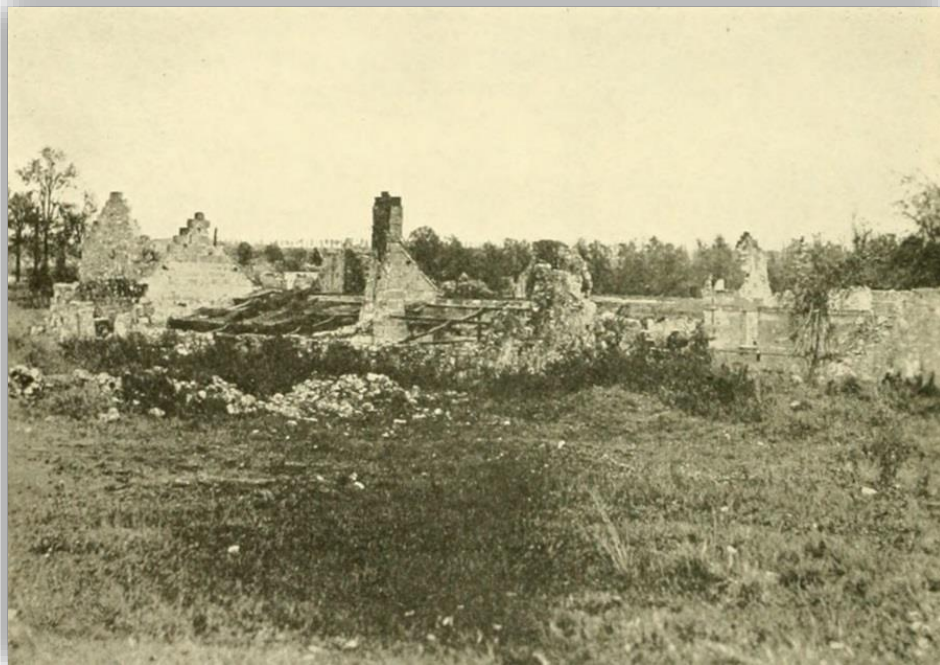
The planned attack for the morning of **30 Aug 1918** was not ordered. This situation left the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division front line still exposed on the hill west of Juvigny, with the troops suffering heavily. While corrective measures were being considered, word was received from the 59<sup>th</sup> French Division on our right that its right flank had advanced in close liaison with the division to their right, which had found a weak spot in the German line and had broken through. It became apparent that this movement was going to meet with success and preparations were made for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division to participate in the shove.

**30 Aug 1918** When the attack was launched in the afternoon, the **artillery** again supported the infantry with a barrage and covering fire. The intensity of the

fire increased gradually and covered the ground thoroughly. The left flank, together with the 66<sup>th</sup> French Division on our left, was held up by heavy fire coming from the northeast. The right flank, however, moved forward, and while it encountered determined opposition in going through the woods, it succeeded in making its way through the ravine to a position to the south of JUVIGNY.

One battalion of the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry moved forward and reached a position north of the town; in this way the village was practically surrounded. The enemy was taken by surprise by the attack, but recovered and delivered a counter-attack on our left flank. This attack was repulsed by the 128<sup>th</sup>, which had been reinforced by a battalion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

With JUVIGNY surrounded, the support battalion of the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry entered the town from the southwest and mopped up, encountering some wicked fighting. The doughboys advanced to the north-south road along the eastern edge of the village. Further advance was prevented by the failure of the French units on the right and left to keep up with the pace. Nearly all of the German troops holding the village were either killed or captured.

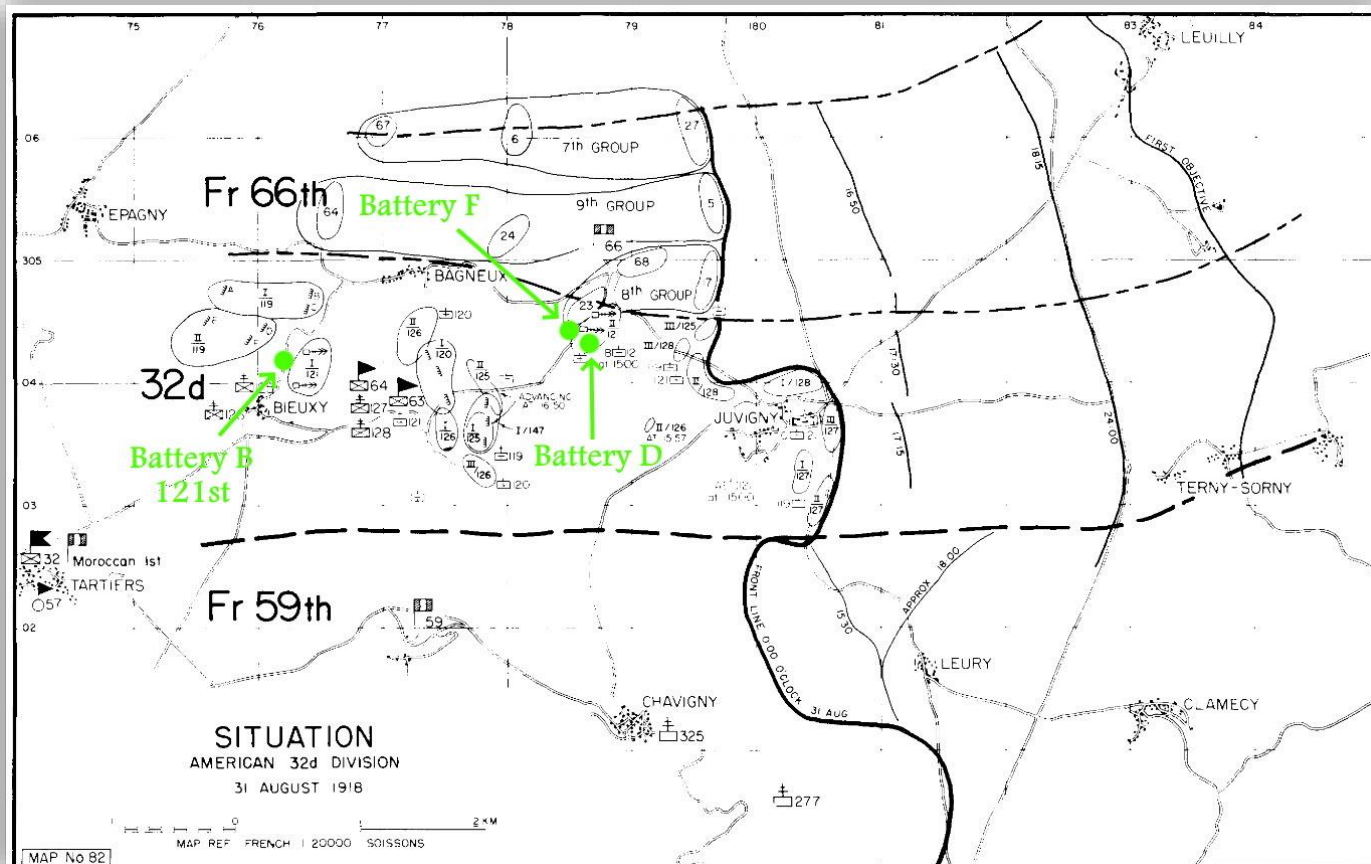


*Juvigny - virtually destroyed*

**31 Aug 1918** General Mangin ordered his second general attack to take place at 1600. This attack was needed to straighten out the front line and improve the positions of some of the forward units. He ordered an **artillery** preparation of 4 hours to precede the infantry attack. The entire **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** and the artillery of the 1<sup>st</sup> Moroccan Division, which was supporting the 32<sup>nd</sup>, were assigned to General Haan for this attack, involving 32 batteries of 75mm guns and 9 batteries of **155mm Howitzers**.

Novel use was made of this abnormal abundance of artillery in the form of a triple, rolling barrage, to cover a depth of about 1.5 km, and so concentrated

(one gun for every 13 yards of the front) that nothing could stand against it. For 4 hours the bombardment was maintained, being concentrated, towards the end, upon the plateau and village of TERNY-SORNY.



**Situation overnight, 30-31 Aug, showing location of 121<sup>st</sup> artillery batteries**

"About 4:00 in the afternoon, four French tanks came through our position, crossed the railroad tracks and started across an open field. As soon as they reached the field, the Germans opened a barrage that lasted about an hour, being one of the most terrific bombardments we ever experienced. It seemed that all hell had broken loose, and the earth trembled at the awful wrath. With every shock, our heads seemed ready to split from the reverberations. Words fail to describe the pandemonium. Dismembered portions of human bodies could be seen thrown into the air. Legs, arms, heads, and torsos were scattered in every direction, some being thrown fifteen feet in the air." - Captain Paul Schmidt, Company C, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, Commanding

The enemy fell back rapidly, leaving many dead behind. Due to the double formation of the current fire, the German troops that remained in the trenches after the first barrage passed were caught in the second. Thus hemmed in, many surrendered from the caves and dugouts around TERNY-SORNY. Some of the German prisoners taken during the day remarked that there were so many artillery shells bursting around them that they thought the Americans had a machine gun that sprayed 75 mm shells. Even with all this firepower, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division still

suffered considerable casualties as they progressed to the TERNY-SORNY-BETHANCOURT road, where the general advance halted.

While some opposition was encountered at BEAUMONT FARM and in the BOIS D'ALSACE, west of the TERNY-SORNY-BETHANCOURT road, so swift and successful was the **artillery**-protected advance that an assault was launched upon TERNY-SORNY before dark, resulting in the capture of the town, together with over 500 prisoners, by 20:00. The enemy, especially German artillery and transport, took flight during the night toward MARGIVAL and the hills beyond.

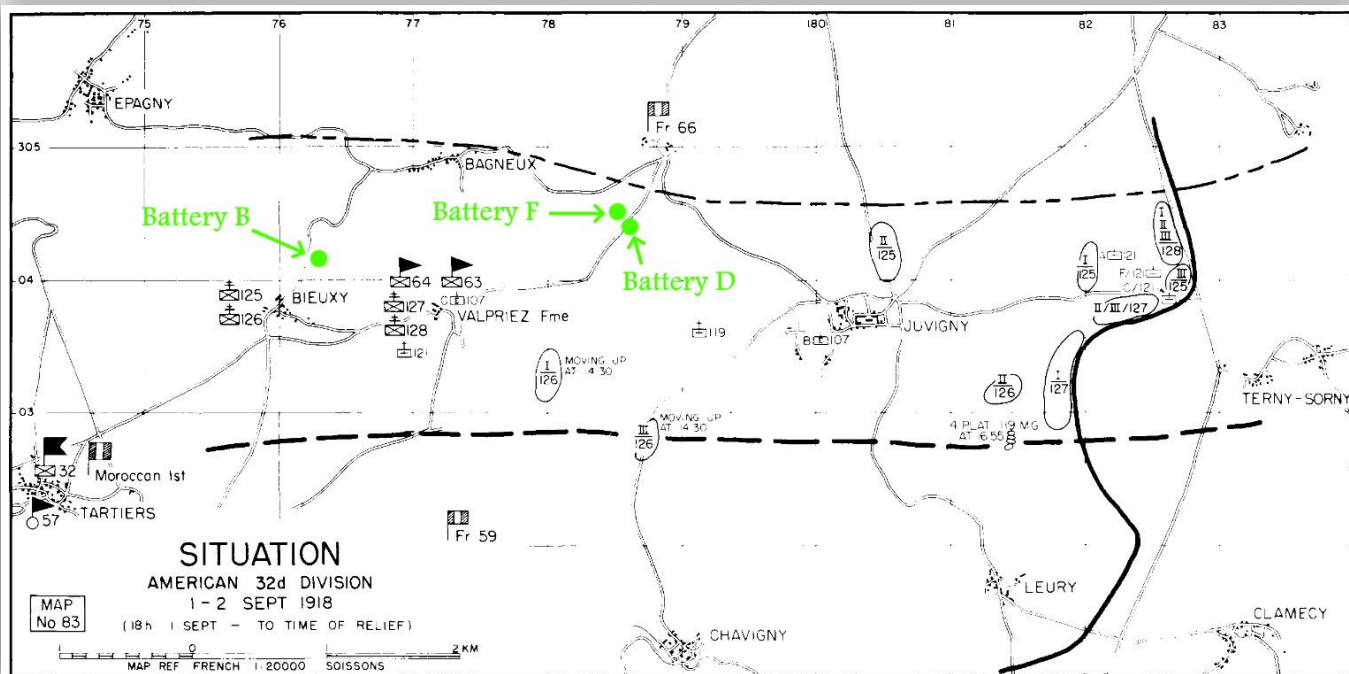


*The church at Juvigny, battered by shell fire, with German prisoners.*

In an operation against a determined enemy, disposed in great depth, supported by adequate artillery and entrenched in highly organized positions in country that lent itself naturally to defense, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division had again broken through a German key position, had penetrated his line to a depth of 5.5 km, and started an enemy withdrawal, thus paving the way for a forward movement by the whole French 10<sup>th</sup> Army. In 5 days, the **155mm howitzers (121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment)** had fired about 4000 rounds at the foe.



**1 Sep 1918** With its front holding the north-south road immediately west of TERNY-SORNY and patrols covering the ground eastward, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division spent the day mopping up remaining machine gun nests and improving its positions.



*Situation around Juvigny as of 1800, 01 Sep 1918*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, minus the artillery, was relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Moroccan Division on the night of 1 Sep 1918, and held back in support. However, the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery brigade remained to support the Moroccans. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division casualties in this theater were 2,908 losses from all causes. They captured 937 German prisoners, as well as 4 field pieces, 128 machine guns and trench mortars, 700 rifles, 44,000 rounds of artillery, and 270,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition.

**1-6 Sep 1918** During the 5 days that the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Moroccan Division, they captured the TERNY-SORNY road and the village of TERNY-SORNY and advanced the line more than 2 km east of town.

## MENASHA BOYS WERE GASSED

Lawrence Zielinski Tells of the Occurrence in a Letter to His Brother

Joe Zielinski 631 Fifth street, has received the following letter from his brother, Lawrence Zielinski, who is with Battery B somewhere in France:

Sept. 1, 1918

Dear Brother:

I must drop you a few lines and let you know that I am still alive and the kaiser didn't get me yet, but he was very close to getting me today. He sends over quite a few shells. I tell you, dear brother, this war is awful. I see the truck company boys every day. They bring shells over to our guns every day and yesterday afternoon I saw John Supilski and John Macejewski and a couple more of the boys from Co. I. John said that Mike Mattern and John Kalnowski were gassed and they are in the hospital, and Silver was shot through the leg. I get The Records every time we get mail. Now dear brother I think I will close for this time because I have only time to write and let you know that I am in good health, and hope that this war will be over soon. Good bye. Answer soon. From your loving brother

LAWRENCE

**1 Sep 1918** Lawrence wrote a letter home to his brother Joe. Written on **1 Sep**, the letter was published in *The Menasha Record* on 26 Oct. This letter was not quite as optimistic as an earlier letter written to his parents. In it, Lawrence described a close call with the Germans and injuries and gassings suffered by his friends in the regiment. Possibly, Lawrence was painting a bleak picture to his brother deliberately. Joe would turn 21 on **3 Sep** and thus, would be eligible to register for the draft.

**3 Sep 1918** A shell burst at the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** dressing station, killing a Frenchman and wounding 6 members of the regiment. That night, the battalion position was bombed without damage being done. Meanwhile the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** had been dispossessed of its underground quarters at BIEUXY. A fire, starting from blazing camouflage, had caused two of Battery A's guns to be put out of commission. **This battalion** moved up to the eastern outskirts of JUVIGNY, the cannoneers using picks and shovels to make a road for the carriages through the shell craters and rubbish of the town. The **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion** was deluged with German gas that night. **Battery B** had 2 men wounded in this sector, and there was not a man in the regiment who does not consider it a miracle that anyone escaped being a casualty during this exciting 10 days.

**4 Sep 1918** A shell burst in some powder boxes in a Battery D gun emplacement, injuring two. Early in the evening, a flight of 40 German planes was met by 50 Allied flyers and driven back after a 10-minute battle. Gas shells were showered on the position during a rain storm that night.

On **5 September** orders were received stating that the 32<sup>nd</sup> was being transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> American Army being assembled north of Toul, thus affecting the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division's final

withdrawal from the Oise-Aisne offensive (minus the **artillery**).

**6 Sep 1918** At sunset, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was ordered to move forward to a valley full of shell holes and German dead, just south of Terny-Sorny and instructions were given that the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** should proceed in advance of this position as soon as F and D batteries were ready to work, thus continuing the echeloning plan which had proved so successful.

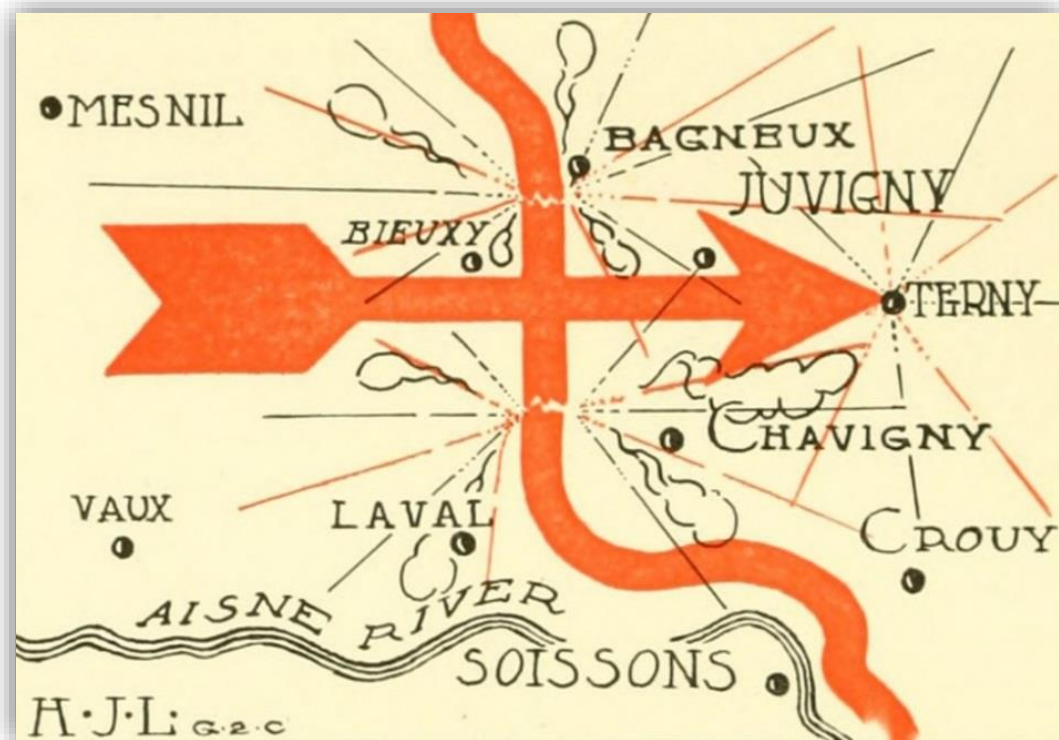
At midnight, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in position and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was ready to move. Just at that moment, orders came relieving the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade and sending it on the road again to proceed back to TARTIERS.

During this entire operation, the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade PC and the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment PC and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division PC had been in a vast cavern (CROUTE DES JOUAIRES) underlying the southwestern edge of TARTIERS. They were enormous old quarries for the limestone of which every house in that part of France is made.

The artillery battery positions in this offensive had at all times been advanced, and on several occasions, they had been subject to machine gun fire. The air battle was much more equal than previously, but the Germans were able to get over several times daily and fire on our batteries and direct artillery fire on their positions. The terrain and the weather permitted frequent gassings, but our casualties were not heavy in spite of the exposed positions. In all four regiments during the 9 days in position, 15 were killed or died of wounds, and 135 were wounded.

General Mangin later decorated the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division for its actions in this offensive with the army order of the Croix de Guerre, and cited over 500 officers and men for gallantry in action while under his command.

At TARTIERS, the entire 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was mobilizing, and after a day's rest, they marched back to the woods at SAINT-ETIENNE[-ROILAYE] on 8 Sep 1918. It was an 8-hour hike, but in daylight, with fine weather. Once in the woods, the men prepared for some rest time. But, once again, it would be short-lived.







**IX.**  
**TO THE MEUSE**  
**9 Sep to 20 Sep 1918**



**9 Sep 1918** In the darkness of night, in the midst of a driving rain and howling wind, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** pulled out of the SAINT-ETIENNE woods, and battery by battery, moved to VAMOISE, where they entrained. The trains passed near Paris again that night, and finally reached SAINT-DIZIER the next day, **10 Sep 1918**.

Orders were then changed, and the regiment was sent to EURVILLE[-BIENVILLE}, where they detrained. Marching to the billeting area at WASSY [VASSY], they found that the 120<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery had grabbed the town for their own, leaving the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** to scrounge around for some nearby hamlets to billet in. In the rain, toward evening, almost everyone found a barn or pigsty to sleep in.

**11 Sep 1918** While trying to make the billets more permanent they got orders to return to WASSY [VASSY]. Reaching there, more confusion abounded and most everyone had to sleep in swampy fields along the roads near town.

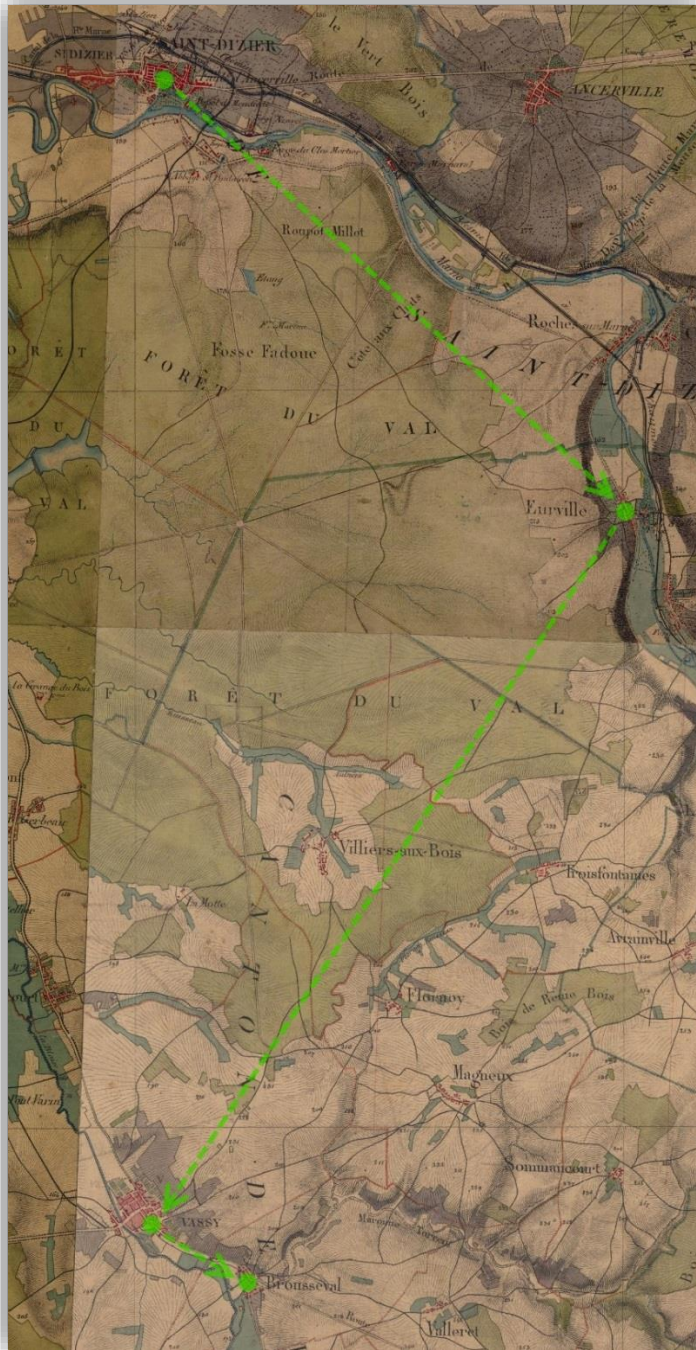
**12 Sep 1918** Col. Arthur, commander of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, dug up enough billets at WASSY [VASSY] to accommodate HQ company, and nearby in BROUSSEVAL, enough more to give everyone a place to sleep. Every officer and man believed this rest period was to be at least two weeks duration. The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** had been on the front or enroute for 90 days without rest. Instead, 44 hours was allowed for bathing, shopping, cognac, and disorderly conduct. This was followed by drilling and schooling until **16 Sep 1918**. About 5,000 new men arrived in the Division, but the rifle companies were still short three officers and 50 men each.

**15 Sep 1918** General Pershing visited the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division and congratulated them on their accomplishments during the Oise-Aisne campaign.



*another march begins for the 32<sup>nd</sup>, towards Verdun and the Meuse*



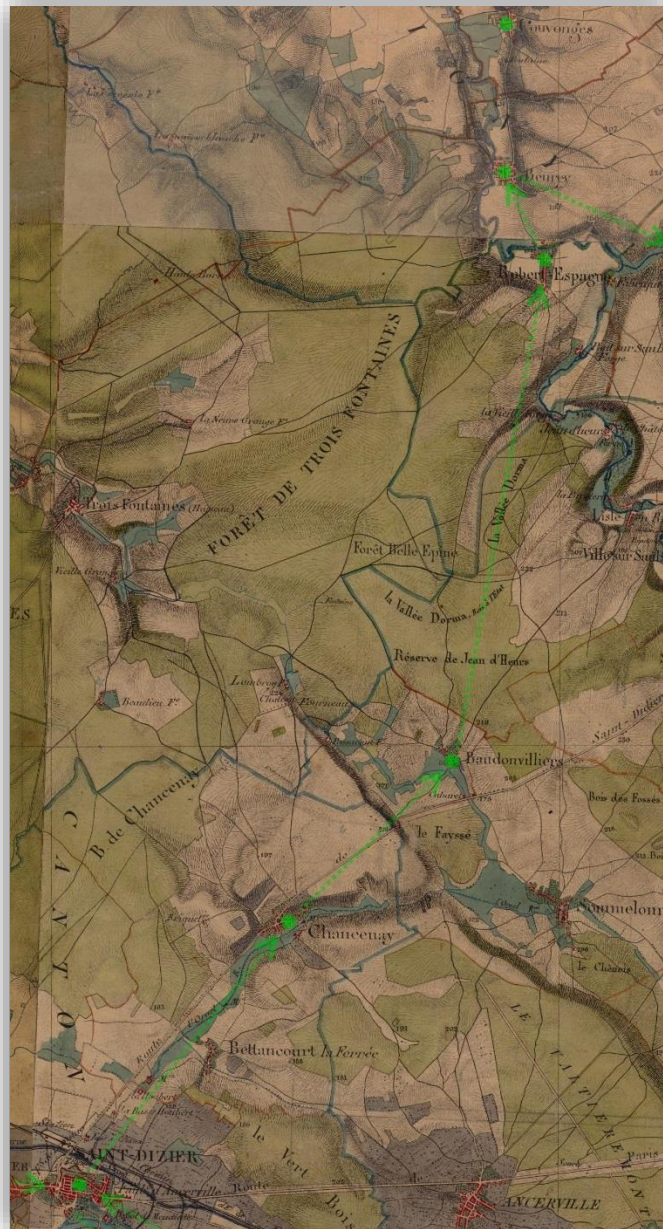


***Route of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 10 September***

The rest period had barely begun when move orders came to go to the front. None of the men had more than a 5-day rest, some less than 3. Packs were rolled, horses harnessed, and the wearying march began. Orders were that every precaution to obtain secrecy must be observed. Accordingly, the marches were made at night. During daylight, movement was discouraged and bivouacs were camouflaged.

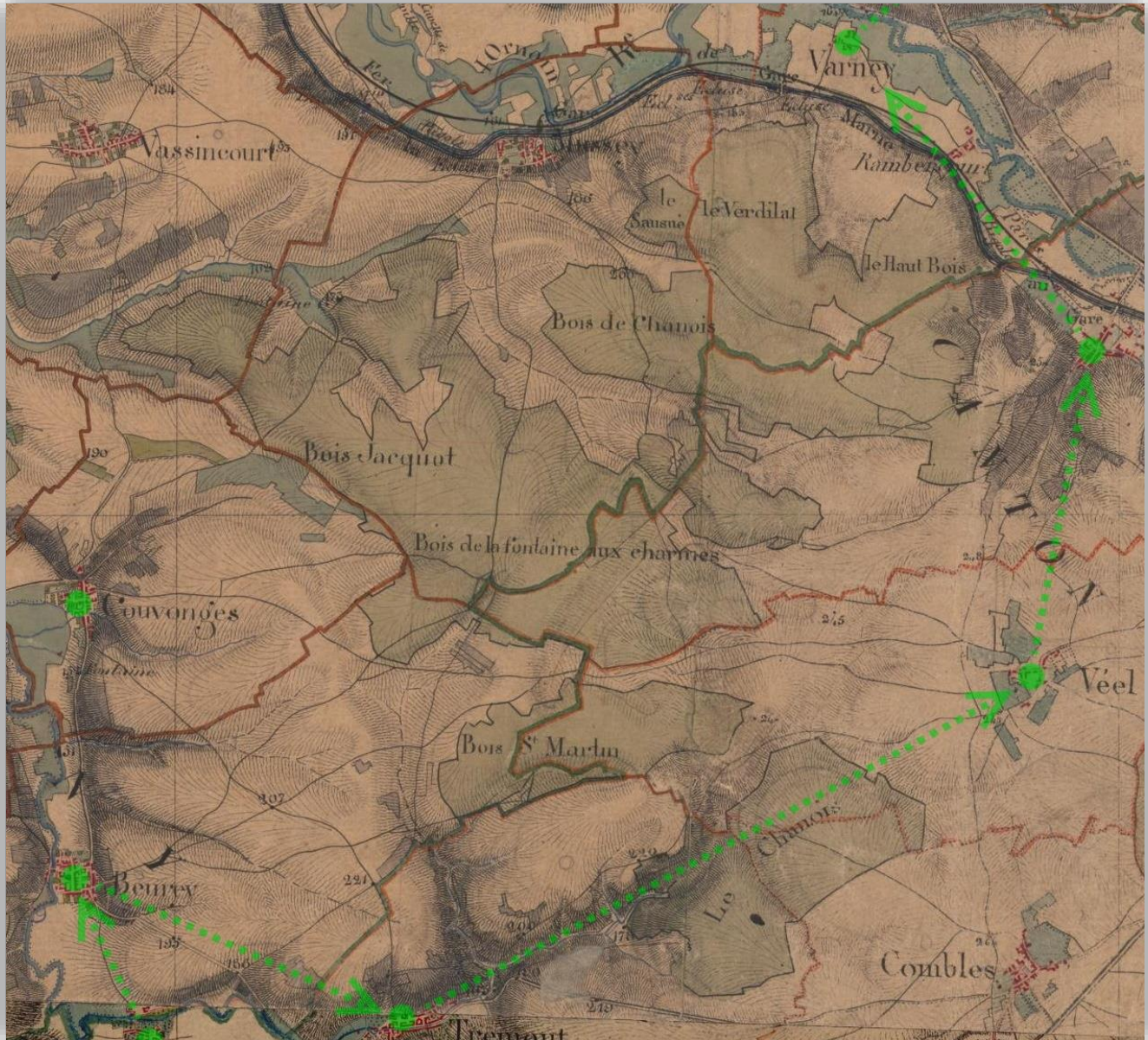
**17 Sep 1918** The first night's march from WASSY and BROUSSEVAL began after supper and brought the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** to EURVILLE, bivouacking in a big meadow near town. As usual, the rainstorms started shortly after the march began. The route taken was WASSY [VASSY], VILLIERS-AUX-BOIS, EURVILLE. All **artillery** units were required to avoid the main road between JOINVILLE and PREZ-SUR-MARNE until midnight. Thereafter, each night brought them one stage nearer to VERDUN.

**18 Sep 1918** The march for the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** continued at 19:30 by way of ROCHES-SUR-MARNE, SAINT-DIZIER, CHANCENAY, BAUDONVILLIERS, ROBERT-ESPAGNA, and billet in BEUREY-SUR-SAULX.



**Route of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 18 September**

**19 Sep 1918** The day was spent sleeping and swimming in a creek near BEUREY. The morning found the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC set up in COUVONGES. The march for the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was to continue at 22:00 by way of TREMONT-SUR-SAULX, GOULAT FARM, VEEL, FAINS, and reaching their billet in VARNEY at sunrise **20 Sep 1918**. This night's march was not so long. The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC opened in the mill at VARNEY. Here they were to await further orders, and it seemed to be a chance for a night's rest on **20 Sep 1918** when darkness fell and no orders had been received. But the orders came in at 20:00, and again the brigade was off - this time on a longer march.



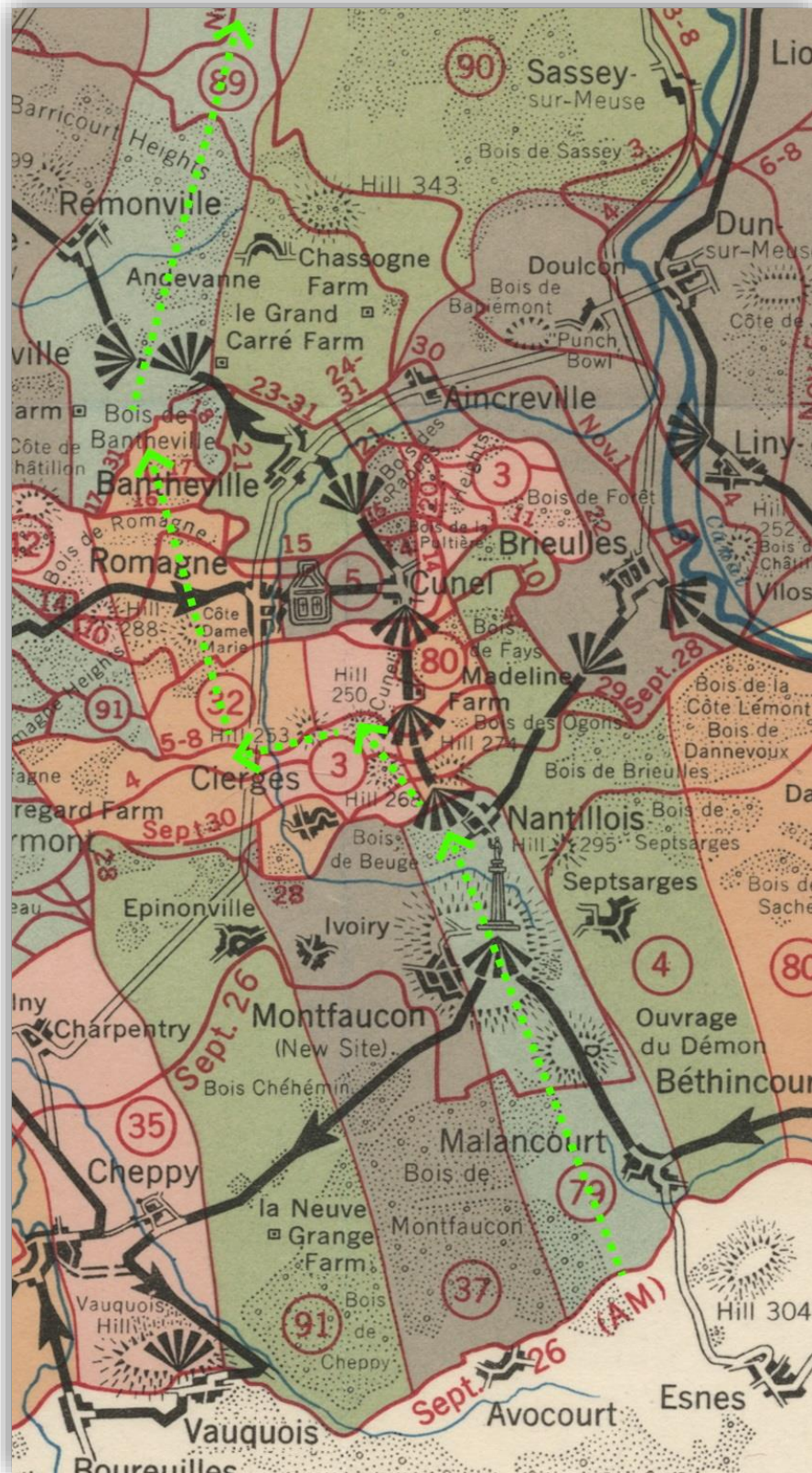
*Route of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 19 September*

**20 Sep 1918** The fourth night's march for the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was to continue at 19:30 by way of VARNEY, CHARDOGNE, HARGEVILLE-SUR-CHEE, CONDE EN BARROIS, REMBERCOURT-SOMMAISNE, and billet in BEAUZEE (BEAUSITE), where the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC was set up. General Pershing passed through the camp while at BEAUZEE and took a flitting glance at the world's best heavy artillery regiment from his seat in a big limousine. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was now in position to join one of the largest and most important battles of the war.





**X.**  
**MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE**  
**21 Sep to 8 Nov 1918**

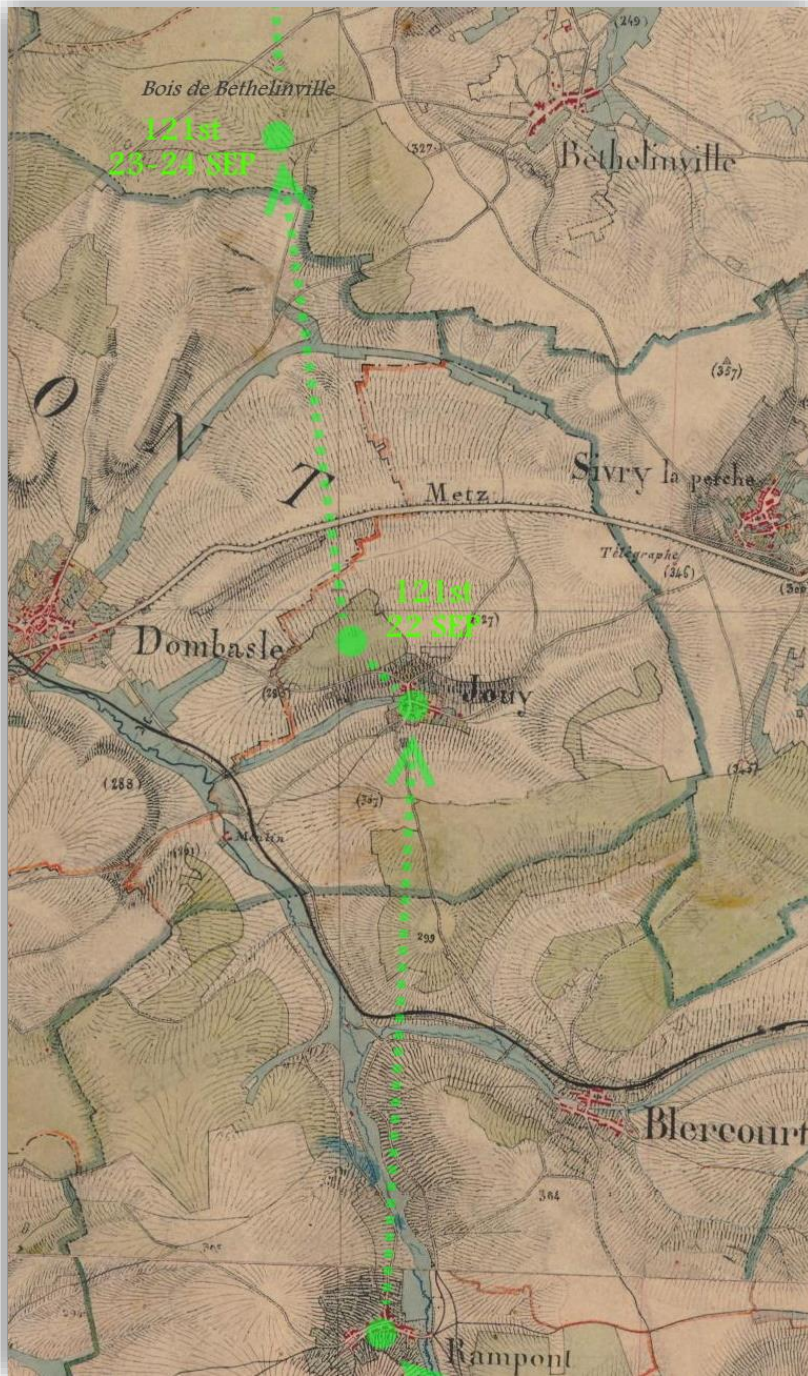


*The Meuse-Argonne Offensive*

*The 121<sup>st</sup> (green) supported the 79<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 89<sup>th</sup> Divisions*

During the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** of the **32<sup>nd</sup> Division** supported four different divisions, as follows:

- **22-30 September** with **79<sup>th</sup> Division**
- **30 September - 6 October** with **3<sup>rd</sup> Division**
- **6-20 October** with **32<sup>nd</sup> Division**
- **20 October - 1 November** with **89<sup>th</sup> Division**
- **1-8 November** with **32<sup>nd</sup> Division**



**21 Sep 1918** Orders came to continue the march to the billeting area near JOUY near the 79<sup>th</sup> Division, whom the Iron Brigade was to support. This night's march of 25 km was to commence at 19:30 and the route was established as: BEAUZEE, SAINT-ANDRE (-EN-BARROIS), IPPECOURT, VADELAINCOURT (VADELAINCOURT), RAMPONT, JOUY (-EN-ARGONNE), where brigade PC was established. The order of march was: 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade HQ, 120<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, 119<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 107<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery.

By morning of **22 Sep 1918**, the **Field Artillery regiments** were bivouacked in the woods north of JOUY, near DOMBASLE-EN-ARGONNE. It rained all day and the thermometer sank to the discomfort point. The **artillery** command passed to General Irwin, who immediately ordered the 120<sup>th</sup> and 147<sup>th</sup> in position to assist the French in defense of the sector. The other units remained in bivouac in the BOIS DE BETHELAINVILLE for 2 days. The sector was quiet at this time with little artillery fire from either side. Absolute secrecy in every movement was observed.

**24 Sep 1918** In the afternoon, in a dense fog which concealed their movements from the Germans, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** moved up to a position near the ruined

hamlet of ESNES. This hillside had been occupied by the French for 3 years and



held some pretty deep dugouts. From the Observation Point at the top of the hill could be seen MONTFAUCON to the north, the German wire and trenches in the front, and DEAD MAN'S HILL (HILL 304) on the immediate right front. There was no use trying to describe No Man's Land, directly in front. It was a long stretch of brown mud, tossed and torn by countless shells and changed from a gently sloping, pretty, grazing country, into a desert as desolate and terrible as the crater-marked face of the moon.

During the night, the remaining batteries of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** took up positions in some old dugouts in the BOIS DE HESS. The position of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Battery B** was 157.705, just southwest of Esnes. They were notified that an attack was to be made on the Germans, and that the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** would support the 79<sup>th</sup> Division, while the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry remained in reserve in the BOIS DE HESS.



*Esnes to Malancourt with the 79<sup>th</sup>, 24-26 September*



*Congestion and muddy roads around Esnes made transportation difficult*

**Orders announced by General Irwin 24 Sep 1918:**

- Preparatory Fire:
  - All **artillery** batteries will take part. All fire will be on definite targets, assembling points, trenches, wire, strong points, roads, communications, machine gun nests, batteries, shelters, observation stations, telephone centrals, etc. Should the preparatory fire commence during the night, fire will be confined to harassing fire (high explosive and gas) on camps, communications, and roads. Counter-battery work will be undertaken by the batteries of **155 mm howitzers (121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment)**.
- Accompanying Fire:
  - This will consist of a rolling barrage of 75's and a covering fire of 75's, **155's**, and 9.2's. The rolling barrage will be dropped 300 meters in advance of the jumping off line 5 minutes in advance of "H" hour. Progress will be by bounds of 100 meters, commencing at "H" hour at a rate prescribed (probably 3 minutes).
- Covering Fire:
  - This will be by 5 batteries of 75's, the **155 mm howitzers**, and the 9.2 howitzers. Fire will be on successive targets, and will precede the rolling barrage by 200 meters. Rate of fire: 1 shot per gun per minute for 75's; 1 shot per gun per minute for 155's, to be gradually reduced as guns need cooling.
- Operations Orders:
  - All **artillery** battery positions must be occupied by daybreak, **25 Sep 1918** ready to open fire. All batteries must be supplied with 3 days fire per battery at position.

**25 Sep 1918** The day passed quietly. All **artillery** batteries were in position and ready to fire at a moment's notice, but the attack was withheld. That night "H" hour was announced as 0530 on **26 Sep**. At 2330 on **25 Sep**, 4,000 pieces of **artillery**, one for every 8 meters of the front, flamed out in unison to begin the preparatory fire. The Meuse-Argonne offensive had begun.

**26 Sep 1918** The 79<sup>th</sup> Division was directed to advance rapidly to its objective, which was a northeast-southwest line running through NANTILLOIS, 3.5 km north of MONTFAUCON. It was to seize the villages of MALANCOURT, MONTFAUCON, and NANTILLOIS. Preparatory fire from the **artillery batteries** began at 0230. It sounded as though all the thunder in the sky was released at one time. A steady roar commenced which shook the earth. It was foggy and cold and observation was impossible, but there was little doubt that damage was being done.

At 0525, the **artillery** barrage paused, causing a silence that seemed oppressive. This lasted 3 minutes and was the cue for the doughboys to jump off. At 0530, the infantry went over the top. 25 minutes of neutralizing fire covered the enemy's front lines, while the infantry penetrated the barbed wire. Then followed a rolling barrage and covering fire from the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** for 3 hours. The barrage moved 100 meters for every 4 minutes on average.

The smoke screen and fog made visibility poor, and many enemy machine guns were passed over during the advance to MALANCOURT. The town was reached at 0730 and the advance continued at 0800. Two hours later, when the fog lifted, heavy machine gun fire was received on all sides from guns which had been passed over. The front-line troops also came under heavy fire from machine gun positions at the RAVIN DE MORIEMPRES and on the slopes near POINT 232. The leading elements continued to advance, however, and by noon were approaching the head of the ravine.

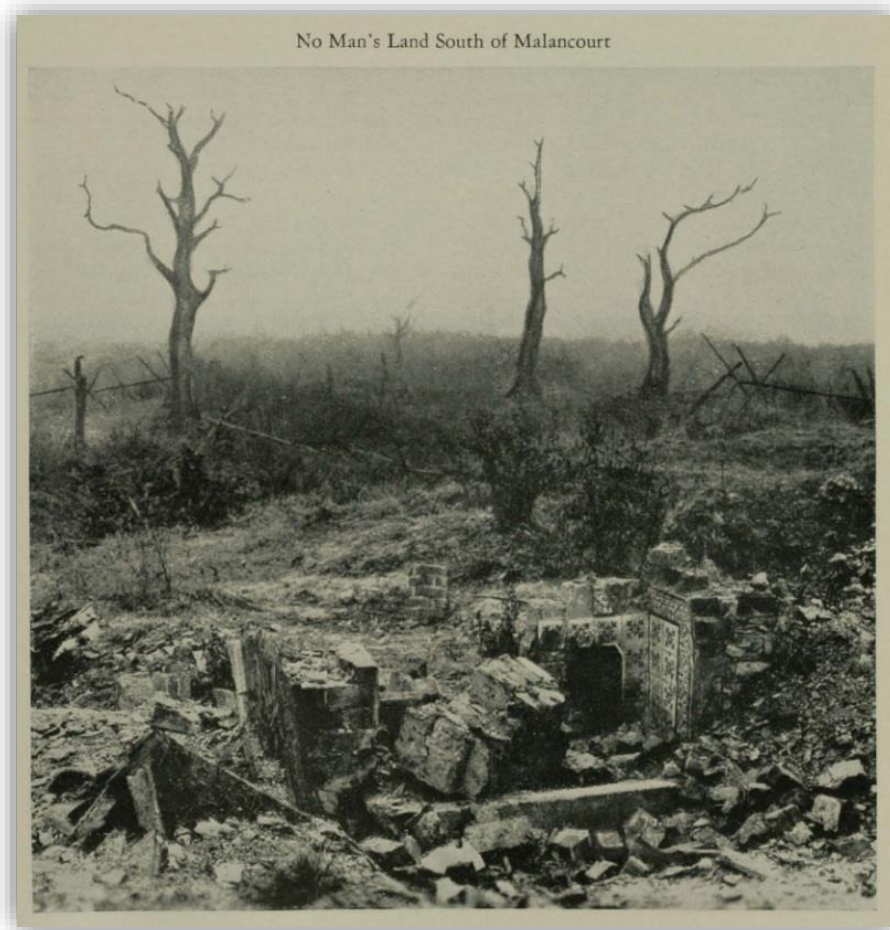


***"No Man's Land" between Esnes and Malancourt***

The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC had moved into the TRENCH ZOUAVE, just south of and overlooking the "No Man's Land" of the morning. It had been useless to order any of the units forward. The infantry was still under cover of our **artillery** guns firing at extreme range. *"In this advance, the famous HILL 304 was captured and if there was a no man's land anywhere, this hill surely was it. It was nothing but one shell hole on top of another."*

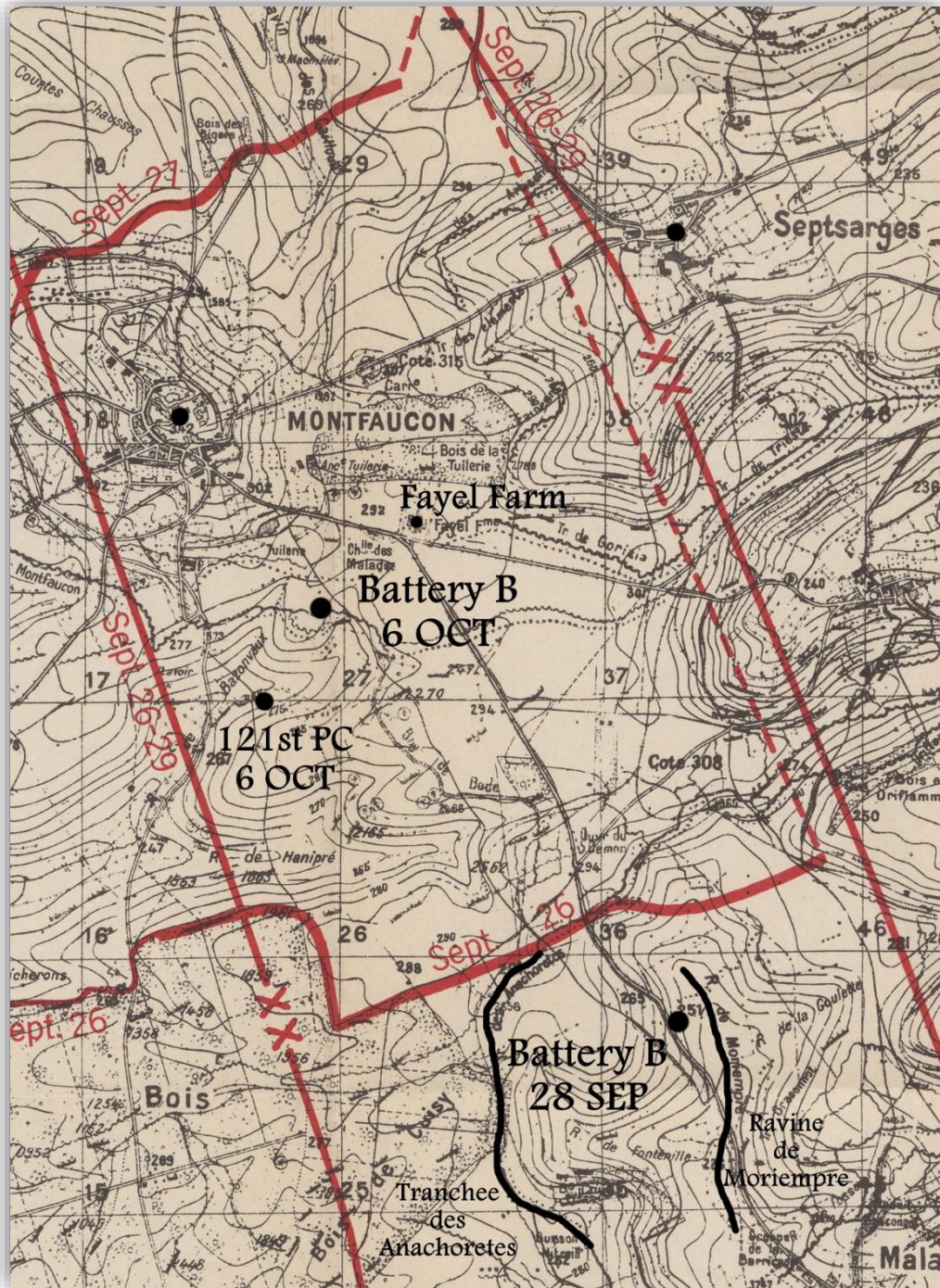
All day on **26 Sep**, the **artillery** awaited orders to move, but there was no serviceable road through the swamps, shell craters, and crevices of that ancient No Man's land. The engineers worked frantically under almost unbelievable conditions to repair the old ESNES-MALANCOURT road, but even the tanks were unable to make a passable path.

By nightfall, the infantry had reached and attacked MONTFAUCON-D'ARGONNE, without success. The line reached from the northwestern slopes of HILL 281, across the RAVINE DE MORIEMPRE to TRANCHEE DES ANACHORETES for 300 meters, then south of west to BOIS DE CUISY. During the night, the **artillery** bombardment of MONTFAUCON enabled the infantry to move forward.



**27 Sep 1918** At 0330, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** started moving forward to cross "No Man's Land". Plowing doggedly over a sandbag road as far as MALANCOURT, the regiment was ordered off the road, which was reserved for the 79<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions between MALANCOURT and MONTFAUCON. The road assigned to the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was impassable for the heavy artillery, and the only possible road was reserved for another division. With officers making bluffs and threats, the **121<sup>st</sup>** started again and, once on the road, there was no turning back by anyone's orders. It took 5 hours to go the last mile and a half. Of course, it rained the entire day.

At 0700, the infantry had attacked MONTFAUCON after preliminary bombardment by the **heavy artillery** near ESNES, and by noon had occupied and passed beyond the town. During the afternoon, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery batteries** had taken advanced positions and supported attacks on the BOIS DE BEUGES, keeping it under fire during the night. At nightfall, our lines were almost 1 km north of the SEPTSARGES-MONTFAUCON road.



*Malancourt to Montfaucon with the 79<sup>th</sup>, 26-27 September*



*American troops marching through Montfaucon. The house with the peaked roof contained a concealed concrete observation post.*

The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery batteries** were ordered to continue forward, and reached their new positions around 0300 on **28 Sep** - 24 hours to cover an average distance of 16 km. The **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** stopped near MALANCOURT and the **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion** went into a depression a mile north. The **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion** then went forward to the MONTFAUCON RIDGE. The location of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Battery B** was 132.758, approx. 2 km northwest of MALANCOURT. Battery D followed later in the morning, and by that night, the regiment's firing strength was all concentrated in a shallow valley within pistol shot of MONTFAUCON.

**28 Sep 1918** Another attack advanced the infantry through MONTFAUCON and NANTILLOIS, to the woods on HILL 268, and to the heights north of NANTILLOIS. The **artillery batteries** followed closely behind.

**29 Sep 1918** The same attack was attempted at 0700 with considerable preparatory fire from the **artillery batteries** which lasted all night on the BOIS DES OGONS and MADELEINE FARM. But the troops of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division had been almost without food and water for two days, and had been through three days of heavy fighting. For this attack, their initiative was finished. By nightfall, they had fallen back to about 1km behind the starting point.

The divisional roads continued to be problematically clogged with traffic. This was most distressing in the evacuation of the wounded, and numbers died of cold and exposure on the 24-hour trip to the field hospital. Every few meters along this road were litters of dead whose first wound was not at all serious - literally frozen to death and dumped by the roadside to make room for others. Getting artillery ammunition to the front was slow and difficult. Food supplies came seldom and at irregular intervals.

In order to save as many as possible of the wounded, all the field hospitals were moved forward to FAYEL FARM. This brought on another most distressing situation. The hospital was set up almost on the crest of the hill on which the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC was located. It was perfectly silhouetted against the skyline for observation by German balloons. The hospital was plainly marked by large red crosses on top of the tents. Nevertheless, on **29 Sep 1918**, a German plane circled slowly over the hospital dropping 10 shells at 30-second intervals, 8 being direct hits. Patients, litters, and tents were scattered in all directions. Numbers of men lying helpless were killed outright or mortally wounded.



*This shattered church in the ruins of Neuville furnished temporary shelter for American wounded.*

**30 Sep 1918** The 79<sup>th</sup> Division, less the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, was relieved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, having made an advance of 10 km and suffered 3,500 casualties. The relief commenced about 10:45 and was completed by 18:00. During the time that the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was attached to the 79<sup>th</sup> Division, it recorded just one casualty - a wounded soldier who recovered. The position of **Battery B** remained unchanged. Also on this date, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division relieved the 37<sup>th</sup> Division immediately to the left.



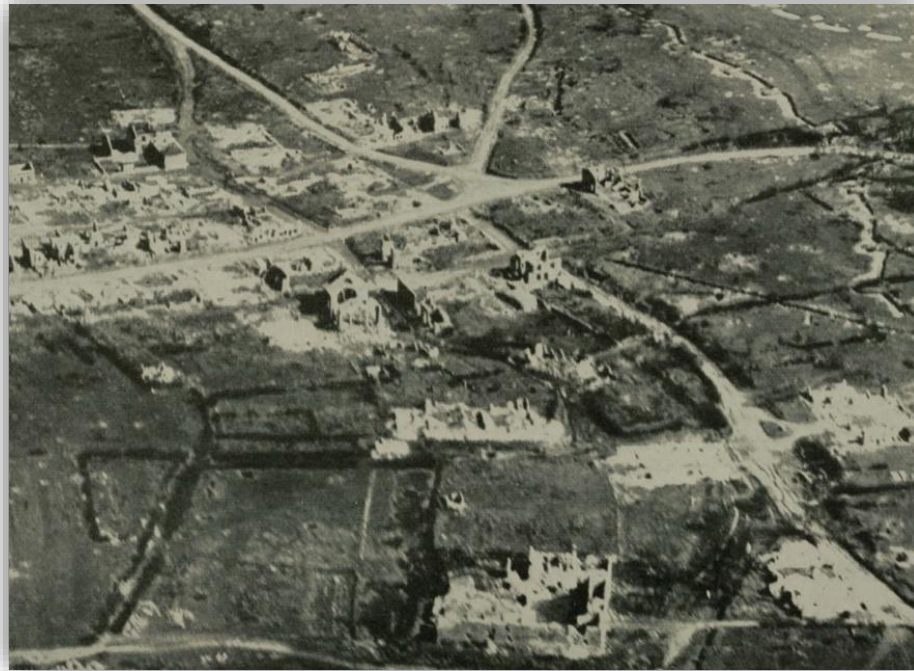
*Montfaucon to Nantillois with the 79<sup>th</sup>, 27-30 September*

**2 Oct 1918** Activity in the air was more pronounced during these 5 days with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division than at any other time in the experience of the **brigade**. It was the first time they had seen our own planes at equal advantage with the Germans. The morning of **2 Oct 1918**, seven planes were brought down within a half hour, all within visible radius of the brigade PC. Patrols ventured beyond the front lines during the day, but the line remained in place.

**3 Oct 1918** Toward evening, three German planes came over the **121<sup>st</sup> regimental** position at half hour intervals, not noting the men thru the light mist. As each one arrived, it was met by machine gun and rifle bullets from everyone in the vicinity. All three planes bit the dust.



For the next few days, each day was much like the others for the **artillery units** - firing 50 to 100 rounds per battery every night to keep the Germans dissatisfied with life, and dodging shells each morning. In the afternoons, some entertainment was usually offered in the shape of airplane battles or the sinking of any air balloons which cared to attempt an ascension. Whenever a balloon arose, the betting started. It was usually on even money the bag would be sunk within an hour.



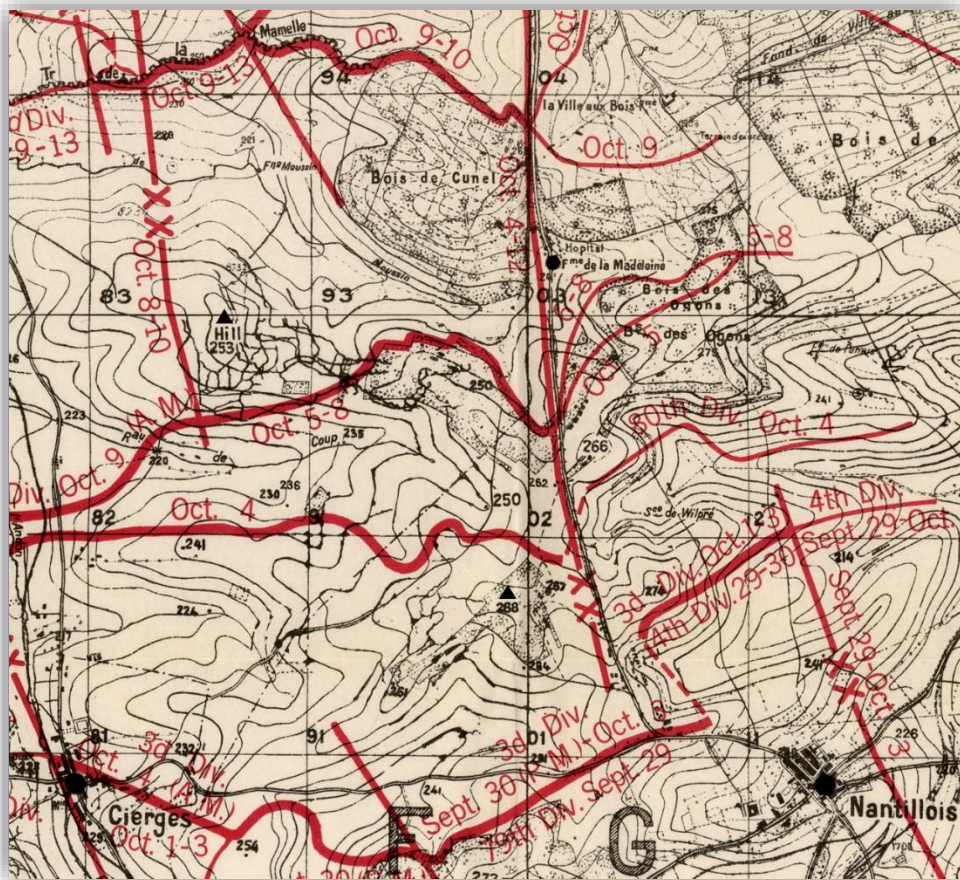
*the ruins of Nantillois*

During the five days that the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, the same general positions were retained by all units. Until **4 Oct 1918**, no attack was made, the 3<sup>rd</sup> simply holding the line north of NANTILLOIS. However, at 0525 on **4 Oct**, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** fired a rolling barrage and covering fire, under which the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division started forward as part of a general attack. Orders for the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** were to fire the 155's on successive targets not less than 500 meters in front of the infantry. Rate of fire for the 155's was 1 shot per gun per minute to be reduced to 1 shot per gun per 2 minutes. Only slight gains were achieved.

**5 Oct 1918** At 0630, the same attack was tried again by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division with the same objectives, this time with counter-battery and harassing fire by the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**, but without barrage. The result was the same. The enemy had strengthened his position during the preceding night with additional troops and several pieces of light artillery. The attack began in a fog before dawn, but the fog lifted before the troops could reach the first woods. The attack was stalled. Additional attacks were attempted at 11:00 and 14:00, with no material advance made. Finally, the northern edge of the wood was gained around midnight. But HILL 253 remained a strongpoint for the enemy.



*Madeleine Farm, long fought over, taken by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division on 8 October.*



*Nantillois/Cierges area with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 1-6 October  
Battery B was still firing from its Montfaucon base*

**6 Oct 1918** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was ordered to hold its line, while other Divisions attacked HILL 253 from the right and left. These attacks were unsuccessful. HILL 253 remained in German hands, and the front line remained unchanged. During the afternoon, reports were received of German activity in the TRENCHEE DE LA MAMELLE, seeming to indicate the Germans were massing and forming for a counter-attack. General Irwin immediately put **all available batteries** on this trench, 61 in all, making 244 guns on a trench 500 meters in length. For half an hour the bombardment continued. Afterwards, not a single sign of life was evidenced from the German positions. Later examination found German dead piled one on the other, the trenches leveled.

At 18:00, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** was relieved and ordered back to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, which was holding the sector immediately to the left. The pleasure of being together again was keenly felt. The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** PC was opened in the BOIS DE MONTFAUCON, 380 meters east of the MONTFAUCON-AVOCOURT road, with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division PC. The position of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Battery B** was 119.774, southeast of Montfaucon.

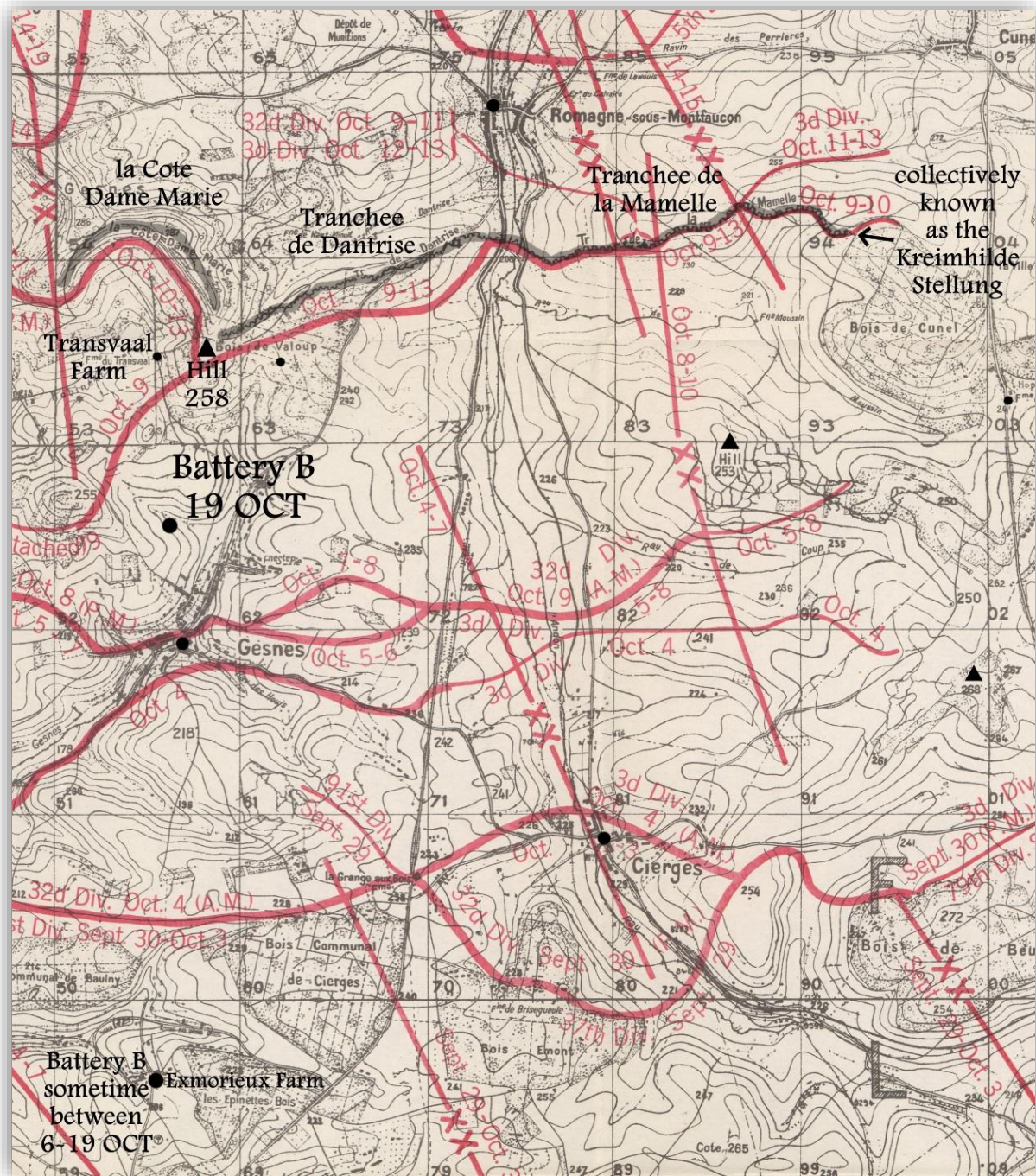


**General Haan at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Command Post in the Bois de Montfaucon**

**6 Oct 1918** Steve Kolasinski, a **Battery B** mate of **Lawrence**, wrote a letter home to his parents, published in *The Menasha Record* a month later: "Currently on 3-days rest and preparing for new battle. Have been in 6 big battles: SOISSONS, MARNE, CHATTETERRY [CHATEAU-THIERRY], LENS, AMIENS RIVER, and NOYON [?], where we are stopping now for a rest. It is a large city and we have plenty to eat and beer and wine to drink." Mentions cousin Morris Zelinski (unknown relation). - *The Menasha Record*, Nov 6, 1918

**7 Oct 1918** The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, and all of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** rejoined the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, after 10 days supporting the 79<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the center of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division sector, opposing their advance, was the COTE DAME

MARIE - a lunette shaped eminence, almost a precipice on the side from which the 32<sup>nd</sup> must go against it. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was now directly in front of the KRIEMHILDE STELLUNG. This bristling, natural fortress was known as the strongest position on the whole HINDENBURG LINE in the MEUSE-ARGONNE sector. The general plan was to penetrate the wire and works at some point south of ROMAGNE and then to roll up the remainder of the position by a movement to the left, taking the heights from the rear.



*32<sup>nd</sup> Division fighting towards Romagne, 30 Sep - 13 Oct*

On the morning of **8 Oct 1918**, the new front line was about two kilometers north of GESNES. During **7-8 Oct 1918**, nothing but patrol engagements were attempted, and the **artillery** occupied itself in a constant harassing and destructive fire over the enemy's back area, on the trench systems and entanglements, and in the organization of counter measures. At 1300 on **8 Oct 1918**, **all batteries** carried out a fire of destruction to break the wire fronting the TRANCHEE DANTRISE and to put out machine gun nests. The fire continued the entire day. During the night, it was changed in character, becoming a harassing fire with plentiful use of gas.

At 0100 on **9 Oct 1918**, the destructive and preparatory fire from the **artillery** was renewed. At 0830, the rolling barrage began and the troops went on the attack. With enemy machine guns inflicting severe losses, the attack pressed forward, making progress in spurts, until finally, aided by tanks, the 126<sup>th</sup> drove a wedge through a strong network of wire and trenches, penetrating the KRIEMHILDE-STELLUNG to the outskirts of ROMAGNE before an annihilating fire compelled a halt, and later a withdrawal to the captured entrenchments behind.

On the left, the 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry, though confronted by deadly opposition from the BOIS DE VALOUP and the fortified crest of the COTE DAME MARIE, fought its way to the top of HILL 258 before nightfall.

Along the rest of the front, the attack was stopped by organized positions about 1 km south of ROMAGNE. The German commander issued orders to his troops to hold the line at all costs. The resistance offered by the precipitous heights of the COTE DAME MARIE was such that the main lines of infantry could not force an entrance. At nightfall, our line was still in front of the TRANCHEE DANTRISE.



During the entire day of **9 Oct**, and continuously until the morning of **11 Oct**, the **artillery** maintained a harassing fire on all sensitive points in the enemy's area that could be reached.

With 500 prisoners as living evidence of the day's success, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division consolidated and strengthened its line, which was held under galling fire for the next 4 days (**10-13 Oct 1918**) while preparations were made for operations against ROMAGNE.

The fighting continued on **10 Oct 1918** and after repeated efforts, the 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry captured one of the outlying defenses of LA COTE DAME MARIE and, in spite of the efforts of the enemy, held it and clung to it with much tenacity. On the right, the 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry had advanced to the TRANCHEE DE LA MAMELLE, an important bulwark in the KRIEMHILDE STELLUNG. In this deep and well-fortified trench, the 126<sup>th</sup> met the enemy in a hand-to-hand conflict and succeeded in occupying a part of the system. In the center of the line, the enemy held firm and succeeded in turning back every effort the Americans made to storm the approaches to the trench.

**10 Oct 1918** A close friend of **Lawrence's** from Menasha, Private Frank G. Gatza, also serving with **Battery B, 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, died from wounds suffered in action the day before. His body was buried in the American section of Central Hospital Cemetery at Fleury-sur-Aire, Meuse, France. **Lawrence** would not learn of his death until much later. Tragically, even the parents of Frank Gatza would not learn of their son's death until **9 Jan 1919**.

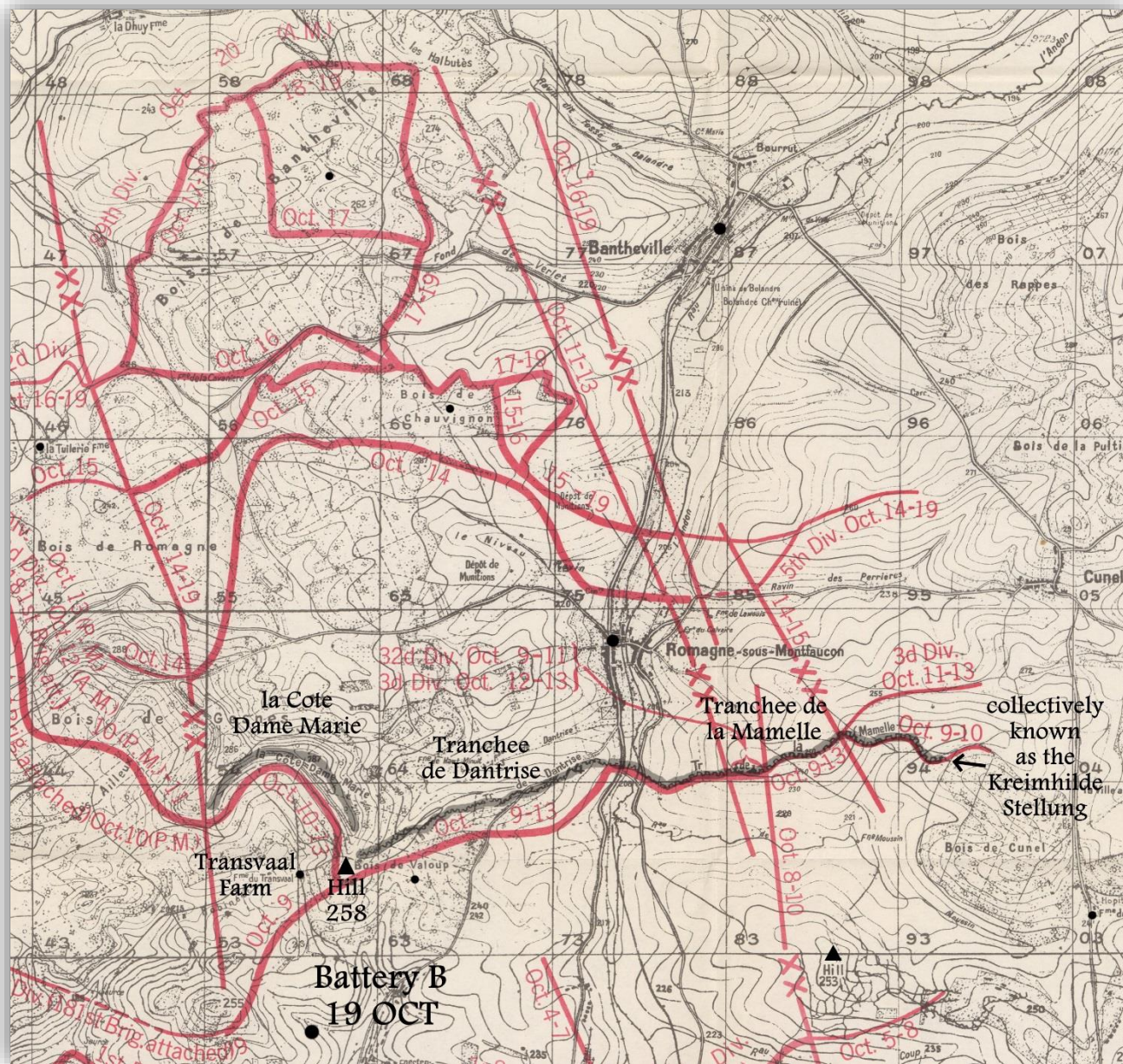
**11 Oct 1918** At daylight, the destructive fire of the **artillery** was re-opened, followed at 0700 by a rolling barrage and an attack whose objective was to be LA TUILERIE FERME (Farm) and BOIS DE CHAUVIGNON. The barrage continued until 1100. The day was devoted to consolidating the advance positions and organizing for a further attack. Various local operations were undertaken to improve the position of certain exposed troops and some fierce fighting resulted from the clashes of combat patrols. The fighting of **10-11 Oct 1918** had netted over 500 prisoners, most of them taken by the 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the TRANCHEE DE LA MAMELLE.



*German prisoners captured at the Tranchee de la Mamelle*

**12 Oct 1918** The enemy was given no rest, every road and village and farm was harassed, the woods and ravines were gassed nightly, and on his front a wearing fire was kept up. Most of the day was spent preparing for the next push. Part of the preparation consisted of reshuffling the units in the front line.

On the morning of **13 Oct 1918** our front-line infantry from right to left was: two battalions of the 128<sup>th</sup>, one battalion of the 126<sup>th</sup>, one battalion of the 127<sup>th</sup> and the 125<sup>th</sup> in support. At the same time, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division relieved the 1<sup>st</sup> Division on our left, the 1<sup>st</sup> having sustained heavy casualties in battering its way up to the KRIEMHILDE-STELLUNG line.



*32<sup>nd</sup> Division takes Romagne and presses on, 9-19 Oct*

**13 Oct 1918** Charles H. Birch of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, wrote a letter home, which was published in *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* on 10 December. Charles was no relation to **Lawrence**, and there is no evidence that they even really knew each other. However, like **Lawrence**, he was a member of **Battery B, 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery**. His letter describes what the boys of **Battery B** were going through during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive:

*"...writing from a comfortable dugout. Dug down 2 feet and built up sides with boards. Also boards overhead. Have been at the front nearly 3 months. Have been in 3 drives during that time: MARNE - great victory at CHATEAU-THIERRY some claim was turning point of war, marched night and day to overtake the Huns; SOISSONS - active part in battle for JUVIGNY, town was nothing but a mass of rocks; now in another sector [not named] - first battle great success, captured 30,000 prisoners, barrage started 1 p.m. and lasted until 9 a.m. the next morning, our battery had splendid position - well up in front of other batteries with splendid view of the entire barrage, was a pretty sight at 5 a.m. when every gun in our sector opened up, flames shooting out of the guns, flares and shrapnel bursting and signal rockets signaling for the curtain of fire to raise or lower, our battery alone fired over 900 rounds, I handled over 10 tons of shells, the shells weighing close to 100 pounds each, we counted over 2,000 prisoners, at present everything quiet."*

**14 Oct 1918** The battle continued to rage with little progress being made. A new attack began at 0530, preceded by a very heavy preparatory fire by the **artillery** for a full 15 hours. Orders stated:

*"From "H-2 hours to H-15 minutes, all **artillery** within the sector will execute the most violent concentration on all known enemy positions and edges of woods likely to conceal machine guns. It is intended that the fire shall be as intense as can be accomplished. The battalion of 155's [121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment] designated to work with Balloon Company Number 7, will continue liaison with this organization during the operation."*

Just before the attack, a barrage of **artillery** was laid down on the enemy trench system along the entire front and held there for 5 minutes, while our troops moved forward as close to the wire as possible. When the barrage lifted, the Americans flung themselves at the German positions and sought to tear through the tangle of wire and trench wreckage before the German infantry could get into action.

A battalion of the 126<sup>th</sup> had the best luck. Springing forward from its position on HILL 258, it surged through the wire and closely followed the barrage as it advanced toward its first objective. On the right, the 128<sup>th</sup> succeeded in getting through the trenches south of ROMAGNE and over the fire-swept hills east of town. After bitter and savage hand-to-hand fighting, ROMAGNE was outflanked and captured, and a line was established on the northern outskirts.

The 128<sup>th</sup> had been forced to avoid the town in its rush ahead and, accordingly, mopping-up parties were sent into the village from the 125<sup>th</sup>, which was following in support, ready to take advantage of such a situation. About 200 prisoners were taken by the 125<sup>th</sup> in ROMAGNE.



**14 Oct 1918** On the left, the 127<sup>th</sup> was flinging itself in vain against the impregnable defenses of the hills and ravines that flank LA COTE DAME MARIE on both sides. The **artillery** preparation had not cut up the wire, and the first wave that dashed over the top as the barrage was lifted found itself caught in the impassable tangle. Into this wire, strong enemy groups poured withering machine gun fire and effectually halted all efforts of the 127<sup>th</sup> advance.



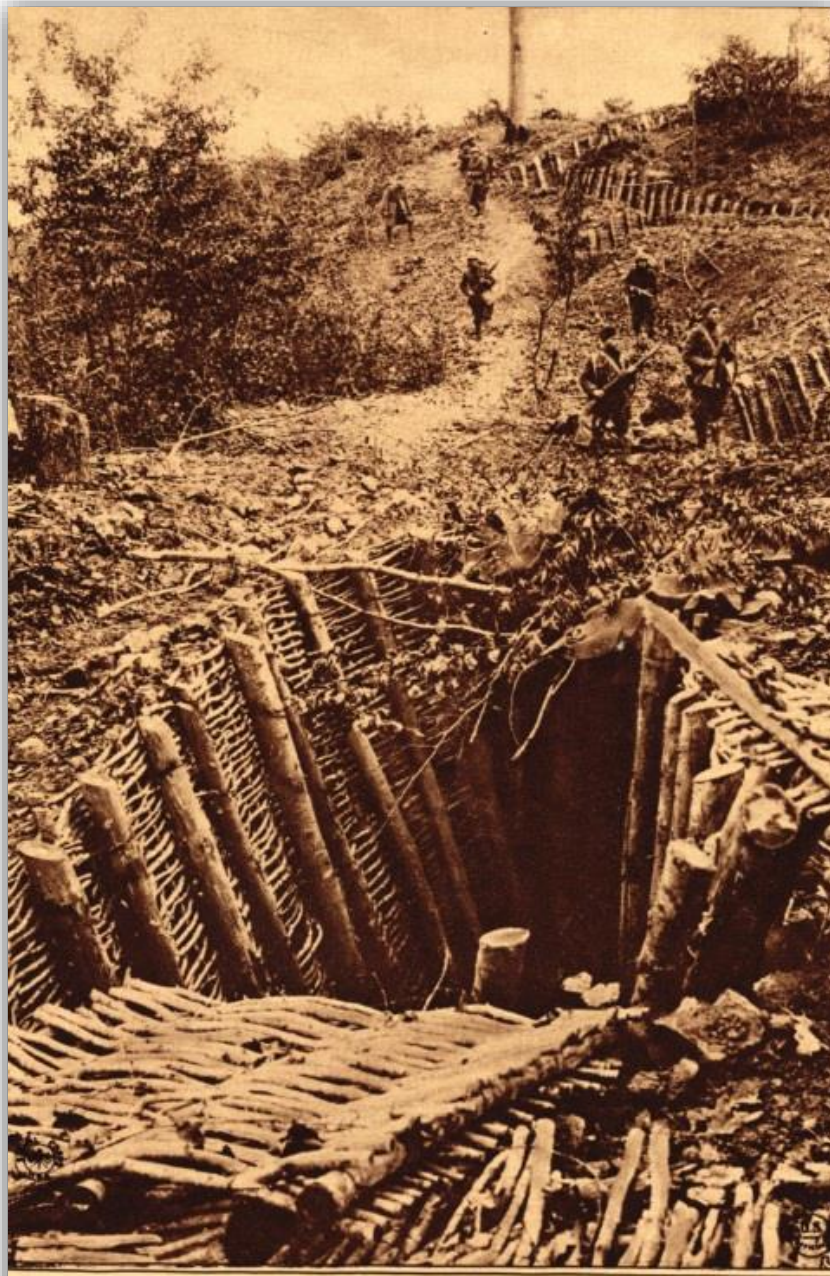
***32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry inching its way towards Romagne***

While LA COTE DAME MARIE was successfully resisting every effort at a frontal conquest, her doom was being sealed by a battalion of the 126<sup>th</sup>, which had been the first to break through the line in the morning. This battalion drove straight forward, concealed and protected from view of the COTE, and passed the hill on the right. Its objective was north of the COTE, it reached it, and extended its position to the right to meet the 128<sup>th</sup>.

The support battalion of the 126<sup>th</sup> sent a mopping-up party to make a turning movement to the left and attack the defenders of the COTE from the flank. In the meantime, the 127<sup>th</sup> had recognized the futility of trying to take the position from the front and accordingly began to maneuver around the German right flank. This effort was successful and as a result of being outflanked on both sides, the defenders of the German stronghold were forced to give up.

With these results accomplished before noon, the line was gradually straightened and connected by constant pressure during the afternoon, establishing the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division upon a solid front, extending from ROMAGNE to the COTE DAME MARIE by evening of **14 October**.

By the morning of **15 October**, the 127<sup>th</sup> had moved its line over LA COTE DAME MARIE, establishing liaison with the 126<sup>th</sup> on the right and its own flanking detachment from the day before on the left. This detachment had also made contact with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division which had come up to the new line reached by the 32<sup>nd</sup>. This completed the establishment of the new front and completed the penetration of the KRIEMHILDE STELLUNG. The line extended from a point about ½ km north of ROMAGNE to 300 meters north of LA COTE DAME MARIE. Although the great attack had been successful and the objectives gained, fighting continued through **19 Oct 1918** to reduce several advantageous German positions that remained on our front.



Part of the famous Kriemhilde Stellung first broken by the 32d Div.



*ruins of Romagne, viewed from the street (above) and from the air (below)*



**17 Oct 1918** In preparation for another advance, a terrific machine gun and **artillery** barrage was thrown down upon the BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE. In the path of its destructive force, sweeping the length and breadth of the little forest for 12 solid hours, trees, underbrush, German defenses and wire were razed as if by a devastating cyclone. Patrols pushed forward in the afternoon encountering dazed, broken-spirited, and nerve-shattered Germans ready to surrender, with others in retreat.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division advance progressed steadily until midnight of **19 Oct 1918**, when a halt was called, with the battlelines in a salient several miles ahead of the general battlefront, the right at the eastern edge of the BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE, and the left well up on the northwestern edges, with both flanks echeloned sharply back to maintain touch with adjoining positions.

**19 Oct 1918** Late in the afternoon, the order came for the **89<sup>th</sup> Division to take over the 32<sup>nd</sup>'s sector, less the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade.** That night the relief was made without incident, and the 32<sup>nd</sup> (minus the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**) was withdrawn for a period of rest. The position of **Battery B** was 056.826, less than a km north of Gesnes.

During the preceding 3 weeks, it had rained almost continuously. Fields were knee-deep in mud, and the nights were cold and raw. There was scarcely an hour of the day or night when they were not under fire. The struggle was over the most difficult terrain that any soldiers in the Great War were ever asked to conquer. There were commanding hills where the enemy could make his stand, deep, open ravines that he swept with machine guns and filled with gas, patches of weeds tangled with wire and covered by machine guns, open spaces where the enemy had perfect observation which could only be crossed with heavy losses. The enemy was well supplied with machine guns and artillery. He was familiar with every detail of the country where the fighting took place.



*General Haan addressing the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division after its hard-fought victories in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, location unknown.*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division experienced 6,046 losses from all causes in the Meuse-Argonne, including: 1,179 killed and died of wounds, 1,006 severely wounded, 3,321 slightly wounded, 554 gassed, and 149 missing. In the approach and penetration of the KRIEMHILDE STELLUNG, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division met and vanquished 11 German Divisions. They captured 28 officers and 1,067 men, 2 pieces of heavy artillery, 6 pieces of light artillery, 51 trench mortars, 50 machine guns and 800 rifles. The total depth of advance was 8.5 km. The line was pushed steadily forward until, on **17 Oct 1918**, it extended about 2 km north of ROMAGNE.

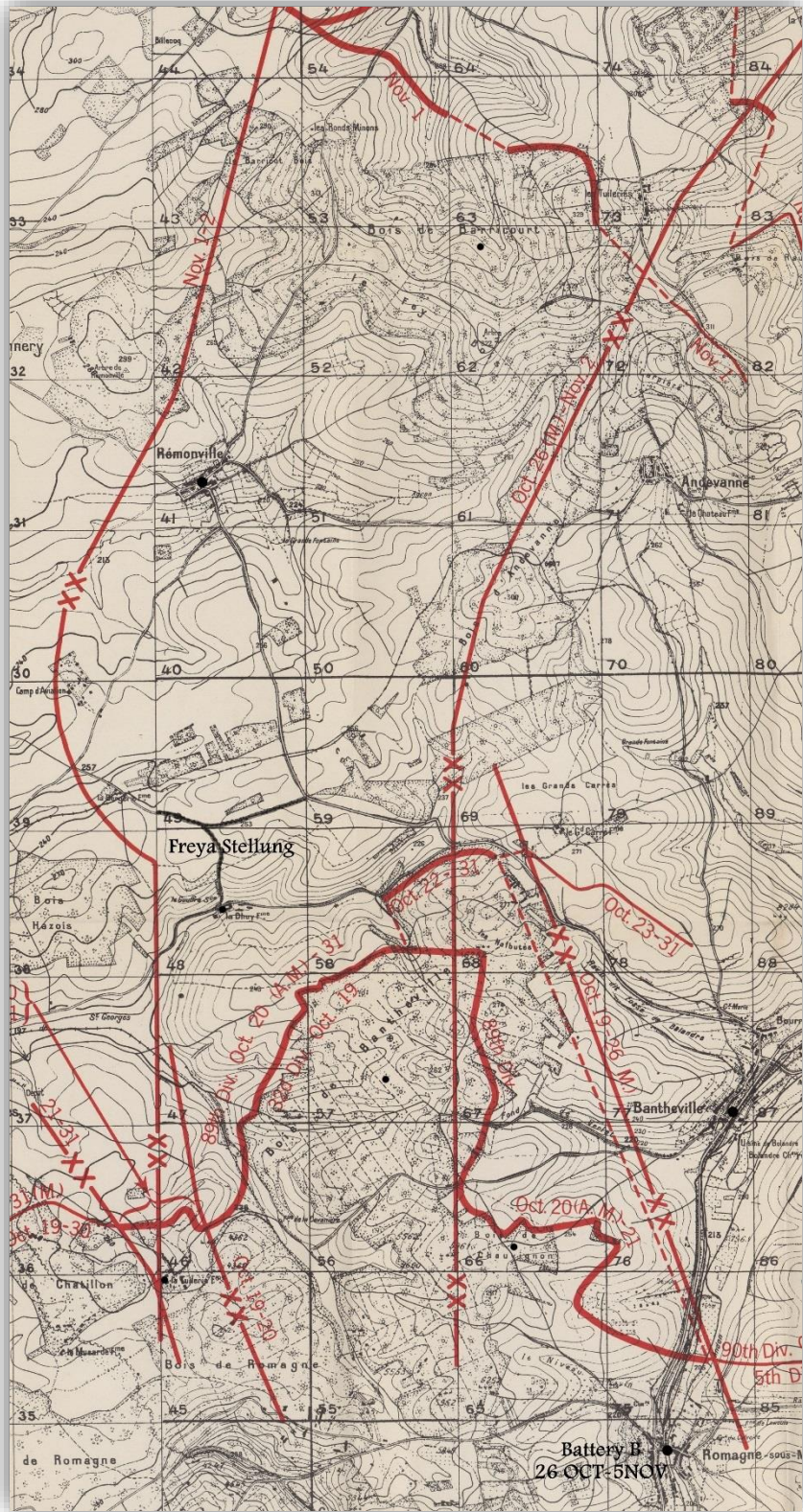
The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, in spite of its long tour of duty and its heavy losses in horses, was held in the line to support the **89<sup>th</sup> Division** and remained there to fire in the barrage that opened the **1 Nov 1918** attack. The firing batteries of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** had moved up to EXMORIEUX FARM, near ECLIS-FONTAINE. The echelons had been left in the preceding battery positions, but came up to the farm on **19 Oct 1918**, when the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion** moved up to GESNES. Lieutenant Terhune of **Battery B** was killed at the MONTFAUCON position, and all of the batteries had some casualties.

The attachment to the 89<sup>th</sup> Division did not start well. An officer of the 89<sup>th</sup>, desiring to gain first-hand information as to the enemy's lines had gone out on reconnaissance on the afternoon of **18 Oct 1918**. In his possession were maps showing locations of all Division PC's in the sector. Late that evening, his orderly reported that the officer had mistaken the enemy lines for our own and had been captured. The next afternoon, each of these PC's was shelled. The fire on the 32<sup>nd</sup> HQ made several direct hits, one striking General Haan's dugout. It was with some relief that the next day, the **57<sup>th</sup> Brigade PC** moved to EPINONVILLE to be nearer that of the 89<sup>th</sup> Division.

**20 Oct 1918** The 89<sup>th</sup> Division's relief of the 32<sup>nd</sup> was completed and by daylight, the 89<sup>th</sup> was holding battlelines thrust forward into an exposed salient several miles ahead of the general battlefront, the right at the eastern edges of the BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE and the left well upon the northwestern edges of the woods, with both flanks echeloned sharply back to the southeast and southwest to maintain touch with adjoining divisions.

Immediately after daybreak, operations were begun to strengthen, improve, and render invulnerable to attack, the exposed salient of the BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE. Within 2 days, the battlelines occupying the nose of the salient advanced beyond the northern edges of the woods and established a strong position in the angle of the LANDRES-ET-SAINT-GEORGES BANTHEVILLE road.

**20-31 Oct 1918** No general attacks were attempted during this time. The BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE was mopped up and the line established thru the northern edge of the wood. The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** spent the time harassing the back areas, giving the enemy no rest by night, and no roads free from fire by day. The enemy seemed to have increased his artillery and often gave as much as he got.



supporting the 89<sup>th</sup> Division, 20 October - 1 November



*the road between Bantheville and Remonville*

**23 Oct 1918** The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** had been in line for 30 consecutive days and had been working continuously. Finally, it was ordered that the **57<sup>th</sup> would be withdrawn for rest beginning on 23 Oct 1918**. Orders stated that all personnel and animals of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** were to be withdrawn and rested, leaving the artillery pieces in position under guard. By the time the order reached the batteries, most were already established in dugouts, forcing the men to go back and dig new shelters during their "rest".

When the orders reached the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Batteries A and B** came back to EXMORIEUX FARM to rejoin the regiment, and everyone packed up preparatory to going back to a leave area. Then came the blow! They were told that the rest consisted of staying put without firing for 2 days. Everyone had been fairly comfortable before, but now **Batteries A and B** crowded the valley and its ancient barracks, so that many men had to spend the nights in fox holes. They were also told that this "rest" would be considered sufficient for the balance of the year. The "rest" was no different than regular duty, and everyone was ill-tempered.

On this date, **Lawrence** penned another letter home to his brother Joe. The letter, dated **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**, was published in *The Menasha Record* on **9 December**. In it, **Lawrence** mentioned that his good friend Frank Gatza was in the hospital with a leg injury. Sadly, unbeknownst to Lawrence, Frank Gatza had passed away nearly two weeks earlier.

## MENASHA BOY HAS LOST LEG

Lawrence Zielinski Tells of Injury  
of a Comrade in Heavy  
Fighting in France

"France, Oct. 23, 1918.

Dear Brother:

I received your most welcome letter, making two letters and a postal I got from home. Also received a letter from Dan Gajewski. I am in the best of health now and hope everyone at home is the same. You asked me if I saw any rabbits. Well, I saw a few wild ones and saw the boys kill one. Dear brother, we haven't got the Kaiser yet but we will get him soon, if he doesn't give up. We are doing some stiff fighting now. Gatzka is in the hospital and I hear he has lost one leg, the left, below the knee. Now, dear brother, you want to know how I write letters. You think I write them on a tree? Well, I guess not. If I should write on a tree the Kaiser would get me and, besides, there are no trees left here, nothing but hills and brush. Did you ever see a gopher run for his hole? That's my method. I sleep in the ground and write my letters in the ground and when a shell comes over, I run for the hole like a gopher. I like the fighting, when we can send over about 100 shells in an hour. You can tell by the length of my letters that I have a little leisure time but I must close now. Best regards to you, dear father, mother, brother and sister,

LAWRENCE ZIELINSKI,  
Batt. B, 111st. Reg. F. A.,  
A. E. F."

"France, Oct 23, 1918

Dear Brother:

I received your most welcome letter, making two letters and a postal I got from home. Also received a letter from Dan Gajewski. I am in the best of health now and hope everyone at home is the same.

You asked me if I saw any rabbits. Well, I saw a few wild ones and saw the boys kill one.

Dear Brother, we haven't got the Kaiser yet but we will get him soon, if he doesn't give up.

We are doing some stiff fighting now. Gatzka is in the hospital and I hear he has lost one leg, the left, below the knee.

Now dear brother, you want to know how I write letters. You think I write them on a tree? Well, I guess not. If I should write on a tree, the Kaiser would get me and, besides, there are no trees left here, nothing but hills and brush.

Did you ever see a gopher run for his hole? That's my method. I sleep in the ground and write my letters in the ground and when a shell come over, I run for the hole like a gopher.

I like the fighting when we can send over about 100 shells in an hour.

You can tell by the length of my letters that I have a little leisure time, but I must close now.

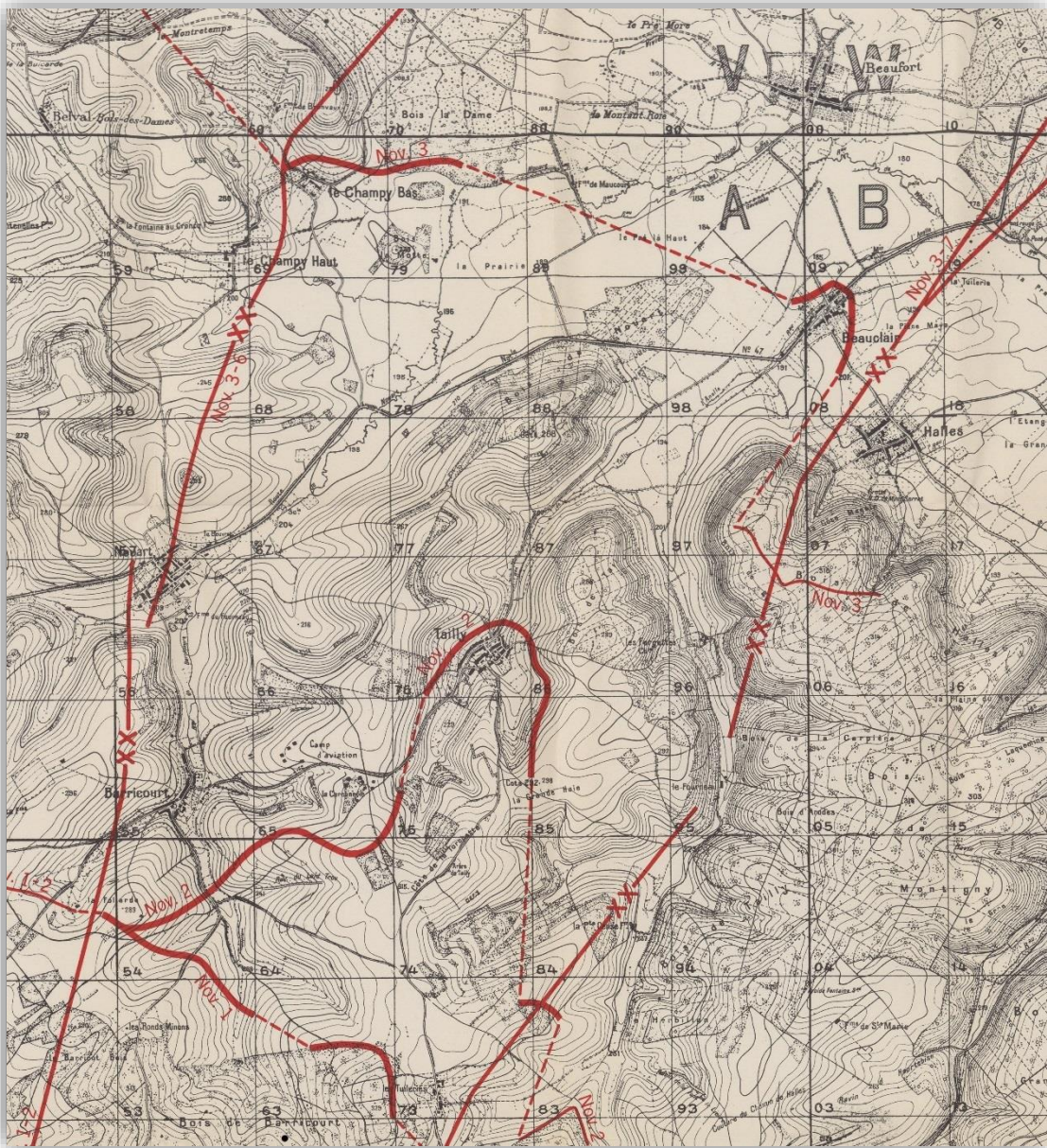
Best regards to you, dear father, mother, brother, and sister.

Lawrence Zielinski, Battery B, 121<sup>st</sup> Reg. F.A., A.E.F."

25 Oct 1918 The firing batteries of the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment resumed their duties with the 89<sup>th</sup> Division, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion moved up to ROMAGNE. The next day (26 Oct 1918) the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



joined it. Here the batteries remained under fire of varying intensity until **5 Nov 1918**. The village of ROMAGNE was the scene of many casualties. The **regimental** reel cart was blown up, killing 2 horses and wounding the driver. Major Cook and Captain Haight were both severely injured. An ammunition wagon and its driver and two other men were blown to bits one night at the corner in front of the church. During this time, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** also did some fighting for the 90<sup>th</sup> Division for a few days, which was to the immediate right of the 89<sup>th</sup>.



*the 89<sup>th</sup> continued forward, 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery supporting, 1-3 November*

**1 Nov 1918** The infantry of the 89<sup>th</sup> Division went forward at 0530 in a new attack. The enemy's resistance had been crushed and smothered by the tremendous **artillery** preparation for two preceding days. The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**

covered the right sub-sector. During the attack, the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** fired its 155mm guns at a rate of 40 rounds per piece per hour. During halts, the 155's maintained heavy concentrations on all enemy organizations within 2 km of the front line. So accurate was the charting of the enemy's batteries and machine gun nests, that after a feeble initial reaction, the Germans simply lay down their arms and surrendered in large groups of 50 or 100.

With the enemy depending on hastily improvised defenses to stem the advance, swift progress was made over the heights north of the BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE. However, when the next line of ridges near REMONVILLE was reached, the attackers are confronted by the partially completed defenses of the FREYA STELLUNG, which proved strong enough at points to check them for a while. After some fiercely contested actions, REMONVILLE was captured before noon and the advance continued northeastward toward the MEUSE.

Meanwhile, German artillery fire, though heavy and destructive at first, rapidly diminished as the enemy, seeking to save his guns from capture, sent his batteries northward in flight. In the afternoon, a heavy fog shrouded the battlefield. Liaison between units became difficult, but rapid progress was made. By evening, the front lines of the 89<sup>th</sup> Division were established beyond the northern edges of the BOIS DE BARRICOURT, 3 miles north of the line of departure in the morning.

Corps orders provided that command of the artillery would pass to the Commanding General of the 58<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade at the time of taking the "third objective". The advance PC of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** had been established first at GESNES, moving later to DHUY FARM. The "third objective" was obtained at 1500. The evening of 1 Nov 1918, General Irwin of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** turned over command to General Todd of the 58<sup>th</sup>, and the **Iron Brigade** was relieved from the fighting. Casualties among the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** while attached to the 89<sup>th</sup> (20 Oct - 2 Nov 1918) included 2 killed in action, 1 mortally wounded, 25 wounded.

52 days and nights had passed since the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** had entered the sector for the initial drive of the MEUSE-ARGONNE offensive. During much of the period, the heaviest artillery work had been done during night hours. For an **artillery brigade**, casualties had been heavy on men, horses, and material. 42 men had been killed or died from wounds, and almost 300 had been wounded. Loss of horses and material had reduced the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** to a condition of immobility, so that even had orders been received to advance, it is questionable if they could have been followed.

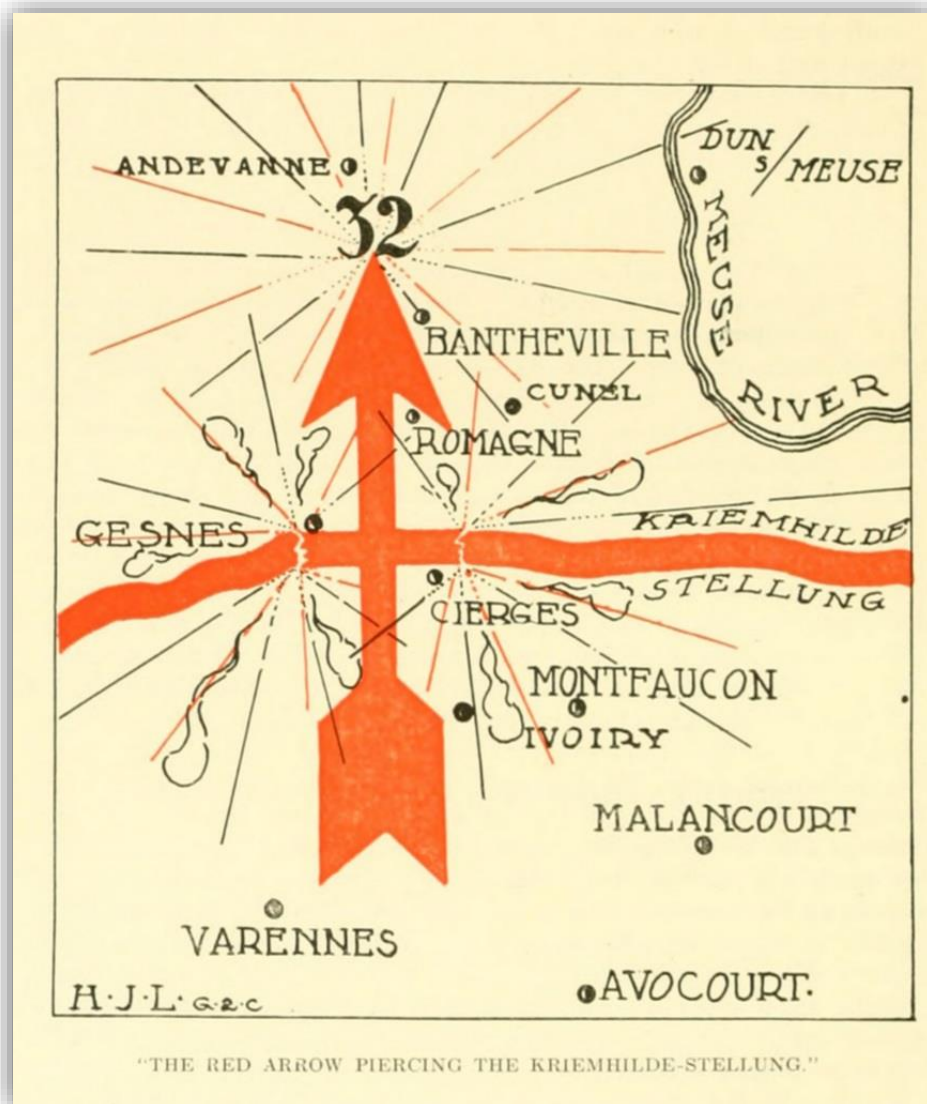
During the MEUSE-ARGONNE offensive, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** supported four divisions without rest, advanced over 30 km, and won commendation from each division they served. Under General Irwin's command, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, known as the **Iron Brigade**, on account of its long and hard service, is believed to have fired more shells on offensive sectors than any field artillery brigade in the AEF, to have advanced more km against resistance, and to have served as many consecutive days as any other brigade.

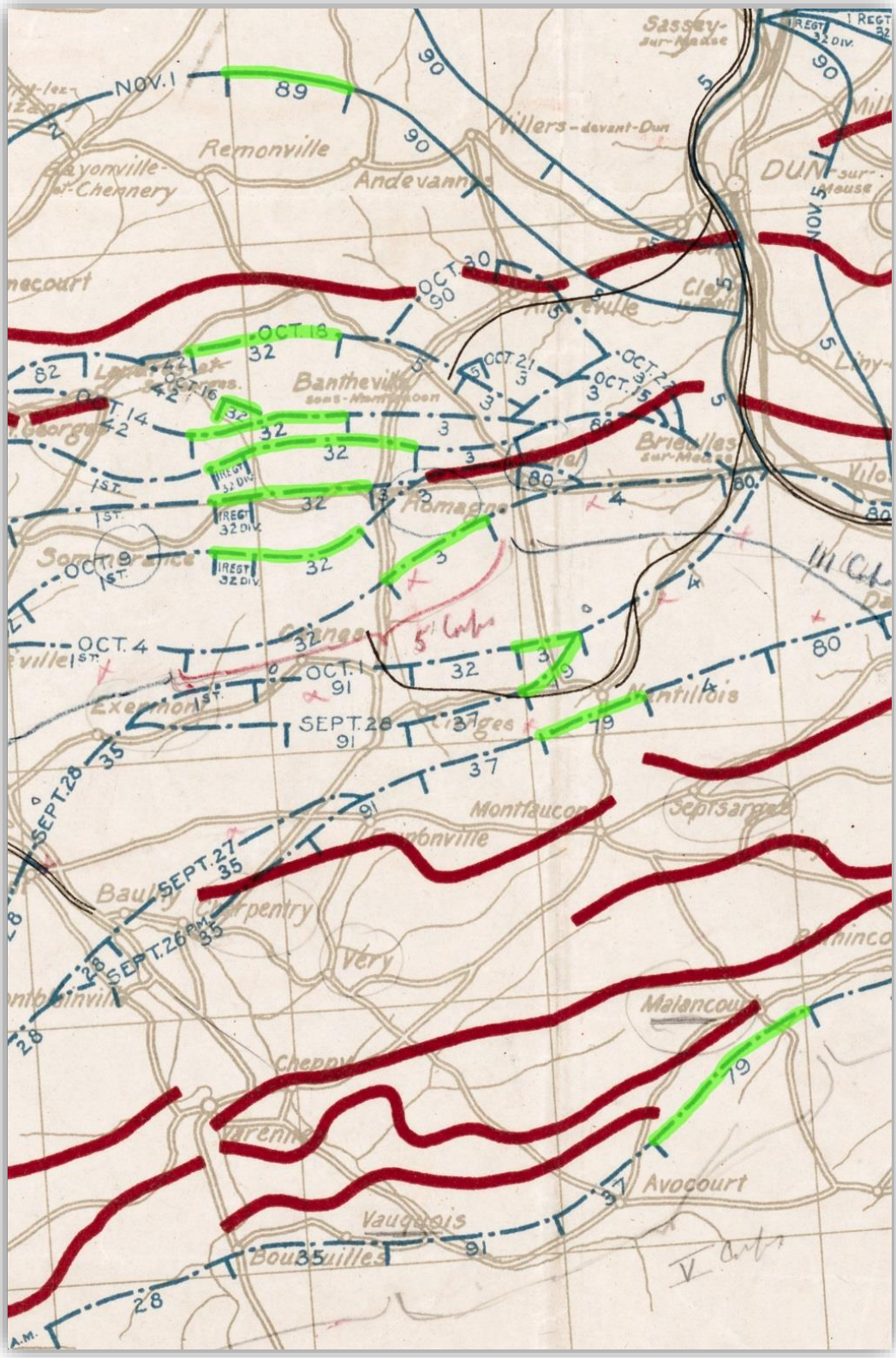
3 Nov 1918 General Irwin, who had led the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** throughout its entire service on the front, was ordered to SAUMUR to command the Artillery School there - a reward for the General, but a source of grief to every member

of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**. It was another loss that was keenly felt at this time.

**5 Nov 1918** The firing batteries of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery** moved back to the echelon.

**8 Nov 1918** Orders came from HQ relieving the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** from duty. That night and the next, the four regiments of the **Brigade** moved to the BOIS ST. PIERRE and BOIS LE COMPTE in the VILLE-SUR-COUSANCES area, southwest of VERDUN, and established themselves in billets there. **Brigade** HQ was opened in VILLE-SUR-COUSANCES. The march was much easier due to the fact that the materiel was hauled back by trucks, not horses. The **Iron Brigade** became, for the first time, an inhabitant of the rear area. At this time, Colonel Thomas commanded as senior colonel of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**.

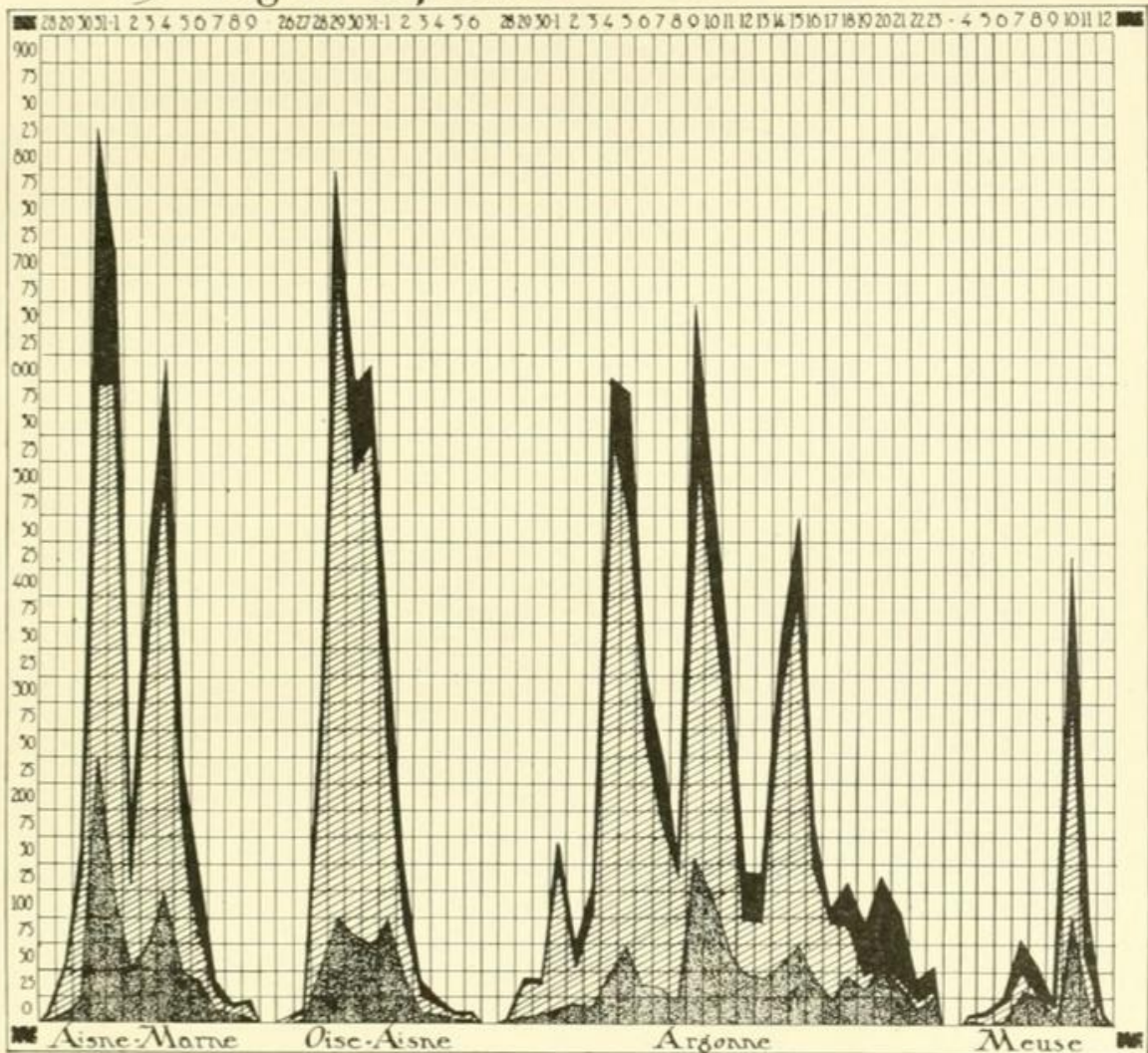




During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade supported the 79<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 89<sup>th</sup> Divisions

# Graph of Casualties of The 32nd Division

1918  
· July · August · September · October · November ·



	Aisne-Marne	Oise-Aisne	Argonne	Meuse
Wounded	2704	2595	4573	510
Dead	756	491	1232	192
Prisoners	7	5	72	19
Total	3527	2691	5877	721

Total Casualties from All Operations.	{	Wounded	10242
		Dead	2671
		Prisoners	105
		Total	13016

Total casualties,  
including prisoners

Wounded

Dead

Drawn by Lt. F. J. Lance



The battles of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division in the World War



**XI.**

**ARMISTICE AND AFTER**

**11 Nov 1918 to 14 Apr 1919**





## 11 Nov 1918 ARMISTICE!!

At 0630 on **11 Nov 1918**, officers in command of the take-off line for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Infantry units were issuing their last instructions for yet another attack. Fifteen minutes later they were looking at their wrist watches, with the calm deliberation of veterans who had a day's work ahead of them, a day's work the likes of which they had done before, a disagreeable, dangerous day's work, but it was all in a day's work. Five minutes to seven! The men started to stir around, getting a toehold for the take-off, shaking their equipment into place, and gripping their guns. Seven o'clock and some of them were off, over the top. Others had been stopped just in the nick of time. After the advancing skirmish lines of those who had gotten away, went panting runners from headquarters with the magic words: "FINIS LA GUERRE!"



At 5:10 a.m. on the **11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918**, representatives of the German High Command had signed the armistice dictated to them by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, officially ending the Great War. **The war was over!** The war was won, the Allies victorious, but at a huge cost. The 32<sup>nd</sup> 'Red Arrow' Division suffered at least 2,671 Soldiers Killed-in-Action (KIA) or Died-of-Wounds (DW); 103 Soldiers Missing-in-Action (MIA); 352 Soldiers who were non-battle casualties (Died-of-Disease, Drowned, Died-of Accident), or other unspecified causes; and 10,242 Soldiers who were Wounded-in-Action (WIA).

On the day of the armistice, **Lawrence** and the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** were in the reserve area at VILLE-SUR-COUSANCES, well behind the front lines. No doubt, hearty celebrations took place! It had been 242 days since the regiment landed on European soil at Liverpool. The boys now knew their days in France were numbered, and soon they would be going home. **Lawrence** had extra reason to celebrate, as the date of the armistice, **11 November**, was also his father Frank's 47<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Colonel Deems arrived to take command of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, and soon after, the brigade was attached to the 40<sup>th</sup> Division, which had HQ in REVIGNY.

**16-17-18 Nov 1918** The regiments of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** moved south and west by truck. The **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery regiment** billeted in BUSSY[-LA-COTE], while the other regiments billeted in MUSSEY, VARNY, and COUVONGES. At once, the units proceeded with an intensive training schedule until **22 Dec 1918**.

On **17 November 1918**, the infantry of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division crossed what had been its front line and started on its long march to the Rhine, averaging 20 km per day. The 32<sup>nd</sup>, less the artillery, would be part of the occupation forces in Germany. (see appendix for details of the 32<sup>nd</sup> without the 57<sup>th</sup> attached.)



*The 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade moved to a training area with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division shortly after the Armistice was signed and remained here from 16 November until 22 December*

**24 Nov 1918** Steve Kolasinski, a **Battery B** mate of **Lawrence**, wrote a letter home to his Dad, which was published in *The Menasha Record* on 20 December:

"...on the front since June 7<sup>th</sup>. Have been in ARGONNE and VERDUN. Was here when the big drive started Sep 26<sup>th</sup>. Am in BAR-LE-DUC today. Our HQ are in VARNEY, also was in FISMES. We sleep in barns. The ARGONNE was one of the biggest battles of the war and I was right in it until the finish. Certainly saw lots of dead Huns in this drive. We knew one more drive would finish her off and we could hardly wait until the day for the drive. We went through the MEUSE in a hurry, easy money for us.

I have been to every city in France. Today we can go to church after not being able to for two months. Have been living underground like an animal. Weather is fine and we play baseball every day. The French like to see the Americans play because they never saw such games before.

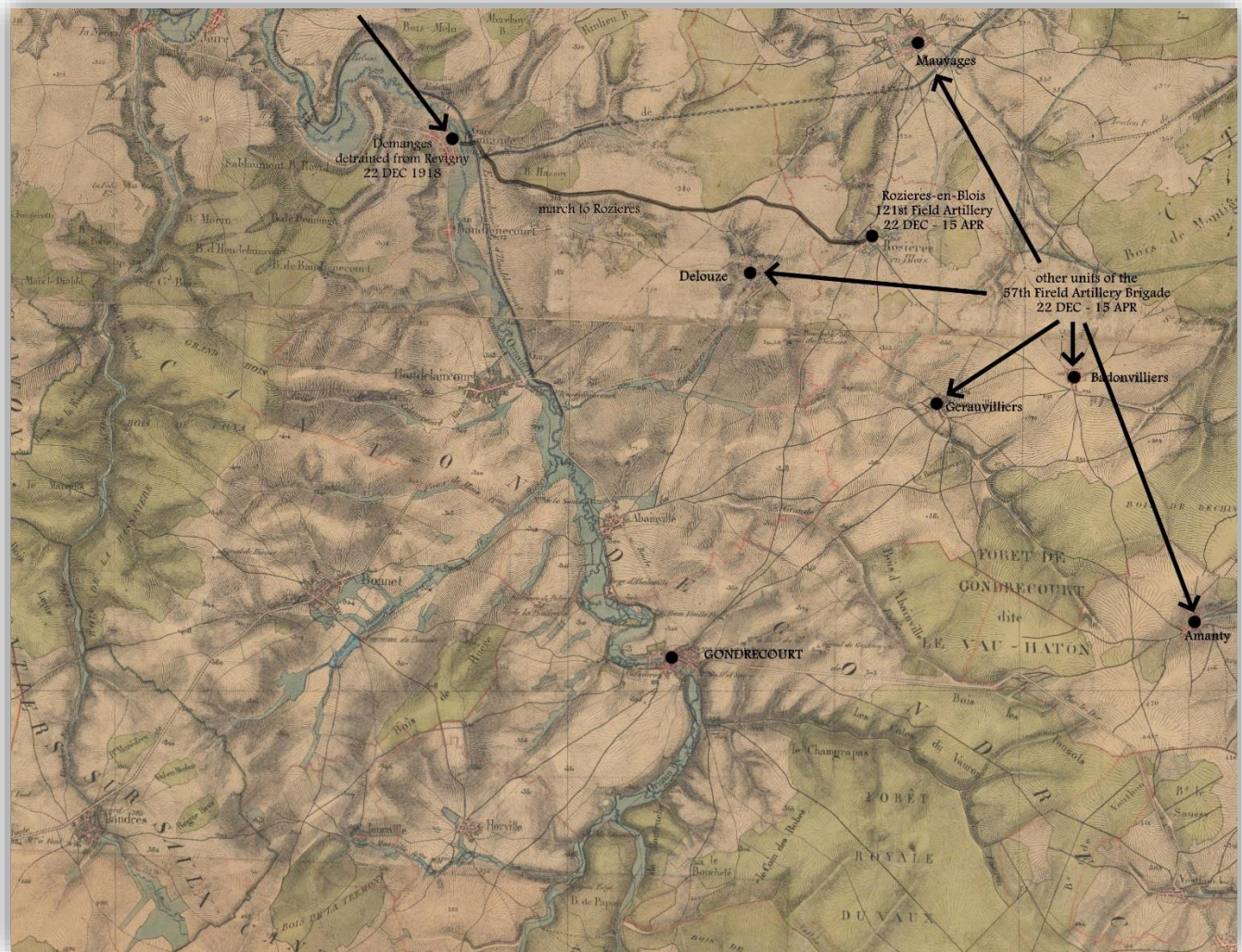
We took HILL 304 but she was some battle. After we drove the Germans out, we advanced to find only steel and shell holes. This was on **26 Sep 1918**. We also took HILL 204 at Chateau-Thierry. This was also a big battle on **1 Aug 1918**. We were on that front 21 days, then went to SOISSONS and stayed 17 days and went to WASSY for 3 days. Then followed the big drive in VERDUN and the ARGONNE sector. Had a tough job getting the huns out of the forest." - *Menasha Record*, **20 Dec 1918**

**28 Nov 1918** According to the Muster Rolls for **Battery B, 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Lawrence** transferred out of the unit on 28 Nov 1918. No notice is given as to where he transferred to, or why, though he did return to this unit on 28 Jan 1919.

Roster of Battery B, 121st Field Artillery		At midnight November 31, 1918.
Captain (U.S.A.) 1. Drum, Ralph H. 1st Lieut. (USA) 1. Doolin, Charles H. 2nd Lieut. (USA)		12. Summers, Thomas 388715 Joined 7th Ch Mechanics 1. Hansen, Roy S. 2303973 Cooks 1. Blatter, Michael J. 2304032
Pvts (Cont'd) 8 2. Schultz, Benjamin J. 2304121 83. Scovronski, Joseph 2304120 84. Seymour, John 2304122 85. Shampo, Norman J. 2304037 86. Smith, Guy E. 2304123 87. Spurgeon, Russel E. 1983149 88. Stepanski, Adolph E. 2304124 89. Stevo, Lester, 2304125 90. Stewart, John F. 2312321 91. St. Louis, Arthur 2304126 92. Study, Fred M. 1435299 93. Thalke, Charles W. 2304128 94. Tipton, John H. 1434928 95. Tompkins, George W. 2595060 96. Trimble, Cecil M. 1434940 97. Tripp, Lescomber 2304143 98. Ulmer, Harry P. 1434444 Missing since 17th 99. Warner, Frank F. 2304132 100. Watermolen, Albert 2304138		Losses during month Privates (Cont'd) 6. Drajewski, Hugo F. 2304068 Transferred 29th 7. Foley, James W. 3356259 Transferred 29th 8. Jolly, Edwin E. 2303976 Transferred 19th 9. LaPorte, Alexander J. 389133 Transferred 28th 10. Radej, John J. 2304112 Transferred 29th 11. Romanowske, Steve 2304114 Transferred 23rd 12. Stroud, Court 983383 Transferred 1st 13. Stinson, Robert S. 507711 Transferred 20th 14. Wyman, David W. 388340 Transferred 25th 15. Wentworth, George 388066 Transferred 27th 16. Williams, John 388884 Transferred 27th 17. Welch, Louis A. 388091 Transferred 29th 18. Zielinski, Lawrence T. 2304000 Trans- ferred 28th 19. Ziese, Clarence J. 2304139 Transferred 20th

early Dec 1918 The 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade was assigned to be the divisional artillery for the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, which was in the GONDRECOURT training area, once transportation became available.

22 Dec 1918 The 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment hiked to REVIGNY, where they, and the other units of the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, entrained for the GONDRECOURT area. Detraining at DEMANGES[-AUX-EAUX], a hike was made to ROZIERSEN-BLOIS, where camp was made on a hill of mud in barracks hidden by underbrush. Other units of the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade billeted in the villages of MAUVAGES, BADONVILLIERS, GERAUVILLIERS, DELOUZE, ROZIERES, and AMANTY.



*57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade with the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, 22 Dec 1918 - 15 Apr 1919*

The men of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** were not happy about the assignment to the 88<sup>th</sup>. They were forced to wear the insignia of the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, rather than of their own 32<sup>nd</sup>. And while the 57<sup>th</sup> had been hardened in battle for 6 months, the 88<sup>th</sup> had seen no action. Aside from all that, the 88<sup>th</sup> proved to be very welcoming and hospitable hosts, and did everything within their power to make the regiments comfortable.

On the other hand, the 88<sup>th</sup> was quite proud and inspired to have such a hardened and experienced brigade among them, as this excerpt from "The 88<sup>th</sup> Division in the World War" attests:

*"On the 25 Dec 1918, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, including the ... **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** ... was assigned to the Division. It arrived between 20-25 Dec 1918. This brigade had an excellent fighting record. It had supported in succession, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, 9<sup>th</sup> French Division, and 53<sup>rd</sup> French Division in the Haute-Alsace Sector from 12 Jun 1918 - 22 Jul 1918. It supported in succession the 32<sup>nd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 77<sup>th</sup> Divisions in the Aisne-Marne offensive from 1 Aug 1918 - 25 Aug 1918. It supported in succession the 32<sup>nd</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> Moroccan Division, and the French 10<sup>th</sup> Army in the Oise-Aisne offensive from the 28 Aug 1918 - 6 Sep 1918. It supported the 79<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 89<sup>th</sup> Divisions in the Meuse-Argonne offensive from 26 Sep - 8 Nov 1918."*

**25 Dec 1918** Christmas Day! Lawrence's second consecutive Christmas away from home - no doubt it was a lonely one and an anxious one. Christmas with the 88<sup>th</sup> Division was observed in true American fashion. In most villages where troops were billeted, Christmas trees were erected in the public squares. Soldiers gave gifts of candy, toys, and clothing to the French children. Company funds were lavishly used for supplying Christmas and New Year's dinners to the men, as near as possible to those at home. Many of the boys received Christmas packages from home.

Here it seemed the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** might remain indefinitely, as the 88<sup>th</sup> Division had no orders for the future except to continue training. It was generally thought that they would eventually move north as part of the army of occupation. Tractors and trucks were assigned to the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, and artillery practice was resumed.

At ROZIERS-EN-BLOIS, the men suffered greatly from the unhealthy conditions, and a hundred or more were sent to the hospital. Several died of disease. Batteries C and E rejoined the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, making it whole again for the first time since its arrival in France.

But army life in ROZIERS wasn't all work and suffering! With the ending of the war, practically everyone got furloughs. The casinos of southern France were a very popular destination for the troops. **Lawrence** took advantage of a furlough and visited the casino town of CONTREXEVILLE, about 40 miles away. He brought back with him several postcards from the town, a few of which are shown below. These postcards are among the souvenir items of the war that Lawrence kept for the rest of his life.



1 CONTREXÉVILLE. — Le Casino. — LL.



8 CONTREXÉVILLE. — Le Parc et la Galerie. — LL.



12 CONTREXÉVILLE. — La Colonnade. — LL.

**5 Jan 1919** Orders were received that all training of a purely military character would be limited to 5 hours daily, with the 5th hour being devoted to athletics. As a result, schedules were arranged so that military training ceased at noon, and the remainder of the day was devoted to athletics, schools, and entertainment. One of the most pleasant features of the memorable winter was the series of leave trips for men of the AEF. The French Riviera (Nice, Lyon, Monte Carlo, Cannes) was an organized leave area and vied with Paris in popularity. Leave trains left at stated periods per week with large numbers of men from the Division. They were kept in good hotels with real beds and excellent food - free of charge.

**Lawrence** also took advantage of these leave trips organized for the troops. He visited Lyon in central France and NICE on the French Riviera, as evidenced by these old postcards: (note the hand-written "X" on the Lyon postcard, which may have indicated where he stayed).





7 Jan 1919 Captain RT Hill wrote a letter from VILLEROY, France to *The Menasha Record*, which was published on 31 January. Captain Hill had been the commander of Lawrence's initial army unit - **Company E of the Wisconsin National Guard**. At this time, Captain Hill was with another Menasha Company, the 107<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train.

"We are anxiously awaiting to find out what they are going to do with us. We did not move up into Germany with the 32nd Division. We were in the finish fight at the battle of the ARGONNE FOREST and MEUSE RIVER for 41 days and our horses and trucks were in such condition that we couldn't move the guns. The war records of that part of the old Co. E that were transferred into the 57<sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade (**Battery B 121<sup>st</sup> FA**) are: Alsace Sector June 15-July 23, 1918; 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Marne (Chateau-Thierry) July 29-August 24, 1918; Juvigny (Terney Torney) Aug 28-Sep 7, 1918; in reserve during Battle of St. Mihiel Sep 13-22, 1918; Battle of Meuse River and Argonne Forest Sep 25-Nov 11, 1918. In Alsace and Juvigny, we were a part of the French Army."

10-11 Jan 1919 *The Menasha Record* published two articles announcing the death of Lawrence's friend, Frank Gatza:

**DIED IN FRANCE**

Frank Gatza Succumbs to Wounds Received in Action

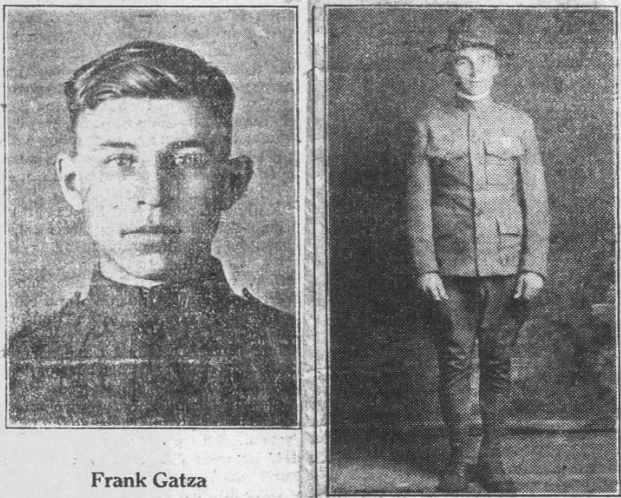
**HAD LOST ONE LEG**

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gatza Receive Notice—Soldier Left With Company E

"Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private Frank G. Gatza field artillery, died October 9 from wounds received in action".

The foregoing telegram was received by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gatza, Third street, yesterday and contains the sad information of the death of their son. This is the first information of an official nature which has been received here concerning the injury of the Menasha young man. His comrades told of his wounds in letters which they had written home, one of which stated that Private Gatza had lost one leg.

Frank Gatza enlisted in Company E of Menasha but was later transferred to the field artillery and was serving with that unit when he received the wound which later proved fatal. His death resulted just three days after his twenty-fourth birthday. Surviving are his parents, one brother, Peter Gatza, who is serving with the United States navy; and three sisters, the Misses Frances, Mary and Gertrude Gatza, all of this city.



Frank Gatza

Mike Paveloski

**TWO GOLD STARS**

With the smoke of battle cleared from the shell torn fields of France and the din of the cannon's roar submerged in the beckoning arms of peace, Menasha residents have been praying that their sons who had escaped death in the war had been counted but the past few hours have brought the names of Frank G. Catza and Mike Paveloski to the gold star section of Menasha's honor roll. Five young fellows, of the type of soldier that turned the invading hun back from his coveted prey, these boys have been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice. One died on the soil of Uncle Sam and the body of his comrade lies at rest in France but both were soldiers of the country they loved with but a single thought. No greater honor can befall any man than that his life may be given for his country. Mike and Frank have "gone west," to use the term of the soldier, but their memory will live forever in the minds of those who have known them and loved them for their real quality of men.

22 Jan 1919

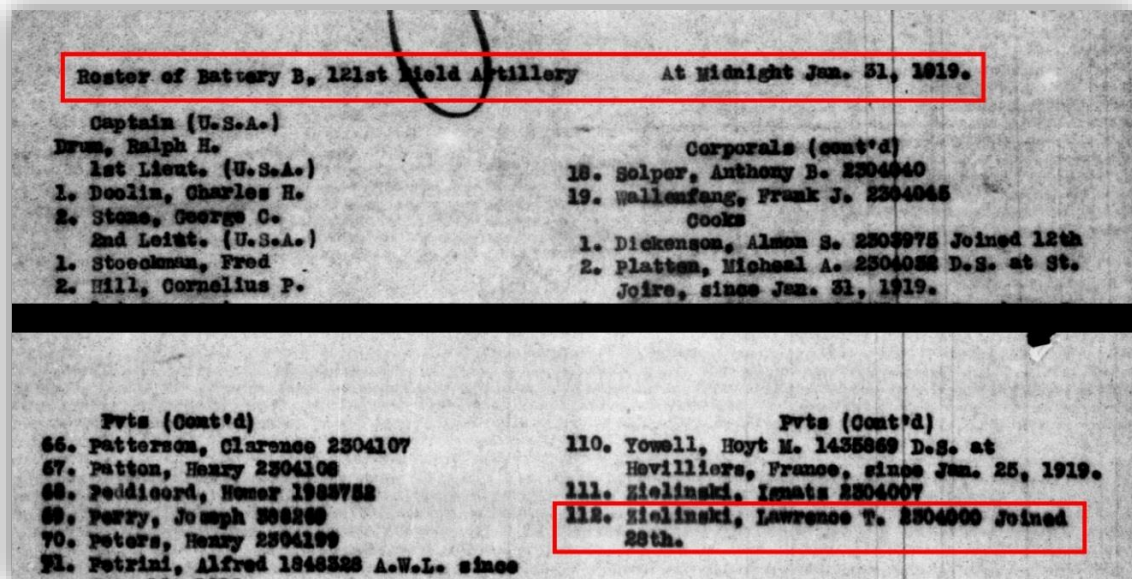
"On this date occurred one of the biggest events of the 121<sup>st</sup> Regiment's army career - the train wreck. Beaucoup champagne, vin blanc, eggs, chocolate, and cookies. Thousands soused! Liquor buried under every hay pile and hidden in every corner. Battery D had 1,100 eggs for breakfast. Battery C matched this with champagne and cookies. Barrack partitions were crammed with chocolate and other contraband." - Reunion Souvenir Issued by the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Veteran's Association

The above entry refers to a train collision between Roziers and Mauvages which killed 20 French Soldiers and wounded 40. Besides troops, the train was also loaded with ample supplies of champagne, eggs, and chocolates, which spilled everywhere in the wreckage. The men of the 57<sup>th</sup> did their part to help clean up the mess!!

23 Jan 1919 Colonel Deems, who had been in charge of the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade since the armistice, was transferred to a new position. Colonel Scott arrived to replace him, and became very popular with the brigade. However, much celebration took place when it was learned that General Irwin would be returning to retake command of the brigade.

When it was further learned that the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade would be returning to the United States in May as part of their old 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, the morale of the brigade improved immensely and attained its old level.

28 Jan 1919 According to the 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Muster Rolls, Lawrence rejoined Battery B after transferring out on 28 Nov 1918. Again, there is no mention of where or why he had been transferred out.



Battery B muster roll dated 31 Jan 1919, Lawrence "rejoined 28<sup>th</sup>"

During the 4 months that the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** remained with the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, the regiments had been partially re-equipped with horses, and the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** had been motorized. The brigade participated in maneuvers with the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, and the batteries had practice firing every week. The **121<sup>st</sup>**, along with the 147<sup>th</sup> and a battalion of the 120<sup>th</sup>, spent time acting as firing batteries at U.S. army artillery training schools in France. The **brigade** received three reviews from their superiors and numerous decorations.

For the **57<sup>th</sup>**, there remained an undercurrent of resentment at being obliged to wear the insignia of a division which had seen no fighting, while another artillery brigade which had seen very little fighting was wearing the red arrow of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. But they were grateful for the splendid treatment afforded them by the 88<sup>th</sup>.

The men of the **57<sup>th</sup>** were received into the contests of the 88<sup>th</sup> as though they had always been part of them. The divisional football team, for which both coaches and several players came from the 57<sup>th</sup>, was selected to tour LUXEMBOURG. A basketball team from the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** represented the 88<sup>th</sup> Division in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army championship games on the French Riviera. I'd like to think that **Lawrence** was on this team, which would explain both his transfer out of the unit at ROZIERS and his visit to NICE, but I cannot substantiate that.

**25 Feb 1919** No doubt **Lawrence's mother, Margaretta**, better known as Sophie, was on his mind this day as she celebrated her 48<sup>th</sup> birthday back home in Wisconsin.

**7 Apr 1919** **The 121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** was transferred to the Service of Supply (S.O.S.) for return to the United States, and officially reassigned to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, to which it originally belonged, with which it came to France, and with which it would now return home. Within an hour, the Red Arrow appeared on every shoulder with great pride!





XII.

HEADING HOME

15 April to 18 Jun 1919

**15 Apr 1919** The **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**, including the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, entrained at MAUVAGES for a seaport - at first SAINT-NAZAIRE, but changed enroute to BREST, FRANCE. After a 3-day ride, they reached CAMP PONTENEZEN, outside of BREST, to have a few days' work with picks and shovels. Col. Westfahl was now back in command of the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**, to the delight of everyone.



*"Old Glory" flies over Camp Pontanezen, Brest, France, April 1919*

*"During 5 months of continuous service on the front, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** supported 10 divisions which had liberated more than 50 km of French soil from an invader who had contested hotly for each foot of it. They had served in 4 stable sectors, 2 major offensives of the American army, and one of the French. They had lost in killed 200 and had a total casualty list of 1,000 - with none missing or taken prisoner. They fired over half a million shots." - General Charles Summerall*

Citations and commendations for the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** and its individual regiments, battalions, batteries, and soldiers, many of them, came from both American and French sources.

**18 Apr 1919** On the same day the **57<sup>th</sup>** was arriving at Camp Pontanezen, the **32<sup>nd</sup> Division Infantry** started moving back from the RHINE, across France, and headed towards BREST, on the first leg of their homeward journey. At the same time, the announcement was made that General Lassiter, who was commanding the **32<sup>nd</sup>** at the time, had asked to remain in France, and that General Haan was to take the **32<sup>nd</sup> Division** home.

General Haan joined the Division at BREST, after making an automobile tour to the sections of the western front over which his Division had fought. Likewise, General Irwin had re-assumed command of the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade**. Major General Haan won deserved fame and honors for his military skill. He was greatly loved and respected by his men. Bold and aggressive though he was in conducting battle operations, he was nevertheless considerate of his troops at all times. A strict disciplinarian he was, but never unreasonable or unjust in his demands, and his men were quick to appreciate his merits as a commander as well as his skill as a military leader.

At BREST, the **57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade** and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division assembled together, once again. They had been apart since 19 Oct 1918, and all were happy to be back together. During the time apart, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division had been supported by the 158<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division thus brought home two artillery brigades, the 57<sup>th</sup> and the 158<sup>th</sup>.



*This postcard from Brest was among Lawrence's items brought home from France*

**20 Apr 1919** The 107<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery became the first unit of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division to set sail for home. The Division would travel via several ships from BREST - some bound for New York, others for Boston.

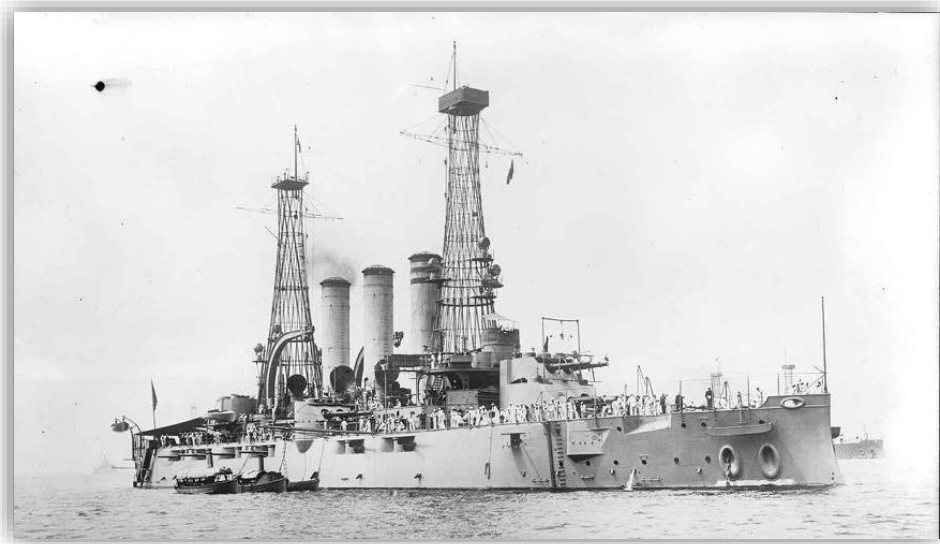


**30 Apr 1919** Finally, it was time to go home for the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment!** What an exciting and happy day this must have been! The *USS Battleship Georgia* awaited them offshore. Ferry boats, like the *Rin Tin Tin* would carry the soldiers to the *Georgia*. At last, they could bid goodbye to France. Their destination was BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS and the good ol' USA!

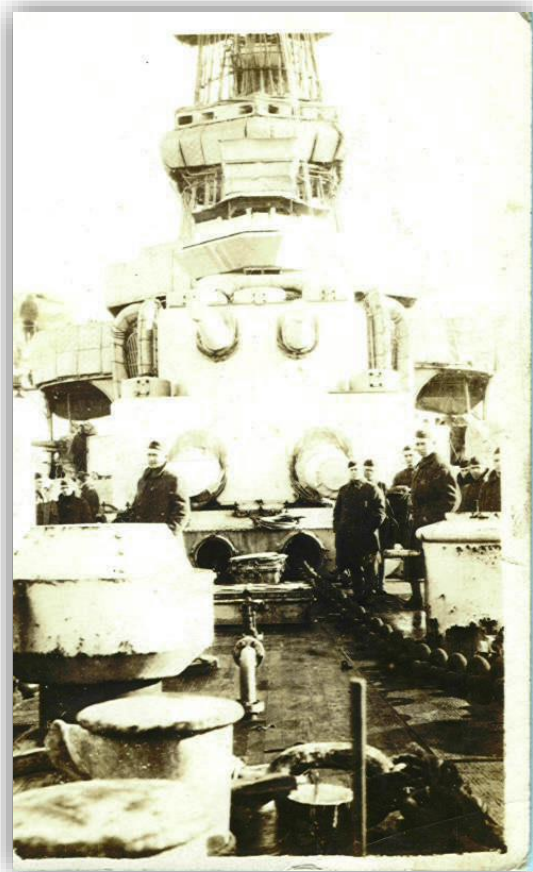
Onboard the *USS Georgia* were 1,428 officers and men and 16 naval men. Led by Colonel Philip C. Westfahl, the outfit included Batteries A, B, C, D, E, and F, Headquarters Company, Medical Detachment, Supply Company, and Ordnance Detachment. **Lawrence** was on the *Georgia* along with the other members of the "Jolly 49" who had been transferred into **Battery B** from the **Wisconsin National Guard, Company E** back in September 1917.



*The Steam Lighter Rin Tin Tin ferrying soldiers of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division out to the awaiting USS Georgia, offshore of Brest, France. This photo is from Lawrence's collection of souvenirs from the war that he kept until his death.*



*The USS Battleship Georgia, fitted out as a troop transport*



*Two photos taken aboard the USS Georgia, part of Lawrence's collection.*

# Boston Evening Globe

BOSTON, MONDAY EVENING, MAY 12, 1919—SIXTEEN PAGES

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## WISCONSIN SOLDIERS COME ON GEORGIA

### Two Boston Captains Are With the Troops

Having on board Col Philip C. Westfahl and the 121st Field Artillery, formerly of the Wisconsin National Guard, and some casuals, the United States battleship Georgia, Capt L. C. Palmer, docked at Commonwealth Pier at noon today.

The troops did not come off the warship until near 1 p m and by 2 p m had started over the New Haven Railroad for Camp Devens.

The U. S. S. Georgia was at anchor in a thick fog, a driving rain and wind storm at quarantine until after 11 o'clock.

The city boat Monitor went down with the reception committee on board and gave the Western boys a rousing reception and a barrage of "goodies."

The only Boston men on board were Capt Eben S. Draper, son of the late Gov Draper; Capt Kendall Winship, son of Addison L. Winship, who is adjutant to Col Westfahl, and private Harry Boland, a bandsman from this city.

Capt Draper was attached to the C. A. C. and will go to Camp Devens and then to Washington where he will be attached to the Regular Army. Capt Draper was met at the pier by Mr and Mrs Thomas B. Gannett, his brother-in-law and his sister, Dorothy.

Neither Capt Draper or Capt Winship had time to relate any war experiences except to say they had a fine time, a plenty of fine food and no complaints to make.

The U. S. S. Georgia sailed from Brest April 30 and had an uneventful voyage except for rough weather.

#### Met by Acting Mayor

The Georgia brought 1333 men and 40 officers of the army and one officer and 15 men, casuals, of the navy.

With the 121st Field Artillery there are 29 men wearing the Croix de Guerre and one having the D. S. C. The outfit consisted of Batteries A, B, C, D, E and F, Headquarters Company, Medical Detachment, Supply Company and Ordnance Detachment.

All the batteries except Batteries C and E were on the line from the 1st of June until the armistice was signed. C and E Batteries were constantly at a firing school.

The 121st Field Artillery was a part of "Les Terribles" or the famous 32d Division, which for a time was with Gen Mangin's famous 10th French Army. They were in five snappy campaigns, and their history is one of real

Continued on the Seventh Page.

## WISCONSIN SOLDIERS COME ON GEORGIA

Continued From the First Page.

heroism and wonderful accomplishments.

Like the 120th Field Artillery from the same State, which arrived a week ago last Sunday, their colors have been decorated and their officers and men have nearly all received citations or commendations of one character or another.

They brought no mascots, Col Westfahl saying they had been too busy fighting to bother with mascots. Leo Girard, a 13-year-old French boy, who is an orphan, had been their mascot all through their campaigns and had been in all the fighting with them until they started for home, when the French Legion took him away from the boys, who hoped to bring him to Milwaukee and give him an education and a fine home.

Cornelius Corcoran and wife of Milwaukee went down the harbor and came up aboard the U. S. S. Georgia today. Mr Corcoran is president of the City Council of Milwaukee and Acting Mayor of the city. He is also chairman of the reception committee to the returning troops, he brought \$1000 which he gave to Col Westfahl today for the doughboys of his outfit.

#### Providence Boy Happy

Mr and Mrs George B. Miller of Milwaukee came up on the Georgia in company with Corp Quinten Miller of A Battery, for whom they came all the way East to welcome home. David Bloodgood and Mrs Bloodgood of Milwaukee also came and gave a hearty welcome home to Sergt Francis Bloodgood of the Headquarters Company, who is a brother of David.

When the Georgia came to the pier her band was playing and the decks were lined with bluejackets, but the soldiers were all below decks. The civilians who went down to meet them were on the quarter deck. Bands of Commonwealth Pier were playing and the soldiers soon came on deck and exchanged cheers of greeting with their welcoming friends.

The Metropolitan Chapter, Red Cross, released hundreds of toy balloons. The Motor Unit, Welfare Agents and Salvation Army workers, Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. also were well represented in the welcome to the returning soldiers.

One of the happiest boys on the ship was private Clarence S. Hunt of Ocean st, Providence, who has been overseas five months and two weeks with the 61st Motor Ambulance Unit.

Sergt Albert Brown, of the Medical Unit is the one man proud of his citation and Distinguished Service Cross awarded for exceptional bravery at St Giles near Fismes, on Aug 3 to 14, 1918. He went out under a heavy barrage and gave aid to the wounded and brought them in at great danger to his own life. Maj Clarence J. Keney has a Croix de Guerre awarded him for exception bravery in attending the wounded.

While the Georgia was lying in the harbor, Col Westfahl received a letter from Capt Palmer, U. S. N. of the Georgia in which he highly commended the officers and men of the 121st Field Artillery for their exceptional conduct during the voyage to Boston from Brest.

Capt Eben S. Draper was in the Coast Artillery and with the Third Army until recently when he transferred to the 121st to come to the United States. He is going back into the Regular Army.

Capt Winship of this city only joined the 121st Field Artillery on Nov 8 and he has since been the regimental adjutant. He is expecting to be mustered out of the service at Camp Devens. Most of the men of the 121st Field Artillery will go from Camp Devens to Camp Grant at Rockford, Ill, where they will be mustered out of the service.

Besides the Milwaukee citizens who came to welcome the boys of the 121st Field Artillery there were Mayor Elmer S. Hall of Green Bay, Wis, and a delegation of leading citizens of that vicinity. With Mayor Hall was Dr Austin O. Olmstead, Judge Henry Graess, Fred E. Burrall and Eben R. Minahan.

THE WEATHER:  
Increasing cloudiness followed  
by showers Tuesday.

# GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

LAST EDITION

GAZETTE ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER, 1871.  
FIRST PAPER ESTABLISHED IN MAY, 1844.

12 PAGES

GREEN BAY, WIS., MONDAY EVENING, MAY 12, 1919.

5 O'CLOCK

PRICE 3 CENTS

# BATTERIES IN BOSTON

## BROWN COUNTY 'OVER THE TOP' IN VICTORY LIBERTY LOAN

### GREAT DRIVE IN FINAL DAYS BOOSTS TOTAL TO \$1,904,000

Expect \$25,000 in Additional Sales to Bring Total to 102 Per Cent of Quota; Final Efforts Aid.

**GREEN BAY GOES OVER ALLOTMENT**

City Buys \$1,138,000 of Bonds or 118 Per Cent of Allotment; Evans Is Pleased at Result.

Brown county has finished the job. Subscriptions of \$1,138,000 were reported at Victory loan headquarters this morning which is 118.23 of the quota of \$1,000,000 for the county. It declines at noon when that at least \$2,000 in excess of this amount would be subscribed for bonds, making the percentage approximately 132 per cent of the quota.

Final efforts of "fitting squadrons" which toured the rural districts and solicited subscriptions from cooperators and individuals in Green Bay and De Pere brought the total over the desired quota without any soliciting having been made by the banks which stood ready to take up

### COMMISSIONERS CONSIDER PROPOSITION TO IMPROVE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**G. B. & W. TRAIN SCHEDULE HITS BUSINESS HERE**

Peter Tubbs Seymour Banker Shows Where Green Bay Is Losing Trade.

**NEW LEAVING TIME KEEPS PEOPLE AWAY**

Many Complaints Filed Against Service; Want City to Demand Change.

**Council Discusses Proposal of Engaging Full-time Officer and Establishment of Municipal Laboratory Here.**

**STATE EXPERT FAVORS PLANS**

Dr. Fabian G. Gosin Named to Succeed Dr. C. J. Chloupek, Who Resigned; May Soon Buy Car for Nurse.

### SUPER COUNCIL WILL REPLY TO GERMAN NOTES

Testimonies Inquiry As to Prisoners of War Will Be Answered Immediately.

**POE SEEKS CHANGE ON LABOR CLAUSES**

Peace Conference Renews Efforts to Smooth Over Italian Question.

The text of the inquiries addressed to the allies by Count von Brockdorff-Ruzansky, Berlin, is published in this issue. It will be found on Page 2.

**BULLETIN**

The Associated Press has issued and authorized a new banner on which are inscribed prominently the words "Mother's Day" which the president apparently has desired and which Chloupek, the German president, in a statement to the Associated Press today.

President Hoover called the present a "momentous document." He indicated that history holds no precedent for such determination to announce completely unaccompanied proposals.

**PARIS, May 12.**—The peace conference leaders are reported by the newspapers to have yesterday upon the terms of the reply to be made to the new notes sent to President Chloupek, evening in Green Bay, Wis., by the Associated Press.

### GREEN BAY VETERANS OF 32ND DIVISION ARRIVE AT NOON ON BATTLESHIP GEORGIA

### BROWN COUNTY SAILORS WILL SOON ORGANIZE

Preliminary Steps Taken Yesterday to Form Branch of National Body.

**LIEUT. M'GILLAN PLACED IN CHARGE**

Will Be Responsible For Work in Whole State As Senior Reserve Officer.

Steps were taken yesterday afternoon at a preliminary meeting held in the assembly room of the court house to organize a Brown county branch of the national sailors' organization which is being organized by the sailors of the American navy.

About sixty members of the regular navy and of the United States naval reserve force attended the meeting and signified their intention of joining the organization. Lieut. J. H. McGillan, who has been placed in charge of organization in Wisconsin, presided at the meeting and explained the purpose of

**FIRST GREETINGS**

Mothers of boys in Batteries B and E, the Field Artillery, were remembered yesterday "Mother's Day" while they were en route on the Atlantic coast by from the port of Boston. These mothers were collectively greeted by their mothers in a message to the President's personal address. They also conveyed the glad tidings that their sons were nearing French sea, which will be in port Monday. The text of the messages was:

Boston, Mass.  
"May 11, 1919.  
"Press-Gazette,  
"Green Bay, Wis.  
"Mother's Day Greetings,  
Batteries B and E will arrive in Boston Monday.  
"CAPTAIN E. H. DEBIL."

### CITY PLANNING COMMISSION IS WANTED HERE

Council Will Be Asked to Appoint Body With Full Authority to Act.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION SATURDAY EVENING**

Prof. Smith Delivers Interesting Lecture; Shows Green Bay's Weak Points.

The city commissioners of Green Bay will be requested to appoint a city planning commission for Green Bay and to give the commission full authority to act. The city officials will also be asked to appoint a public works committee which will have charge of all of the parks

U. S. Cruiser Brings Home 1,429 Men of 121st Artillery; Batteries B and E Given Rousing Reception.

**MAYOR HALL IN WELCOME TALK**

Tells Men That Their Old Jobs Were Waiting for Them; Both Units Entrain at Once for Camp Devens.

**BULLETIN.**

**BOSTON, Mass., May 12.**—(1:15 P. M.) — Battleship *Georgia* docked shortly after 12 o'clock. Batteries B and E, 121st Field Artillery, of Green Bay and neighboring communities in fine health and spirit. No sickness reported by commanding officers of these units.

Both batteries entrained immediately after their arrival for Camp Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts.

**WILSON DENIES THAT AMERICA IS MONEY MAD**

**12 May 1919** After 13 days at sea, the *USS Battleship Georgia* arrived safely offshore BOSTON from BREST, carrying the **121st Field Artillery Regiment**. The voyage was uneventful, except for some rough weather. The *Georgia* sat at anchor in quarantine in a thick fog, driving rain, and heavy winds until 1100. The city boat *Monitor* went out to meet the *Georgia* with a reception committee and "goodies" for the soldiers. The mayors of Milwaukee and Green Bay led the reception committee, along with many officials and leading citizens from other Wisconsin cities.

The *Georgia* finally reached Commonwealth Pier in downtown BOSTON around noon, and the troops began debarking at 1300. **Batteries B** and **E** of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment**, composed of men from GREEN BAY plus the "Jolly 49" from MENASHA, found a rousing welcome awaiting them in BOSTON.

But, no time to waste. By 1400, they were on their way over the New Haven Railroad headed for CAMP DEVENS near SHIRLEY, Massachusetts, about 50 miles west of BOSTON. From there, most, including **Lawrence**, would be sent to CAMP GRANT at ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS for discharge from the army.

**13 May 1919** A day later, the remaining members of the original **Wisconsin National Guard, Company E** (all EXCEPT the Jolly 49) landed in New York aboard the *USS battleship Louisiana*, still led by Captain R. T. Hill.

**14 May 1919** Lawrence celebrated his 23rd birthday, his third since joining the army, and his second away from home, but at least this time he was on US soil! The excitement and anticipation of finally seeing family again and celebrating must have been nearly unbearable. Most likely on this birthday, Lawrence was enroute via train from CAMP DEVENS to CAMP GRANT.

By **15 May 1918**, the entire 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was on American soil or enroute across the Atlantic. The various detachments debarked at NEW YORK and BOSTON, and were sent to the camps nearest their homes at CAMPS DEVENS, MILLS, MERRITT, UPTON, GRANT, and DIX. Upon arriving back in the United States, great receptions were accorded "Les Terribles". Large delegations from Wisconsin and Michigan met all the incoming steamers in the harbors.

**17 May 1919** The **121st Field Artillery Regiment** was demobilized at CAMP GRANT. Named in honor of General Ulysses S. Grant, CAMP GRANT was established in 1917 just outside the city of ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS. Primarily a location for training infantry, it became one of the largest military training facilities in the United States during World War I, when it encompassed 5,600 acres. After the war ended, it became a demobilization camp for returning soldiers. The camp was permanently closed in 1946. Much of the land that was CAMP GRANT is now occupied by the Rockford International Airport.

**19 May 1919** Lawrence Zielinski was honorably discharged from the United States Army at CAMP GRANT, ILLINOIS. Battles engaged included: Rougemont 2nd June 11 - July 23, 1918; 2nd Battle of the Marne July 21 - August 23, 1918; Soissons Front August 28 - September 7, 1918; Argonne 2nd September 23 - November 8, 1918. Lawrence was extremely blessed in that he received no wounds during the war, and was discharged with "excellent" character.

**20 May 1919** At 0330, the men of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** started off on a 2-mile hike from CAMP GRANT to ROCKFORD, IL, where they would board a Chicago & Northwestern Railroad car to RACINE, WISCONSIN. At 10:55 a.m., the first section of troop train, carrying **Batteries B & E**, pulled into RACINE, where a large, celebratory crowd had gathered to welcome them. The second section arrived about 20 minutes later.

The soldiers lined up in formation. Led by the **121<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery** band, they paraded through the streets of RACINE, marching from Junction to Washington, north to 6<sup>th</sup>, east to Main, north to 3<sup>rd</sup>, east thru the Triumphal Arch and Court of Honor, to the Auditorium. The **regimental** parade, led by Colonel Westfahl, was the last appearance of the **121st Field Artillery Regiment** as a whole unit.

While the RACINE boys turned into the Court of Honor, the MILWAUKEE and GREEN BAY boys plus the Jolly 49 from MENASHA (**Batteries A, B, D, and E**), marched on out State Street to the Northwestern Depot, where they boarded trains to GREEN BAY to march in review there.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was broken up - gone - but arrangements had been made for perpetuating its memory and for renewing its associations in the years to come. During the Armistice Days on the Rhine, a 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Veteran Association was formed, officers elected, members recorded, and plans perfected, for continuing during the years to come, the spirit which led "Les Terribles" to success on the battlefields of France in the great year of 1918.

# Honorable Discharge from The United States Army



TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

221 67

This is to Certify, That Lawrence Zielinski  
#2304000, Private, Army, "D" 121 Field Artillery

THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL

SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the  
UNITED STATES by reason of Convenience of the Government  
Ar. Cer. 106 N. D. 1918.

Said Lawrence Zielinski was born  
in Menasha, in the State of Wisconsin

When enlisted he was 21 years of age and by occupation tailor  
He had Blue eyes, Straight hair, Light complexion, and  
was 5 feet 7 1/2 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Camp Grant, Illinois this  
19 day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twentieth

Register's Office  
Winnebago County, Wis.  
Received for record this 12  
day of May A.D. 1921  
at 9:00 o'clock AM and  
recorded in Vol. 30 of Disc  
on page 199

Frank G. Johnson  
Major F.A. USA  
Commanding

Bernice K. Fuller  
Register of Deeds  
Insert name, Christian name first; e. g., "John Doe."  
Insert Army serial number, grade, company and regiment or unit or corps or department; e. g., "1234567", "Corporal,  
Company A, 1st Infantry"; "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps"; "Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department."  
If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date and nature of order or full description of authority thereof.

ENLISTMENT RECORD.

Name: Lawrence Zielinski Grade: Private

Enlisted, or Inducted, May 9, 1917, at Menasha, Wisc

Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.

Prior service: None

Noncommissioned officer: Never

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: Not rated

Horsemanship: Good

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: Longmont, Ill 6/11/18 - 7/23/18  
2nd Battle of the Marne 11/18 - 12/23/18, Soissons, France  
8/28/18 - 9/12/18 - Argonne, Aug 9/23/18 - 11/8/18

Knowledge of any vocations: tailmaker

Wounds received in service: None

Physical condition when discharged: Good

Typhoid prophylaxis completed Aug 28, 1917

Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed Aug 28, 1917

Married or single: Single

Character: Excellent

Remarks:

OCT 28 1920  
Forwarded  
Approved by  
Young Capt. P. S., Ret. ARD.  
For Victory Medal with  
DEFENSIVE SECTOR

Signature of soldier: Lawrence T Zielinski

Camp Grant, Ill. MAY 19 1919

Paid in F. C. S. 117 30

including Bonus of \$60.00 Act of Feb 24 1919

S.H. Francis  
S. H. FRANCIS  
Captain Quartermaster Corps

Chas Edw. Toney  
1st Lt 161 Depot Regt  
Commanding

TRANSPORTATION ISSUED  
C. & N. W. R. R.  
3 MAY 19 1919  
ROCKFORD, "C. & N."  
-ILL-

This certificate and statement on cases of dishonorable discharge, with inclusion, date of service in each enlistment. Have date of qualification or rating and number, date, and source of order concerning same.





# BOYS OF 49 REACH HOME

They Did Not Come in Body But  
We're Glad They're Here

## NO WORD FROM CO. A

It is Not Believed That Capt. Hill  
and His Men Have Reached  
Camp Grant as Yet

Forty Menasha boys, heroes of the hottest fighting of the world war, tanned to a healthy bronze and in the best of health and spirits, have come into Menasha within the past twenty-four hours. The boys were members of Battery B of Green Bay and were at Green Bay late yesterday afternoon to take part in the reception for Green Bay's returning men. They came home by various routes and at times ranging from early Tuesday morning until today, thus making a public reception impossible. The boys stated they were unable to get any definite information as to the time of their arrival and they came home whenever opportunity offered.

The largest delegation, twenty-two members, arrived over the C. & N. W. road at 9:53 o'clock last evening and were met by a few relatives and citi-

zens who thought they might come at this time. Those who were at the depot made up with enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers and they were royally welcomed. A number of the boys of the "49" stopped off at Chicago West Allis and Milwaukee for a visit with relatives and friends and will come home at a later date.

No message has yet been received from Capt. Hill and it is believed that the men of the 107th. ammunition train have not yet reached Camp Grant. A telegram was received from Fred Fritzen yesterday announcing that he left Camp Merritt, New Jersey, yesterday morning and Capt. Hill and his men may have left at the same time. If this is true they will reach Camp Grant some time tonight and should be home Friday or Saturday. It is believed that a message will be received as soon as the boys reach Rockford and then it will be possible to make some definite plans for their reception. This information should be received not later than tomorrow.

20 MAY 1919 *The Menasha Record*, 40 members of the **Jolly 49**, including **Lawrence**, returned to MENASHA between 20-21 May 1919. Grandpa's War was finally over. The welcome had to have been emotionally overwhelming. It had been 647 days since he had stepped onto that train at the depot in MENASHA headed to CAMP DOUGLAS. He had grown up beyond his years. He had seen and experienced things that no human should ever have to see and experience. He had been through hell. But most of all, he survived! Long hugs, kisses, smiles, and no doubt tears were shed in enormous supply. Lawrence was finally home!

24 May 1919 *The Menasha Record*, four days after the homecoming of the "Jolly 49", the remaining members of the original Company E, Wisconsin National Guard, returned to MENASHA. Captain Hill and the boys arrived around 2300. An estimated crowd of 10,000 met the train upon arrival and a grand parade through the streets of MENASHA ensued. The **Jolly 49**, including **Lawrence**, no doubt joined in the welcoming festivities.

## THE BOYS ARE HOME

Ten Thousand People Welcome  
Heroes From Over the Sea

### SCENE A JOYFUL ONE

Never Will Menasha Forget the  
Night When Old Company E  
Came Marching Home.

The boys of old Co E are back.

When Capt. Hill marched his men down the main streets of Menasha to the Soo line depot on that bright fall morning of nearly two years ago the people of Menasha said; "Boys, we'll be here when you come back."

And they were.

Surely, nothing has ever been witnessed in Menasha or vicinity which even approached the welcome extended the men under command of Capt. Hill when they marched back into Menasha's outstretched arms Saturday evening. The train was four or five minutes late, but it seemed like so many hours.

Mayor McGillan headed a committee of former mayors of Menasha to Fond du Lac to greet the boys when they pulled into the junction city and when word came from the mayor at 9:30 o'clock Saturday evening bringing announcement that the men were aboard the train due at Fond du Lac at 10 o'clock every whistle of any size or pretense in Menasha was turned loose upon notification from Chief of Police Schubert and the old town went mad with joy. Men, women and children turned their eyes to the south in a vain effort to send their expression of welcome over the miles which still separated the boys from home but the intervening minutes flew rapidly.

More than five thousand people, representing more than a half hundred organizations, formed a line of parade which extended from the C & N. W. depot almost to the city triangle. Nearly two years ago the sound of the whistle of the approaching railroad engine sent alternating thrills of pride and fear through a vast Menasha throng but on Saturday evening it was the signal for the greatest period of rejoicing Menasha has ever seen. The party of mayor, former mayors and citizens stepped from the train closely followed by the boys in khaki. Great, husky fellows, they stepped lightly along beside Capt. Hill the man they all respected and loved. The doughty little captain had marched his men to war, watched over them and given them the best of all he had and then had the great joy of bringing them safely out of the struggle and back again. Only two of the men of the Ammunition Train, James Mackin and Dominick Kozlowski, were left in France and they are recovering rapidly at the hospital at Flenz. Not a member of the company met death, although four of them were cited for bravery in action. Capt. Hill says the Menasha boys were the best soldiers of the best army in the world.

Throughout the reception the people of Menasha showed their love and respect for the returned heroes by preserving order to a wonderful degree. At times a near friend or relative crept through the line if only to clasp the hand of one of the boys, and then back again to await the hour when she or he might feel the strong pressure of these mighty soldier arms where the prying eyes of the outside world could not bring interruption.

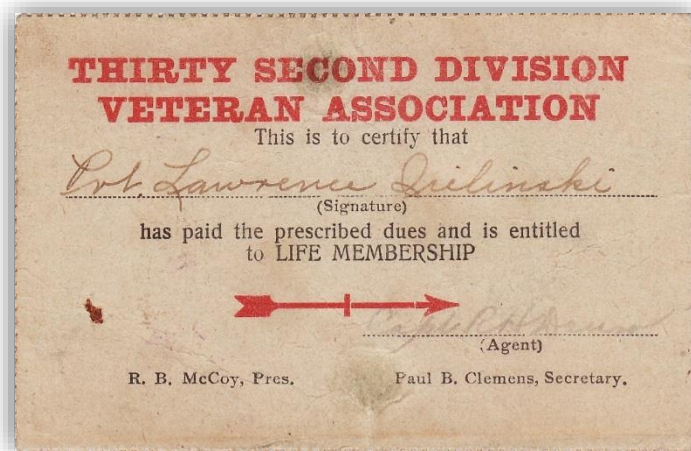
Headed by the ninth regiment band and returned soldiers, the men of Co. E marched from the depot to the triangle, followed by the huge parade. A sea of human faces filled every inch of space along the line of march and tears of pride welled from human fountains where tears of pain had lurked but a few months back.

When the boys reached the triangle the band played "The Star Spangled Banner" while citizens bared their heads and soldiers and sailors stood at "attention." Then came the grand breaking up. No longer able to restrain themselves, relatives and friends swept the boys off their feet with a mighty rush of welcome. Families tried in vain to get their boys into the quiet of home but the good people of Menasha had waited long for this opportunity and many a soldier boy who had withstood the onslaught of the Hun found the "attack" of Saturday night too well planned and too well executed to permit of defeat. It was long after midnight before the greatest event in the history of Menasha had spent its force. The great big throng of people had behaved beautifully and the soldiers turned in their "good night" to express their voice of approval for the wonderful manner in which the folks at home had kept their word. Menasha was happy to the limit.

**6 Jun 1919** Red Arrow Day is proclaimed in Wisconsin. The returning Wisconsin warriors were given an enthusiastic formal welcome with a parade through the streets of MILWAUKEE, as well as a luncheon, free passes to theaters and ball games, and an evening ball. It is assumed, but not known if **Lawrence** attended.

**17-18 Jun 1919** MENASHA holds a 2-day celebration for their war heroes including music and dance each night, a parade, day and night fireworks, and an aeroplane flyover. An estimated 10,000 citizens attended.

**Post-War: Lawrence** was an original member of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Veterans Association, the Lenz-Gazecki American Legion Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Neenah Barracks - Veterans of WWI, of which he was installed as junior vice commander.



MENASHA, WISCONSIN THURSDAY JUNE 19 1919.

# THE CELEBRATION IS AT AN END

Menasha Outdid Herself in Welcome Home Reception to  
Our Heroes

## STREET PARADE A THING OF BEAUTY

Ten Thousand People Thronged the Streets of Menasha Last Evening  
in Fitting Tribute to Returned Men—Committees  
Deserve World of Praise

Menasha's soldiers and sailors went forth, and saw and conquered, and then came home to find that they had conquered Menasha, nook and corner; heart and soul.

This was plainly shown through the two days of the homecoming celebration arranged for the city's heroes but it was left for the final day and evening to show just what Menasha had done in the way of entertainment.

The greatest parade in the city's history, review of the returned men by Major Martin, music by two bands and a drum and bugle corps, an aeroplane flight, day and night fireworks and public dancing on the city triangle combined to make the day one which will go down on the pages of history as a fitting tribute to the men who answered the call of the county.

Ideal weather conditions aided in making the day a grand success. This was only marred by a light shower at 8 o'clock in the evening which failed to even dampen the enthusiasm of the great throng of ten thousand people who gathered to witness the celebration.

The street parade covered a distance of more than a mile. Led by the ninth regiment band and soldiers and sailors in uniform, there were pretty costumes worn by members of the various organizations and beautiful floats representing certain entrants in the procession. The floats of the Modern Woodmen, St. Mary's church and St. John's church were particularly worthy of mention, while the Red Cross "chariots" attracted much favorable comment, mention of which is made in another column of The Record. A pleasing feature of the afternoon program was the fact that the big parade was started practically on time and carried to completion without a single hitch to mar the event. The parade

formed at Racine street, proceeded west to Tayco, south to the Hotel Landgraf, east to the Hotel Menasha, south to Nicolot boulevard, west to Walnut street, north to Ahnaip, east to Naymut and then back over Mill street to the triangle where the marchers dispersed. Too much credit cannot be given the ladies and gentlemen who had this work in charge.

The afternoon fireworks were enjoyed by the large crowd and equalled anything ever seen in the Fox River Valley.

An Oshkosh aeroplane, brought here under the management of the Old Line Life Insurance company appeared promptly at 7:30 o'clock and did some fancy manouevring over the city for twenty minutes. Aeroplane necks will be the rule in Menasha for some time to come.

The carnival attractions, band concerts and public dancing kept the crowd in good humor until ten o'clock when the display of night fireworks were supplied by the same firm which furnished the display for past celebrations here and more than came up to expectations.

The men of Menasha fought the big battles and fought them with the same spirit which marked the world's best exponents of right and justice and the folks at home took up this spirit in carrying out the welcome home celebration. The boys made history on the battle field and the citizens of Menasha made history as a fitting testimonial to the men. Every member of the committee which planned and carried out the celebration worked faithfully for more than a month and the success which attended their efforts came as a fitting reward. They were a tired but happy lot when the hour of midnight marked the close of the two days jubilee.

# LIST OF HONORED NAMES FOR MENASHA MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Relatives Are Urged to Notify the Committee if There Are Any Corrections to Be Made in the List As It Is Printed Below.— Early Action is Urged

HAROLD BECK .....	Died in Service
ARTHUR CHRISTOFFERSON .....	Died in Service
URBAN BERGERON .....	Died of Wounds
THOMAS DELORME .....	Died of Wounds
CLARENCE FARBACH .....	Died in Service
WILLIAM FERGUSON .....	Died in Service
JOHN ESNOFSKI .....	Died in Service
HARRY GAGE .....	Died in Service
FRANK GATZA .....	Killed in Action
LEO KALENOWSKI .....	Died in Service
PAUL KOSLOWSKI .....	Died in Service
NELS JENSEN .....	Died in Service
HENRY LENZ .....	Killed in Action
FLOYD LASAGE .....	Died in Service
JOHN LENGENFELT .....	Died in Service
WILLIAM GARROW .....	Killed in Action
MIKE PAVELOWSKI .....	Died in Service
FRANK PRUCHNOFSKI .....	Killed in Action
THEODORE ROSENOW .....	Killed in Action
GERALD PICARD .....	Died in Service
FRANK STUESCHER .....	Died in Service
WALTER SCZENSKI .....	Died in Service
MIKE WELK .....	Died in Service
BENJAMIN WARNER .....	Killed in Action
WALTER STRAZNISKI .....	Died in Service
MIKE SCHELEWSKI .....	Died in Service
STANLEY STOCKOWITCH .....	Died in Service

Above is printed the list of names of Menasha soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the last war. These names will appear on the monument to be erected at Oak Hill cemetery and the committee desires to have them absolutely correct. This list given above was obtained through the

Red Cross but in some instances the organization the man served in, or how he died is not given.

Report of any errors or additions should be referred to Harold Schmidt Post Adjutant; or R. T. Hill, Post Commander, at the earliest possible moment.

## Epilogue

Lawrence settled back into everyday life in Menasha as best he could. No doubt it was difficult for a time, but meeting with his former brothers-in-arms would've helped greatly. He had literally been through hell, and only a fellow soldier could understand the thoughts and feelings held deep inside.

Shortly after he returned, Lawrence took a job with Menasha Woodenware. He would remain with them for five years, before moving over to Marathon Paper Mills, whom he would work for until his retirement in May of 1962.

One very special day around 1921, Apolonia Danowski walked down 5<sup>th</sup> Street and visited Margaretta "Sophie" Zielinski at her home. Accompanying Mrs. Danowski on this venture was her niece, Apolonia "Lena" Jankowski. Lena was from Antigo, but was living with her Uncle and Aunt in Menasha while working at Jersild's Knitting Mill.

On this particular day, Sophie's son Lawrence happened to be at home, and he met Lena for the first time. Whether or not it was love at first sight is unknown, but the couple began dating, and they continued to date for 3 years, before finally getting married on August 24, 1924.

Lawrence purchased the lot next to his parents at 635 5<sup>th</sup> Street for \$300 and had a house built before the wedding. The cost to build the house was \$4,200. The couple paid cash except for a \$1,000 interest-free loan from Lena's mother.

Lawrence and Lena spent the rest of their lives in the home they had built at 635 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Menasha. Lena gave birth to 6 children. Tragically the oldest, Janie, would die from Scarlet Fever at age 9. The other 5 children married and raised their own families, giving Lawrence and Lena 23 grandchildren.

Lawrence passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack on January 14, 1964 at the age of 67. He passed peacefully in his sleep. He was buried at the St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Menasha. Fittingly for this American hero, full military honors were held graveside.






# APPENDIX





## A. Divisions Supported by the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade

**32nd DIVISION**




**INSIGNIA:** Bared arrow of red, chosen because they "shot through every line the Boche put before them."  
**TROOPS:** National Guard of Michigan and Wisconsin.  
**ARRIVED IN FRANCE:** February 20-22, 1918  
**DIVISION COMMANDERS:**  
 Brig. Gen. Charles R. Boardman (National Guard of Wisconsin);  
 Maj. Gen. Will. G. Haan (Ind.);  
 Maj. Gen. Wm. Lassiter (Va.);

**ACTIVITIES:** Alsace front, May 18-July 21/18; Fismes front, in front line July 30-Aug. 7/18, and in reserve Aug. 7-Aug. 23/18; Soissons front, in front line Aug. 28-Sept. 2/18 (battle of Juvigny), and in reserve Sept. 2-Sept. 9/18; Meuse-Argonne Offensive, in reserve Sept. 22-30/18, in front line Sept. 30-Oct. 20/18, and in reserve Oct. 20-Nov. 8/18.  
 Formed part of the Army of Occupation in Germany.  
**CAPTURED:** Prisoners, 40 officers, 2,113 men; Artillery, 21 pieces, Machine guns, 190.

**CASUALTIES:**

	Officers	Men
Killed .....	94	1,938
Wounded .....	356	11,364
Missing or captured...	13	1,093
	463	14,395

**28th DIVISION**




**INSIGNIA:** Keystone of red cloth, symbolizing the "Keystone State", Pennsylvania.  
**TROOPS:** Pennsylvania National Guard, the Division having been formed complete from the old 7th Division, Pennsylvania National Guard.  
**ARRIVED IN FRANCE:** May 18, 1918.  
**DIVISION COMMANDERS:**  
 Maj. Gen. Charles H. Muir (Mich.);  
 Maj. Gen. Wm. H. Hay (Fla.).

**ACTIVITIES:** Sector southeast of Chateau Thierry (corps reserve), June 30-July 31/18 (battle operations, July 15 to 18, and July 28 to 30); Vesle Sector, Aug. 7-Sept. 8/18 (almost continuous heavy fighting); Meuse-Argonne offensive, Sept. 26-Oct. 9/18; Thiaucourt Sector, Oct. 16-Nov. 11/18.  
**CAPTURED:** Prisoners, 10 officers, 911 men; Artillery, 16 pieces; Machine guns, 63.

**CASUALTIES:**

	Officers	Men
Killed .....	89	1,777
Wounded .....	346	11,068
Missing .....	16	1,121
	451	13,966

**77th DIVISION**  
 ("LIBERTY" DIVISION)



**INSIGNIA:** Golden fac-simile of the Statue of Liberty on blue background.  
**TROOPS:** National Army of New York City.  
**ARRIVED IN FRANCE:** April 13, 1918.  
**DIVISION COMMANDERS:**  
 Brig. Gen. Evan M. Johnson (N.Y.);  
 Maj. Gen. George B. Duncan (Ky.);  
 Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander (Md.).


(NOTE. The late Major General J. Franklin Bell, Regular Army, of Kentucky, was the first commander of the Division, and it was under him that the Division was organized and trained at Camp Upton, N.Y.)

**ACTIVITIES:** Baccarat Sector, June 20-Aug. 4/18; Fismes-Bazoches Sector, Vesle Front, Aug. 12-Sept. 16/18; La Harazée-Four de Paris-La Fille Morte Line, Sept. 26-Oct. 16/18 (Meuse-Argonne Offensive); Champigneulle line, Aire-Meuse, Oct. 31-Nov. 12/18 (Meuse-Argonne Offensive).  
**CAPTURED:** Prisoners, 13 officers, 737 men; Artillery, 44 pieces; Machine guns, 277.

**CASUALTIES:**

	Officers	Men
Killed .....	79	2,087
Wounded .....	222	7,680
Missing .....	16	727
	317	10,494

**79th DIVISION**



**INSIGNIA:** Lorraine Cross, adopted in the 15th Century by the House of Anjou, following the defeat of Charles the Bold, as a symbol of triumph. It is the outward symbol wherein is centered the affectionate and zealous love of a nation for liberty, justice and deefrom.

**TROOPS:** National Army of District of Columbia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.  
**ARRIVED IN FRANCE:** July 15, 1918.  
**DIVISION COMMANDERS:**  
 Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Kuhn (Kans.);  
 Brig. Gen. Evan M. Johnson (N.Y.).

**ACTIVITIES:** Sector 304 (between Argonne Forest and the Meuse), Sept. 16-Sept. 30/18; Troyon Sector (east of the Meuse), Oct. 8-Oct. 23/18; Grand Montaigne Sector (heights east of the Meuse), Oct. 29-Nov. 11/18.  
**CAPTURED:** Prisoners, 1 officer, 391 men; Artillery, 35 pieces; Machine guns, 266.

**CASUALTIES:**

	Officers	Men
Killed .....	10	453
Wounded .....	52	1,722
Missing .....	2	461
	64	2,636

3rd DIVISION  
("Marne" Division)



INSIGNIA : Three white stripes diagonally superimposed upon a square field of royal blue. The three stripes are symbolic of the three major operations in which the division participated—the Marne, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. The blue field is a symbol for those who have died.

TROOPS : Regular Army.

ARRIVED IN FRANCE : April 4th, 1918.

DIVISION COMMANDERS :

Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman (Ohio).

Maj. Gen. Beaumont B. Buck (Tex.).

(Born in Mississippi ; appointed from Texas)

Brig. Gen. Preston Brown (Ky.).

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Howze (Tex.).

ACTIVITIES : Chateau Thierry Sector, May 31-July 30/18 (battle operations, May 31-June 4. and July 15 to 30) ; St.

Mihiel Sector, (Corps reserve), Sept. 10-Sept. 14/18 ; Meuse-Argonne offensive, Sept. 26-Oct. 27/18.

Formed part of Army of Occupation in Germany.

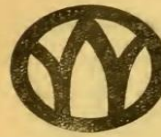
CAPTURED :

Prisoners, 31 officers, 2,209 men ; Artillery, 51 pieces ; Machine guns, 1,501.

CASUALTIES :

	Officers	Men
Killed .....	104	2,263
Wounded .....	449	12,748
Missing .....	10	782
	<hr/> 563	<hr/> 15,793

89th DIVISION



INSIGNIA : Circle of dark blue piping with an initial "W" of the same color, which, when inverted, is an "M", the letters "MW" standing for Middle West; also, the "W" stands for the three major generals who commanded the division, Leonard Wood, Frank L. Winn and William M. Wright.

TROOPS : National Army of Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Arizona, South Dakota, New Mexico, and Nebraska.

ARRIVED IN FRANCE : June 21, 1918.

DIVISION COMMANDERS :

Brig. Gen. Frank L. Winn (Ky.).

Maj. Gen. Wm. M. Wright (N.J.).

(NOTE. Major General Leonard Wood, Regular Army, —born in New Hampshire ; appointed from Massachusetts,—was the first commander of the Division, and it was under him that the Division was organized and trained at Camp Funston, Kans.)

ACTIVITIES : Sector northwest of Toul, Aug. 10-20 (under command 32nd French Corps) ; Sector northwest of Toul, Aug. 20-Sept. 12/18 (under command Fourth American Corps) ; St. Mihiel operation, Sept. 12-13/18 ; Sector from Xammes to middle of Bois de Dampvitoux (later extended to the Etang de la Chaussée on west and western edge of Bois de Bonvaux on east), Sept. 14-Oct. 7/18 ; Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Fifth Corps reserve), Oct. 9-19/18 ; Meuse-Argonne Offensive, Oct. 19-Nov. 11/18.

Formed part of Army of Occupation in Germany.

CAPTURED : Prisoners, 192 officers, 4,869 men ; Artillery, 126 pieces ; Machine guns, 455.

CASUALTIES :

	Officers	Men
Killed .....	48	1,092
Wounded .....	201	5,594
Captured or missing ..	1	218
	<hr/> 250	<hr/> 6,904

88th DIVISION



INSIGNIA : Design of black evolved from two figures "8" crossing at right angles and giving the appearance of a Maltese cross made of loops or a four leaf clover, a common symbol of the four States, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and North Dakota, colors varying.

TROOPS : National Army of North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois.

ARRIVED IN FRANCE : August 16, 1918.

DIVISION COMMANDERS :

Brig. Gen. Wm. D. Beach (N.Y.).

Maj. Gen. Wm. Weigel (N.J.).

ACTIVITIES : Center Sector, Haute Alsace, Oct. 7-Nov. 5/18.

CAPTURED : (No data available to authors.)

CASUALTIES : (No data available to authors.)

In addition, the  
57th Field Artillery Brigade  
supported the following:

9th French Division

53rd French Division

1st Moroccan Division

10th French Army

B. 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Historical Chart

32<sup>nd</sup> Division Historical Chart.

	Dates		ARTILLERY BRIGADE ATTACHED	SECTOR	PRISONERS CAPTURED	MATERIAL CAPTURED	KILLED IN ACTION DIED FROM WOUNDS MIA DIED IN ACTION	DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES	DIED FROM DISEASE (GAS) AND OTHER CAUSES	WOUND (GAS) AND OTHER CAUSES	SICK (GAS) AND OTHER CAUSES	TAKEN OR RECOVERED	INJURED	1918								
	ENTRY	WITH DRAWAL												LOCATIONS OF HEADQUARTERS	From	to						
FRONT														LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND 16 Feb. 16 Feb.								
DISSEMBARKED														WINCHESTER, ENGLAND 17 Feb. 19 Feb. LA HAVRE, FRANCE 20 Feb. 22 Feb. ENROUTE TO 10 <sup>th</sup> TRAINING AREA, FRANCE 22 Feb. 24 Feb.								
10 <sup>th</sup> TRAINING AREA														PRATHOY, FRANCE 24 Feb. 17 May								
ALSACE	May 10	July 21	57 FA.	Quiet	1	7	8		25	82	5	215	39	LA CHAPELLE ALSACE ROUFEMONT 6 June 20 July								
AISNE - MARNE OFFENSIVE	July 24	July 29	3rd FA	Active				2						BETHUSY ST. MARTIN 23 July 20 July								
Front-Line Reserve	July 30	Aug. 7	57th FA	Active										CHATEAU THIERRY 27 July 28 July								
	Aug. 7	Aug. 25	57th FA	Active										JAILGONNE 28 July 30 July								
			Aug. 7		1	96	97	4	5	10	28	400	777	LA CHARBELL CHATEAU 30 July 5 Aug.								
OISE - AISNE Reserve	Aug. 24	Aug. 27	57th FA	Active										CIERGES 5 Aug. 7 Aug.								
Front-Line Reserve	Aug. 28	Sept. 2	57th FA	Active	9	928	937	2	2	16	112	700	485	CHATEAU CERNOYE NEAR PIERREFONS 23 Aug. 27 Aug.								
Res. (Reserve Lt. Army)	Sept. 2	Sept. 10	57th FA	Active										TARTIERS 27 Aug. 6 Sept.								
	Sept. 10	Sept. 22	57th FA	Active										CHATEAU CERNOYE 10 Sept. 22 Sept.								
MEUSE - ARGONNE	Sept. 22	Sept. 30	57th FA	Active										JOINVILLE (Reft) 22 Sept. 26 Sept.								
Reserve	Sept. 30	Oct. 20	57th FA	Active										ALBERCOURT 26 Sept. 29 Sept.								
Reserve	Oct. 30	Nov. 9	57th FA	Active										VERRIER-FR. NEUSE 29 Sept. 2 Nov.								
			12th FA		20	1067	1095	2	6	51	90	600	1179	BOUACHE 2 Nov. 4 Nov.								
			150th FA	Active	1	15	16	3	1	10	100	100	24	AUREVILLE 4 Nov. 10 Nov.								
MEUSE - ARGONNE Front-Line	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	150th FA	Active										VILLOSNES - JUR. MEUSE 10 Nov. 17 Nov.								
MARCH TO THE RHINE. Army of Occupation (Meuse to Rhine.) Front-Line	Nov. 17	Dec. 12	150th											MARVILLE 17 Nov. 18 Nov.								
														LONGNY 18 Nov. 20 Nov.								
														PETANGE, LUXEMBOURG 20 Nov. 21 Nov.								
														WALPONDANGES 21 Nov. 22 Nov.								
														NIEDER ANVEN 22 Nov. 23 Nov.								
														CONSDORF 23 Nov. 1 Dec.								
														HELMENBURG, Germany 1 Dec. 2 Dec.								
														SPITCHER 2 Dec. 5 Dec.								
														DAUR 5 Dec. 7 Dec.								
														MULLENBACH 7 Dec. 9 Dec.								
														MUYER 9 Dec. 10 Dec.								
														OCHTENDUNG 10 Dec. 11 Dec.								
														BASSERHEIM 11 Dec. 13 Dec.								
COBLENZ Bridgehead Front-Line	Dec. 13	Apr. 23	158											SAYN 13 Dec. 16 Dec.								
														REMGSDORF 16 Dec. 24 Apr.								
TOTAL S.					40	2113	2133	11	15	78	200	2000	2660	134	122	5892	756	7085	110	97	13,936	TOTAL CASUALTIES.

R/L

C. Battery B Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men, 30 Sep 1918

Roster of Officers and Enl. Men, Battery B, 121st F.A.U.S. Army 30 Sept 1918.

OFFICERS

Doolin, Charles H. <i>VP</i>	2nd Lt. F.A.U.S. Army	Duty with Battery * Executive Officer
Drum, Ralph H. <i>VX</i>	1st Lt. F.A.U.S. Army	Comdg Battery
Peterson, Harold E. <i>VP</i>	2nd Lt. F.A.U.S. Army	Duty with Battery, and in addition to other duties is Munitions Officer, 1st Bn., 121st F.A.
Stimpson, Fred A. <i>VP</i>	2nd Lt. F.A.U.S. Army	Duty with Battery - Administrative Officer
Terhune, Elmer S. <i>VP</i>	1st Lt. F.A.U.S. Army	Duty with Battery - <del>Administrative</del> Officer

ENL. MEN

Albers, Albert	2304050	Pvt	
Allcox, Peter F.	2304006	Pvt lcl	
Allen, John R.	2304051	Pvt	
Arts, William H.	2304052	Pvt lcl	
Bader, Octaves	2304053	Pvt	
Bales, William C.	1435259	Pvt lcl	
Bancroft, Dow H.	1432842	Pvt lcl	
Bankers, Harry H.	2304009	Pvt lcl	
Baeten, Joseph	2304008	Pvt lcl	
Baeten, Peter	2304142	Pvt lcl	
Bauernfeind, Edward A.	2304055	Pvt lcl	
Baumgart, Walter E.	2304054	Pvt	
Baumgart, George J.	2297861	Pvt	
Beckman, Sylvester	2304056	Pvt	
Beckmann, Herman A.	2304100	Pvt	
Bedore, Edward D.	2303953	Sgt	
Bene, John	2303942	Sup Sgt	
Bergelin, William C.	2304058	Pvt	
Bessanson, Alphonse	2304101	Pvt	
Bessanson, Henry	2304059	Pvt	
Bielefeldt, Oscar	2303954	Corp	
Blackbird, Eral J.	2303984	Pvt lcl	
Bopp, Alfred H.	1435226	Pvt lcl	
Birch, Charles H.	1435054	Pvt lcl	
Bouchea, Raymond	2303986	Pvt lcl	
Boyce, Emmett C.	2304057	Pvt	
Brezinski, Martin	2303963	Corp	
Bridges, Fred	2270607	Pvt	
Brienen, Anthony	2304060	Pvt	
Brinson, F.	2983286	Pvt	
Brown, Patrick	424388	Mess Sgt	
Burckley, Arthur A.	2303944	Sgt	On D.S. at A.P.O. 722, A.E.F.
Byrd, Lee	1356930	Pvt	
Cates, John W.	3354675	Pvt	
Carter, Roy B.	1599587	Pvt	
Cavil, Carl L.	2297866	Pvt lcl	
Cheslock, Frank J.	2304062	Pvt lcl	
Clark, Eugene	2304063	Bugler	Sick in Hosp. Location unknown.
Corcoran, Charles E.	1435495	Pvt lcl.	

Crane, David W.	2304064	Pvt
Currier, Beaumont	2303966	Corp
Chapman, Pleasant D.	3354564	Pvt
Dales, Hayden	1599328	Pvt
Daniels, George	2304013	Pvt lcl
Dashnier, Clarence	2303958	Corp
Dashner, James C.	2304003	Buglar
Darby, William B.	1435757	Pvt lcl
Daul, Frank E.	2297856	Corp
Davis, Rex	2348667	Pvt
Dave, Alford E.	2303950	Pvt
DeFries, John L.	1435054	Pvt lcl
DeGroot, Joseph W.	2303956	Sgt
Dickensen, Almon S.	2303975	Pvt
Deherty, George R.	2304015	Pvt
Dougherty, Cecil	2304067	Pvt
Donahue, Chris	1939473	Pvt AWOL since Sept 21/18
Drajewski, Hugo P.	2304068	Pvt
Dulik, Joseph H.	2304016	Pvt lcl
Dunlap, John J.	2304017	Pvt lcl
Evrard, Joseph L.	2303988	Pvt lcl
Findaisen, Ervin C.	2304069	Pvt
Flavien, Silas	2303989	Pvt lcl
Foley, James W.	3356259	Pvt
Finley, Walter S.	2565138	Corp
Franc, Ludwig	2304070	Pvt
Francart, William	2304071	Pvt lcl
Franken, Herbert E.	2303979	Mec
Fritsges, Henry C.	3361336	Sgt
Garsow, Joseph	2304074	Pvt lcl
Gatza, Frank	2304073	Pvt
Gants, George	2304072	Pvt
Gervais, Charles P.	1600206	Pvt lcl
Gillespie, Michael	2304018	Pvt lcl
Giesecke, Carl L.	3361055	Corp
Goeser, Arthur	2304076	Pvt
Grady, John T.	269938	Pvt
Gruselle, Lewis	2304077	Pvt
Gruselle, William B.	2303967	Corp
Guerin, Lawrence	2304078	Pvt
Hanson, Roy S.	2303973	Gh Mec
Hanna, Hugh P.	2692859	1st Sgt
Hannon, Joseph	2304019	Pvt lcl
Hausman, Clarence E.	<del>2303981</del>	Corp 3360351
Henningsen, Harry	2304080	Pvt
Henningsen, Walter H.	2304102	Pvt
Herman, George	2304081	Pvt
Herman, Leonard	2303974	Hs
Hessel, Earl	2304020	Pvt lcl
Hildebrand, Otto	2304082	Pvt
Hilton, Ralph H.	2304021	Pvt lcl
Hinkes, Alvin P.	2304022	Pvt lcl
Holding, William F.	2915948	Pvt
Hewlett, Clarence	2304084	Pvt

Bruska, Charles	1433132	Pvt	
Hughes, James A.	14355200	Pvt	
Hutte, Hamp R.	1599554	Pvt lcl	
Jacques, William	2304023	Pvt lcl	
Janotta, Joseph B.	2691284	Pvt	
Jensen, William H.	1434865	Pvt	
Joachim, John D.	2304086	Pvt	
Johnson, John	2304067	Pvt	
Johnson, Everett A.	1356925	Pvt	
Johnson, Edgar L.	1983105	Pvt	
Jolly, Edwin	2303976	Pvt	
Jones, William	2304088	Pvt	
Jeslin, Vernon L.	2303957	Sgt	
Knapp, Joseph E.	2304089	Pvt	
Kohls, Carl	2304090	Pvt	
Kolasinski, Joseph	2304103	Pvt	AWOL since Sept 21/18
Kolasinski, Steve	2304092	Pvt	
Kosoborek, Maryan	2304094	Pvt	
Krepper, Nick	2304091	Pvt	
Langley, Hugh D.	1601937	Pvt lcl	
Lamoreaux, Rudolph	389430	Pvt	
LaPorte, Alexander J.	389133	Pvt	
LaTour, Ernest J.	2303945	Stable Sgt	
Laubenstein, Ervin C.	2304025	Pvt lcl	
Laundry, Joseph T.	2304026	Pvt lcl	On D.S. Camp De Meucou, Morbihan, France.
Laurie, Clyde	2304027	Corp	
Lavey, William A.	388807	Pvt	
Lemire, Theophile	388843	Pvt	
Legnar, Jacob D.	2303980	Mec	
Leicht, Russel	2303990	Pvt lcl	
Liest, Leonard J.	2304029	Pvt lcl	
LeRoy, Lloyd W.	2304028	Sgt	
Liebrecht, Joseph W.	2303965	Corp	
Leftus, Thomas J.	2594926	Corp	
Leoney, John T.	None	Sgt	
Loper, Harold B.	2303958	Sgt	
Lorence, John	2304093	Pvt	
Lurquin, Henry J.	2303946	1st Sgt	
Madigan, Edward H.	2303991	Pvt lcl	
Madigan, Michael	2303973	Corp	
Maggi, Luigi	2304095	Pvt	
Maloney, Michael	2304096	Pvt lcl	
Marshall, Chester P.	2304097	Pvt	
Martinet, Aramis	387020	Corp	
McAllister, Vivian	2303959	Corp	
McDonald, John D.	2304030	Pvt lcl	
McKeough, Edward	2303964	Corp	
McNamara, Louis J.	2303992	Corp	
McNellis, William J.	2595284	Corp	
Metzger, William C.	1362414	Bugler	
Monmaerts, Jules F.	2303993	Pvt lcl	
Moran, Frank E.	2303989	Corp	
Moreaux, John J.	2304098	Pvt	

Morris, Stephen J.	2594969	Pvt.
Moss, Merle F.	1435254	Mec
Moylan, Mike	1434983	Pvt lcl
Nackers, John	2303994	Pvt
Norcaust, Clarence	2304104	Pvt
Nier, Edward	2304099	Pvt
Norgard, James L.	2691382	Corp
Nooyen, Albert L.	2303995	Pvt lcl
Russ, James A.	2304105	Pvt
Nys, William H.	2303981	Ho
Opichka, August	2304106	Pvt
Patterson, Clarence	2304107	Pvt
Patton, Henry	2304108	Pvt
Peddicoord, Homer	1983755	Pvt
Peters, Henry	2304109	Pvt
Peters, Felix	2304031	Pvt lcl
Petersen, Philip S.	2303960	Corp
Petrina, Alfred J.	1848238	Pvt
Phimister, Milton	2303996	Pvt lcl
Pigeon, Elmer E.	2303961	Pvt
Platten, Michael A.	2304032	<del>Pvt</del> COOK
Pocky, Edward F.	2304110	Pvt
Pozolinski, John A.	2304111	Pvt
Pratsch, Leland J.	2303962	Sgt
Quatsch, Ross J.	2303997	Corp
Radej, John J.	2304112	Pvt
Rademacher, John J.	22978722	Pvt
Ranard, Ralph	1434931	Pvt lcl
Rank, Harold G.	2304113	Pvt
Riley, Clarence	2304133	<del>Pvt</del> CORP
Robinson, Charles C.	1574712	Pvt
Roeseler, Edwin E.	2303970	Sgt
Rockwell, Ralph H.	2304034	Pvt lcl
Rohde, August J.	2304035	Pvt lcl
Romanowski, Steve	2304114	Pvt
Romnak, Anton A.	2304115	Pvt
Romniak, Harry	2304140	Pvt
Ruel, Leo	2303971	Corp
Ruelle, William	2303977	Cook
Saborowski, Clarence	2304116	Pvt
Sahotake, James A.	2304117	Pvt
Sasse, Harry C.	2303948	Sgt
Schmidli, Emil H.	2304119	Pvt
Schoubert, Lewis P.	1435175	Pvt
Schultz, Benjamin J.	2304121	Pvt
Schumergh, Herbert E.	2304036	Pvt lcl
Scovronaki, Joseph	2304120	Pvt
Seymour, John	2304122	Pvt
Shampo, Norman J.	2304037	Pvt
Simon, Jules	2304038	Pvt lcl
Smith, Ellison J.	2303972	Sgt
Smith, Guy E.	2304123	Pvt
Summers, Paul W.	998221	Sgt



Sommerfeld, Edmund	2303978	Cook	
Solper, Anthony B.	2304040	Pvt 1cl	
Spurgeon, Russel B.	1983149	Pvt	
Spletter, Otto H.	2304141	Pvt 1cl	
Spletter, Paul H.	2303999	Cook	
Stepanski, Adolph E.	2304124	Pvt	
Stevo, Lester	2304125	Pvt	AWOL since Sept 21/18
Stinson, Robert S.	507711	Corp	
St. Louis, Arthur	2304124	Pvt	
Stroud, Court	1983363	Pvt	
Stewart, John F.	2312321	Pvt	
Study, Fred M.	1435299	Pvt	
<del>Study</del> Thalke, Charles W.	2304128	Pvt	
Tipton, John H.	1434928	Pvt	
Thomas, Francis	2304041	Pvt 1cl	
Tripp, Lascombe	2304130	Pvt	
Trimble, Cecil M.	1434940	Pvt	
Tompkins, George W.	2595060	Pvt	
Ulmer, Harry B.	1434444	Pvt	
VanDeWenl Christ	2304042	Pvt 1cl	
Vanderbusch, Louis C.	2304131	Pvt 1cl	
VandeWalle, Leo J.	2304043	Corp	
VanSistine, Alphonse J.	2304001	Pvt 1cl	
Vieaux, Edward J.	2304044	Pvt 1cl	
Wagner, Carl	2303982	Mec	
Wagner, Frank P.E.	2304002	Hs	
Wallenfang, Frank J.	2304045	Pvt 1cl	
Warner, Frank F.	2304132	Pvt	
Watermolen, Albert	2304138	Pvt	
Watson, Oscar	1435362	Pvt 1cl	
Welsh, Louis A.	388091	Pvt	
Wentworth, George H.	388066	Pvt	
White, Joseph	453929	Pvt	
Whitcher, Raymond E.	388187	Pvt	
Wilder, Godfrey	14599639	Pvt 1cl	
Williams, Henry	1435872	Pvt	
Williams, John	388664	Pvt	
Willette, Frank M.	388626	Pvt	
Wilson, James	2304135	Hs	
Wippich, Frank	2304136	Pvt	
Wolfe, Charlie	1602336	Pvt 1cl	
Wouffe, David L.	2691539	Sgt	
Weyenberg, Raymond	2304132	Pvt	
Weisgerber, Ambrose B.	2304134	Pvt	
Wyman, David A.	388340	Pvt	
Yowell, Hoyt	1435869	Pvt	
Zapfe, Emil J.	2304049	Pvt 1cl	
Zeise, Clarence	2304139	Pvt	
Zielinski, Lawrence T.	2304000	Pvt	
Zielinski, Ignata	2304007	Pvt	

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## **E. 32<sup>nd</sup> Division activity when 57<sup>th</sup> Artillery not attached**

(1) From 25 Sep until 7 Oct 1918, the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade was not attached to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. While the 57<sup>th</sup> was supporting the 79<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was doing its own thing, as below:

**26 Sep 1918** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was sent forward to occupy the original front of the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, which had gone over the top and attacked the enemy in the Argonne. As the attack progressed, the 32<sup>nd</sup> followed in support of the three divisions of the Corps that were in the front line, ready to relieve any one of them when needed.

On the cold and rainy night of **29 September**, the order was received for the 32<sup>nd</sup> to go forward and relieve the 37<sup>th</sup> Division (Ohio). The Division made a difficult move, 11 miles, on foot through the cold, dark, rainy night, over ground strewn with deep shell holes, broken barbed wire and broken trees and brush, with 78-pound packs on their backs.

**30 Sep 1918** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division lined up in battle array before the town of CIERGES-SOUS-MONTFAUCON astride the MONTFAUCON-CIERGES road during the night.

The morning of **1 Oct 1918** found the 63<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division holding the entire front line that had been occupied by the entire 37<sup>th</sup> Division, a front of about 4 kilometers, extending east and west about one-half kilometer from the village of CIERGES. Immediately after daybreak, an attack was made by the 63<sup>rd</sup> to secure better positions. They seized the BOIS DE BEUGE on the right, the BOIS D'EMONT on the left, and occupied CIERGES in the center, resulting in an advance of half a mile to the north before evening.

On **3 Oct 1918**, in preparation for a new attack, the 32<sup>nd</sup> was ordered to relieve the 91<sup>st</sup> Division, to its left. The 32<sup>nd</sup> was then relieved of part of its sector of the front on the right by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, which had come up the night before to take the place of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division forged slowly ahead against strong resistance during the day, establishing its lines just south of GESNES, within striking distance of the enemy's fourth line, the KRIEMHILDE STELLUNG in the evening.

By the morning of **4 Oct 1918**, the 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade was in the line on the left and the 63<sup>rd</sup> was adjacent to the right. The Germans had turned GESNES into a fortress, and a subterranean network of tunnels bored under the town connected bunkers and strongpoints. To reach the tiny French hamlet, the Americans would have to cross a full mile of open ground with no cover.

The 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade wrested control of the village of GESNES from the Germans, but they could not occupy it. The German garrison of the village departed during a punishing artillery barrage. After the defenders left, and before the Americans could occupy it, the Germans laid down a heavy artillery barrage of their own. The town remained part of No Man's Land and was the subject of combat patrols on both sides. GESNES had been a rest area behind the German front line in the ARGONNE, so it contained comfortable cottages, a casino with a bandstand, a beer garden and various associated places of amusement. It was said that both the Americans and Germans liked to patrol around the village because the beer garden stock had not been entirely destroyed by the avalanche of artillery from both sides.

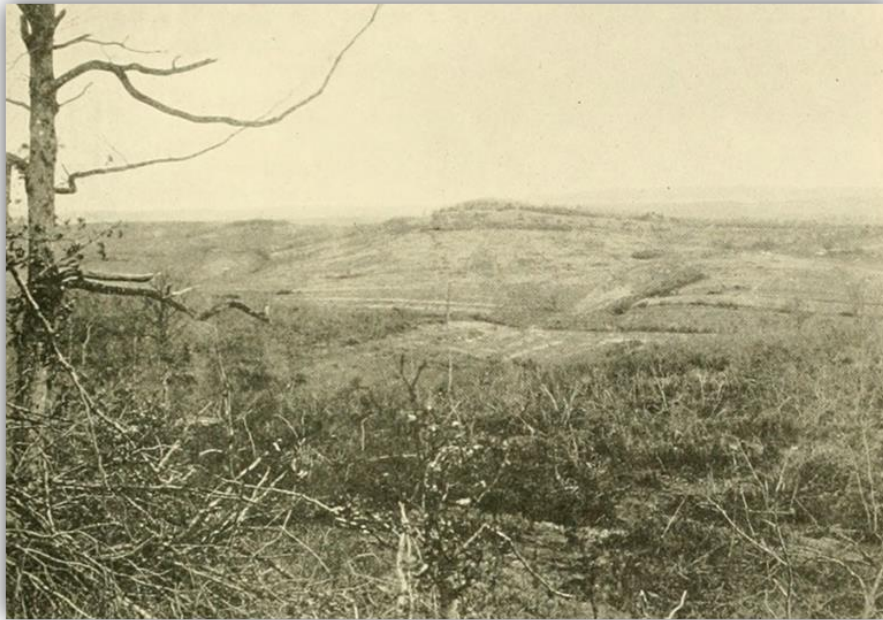


*air view of the town of Gesnes, captured 5 October*

On the morning of **5 Oct 1918**, the 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade attacked in a northeasterly direction toward the southeastern edge of the BOIS DE LA MORINE, west of GESNES. The BOIS DE LA MORINE bristled with well emplaced machine gun nests, which were adequately protected from the effects of the Allied artillery. On the right of the Division sector the 63<sup>rd</sup> Brigade also attacked. Gas and flame troops and tanks were assigned to the attacking units, and were used to assist the doughboys. The BOIS DE LA MORINE was overwhelmed and its machine gun nests cleaned up. Over 200 prisoners and many machine guns were captured before noon.

The direction of the attack was then changed to the north, with the idea of reducing the BOIS DE CHENE SEC. Considerable determined resistance was met within these woods, and hand-to-hand fighting developed when our men followed the barrage into the thick undergrowth and found that the enemy had not yet had enough. The BOIS DE CHENE SEC was finally mopped up and remained securely in our hands, but further advance became impossible because of the strong position on HILL 255 and HILL 269.

During the attack on **5 Oct 1918**, the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry was relieved in the front line by the 128<sup>th</sup>, and during the night, the 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry was relieved by the 125<sup>th</sup>. Both of the retiring regiments had suffered heavily in their struggle to advance. The battle lines of the division were shortened during the night to a front slightly over a mile in extent, with the center just north of GESNES.



*panorama from Hill 269 looking toward Hill 255 and the Tronsel Farm*

**6-7 Oct 1918** The 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade strove to reduce the strong points which had halted the advance. Finally, through the efforts of brave combat troops on both sides of the corps dividing line, the worst of the obstacles were removed. Meanwhile, the 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry gave its attention to small patches of woods on its immediate front, which were unusually heavily-garrisoned with cunningly-arranged machine gun nests which proved to be invulnerable to artillery fire. After considerable effort, these nests were cleaned up.



*a German pillbox on Hill 255*

(2) From 19 Oct until 11 Nov 1918, the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade was not attached to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. For historical purposes, the movements of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division during this time without the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery continues below:

**19 Oct 1918** The men came out of this battle more completely exhausted than had yet been their experience. The battle had lasted longer, and the conditions of weather and the terrific fighting told very much on the physical strength and endurance of the men. Their equipment was badly depleted, their clothing was largely worn out. They needed rest and refitting. Yet, it was not practical to remove them far from the front. They took their rest on the Montfaucon Woods, immediately surrounding General Haan's Headquarters.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, minus the artillery, remained in reserve of the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps until **1 Nov 1918**, when it was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, on the eve of the renewal of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. When the 89<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divisions jumped off in the big attack and started their successful drive up the left bank of the Meuse, the 32<sup>nd</sup> followed them in close support, ready to go to the relief of any one of them.

**4 Nov 1918** The 5<sup>th</sup> Division forced a crossing of the Meuse at DUN-SUR-MEUSE in a brilliant attack. However, as they pressed on to the northeast, the 5<sup>th</sup> was too widely distributed on its front to make contact with French and American divisions on its right flank.

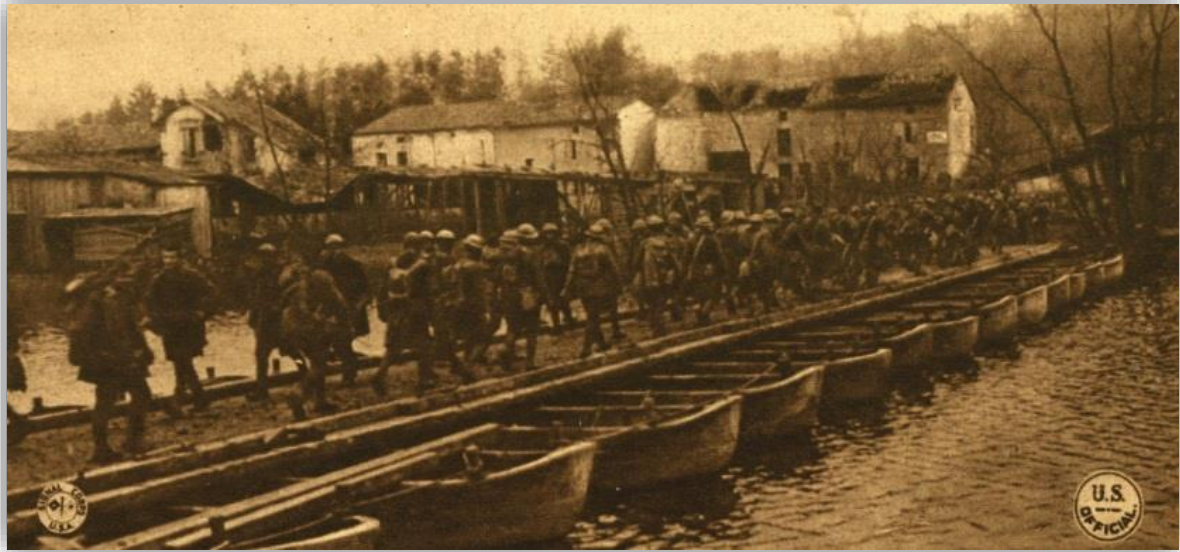
**5 Nov 1918** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was called upon to shore up the right flank of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. The 128<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment was designated for this duty and crossed the Meuse that night.

**7-8 Nov 1918** The 128<sup>th</sup> joined in the attack with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, captured the town of BRANDEVILLE, and finally made contact with the 17<sup>th</sup> French Colonial Division on their right.

**9 Nov 1918** Orders were received for the remainder of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division to cross the MEUSE and go into the line in the sector the 128<sup>th</sup> was holding on the heights overlooking the valley of the WOEVRE, north of VERDUN, between the villages of LISSEY and BREHEVILLE. Under cover of darkness, the 32<sup>nd</sup> crossed on pontoon bridges at DUN-SUR-MEUSE.

An attack was set for 0600 hours on **10 Nov 1918**. Information from Corps stated that the Germans were retreating, so the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division went into battle in pursuit formation. The 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade furnished the advance guard, while the 63<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, with most of the artillery and the divisional troops, made up the main body. A heavy fog hid the advance, and the troops made rapid progress. They encountered enemy troops almost at once, but fought their way through the BOIS POMMEPRE and part way up a hill called the COTE DE MONT.

At about this time, the fog lifted and the 128<sup>th</sup> discovered that instead of pursuing a fleeing enemy they had fought their way right into the middle of a strong German position, which the enemy apparently had no intention of abandoning. The fog had prevented the Germans from effectively defending their works, and the only clashes of the early morning had occurred when our advancing doughboys happened on groups of the enemy.



*Crossing the Meuse at Dun-Sur-Meuse on the way to the front, 9 November*

The German artillery, hearing the sudden rattle of machine guns, opened up with a barrage where the front-line ought to have been, and the Americans, seeing shells bursting to their rear, thought their own artillery was falling short. It was immediately apparent that liaison had been lost on both the left and right, and that neither the 127<sup>th</sup> on the left nor the French Colonials on the right, had been able to advance as rapidly as the 128<sup>th</sup>.

Our men were almost completely surrounded, unable to go ahead against an opposition that was showing increasing strength, subjected to a galling flanking fire by machine guns where they were, and confronted with the alternative of filtering back through a barrage that they feared was thickened by both their own and the enemy artillery. But in a pinch, they proved themselves veterans, and in good order made their way back to a position on a line with the units on the right and left. By the end of the day, only 3 km had been gained. It had now become obvious that the Germans were not in retreat and a new plan of attack was made.

In the meantime, the 127<sup>th</sup> on the left had moved forward cautiously, encountering considerable machine gun resistance, which increased as the troops advanced. As they approached the RIVER THEINTE, minenwerfers made further gains impossible and they organized to hold the line, having gained 3 km during the day.

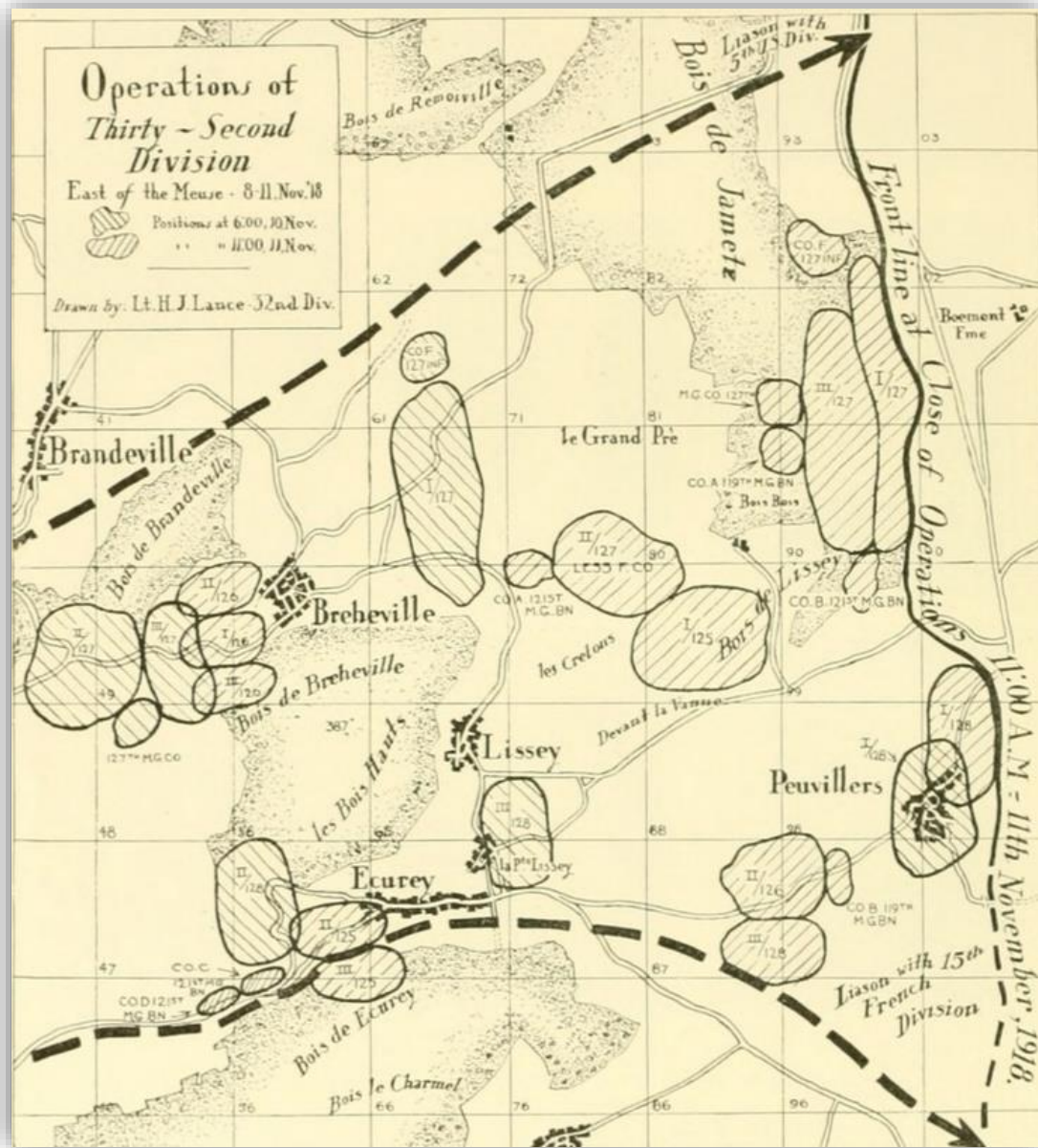
The artillery, which had been coming into position all day, was informed of the conditions that the 128<sup>th</sup> had encountered and the positions that were holding up the 127<sup>th</sup>. Fire was ordered on points of apparent enemy strength and plans were made for a formal attack to dislodge the enemy.

The Division Commander made a personal reconnaissance of the front line to verify reports of the situation and, after conferring with the commanders of the front-line troops, a plan of action for the next day was decided upon. Out in front the troops were tired and cold and wet and miserable.



During the day the 128<sup>th</sup> had heavy casualties and the morale had not been improved by the unfortunate foray in the fog. The 127<sup>th</sup> had spent the prior night on a long hike over horrible roads to get into position, and the day had been spent in a struggle against a wicked machine gun resistance. Most of the night of **10-11 November** was spent getting units into position to go over the top in another drive.

The Corps issued instruction to continue the operation on **11 Nov 1918**, and preparations began for an attack at 0700. Orders were issued for the artillery to maintain a heavy fire during the night which was to increase in volume early in the morning.



*Operations of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division around Lissey, 8-11 November*

(3) From 17 Nov 1918 until 18 Apr 1919, the 32<sup>nd</sup> pushed into and occupied Germany without the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade attached.

On 17 November 1918, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division crossed what had been its front line and started on its long march to the Rhine, averaging 20 km per day. The Division took to the roads, marching in two columns. The march was conducted at all times as in the presence of the enemy. The attitude of higher authority was that war conditions still prevailed. Cavalry was provided for advance scouting and maintaining liaison with the divisions on either flank of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, which were going forward about the same distance each day on parallel roads.

The first villages encountered were practically uninhabited; the country was desolate and shot up by the artillery fire of the last days of the war. After a couple of hours of progress, signs of life became evident in the villages. Regimental colors and standards were displayed, and the bands played as the troops marched through the towns at attention. Otherwise, the movement was much like an ordinary practice march. In MARVILLE, a modest ceremony was prepared for the arrival of the Division Commander.

The plan for the march to the Rhine was that the forward movement of the Americans should be by "bounds", a "bound" to consist of two- or three-days marching followed by a couple of days of rest. LONGWY, a sizable manufacturing town in the iron and steel district of LORRAINE, was the objective of the first bound of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, and was reached on 18 Nov 1918. The town had been relinquished two weeks before. The entire population of the town was in attendance at a ceremony to welcome the Americans of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Here, General Haan learned that he had been selected to command the VII Army Corps, which was formed to go to Germany, as the reserve of the Army of Occupation. That same day Major General William Lassiter, formerly chief of First Army Artillery, arrived under orders to take command of the 32<sup>nd</sup>.

After one day rest at LONGWY, the march was resumed, and on 20 November the Americans crossed the border into LUXEMBOURG. General Haan accompanied the Division across the LUXEMBOURG border, and then relinquished command to General Lassiter.

On 21 Nov 1918, General Pershing made a triumphant entry into the City of LUXEMBOURG, with part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division as an escort. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division marched through the suburbs of the town to reach its billeting areas in the vicinity of the capital. Colors and standards were uncased, and the men marched to the cadence of the regimental bands. The Division P.C. that day was located in a chateau owned by the Grand Duchess, who had invited the American Commander to occupy her property.

On 23 Nov 1918, the Division reached the German border on the SAAR RIVER near ECHTERNACH, LUXEMBOURG. They had overtaken the retiring German Army. The Corps announced that the movement would halt on the German frontier until 1 Dec 1918, as required by the terms of the Armistice. The time intervening was to be devoted to cleaning up, issuing equipment and supplies as could be secured, and the inevitable and hated training schedule.

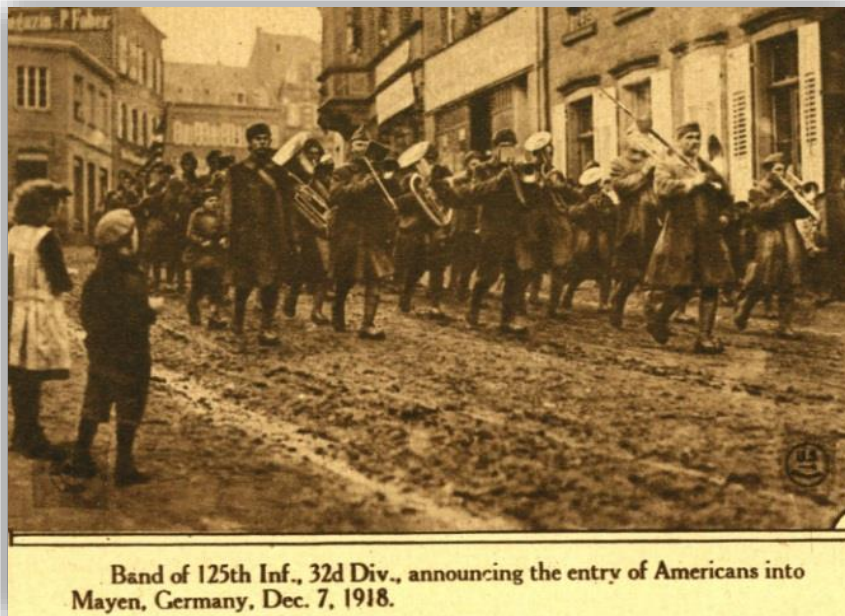
On 1 Dec 1918 the march was resumed, the Division used three bridges to cross the Saar into German territory. The Division's second crossing of the pre-war German frontier was as unostentatious as was the first, down in Alsace over six months before. At first the German civilians were restrained, even fearful, of the Americans because they were not sure how they would be treated. After they

learned that the Americans were not going to do harm to their persons or property, they became more affable. They seemed to do everything possible to make the soldiers comfortable. On the first day's march on German soil, the Division advanced about 15 km as the crow flies, but about 20 km due to the hilly terrain.

On **2 Dec 1918** the front was advanced another 10 km, as the crow flies, the troops themselves marched almost twice that distance over extremely rugged country. The march continued on **3 Dec 1918**, and finally they stopped for rest on **4 Dec 1918**.

**5 Dec 1918** The troops started out again on a 3-day hike, again over some difficult terrain. The Division Headquarters moved from SPREICHER to DAUN. The marching on **5-7 Dec 1918** was over the most difficult terrain the Division encountered during their march to the RHINE. Good roads were scarce and some of the grades encountered were quite steep. On some of these steep grades, the men had to pitch in to help pull their transportation up after them. The transportation was mostly horse-drawn supply wagons and artillery. The march was made more difficult by the scarce supply of shoes to replace the mostly unserviceable ones the men were wearing. The rest of the march would be a little easier because the Division was entering the more level terrain of the RHINE valley.

**9 Dec 1918** 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Headquarters moved from MULLENBACH to MAYEN, and on **10 Dec 1918**, it moved to OCHTENDUNG.



**11 Dec 1918** The long march continued each day until the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division reached the RHINE at the confluence with the MOSELLE, opposite the city of KOBLENZ. The city itself was not entered by our troops because it was outside the Corps sector. The Division P.C. was moved to a beautiful chateau at BASSENHEIM.

**12 Dec 1918** was a day of rest. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division would cross the RHINE at the ENGERS BRIDGE on Friday, **13 Dec 1918**. To the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry went the honor of being the first to cross, at 0700. Division Headquarters moved from BASSENHEIM to SAYN.

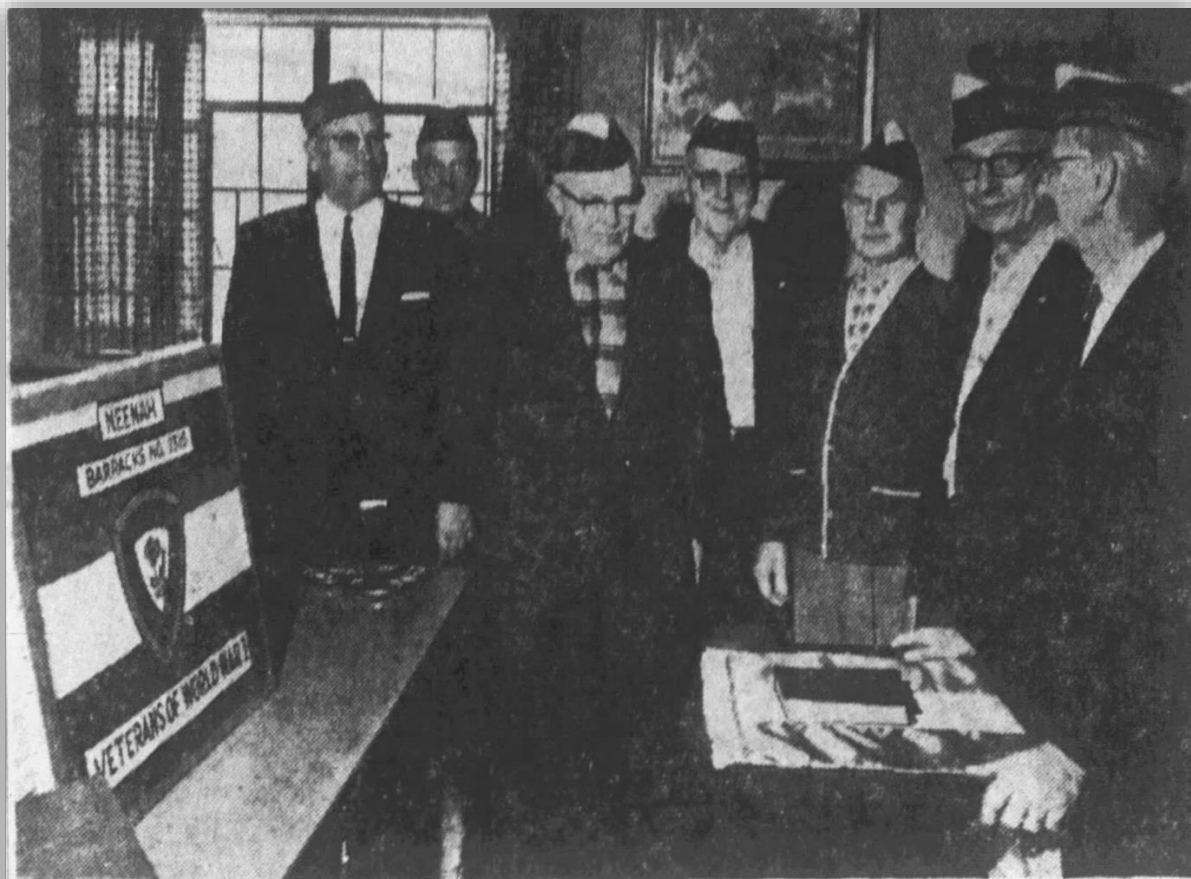
**14 Dec 1918** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division finished crossing the Rhine and began to occupy its sector of the KOBLENZ bridgehead, which would be completed on **18 Dec 1918**. Its sector covered a front of 30 km to a depth of 20 km. The troops were billeted in, or occupied as outposts, 63 towns. Life in the KOBLENZ bridgehead was better than most billets the division had "enjoyed" in France. Most of the men had beds to sleep in, and the food was good. There were athletics for all who desired outdoor recreation. There were also soldier shows, and the Y.M.C.A. furnished professional talent to while away the long evening hours. The hated training continued, however. Here they would stay for 4 months. Fraternization with the Germans was strictly prohibited and rigidly enforced.

On **18 Dec 1918** the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division P.C. was moved from SAYN to RENGSDORF.

About **mid-Feb 1919** the announcement was made that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division would sail for home in May. At first it was planned to send the homeward bound Army of Occupation divisions down the Rhine to a Dutch port to embark from there, but finally it was decided that the scheme was impracticable.

On **15 Mar 1919**, General Pershing again reviewed the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, this time near DIERDORF, GERMANY, and again he bestowed his compliments on the Division.

**18 Apr 1919** The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division started moving back from the RHINE, across France to BREST, on the first leg of the journey home.



Members of Neenah Barracks, World War I, were installed at ceremonies at the Neenah Recreation Building Monday afternoon, conducted by Arthur Mossong, right, Fond du Lac, past department commander. The new officers included, left to right, Walter R. Voigh, chaplain; Emil Rasch, quartermaster; Lawrence Zielinski, junior vice president; Alvin Grambsch, judge advocate; Henry Kemps, senior vice commander, and Prentice Rice, commander. (TCNR Staff Photo)

*January 13, 1964*



