

Germany: Austria-Hungary: Italy Alliances

In the years preceding The Great War these countries formed alliances, somewhat similar to those between France, Great Britain, and Russia. Following the assassination of Grand Duke Franz Ferdinand in Sarejevo in 1914, Germany assured Austria-Hungary of its full support for whatever action Austria-Hungary might undertake. That freed Austria-Hungary to attack Serbia.

Although Italy was a part of the alliance, it later entered the war on the side of France, Great Britain, and their other allies. A cynical comment of the time was that "Italy was waiting so that it could come in on the side of the victors."

Italy

Italy, like Germany, was a relatively new nation at the beginning of the twentieth century. During the middle years of the 1800s there had been a somewhat slow and difficult consolidation of many states and regions. Some of these had been owned and ruled by the Vatican, and were called the Papal States.

During the 1800s, Italy or parts of Italy had been dominated by other countries - Austria, France, and Spain. Also the period of consolidation involved internal fighting. During this time, Giuseppe Garibaldi emerged as a national hero by leading much of the revolutionary effort. Garibaldi had participated in revolutionary fighting in South America and had spent some time in the U.S. before returning to Italy. During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 he led a small Franco-Italian force to victory in one battle.

Italy having been dominated by foreign powers in the past was sensitive to its new national situation, and resented actions that it perceived as threats. Italy strongly resented the Austro-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia in 1908, which it perceived as a threat to its sphere of influence in the Adriatic Sea.

Like most other countries of the time, it made treaties with other countries for the purpose of protecting itself.

Russia

For many years Russia had been an absolute monarchy, ruled by the Czars. Russia had long felt ethnic, cultural, and linguistic ties with the Slavic elements in the Balkans. This was a powerful factor for drawing Russia into The Great War conflict when Austria-Hungary threatened Serbia after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Russia had established alliances with France, which gave the new German state a sense of being squeezed between two powers.

Russia entered The Great War against Germany. Since the Russian efforts were badly organized their military situation steadily deteriorated. This opened the gate to the Soviet Revolution, the overthrow of the monarchy, and the establishment of the Communist Soviet Union after the end of The Great War.

There was widespread unrest and opposition to the Russian government before the war. The political basis for the future Communist state already had growing support around Europe. That political basis went back as far as 1867 when Karl Marx published "Das Kapital." Marx wrote "Das Kapital" while living in London, England.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE - TURKEY

The Ottoman Empire [Turkey] had controlled much of the Balkan region of Europe for almost 500 years. During this period of history it was ruled by a series of Sultans. At its peak the Ottoman Empire reached as far as Vienna and covered much of what is now Syria, Iraq, and Iran. By the late 1800s, the Ottoman Empire had shrunk leaving only a toe-hold on the European side of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, plus the northern portion of what is now Iraq.

As the Ottoman Empire shrunk it left behind ethnic Turks who had lived in the Balkans for generations - mixed in with other ethnic and cultural groups in Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, and other regions of the Balkans.

Turkey fought a short war with Greece in 1896, a part of continuing friction between the two countries. That friction continues today, for example, in the unresolved problems over the division of Cyprus.

In 1908 a revolution in Turkey brought a political group called the "Young Turks" into power. Austria-Hungary feared that a resurgent Turkey would again lay claim to regions in the Balkans adjacent to Austria-Hungary. This was a major factor in the annexation of Bosnia later in 1908, which set the stage for the assassination six years later of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo.

Although there were existing tensions between Turkey and Austria-Hungary, Turkey's potential role was ambiguous when The Great War broke out. Turkey was in a situation somewhat similar to that of Italy.

In mid-August, 1914 two large German navy ships made their way to the port of Constantinople, in spite of the presence of British naval forces in the area. This made a strong impression on the Turkish government. That, plus the enticement to move south in the Arabian peninsula, to take control of the British terminus of the Persian oil line near Basra, and the further enticement of the Suez Canal led Turkey to join the war on the German side.

During the war British forces moved up through the Arabian peninsula, and one army force eventually reached Baghdad.. "Lawrence of Arabia" was the most famous name to arise during that phase of The Great War.

The Balkan Wars of 1912-1913

The First Balkan War broke out in early October, 1912 when Montenegro declared war on Turkey. Later in October Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece joined the war against Turkey.

The Second Balkan War arose in late June, 1913. Bulgaria, without warning, attacked Serbian and Greek positions. Serbia and Greece quickly counter-attacked. Roumania and Turkey then entered the war against Bulgaria, which was quickly defeated.

Mixed alliances had changed in this short time. These two wars involved the typical and long standing grievances and antagonisms amongst the many small Balkan states, and especially those having seaport access to the Mediterranean.

Great Britain was party to the alliance involving France and Russia, and a large factor in its participation was concern for the neutrality of Belgium. Control of the seacoast in that area was a great concern for the security and maneuverability of the Royal Navy.

Great Britain also had serious concerns about the rapid growth of the German navy. Germany was intent on asserting its naval strength worldwide, and Great Britain {the “ruler of the seas”} was concerned about that threat. The Royal Navy’s dominance was crucial to the support and defense of Britain’s worldwide colonial empire.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The major European nations were at the peak of their colonial powers, in Africa, the Middle East, India, and Asia.. There was intense competition amongs them for colonial supremacy. Middle eastern oil already was an economic, political, and military consideration.

This led to peripheral conflicts during The Great War. One of the more famous of these conflicts was in the area now known as Saudi Arabia, and involved a British officer who became famous as “Lawrence of Arabia.”

The Suez Canal, which provided a short-cut for commercial shipping and for naval ships between the Mediterranean and the east coast of Africa, was a significant factor in the Middle East. It had been constructed in 1859-69 under the supervision of a French engineer, Ferdinand de Lesseps. {A failed attempt to construct a Panama Canal under de Lesseps’ supervision was undertaken in 1881.}

By 1875 Great Britain had acquired control of the Suez Canal Company, and that led to British domination in Egypt until after World War II, when the control reverted to Egypt. British control of that major shipping route was a major factor in the expansion of The Great War to the Middle East.

AUGUST 1914 .. By this time, the countries of continental Europe, Russia, Great Britain, and the Middle East had been involved for well over a half century in antagonisms, jockeying for territory and power, and attempts to bolster their images as world powers. It was a nest of volcanoes, on the edge of eruption. Almost any “significant incident” could cause the entire network to erupt. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarejevo served as that “significant incident,” but another might have done as well - - or as badly.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE “WAR TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY”

At the outbreak of The Great War in late 1914, the United States was involved with Mexico, and then with the problem of Pancho Villa. The United States withdrew from the search for Pancho Villa as the probability of involvement in The Great War steadily increased.

By 1915, Germany was aggressively pushing U-Boat {submarine} warfare, and increasingly the shipping of “neutral” nations was attacked. In May, 1915 the Cunard liner, Lusitania, was sunk with the loss of almost 1,200 lives - many of them Americans. Increasingly this type of warfare inflamed U.S. attitudes against Germany.

During 1916, President Woodrow Wilson twice sent emissaries to Europe in an attempt to negotiate an end to The Great War. All of these efforts failed.

The United States declared war on Germany and its allies in April, 1917. This was done in response to German escalation of unlimited submarine warfare in the Atlantic. An American Expeditionary Force, under the command of General John J. {Black Jack} Pershing did not arrive in Europe until late 1917.

Those initial American soldiers had only limited military training. Initially the American forces were held in reserve, and in “defensive sectors” of the battlefield. The American forces became far more directly and actively involved in early 1918, and this continued until the end of the war in November, 1918.

THE EUROPEAN BATTLEFIELDS

Peripheral parts of the war were fought in the eastern Mediterranean, in North Africa, and in the northern parts of Italy. There was quite heavy fighting between Germany and Russia in the eastern front.

The heaviest fighting and the greatest casualties were, however, in a relatively small part of north-eastern France and in much of Belgium. This area was fought over almost constantly from the start of the war in late 1914 until its end in late 1918. Battles, with thousands of soldiers killed on both sides, quite often moved no more than a few miles in either direction.

Basically the war was bogged down for about four years into a deadly and costly form of “trench warfare.”

Maps appearing a bit later in this material show the general area of the war in 1918. In early 1918, Germany decided on a final and massive attempt to break the deadlock of trench warfare. Germany mounted a ferocious campaign toward Paris. The area of deepest penetration was near Chateau Thierry on the River Marne. It was close enough to Paris that German artillery, using a huge railway-mounted gun called “Big Bertha” was able to lob a few shells into the Paris suburbs. This caused great consternation.

It was obvious that the war had reached a crucial stage, and fears increased that the British-French-American allies were at serious risk of losing.

American troops had begun to arrive in France in late 1917. Oscar Burton Thomas had sailed on Nov. 6, 1917 from Halifax, Nova Scotia for Europe. By the end of 1917 the American force in France still was relatively small. It had not yet been directly involved in much fighting. The troops were untrained and untested, and there were command-structure disputes with the French.

By late March, 1918 the situation for the French-British-American side was desperate. American forces were brought into heavy and direct involvement in late May and were fully involved by early June.

Much of the American involvement was around the German bulge toward Paris ... lying between the Marne and the Aisne Rivers, and between Compeigne {Champagne} and Chateau Thierry.

Initially, Oscar Burton Thomas, along with most of the American troops, had been deployed into "defensive sectors." During this short but intense battle period, he was involved in three battles: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, and Chateau Thierry. He was seriously wounded on July 26, 1918 at the Battle of Chateau Thierry. He was evacuated to the rear for medical treatment and later returned to the United States in November, 1918.

The U.S. Marine Corps became famous for its involvement in the Battle of Belleau Wood, only a few miles northwest of Chateau Thierry. The 42nd Rainbow Division continued to participate until November in these battles along the Aisne-Marne salient, including those at Meuse-Argonne and at St. Mihiel just south of Verdun.

This series of intense battles in mid to late 1918 turned the tide and sealed the defeat of Germany and its allies. Fighting continued, however, through most of the remainder of 1918. Germany ceded defeat and the Armistice which ended The Great War was signed in November, 1918. It was followed by the 1919 Versailles Peace Treaty.

One of the main results of the Versailles Peace Treaty was to ensure continued animosities within Germany, the subsequent rise of Adolph Hitler and the Third Reich, and eventually the Second World War in Europe. Another by-product of the Versailles Peace Treaty was that of artificially dividing up the Middle East in a way that guaranteed future enmities ... enmities that we are still dealing with in the early part of the twenty-first century.

The fifty-one months of The Great War were a bloody disaster for the participants. The United States during its short involvement had almost 326,000 casualties, including almost 116,000 deaths. The losses for the other countries have never been accurately totaled, but probably surpass 12,000,000 dead. The estimates include:

Russia: 1,700,000 dead & nearly 5,000,000 wounded ... with more losses to come via famine and the civil war

Austria-Hungary: 1,200,000 dead & 3,600,000 wounded leading to the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire

Germany: 1,800,000 dead & 4,200,000 wounded

France: 1,300,000 dead or missing

Great Britain: 950,000 dead & 2,300,000 wounded

Italy: 460,000 dead ... even with only a token involvement in the war

The losses in dead and wounded for other nations such as Turkey and the smaller Balkan countries can only be estimated, but they were quite large. Civilian casualties in the areas of fighting have never been counted accurately.

In Europe and Russia and the Middle East an entire generation of young people was decimated. But the Second World War was only twenty years away in the future. That was barely sufficient for another generation to grow up to replace those killed in the First World War.



T-033 O. B. Thomas, Company K, 167th Infantry {the old Fourth Alabama Infantry}, Rainbow Division, U.S. Army, 1917. This photo as well as the one below appear to be studio photos, and may have been made while he was in training at Mineola on Long Island, New York before transport to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and then on to Europe.

T-033crop at right. Comparison of the two photos on this page makes it clear that the photo at the right is cropped from the photo above.

The cropping was done at the original photo studio, as both printed photos are found in the collection of old family photos.

The cropping was not done by computer while preparing this memoir.





T-226 O. B. Thomas in the U.S. Army. We believe that this photo was made while in basic training on Long Island, New York. That would be before moving on to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada for movement to Europe in November, 1917. Photos made in 1918 and after he returned to the U.S. from France show a much more solemn person, and in one case show the bandaged jaw where he was wounded by machine gun fire in the Battle of Chateau Thiery in France. Many of those later photos were made during medical recovery at the location of the U.S. Army Hospital in Cape May, New Jersey.



T-030 above, and T-030crop at left. Cropping was done by computer. O.B. Thomas is seated on the cot at the left, with tent mates or friends standing. This almost certainly was while in training on Long Island, New York before moving on to Europe. This, and the photos on the two preceding pages, are the only ones we have from his early time in the Army before going to Europe.

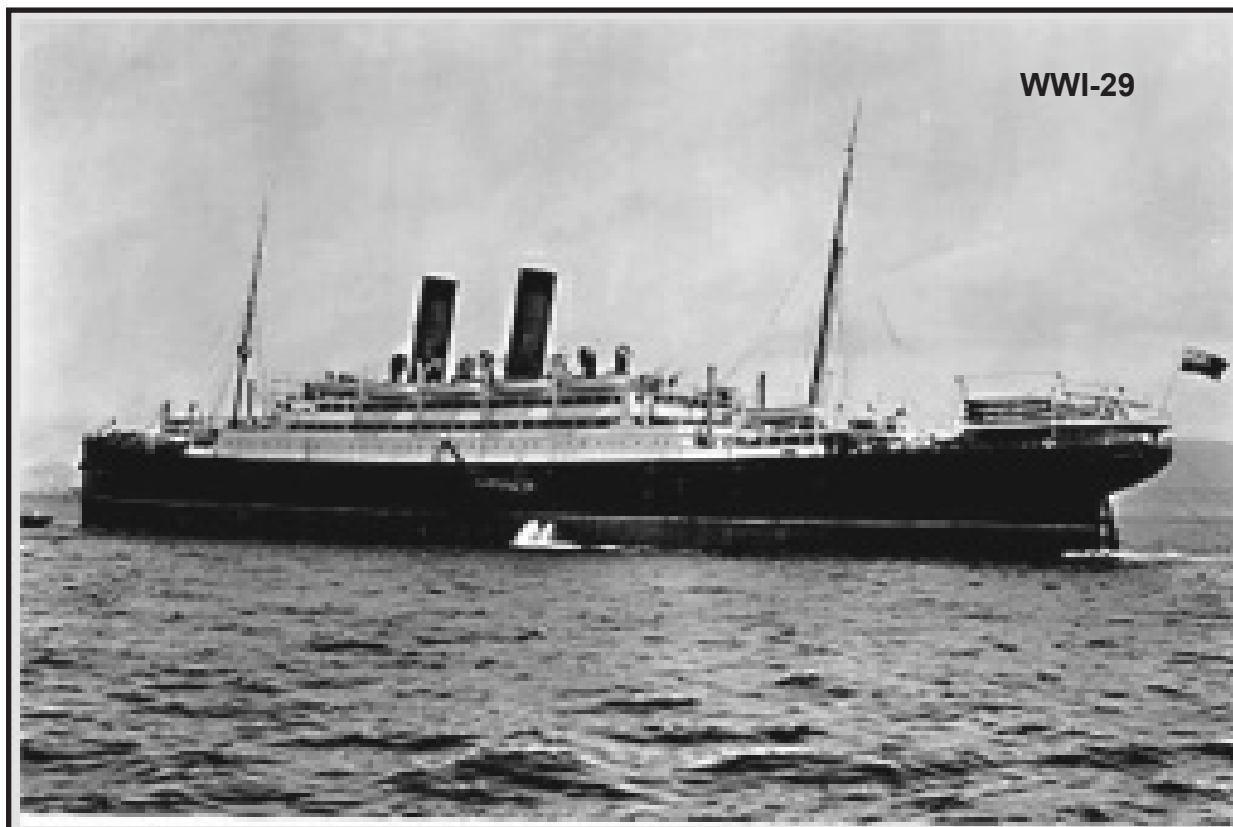
He enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 6, 1917, about two months after the U.S. declared war on Germany. He arrived at the mobilization Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama on June 12, 1917. He was promoted to corporal on August 20, 1917. That was a fairly quick promotion, perhaps because of his age and maturity at the time.

He left Camp Sheridan in Alabama on August 28, 1917 and arrived at Mineola, Long Island, New York on September 1, 1917 for further infantry training. After about two months of training his group then moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from where they sailed for Europe on November 6, 1917. Information about the transport ship and other things of interest is found in subsequent pages.

He participated in two major battles in France and was seriously wounded in the second of these. His initial medical recovery was in France, until he was physically able to ship back to the U.S.

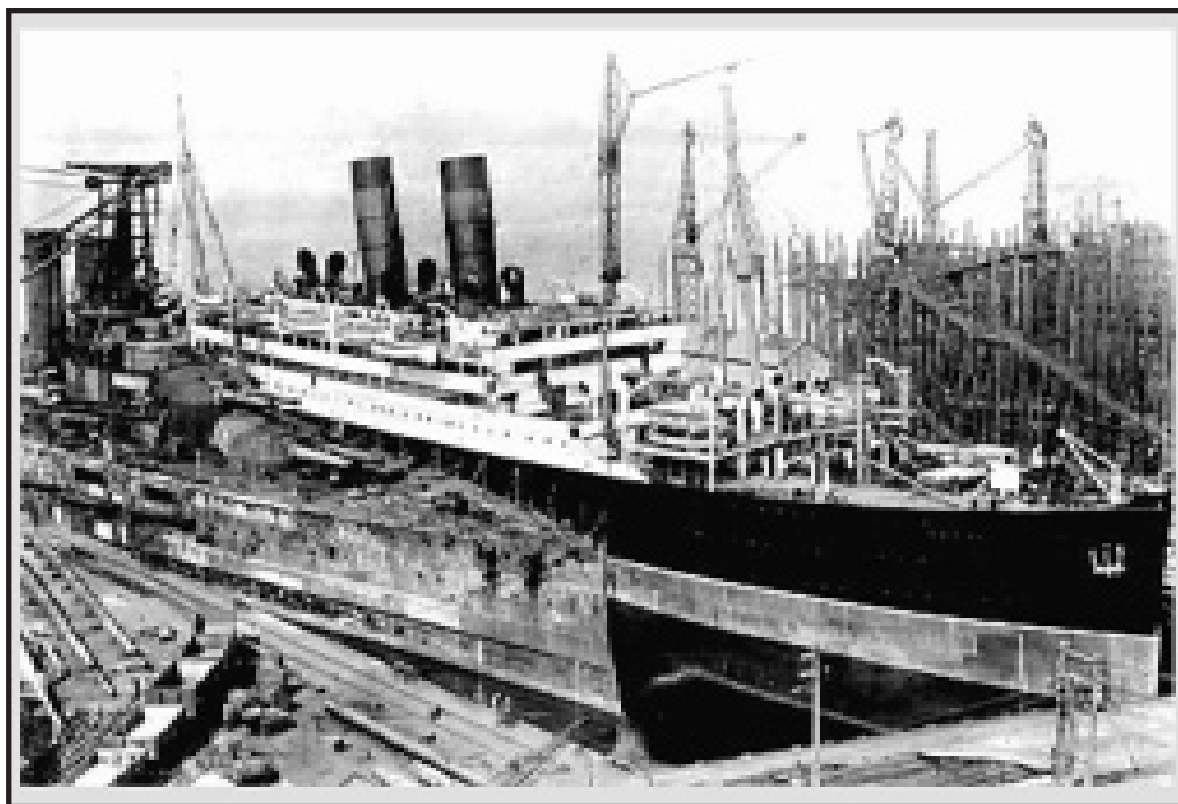
He left France on November 25, 1918 {shortly after the armistice of November 11} to return to the U.S. His remaining medical treatment and recovery was at the U.S. Army Hospital at Cape May, New Jersey. After recovery there, he returned to Camp Sheridan, Alabama where he was honorably discharged on February 5, 1919.

The next section contains more detailed information, history, maps, etc. about military actions of 1918 in which he was an active participant and eventually was wounded on July 26, 1918.



WWI-29

WWI-076



WWI-077 The British ship Andania in dry dock next to the British Light Cruiser HMS Ajax
The Andania (I) Cunard, made her maiden voyage in July 1913, HMS Ajax was laid down on 22 February 1911 and launched on 21 March 1911, and completed on 31 October 1913 at the Scotts Yard. The Ajax was sold for disposal in November 1926 and broken up next year.

Andania I (1913-18)

These statistics are derived from NRP Bonsor, North Atlantic Seaway, 5 vols, David & Charles, 1975-80.

Gross Tonnage - 13,405 tons

Dimensions - 158.58 x 19.50m (520.3 x 64ft)

Number of funnels - 2

Number of masts - 2

Construction - Steel

Propulsion - Twin-screw

Engines - Quadruple-expansion, eight

Service speed - 15 knots

Builder - Scott's Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd, Greenock

Launch date - 22 March 1913

Passenger accommodation:

2nd class: 520, 3rd class: 1,540

After Cunard had inaugurated the Canadian service in 1911 the company decided that it needed its own purpose-built ships for the route. Subsequently three vessels were ordered from Scotts Shipbuilding & Engineering Company, these became the Andania, Alaunia and the Aurania. The Andania was the first of the three ships to launched, on 22 March 1913. The three ships were almost identical, catering only for second and third class passengers. The old-style third class dormitories were replaced by four- or six-berth cabins.

On 14 July 1913 she left Liverpool on her maiden voyage calling at Southampton, Quebec and Montreal. Guests on board included representatives from the Canadian Government. The ships second voyage sailed from London. The approach channels to the Thames were dredged for this occasion. In August 1914 the Andania was requisitioned as a troopship and made several trips carrying Canadian troops.

For a few weeks in 1915 the Andania was used to accommodate German POW's in the Thames. Later that year it was used to support the Gallipoli campaign and was involved in transporting troops for the Sulva landings. In 1916 it returned to help transport more Canadian troops. Later that year and, during 1917, the Andania was used on the Liverpool to New York route. On 13 August, 1917 the Andania was docked at pier 54 in Hoboken, New Jersey. She embarked the 6th Provisional Regiment, CAC which consisted of 108 officers and 1,745 enlisted men and at 3 P.M. sailed past the Statue of Liberty on her way to the War Zone. The 6th Provisional Regiment would be changed to form two separate artillery regiments while in France. They were the 51st and 57th Artillery, C.A.C.

At noon on the November 6, 1917 Andania departed for Europe with 59 officers and 1,635 enlisted men of the 167th Infantry and 22 Casual officers. She sailed with the Ascania who sailed earlier at 9:45 am that same morning.

On 26 January 1918 the Andania left Liverpool for New York. The route the ship was taking was around the Northern coast of Ireland. There were only 40 passengers on board, along with a crew of around 200. On the morning of the 28th the ship was hit by a torpedo from German submarine U-46. This occurred near Rathlin Light. The ship immediately took a list to starboard and began to sink. Most of those on board were saved but seven lives were lost.

This photo was identified by James Pottinger from Bridge of Don in Aberdeen, Scotland. According to James this photo was taken from the yard offices clock tower at the Scotts outfitting basin in the Scotts of Greenock Yards. Leaving his home in Shetland at fifteen James Pottinger served his marine engineering apprenticeship with Scotts' of Greenock 1952-57, in engine shops and outfitting on merchant cargo and tankers, submarines and frigates, then to sail as Engineer Officer in the Merchant Navy, he now lives in Bridge of Don in Aberdeen Scotland. He has for many years now been researching history of the yard and ships built there.

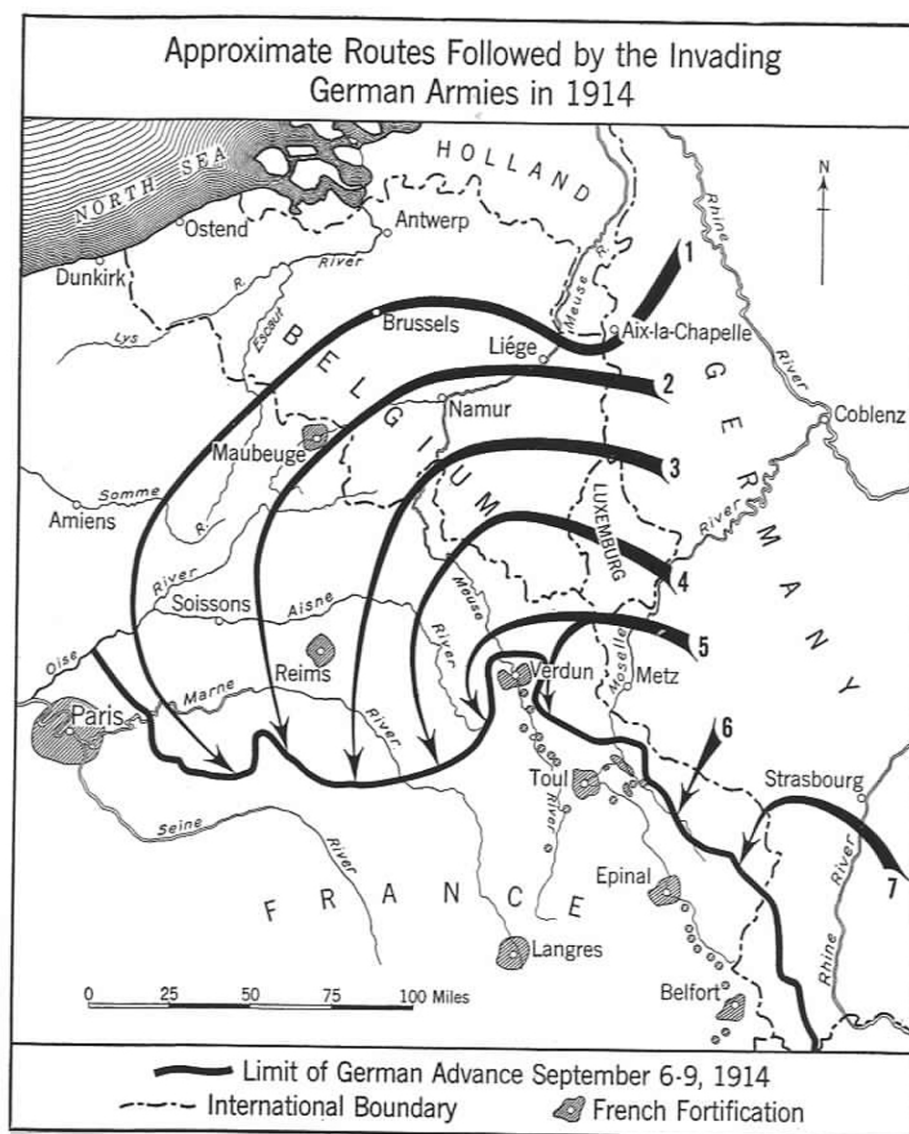
This material was last updated Sunday, October 22, 2006. It was found on the World Wide Web of the internet at: <http://freepages.military.rootsweb.com/~cacunithistories/andania.htm>

A Thumbnail Sketch

WWI-31

This is a very brief history of the US. Involvement in The Great War, i.e. the First World War. It's focus is on the involvement of Oscar Burton Thomas. An Appendix to this memoir provides significantly more details.

WWI-Map-001



The bulk of The Great War [World War I] between Germany, Italy, Russia, France, Great Britain, the United States and their various allies took place over a period of more than four years in a small area of Belgium and northeastern France, as shown in the map above. There were, of course, other areas of significant conflict: i.e. the Balkans, northern Italy, Austria, Turkey, the Middle East, and the eastern front with Russia.

When hostilities broke out in the late summer of 1914, German forces drove rapidly into France as shown above. By early September the German forces had advanced past the Marne River along a meandering line running roughly eastward from Paris. At the point of their closest advance toward Paris, the French mobilized the taxi fleet of Paris to bring reinforcements to the front lines.

But by that time, the German forward movement stalled. Although the German forces were driven back toward the northeast, the war more or less bogged down into static trench warfare - or major battles with high casualties but very little movement.

As time wore on, it began to appear that the winner would be that side that was able to sustain the most casualties and thus win a war of attrition. Troops on both sides sometimes rebelled at the bloody slaughter with nothing to show for it. Later during the war there was a mutiny amongst parts of the French Army. The Russian Army had similar problems that eventually contributed to its withdrawal from the war.

The United States entered the war early in 1917. American forces began to move into the area of hostilities by late 1917. The Rainbow Division was one of the first American military groups to arrive in France. During a large part of its participation in the war, Colonel Douglas MacArthur was its deputy commander. In November, 1918 MacArthur became the division commander, a few weeks before the war ended on November 11, 1918.

The American forces, however, had little training and almost no combat experience at the time they arrived in France. Hence they were initially placed in "Defensive Sectors", while the French and the British forces continued to carry the brunt of the major fighting.

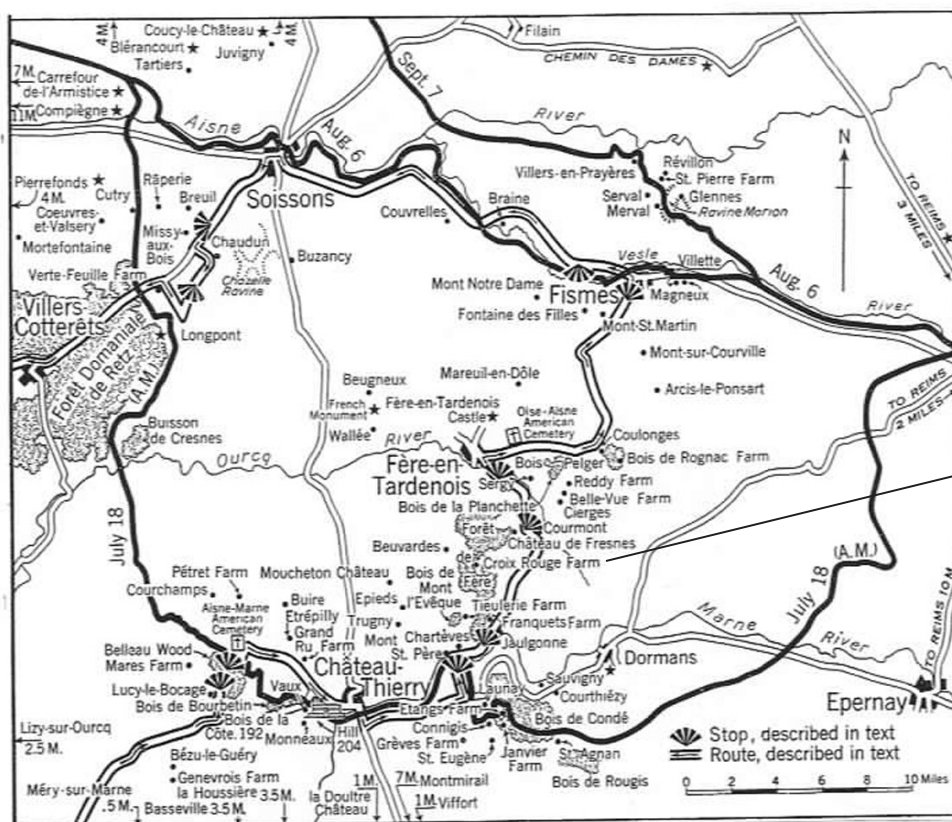
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By early 1918, the situation was desperate for both sides in the war. The German government decided to make one last major effort to win by breaking through the front lines and driving to Paris. That last major effort by the German army {also using troops that had been released from the Eastern Front after the capitulation of Russia} resulted in a large "bulge" toward Paris - - in an area lying between Soissons and Reims and between the Aisne River and the Marne River. Those cities are shown in the next page map.

The point of furthest German advance was generally in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry on the Marne River. The famous Marine Corps Battle of Belleau Wood was only a few miles to the west. It appeared the the Germany army might break through to Paris and that Germany might eventually win the war.

That dangerous "bulge" is shown in more detail in the following map.

WWI-Map-003



Croix Rouge Farm, i.e. the Red Cross Farm this is where Oscar Thomas was wounded in heavy fighting.

Until this time, during the first few months of 1918, the American forces had been used in “defensive sectors and in further intensive training. Those “defensive sectors” did have a lot of fighting, although their locations generally were static.

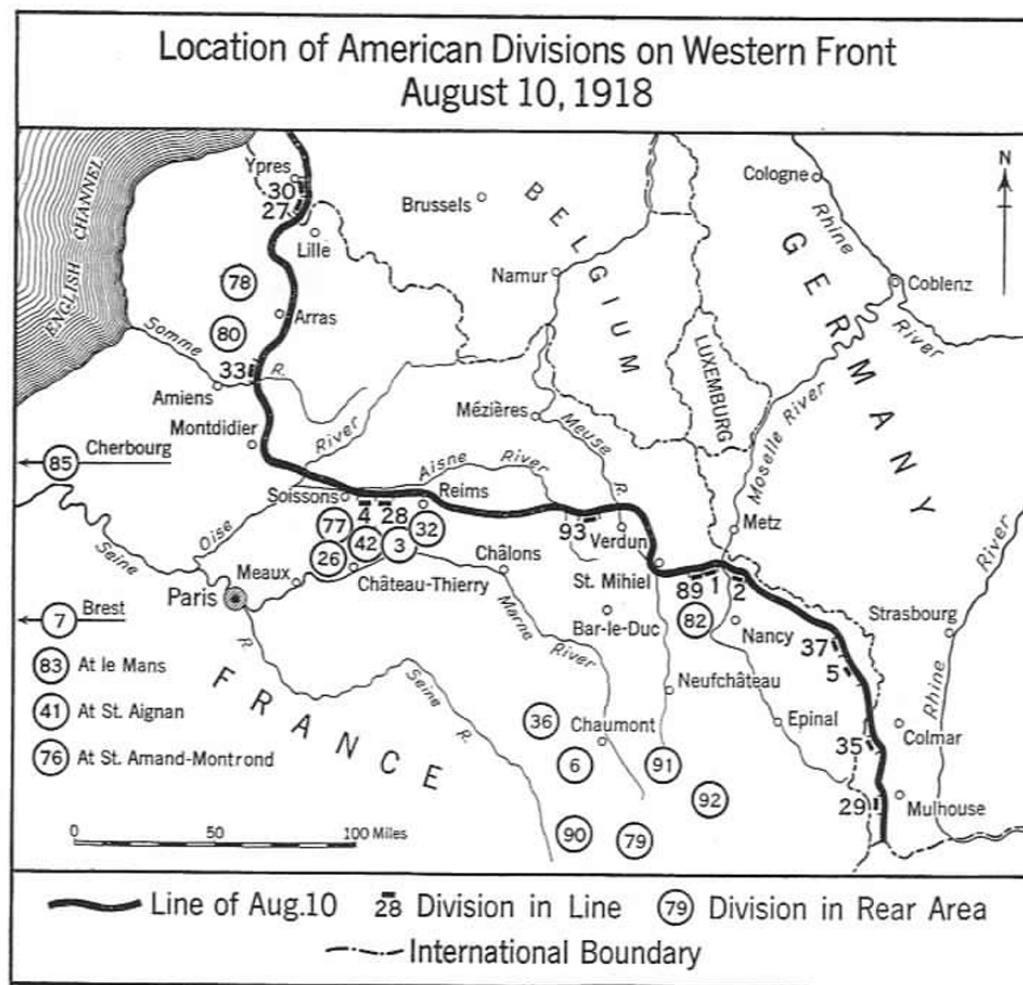
But toward the end of May, 1918 as the Germans began their final attempt to win the war, the American forces were brought into full combat, in concert with the British and the French. One of the many units was the 42nd Rainbow Division - - which had been one of the first units to arrive in France. Oscar Burton Thomas was in Company K, 167th Infantry of the Rainbow Division. The company commander was Captain Mortimer Jordan of Birmingham, Alabama. Capt. Jordan died from wounds received in early August, 1918.

Units of the Rainbow Division initially were used in the Chapaigne-Marne area, to the east of Reims - - a very old cathedral city in France. But by early July the German breakthrough in the area of the “bulge” shown in preceding map was becoming very dangerous.

Around mid-July the Rainbow Division was pulled out of the Champagne-Marne sector and moved to the Aisne-Marne sector, i.e. the “bulge.” The Germans were stopped along the Marne River in the area of Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood. After that, the Allied forces began to drive the German Army back.

O. B. Thomas was very seriously wounded, shot in the lower jaw, on July 26, 1918 in the vicinity of the Battle of the Red Cross {Croix Rouge} Farm. Captain Jordan was fatally wounded in early August as the Allied forces continued their advance.

WWI-Map-002



O. B. Thomas was evacuated to a medical facility away from the front lines. By early August the Allied forces had advanced to approximately the Aisne River.

Fighting continued into the autumn of 1918. The preceding map shows the front lines as of August 10, 1918. Chateau Thierry is just to the left of the center of the map where there is a concentration of US Army Division numbers.

The German armies were forced to continue withdrawal, but slowly and with continuing heavy casualties on both sides.

By November, 1918 the German armies had been driven back to approximately the Belgian and German frontiers with France.

At that point the German government was forced to recognize that it had lost the war. An armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. A peace treaty was negotiated at Versailles, France during early 1919.

During those months of the autumn of 1918, O.B. Thomas had been recovering from his wound at a medical facility away from the front lines in France. His jaw had been shattered by the bullet and had to be wired together while the bones healed.

He was very reluctant to talk about any of the heavy fighting that he was involved in, but he sometimes would tell a few things. He sometimes told about having to carry a small hand-held wire cutter fastened to his belt by a light chain. That was for cutting the wires holding his jaws together in case he should become ill and nauseated - and to thus avoid strangulation.

It took several months for him to recover sufficiently so that he could return to the U.S. by sea in November, 1918. There was an additional period of recuperation at a military hospital at Cape May, New Jersey before he returned to Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama for discharge from the army.

The preceding three maps and related notes are taken from American Armies and Battlefields in Europe, published by the Center for Military History, United States Army, 1938, and reprinted in 1992.

During more than four years of fighting in a small geographical area, nothing much was accomplished except the deaths of millions of soldiers and non-combatants on both sides, and the injury of millions more.

The 42nd Rainbow Division lost 2,810 killed and 11,873 wounded in action or injured in connection with military operations. The 167th Infantry {the old Fourth Alabama National Guard Infantry} suffered 616 casualties.

These numbers illustrate the heavy losses suffered by all of the combatants, on both the Allied and the German sides of the war.

ENLISTMENT RECORD.

Name: Oscar B. Thomas Grade: Corp.
 Enlisted, or Inducted, June 12, 1917, at Montgomery, Ala.
 Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.
 Prior service: * None I certify that I have this date issued to the Bearer of this Certificate
 one Silver Victory Button
 Birmingham, Ala. U.S.A.
 Noncommissioned officer: Corporal Date AUG 9 1919 Recruiting Officer.
 Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: No Record.
 Horsemanship: Not Mounted.
 Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: Battle of Champagne July - 15 - 1918
Chateau Thierry July - 26 - 18
 Knowledge of any vocation: Conducting - Street Car Railway
 Wounds received in service: Machine Gun Ball in Jaw July 26 - 1918
 Physical condition when discharged: Good FORWARDED Oct 1920
 Typhoid prophylaxis completed No Record U. S. Army Recruiting 1920
 Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed No Record Birmingham, Ala. approved by
 Married or single: Single W. H. May, Capt Inf
 Character: Excellent for VICTORY MEDAL with
 Remarks: From 6-12-17 to 7-24-18 Jan. 24-19 to Dec 1918 CHAMPAGNE-MARNE
Left U.S. Port for O. Sea Port 11-16-17. ARRIVED O. Sea 11-19-17. Left Foreign Port AISNE-MARNE.
for U.S. 11-14-18. ARRIVED U.S. 11-25-18. No 4. 210 L. and 1000 rounds of 11.4/12 on DEFENSIVE SECTOR
Entitled to travel Pay to Montgomery, Alabama 45714.
 Signature of soldier: Oscar B. Thomas

Camp Sheridan, Ala. FEB 5 1919
 Paid in full to 54
 A. M. ROBERTS, Capt. Q. M. C.
 By M. H. Harpless
 2d Lt. Q. M. C.

B. R. James
1st Lt. Inf.
 Commanding Det.

WWI-100 Enlistment record for Oscar Burton Thomas. Note that this shows him as Corporal in the enlistment record dated June 12, 1917, as if he enlisted at that grade. Other records show that he was promoted to Corporal a few months later. NOTE: This page and the following page are the opposite sides of the same document.

HON. DIS. 29 PAGE 551

WWI-36

Honorable Discharge from The United States Army



THE STATE of ALABAMA, Jefferson County,
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE WITHIN
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED IN MY OFFICE
FOR RECORD

NOV 5 1945

AT _____ O'CLOCK _____ 29 A. AND
DULY RECORDED IN VOL. _____ PAGE 551
OF _____ PAGE _____

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That* Oscar B Thomas ^{Index of Entries}
† Gen Hospital # 11 Cape May N. J.

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: Hon Dis Pri Cir 116 H. S. A. Ho. 12/3/14

Said Oscar B. Thomas was born
in Shannon, in the State of Alabama.
(When enlisted he was 25 years of age and by occupation a Conductor.
He had Brown eyes, Black hair, Medium complexion, and
was 5 feet 10 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Comp Sherridon, Ala this
5 day of Feb, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen

Washington, D. C., MAR 10 1919

Paid \$60. under Act of Congress

approved February 24th, 1919

G. E. Gray,

Major, Q. M. Corps.

Major Field Artillery
Commanding.

Form No. 525, A. G. O.
Oct. 9-15.

2-2164

*Insert name, Christian name first; e. g., "John Doe."

† Insert Army serial number, grade, company and regiment or arm or corps or department; e. g., "1,620,302"; "Corporal,
Company A, 1st Infantry"; "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps"; "Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department."

‡ If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date, and source of order or full description of authority therefor.

WWI-099 Honorable Discharge for Oscar B. Thomas. NOTE: This page and the preceding page are the opposite sides of the same document.