

The Rainbow Reveille



Official Organ of the Rainbow Division Veterans



A LITTLE INDIVIDUAL EFFORT, PROPERLY APPLIED, CAN ACCOMPLISH WONDERS

IT is often that a man feels that his efforts in an organization can do no good because they appear to him inconsequential. If you, personally, will write in to the Reveille about some of your experiences in France, about the activities of your Rainbow Chapter or about what you think the Division Veterans should do now, we shall apply your effort in a way that will result in it being a real force in perpetuating the fame and glory of the 42nd Division. A little effort on your part will be increased many times in its effect.

CHATILLON-SUR-MARNE

An Attack the Division Might Have Made

The first movement by rail in France of the Rainbow Division as a complete unit was the movement from the Baccarat Sector to the Champagne. During all of our service in the Baccarat Sector, the heavy fighting of the German Offensive had been going on against the British and the French farther north, and we had become increasingly anxious to be moved into a more active area. We were told shortly after June first to get ready for a move, and that we would be taken north to the big fighting. From all the indications and the rumors that we heard, the Division Staff thought that we would be put into the battle close to Soissons.

By the middle of June, the Division had completed one hundred days of service at the Front, and at nine o'clock in the morning of June 21, the command of the Baccarat Sector was turned over to the 77th Division. The Artillery had begun the movement the night of June 18 and the entire movement was completed during the night of the 20th. The Division was then gathered in the area just south of Baccarat, with Division Headquarters at Chatel-sur-Moselle. When we reached Chatel-sur-Moselle, Headquarters still had no information as to our future movements. In accordance with the French practice and in order to insure secrecy, not even the Commanding General nor the Chief of Staff of the Division had been informed of our route or of our destination. On Saturday morning, June 22, Colonel Hughes, with the advance party, motored from Chatel-sur-Moselle to Vitry-le-Francois, just South of Chalons, which town, we were informed, would be the regulating station through which all our troop trains would pass and be routed to their stopping points. Leaving about seven-thirty in the morning, we reached the rendezvous point in Vitry late in the afternoon. Colonel Hughes had gone forward to Fourth Army Headquarters in Chalons to get further orders, and about seven o'clock he returned with the information that the Division would detrain and billet in the villages south and east of that city, ready to go into line east of Rheims or to march to the Marne front, southwest of Rheims.

The first troop train of the Division reached the station at Vitry-le-Francois at three A. M. Sunday morning, and from then on for sixty hours one of our trains was scheduled to arrive each hour. We were given four detraining points, including Vitry, and as the trains did not always keep to their schedule, it was sometimes a task to clear the loading platform in the time before the next train arrived. The record for clearing the detraining points was made by the caisson company of the Ammunition

Train, under command of Captain Course of Chicago, which company unloaded, cleared its platform, harnessed and hitched and was on its way in forty minutes from the time of arrival. If Captain Course had not made this record, it would have been necessary to detrain one battalion of the Engineers at a point which would have required the troops to march eighteen kilometers to reach their billets.

All our troop trains stopped at Vitry-le-Francois for orders. Varying degrees of discipline were in force over the different units. Some of the trains, as soon as they stopped, threw out train guards and the officers of the guard reported to the station for orders. On other trains, men were allowed to get off as they pleased, in varying states of uniform and equipment, and the train commander had to be diligently searched for by the regulating officer before his orders could be given him. Some of the artillery units had machine guns mounted and manned on the tops of the box cars as a protection against possible aircraft attack. The excitement on every train was intense, because officers and men felt that when they detrained they would be marched into the first big action of the Division. The movement of the Division, begun Saturday morning, was completed late Tuesday afternoon and the Division was billeted in the little villages dotted along the Marne, with Division Headquarters at Germain-la-Ville. The Division now had its first view of the Marne River, which it was to see many times thereafter.

We were informed that the Division was part of the reserve of French Grand Headquarters, under command of General Petain, but both the Fourth Army, with headquarters at Chalons, and the Fifth Army, with headquarters at Montmort (half way between Chalons and Chateau-Thierry) soon asked that the Division be assigned to them. The General Staff of the Division was billeted in a chateau at La Chaussee, which had previously been occupied both by French and by British Corps Headquarters. The British had been there so long that the officers had gone to the trouble and expense of erecting a racquet court in the garden of the chateau. This seemed very astonishing to the officers of the Rainbow Division, who had found that all their time and all their attention were well occupied with supplying and moving the Division and getting it ready for battle.

On Thursday evening, June 27, Colonel McArthur, the Chief of Staff, who had just returned from a conference with representatives of French Grand Headquarters at Chalons, informed his assistants that the French had offered the Division a chance to

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WHAT OF 1918?

Last month we covered the arrival of the Division in France. From there we begin again.

INTRODUCTION TO TRENCH WARFARE UNDER FRENCH TUTELAGE

In accordance with the then existing American plan, the battle training of the 42nd Division was to receive its final touches in the immediate presence of the enemy, and under the direct supervision of experienced French commanders. In this period of rounding-off, it was most important that the troops new to the front should receive careful and sound instructions in the details of their life on the line, and that their fighting spirit, which was already very high in the Rainbow, should be sharpened to a fine point. On the line, the division was assembled for the first time since Camp Mills, and was most fortunate in being put under the tutelage of four very distinguished French divisions which made up the VIIth French Corps, who were temporarily holding the extreme right of the line in Lorraine on a front which extended from Dombasle to Baccarat. The 41st Division in the Dombasle Sector on the left, was commanded by General Guignabaudet of most brilliant record, who shortly thereafter was killed in the fighting in Flanders; with this division a battalion of the 150th Field Artillery was emplaced. Next, to the right, was the 164 French Division in the Luneville Sector, commanded by General Gaucher, with which division were the 165th Infantry and elements of the 149th Field Artillery. Further on the right, holding the St. Clement Sector, was the famous 14th French Division of General Phillipot, who was a small, active and dashing commander. With this division the 166th Infantry and the remainder of the 149th Field Artillery were stationed. On the extreme right was the Baccarat Sector, held by the 128th French Division under General Segonne, who was small and of sensitive, scholarly and immaculate appearance. With this last division were the 167th Infantry and 168th Infantry, curiously enough, with French regiments of the same number, along with the 151st Field Artillery and the 117th Trench Mortar Battery. In command of the corps was General DeBazelaire, a straight and powerful man, whose activity, interest and driving force, as well as his kindness and courtesy, will always be affectionately recalled by the Rainbow, for whom he did so much.

The variations of the terrain, the combination of hill and dale, and the peculiarities of heavy woods in which this front abounded and in which a scouting open warfare was alone possible, made the section of Lorraine to which the Rainbow was assigned a most complete and valuable site for its final training,

while the character of the French division and French commanders was such as to be invaluable in imparting the proper viewpoint and putting the edge on the already tempered blade of the division. From the first, the attitude and spirit of co-operation with the French authorities left nothing to be desired. While occupying the four sectors in this fashion, the division had the benefit of a large scale raid by the French in the Dombasle-Luneville-St. Clement Sectors, which was one of the most successful of the war and netted nearly a thousand prisoners. In the meantime, the troops of the division participated with the French in the routine life of these sectors, which, after years of quiet, had suddenly become very active, and also in three specially staged large raids in which the 168th Infantry, 166th Infantry and the 165 Infantry, in the order named, took part. It fell to the 167th Infantry to take the first prisoners, and shortly thereafter, each infantry regiment in turn distinguished itself in some patrolling exploit, while the artillery regiments supported the minor operations executed by the French and Americans, and, in long-known emplacements, fired their mission despite the exceptionally heavy shelling they received. It was our artillery, to a large extent, that transformed these quiet and somewhat rural sectors into ones of great activity in a very short time. Here also the engineer troops combatted the inroads of spring in the trenches with great energy and success, and were included, at their own request, on many occasions in the large patrols that were sent into the enemy lines.

The features, however, of this training period in sector warfare were two severe attacks launched by the German in retaliation for the sudden disturbance and turmoil that had been developed on his front in lower Lorraine. For the first, the enemy selected two isolated combat groups located well down in the valley in front of Badonviller about equidistant from that town and Neuville. The night of March 2-3 was dark and murky, and after midnight the first shells fell. From then on until dawn the fire increased with great intensity and, during the last hour, the large enemy calibers firing for destruction, sent into this area a huge quantity of metal. With the dawn came the box barrage encasing the shelled area with the purpose of holding the survivors in and keeping supporting troops out. And with this box barrage and mist of the dawn, came the enemy. Two platoons of the 168th Infantry, supported by the remaining two platoons of their company, on this day, were in sole charge of the combat groups so attacked by artillery and now, by foot troops. Their

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Rainbow (42nd) Division Veterans

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The question of policy in a publication of this nature is always a much mooted one. For the time being, at least, it has been decided that personals, along the line of the whereabouts of individuals and the like, be eliminated from our pages. We feel that the various chapter organs carry this information to their individual chapter members much more effectively than could be done in this sheet. Let us consider the Reveille as the national organ where matters of interest to all Veterans of our splendid Division are set forth. The various chapter activities are of this national interest. Accounts of what your chapter attempts and accomplishes will prove an inspiration to other chapters. Let us know what you are doing so we may tell "the other fellow."

It is gratifying to note the response resulting from the renewal of publication of the Reveille last month. The success of our official organ seems assured from the offers of future articles of interest. Ask your local Secretary if your post has such an article in course of preparation. This leaflet is a national affair and your chapter should lend its voice in order to be represented.

It is also earnestly hoped that the individual members of the various posts will write to us asking us to publish the accounts and facts of various engagements in which the Division was engaged. We have most of the information you want and if you want something that we do not have, we shall get it and publish it in one of the future issues.

Each chapter and sub-chapter secretary is urged to let us know the approximate number of copies of the Reveille he can distribute to his own chapter members. Only in this way can the proper number be ordered. Write in at once so as to assure your members receiving an individual copy next month and each month thereafter. If the list of members of your chapter is accurate and up to date, send it to

us and we shall mail an individual copy each month direct to each member.

THE REUNION

As the reunion of the Rainbow Division Veterans appears on the horizon of coming events, it appears appropriate that we realize the fact that ours is the only division of the former army holding these reunions as annual events. Indianapolis being centrally located and, as well, famous for its hospitality and attractions for entertainment, should prove to be the site of the best reunion so far held.

Colonel J. M. Johnson, First Vice-President of our National Association spoke at the extremely successful convention last year as follows:

"Again we are gathered together in friendship "under the Rainbow." We are always glad and happy to see each other again and to talk over what we, as a unit, did on the battlefields of France. The world called our accomplishments well done, — so well done in fact that, as is always the case with success, criticism and envy are heard from others. People with great pasts always live on a volcano. If ever there was a band of men who have accomplished success on the field, it is we. Do you know that ours is the only division that can have a reunion now? None of the others can. They would all fail. We of the Rainbow, gathered from all parts of the country, stand as one. There is no north or south or east or west as we sit here together on this splendid occasion.

Sentimentally speaking, I come from way south in the United States. Geographically, I am not so far south. There was no other state in the Union that was so decidedly "south" as South Carolina and I still take pride — don't misunderstand me — in the South, but I also take pride in the fact that I offered to fight with the men and offered to die with the men against whom my father fought. Do you think for an instant that I hold it against you that your uncles killed my uncles or that you hold it against me that my uncles killed your uncles? They fought for what they thought was right. I come from where many men will not even go north of the Mason-Dixon line. I don't hold it against them. No doubt, you have men in the north who will not go south. But we who fought in the Rainbow Division will go across that damn line whenever we get ready.

You have served your time in the war and what you did is above criticism: We were extraordinary men only because we had an extraordinary opportunity. God gave us that opportunity and that is all that makes us extraordinary men.

We have proved that American citizens can make the best soldiers and that American soldiers can make the best citizens. What more can we ask of the Rainbow?"

That is the National Rainbow Convention attitude. No matter where you are, you are a Rainbow Veteran and your comrades whether you know them or not, will grasp your hand this summer in real friendship at Indianapolis, July 15, 1923.

In connection with the Reunion, it will be of interest that through our President, the Veterans have extended invitations to General Gouraud, under whom we fought at Champagne and to General Pershing to be our guests of honor at our Convention in Indianapolis. The invitations read as follows:-

Le General Gouraud,
Paris, France.

January 8, 1923

Dear General Gouraud:

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to write you that I have again been chosen as the intermediary of the 42nd, or Rainbow, Division Veterans to invite you to be present at the annual convention of 1923, to be held at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Last year at Minneapolis the disappointment was great because you were unable to come, with the consequence that the firm decision was made that every endeavor would be undertaken to have the pleasure and honor of your company at the next convention.

I have had several informal talks with the necessary authorities in Washington and find that there will be nothing but the most cordial sympathy with your visit, and that once you have expressed to us your willingness to come, the necessary steps will be taken without any difficulty.

I sincerely regret that the press of my affairs prevents my delivering the invitation in person in Paris as I so enjoyed doing last year.

The officers and men of the 42nd Division will never forget their service under your most successful command the 15th to 19th of July, 1918, when the last great German assault of the war was broken and the initiative as a consequence definitely passed from the hands of the enemy to the Allies.

Assuring you of the respect and admiration of the 42nd Infantry Division, and hoping that you may see fit to accept our invitation under the same conditions as those expressed to you by me last year, and with the very best wishes for a happy New Year,

Believe me,

Most sincerely,

(Signed) Wm. J. Donovan,

President, Rainbow Division Veterans Association.

General John J. Pershing,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

December 26, 1922

My dear General Pershing:

I take the liberty of recalling myself to you. I am speaking, however, not for myself but for the Veterans Organization of the Rainbow Division of which I now have the honor of being president.

We of that Division deplore just as much as you the present indifference in this country to military preparedness and we are just as vitally concerned in rousing the interest of the country to an appreciation of our military problem. We feel that the War Department has missed a great opportunity to foster the spirit that was so evident during the late War. We have reference to its refusal to reorganize the 42nd Division. We recognize that this would have its difficulties but when it is borne in mind that this Division was made up of units from twenty-six different states, the possibility of using that organization in peace time to help unify the entire country, is quite apparent.

I am enclosing copy of the memorandum which was sent to the Bureau Militia Affairs a year ago. I am taking this up directly with you because I feel that with your understanding of the situation throughout the country and your sympathy with the civilian soldier, that you will find a way to accomplish the purpose we have in mind.

It seems to us that making use of the units now existing in the several states that were formerly part of the Rainbow Division, establishing a headquarters in the District of Columbia and if need be, assigning that Division to the District of Columbia, and having a headquarters made up of Regular Army men, a great step forward could be taken towards consolidating the relations of the Regular, National Guard and Reserve units.

Certainly it seems a pity that the fine traditions—of which we have too little in this country—for which the Rainbow Division stood, should be so lightly thrown aside.

We have our reunion on the 15th of July, 1923, at Indianapolis. That is the anniversary as you know of the Champagne fight. An invitation has been issued to General Gouraud to attend because it was with his 4th Army that we fought that day. It would be a great honor to our organization if your engagements were such as to permit you to attend on that day, and in the name of the 42nd Division I sincerely request your presence.

It would be a splendid thing if on that occasion you could formally announce that you had again included the Rainbow as part of your fighting army.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Wm. J. Donovan,

President, Rainbow Division Veterans Association.

The Secretary of the Cincinnati Sub-Chapter reports remarkable work on the part of the Ladies Auxiliary of the post. They are functioning and "carrying on," by doing wonderful work for the Veterans in the local hospitals and for the active organization as well. The Ladies themselves are unanimously given credit for the Chapter's gaining the attendance of so many new comrades at the regular meetings. The Cincinnati hats are off to the Ladies. Their activity there should serve as a noble example of what can be done and should inspire other chapters to "get going."

RAINBOW PRESIDENT IS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

On Thursday, January 18, 1923, the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded Colonel Donovan, President of our Veterans Organization. As we all realize, this is the highest award obtainable in the American Army or Navy. The Rainbow spirit of fraternal cooperation is more clearly demonstrated by the action of our President than any incident that had previously come to the attention of the Editor. Before the formal award took place, the following letter was in the hands of the Secretary of the Veterans of the 165th Regiment, which Colonel Donovan led in France:

January eighteen, 1923.

"Dear Comrade:

Permit me to deposit with you the Congressional Medal of Honor which is to be presented to me tonight.

This medal was truly won by our entire command at the Kriemhilde-Stellung in front of Landres-St. Georges October 14-15, 1919 — a fight as bitter and as gallant in the annals of the 69th New York as Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, December 13-14, 1862.

A Regiment lives by its tradition. The noble tradition we have inherited, impels me to ask that this medal remain in the Armory, there to serve as a recognition of the valor of our Regiment, as an incentive to those enlisted under its standard; but most of all as a memorial to our brave and unforgotten dead.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Wm. J. Donovan.

To the Secretary,
New York Chapter,
Rainbow Division Veterans."

Commenting upon the ceremony, the Secretary of the New York Rainbow writes in as follows:-

"About 2,000 members of the 165th U. S. Infantry (old 69th New York) crowded into the 69th Regiment Armory recently when Colonel Bill Donovan was decorated with the Congressional Medal of Honor. At the instant Major General Robert Lee Bullard placed the blue ribbon and its weight around their old commander's neck a collective shout from thousands of throats rocked the armory to its foundation. With flushed face Colonel Donovan pivoted on his heel called his regiment to attention and presented them with the medal, the first Congressional Medal ever awarded to an American unit.

When the presentation was over a dozen picked Irishmen, headed by Jack Larkin, invaded the Colonel's reception room, and carried him on their shoulders to where 2,000 others were waiting to shake his hand. Donovan, just like a school boy, was so delighted to be with his men again that he forgot all about his invited guests, which included many of New York State's most prominent officials, and decided to shake hands with over 4000 people before he saw his own guests. "My boys," shouted Bill Donovan, "they come first." "Hello! Pat, Mick, Jim." He seemed to know them all by their first names.

The New York Chapter hails Bill Donovan as one of the doggonest, finest, bravest, peppiest, snappiest, scrappiest Commanding Officers any one could have.

He has received all of the American decorations, the D. S. C., D. S. M., Congressional Medal of Honor. Also the Belgian War Cross, Legion of Honor, Italian War Cross, Croix de Gueere with palm, silver and bronze stars."

In continuation of the plan to correct the records of our Division, in Washington, we quote below our reply to the letter received from the Adjutant General, which we printed in the January number:-

January 19, 1923.

Robert C. Davis, Adjutant General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On August 28th I wrote you requesting certain records of the 42nd Division.

On September 19th you very courteously replied, sending me certain information.

In that reply you stated that from your records on file it was shown that the closest approach to Sedan was made by a patrol of the 165th Infantry, 42nd Division, which entered the southern outskirts of Wadelincourt. You state also that "the most advanced line was established by a portion of the 16th Infantry of the 1st Division." I have taken this up with Judge Benson Hough of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio. He was commanding the 166th Infantry on that date. From the information furnished by him the forward line in that attack was made up of elements of his command. In any case it is our view that it is futile to discuss the question of advanced lines. The front was the front of the 42nd Division. The attack was under the direction of that Division. Whatever the 1st Division may have done it seems to us was as is stated by the Historian of our Division, "a joint adventure with the 165th and 166th Infantry."

I note you state that the data which was compiled in October 1919 showed that the 42nd Division was in quiet sector 135 days and active sector 29 days, total days in the line being 164. The information upon this subject previously on file was to the following effect:-62 days in active sector, 82 in semi-active and 25 days in quiet sector, or a total of 169 days.

I would appreciate further information if by this time you have had an opportunity to correct your compilation on this subject.

Concerning the other question as to our disposition under General Gouraud of the Fourth Army, I quote from our Historian, Lt. Col. Walter B. Wolf—

"I think that it would be well to write back that a conference sometime in the winter with the General Staff on this operation would be welcomed and is requested. If the Army is not in position to pay the expenses of research, the chance of the discount of the Division's service in this operation is, of course, greatly increased unless a situation is created by which a semi-official parley between the General Staff and Divisional representatives can be arranged and the results of that parley can be given official recognition. Gen. Naulin, as well as the Division Commanders of the 170 and 13th Division (Fr.) would, doubtless, be both proud and willing to give us a written summary which could be had, I am sure, before the middle of the Winter and could be made available at a conference of the sort suggested. I am afraid that there will be some opposition to the suggested meeting because I feel sure that the record of American Large Units detached from G. H. Q. is, with notable exception of the Cantigny and Soissons affairs, incomplete."

I would be very grateful indeed if you would take this matter up with us as I know you are desirous of having full credit done our Division.

In addition the 67th Field Artillery Brigade served the following tours of duty supporting the front line divisions.

With the 4th Division from August 3rd 1918 to August 11th 1918, during which time the 4th Division advanced from North of the Forest de Nesles to the Vesle River;

With the 32nd Division from October 7th 1918 to October 12th 1918, assisting in an attack on the Kriemhilde Stellung;

With the 2nd Division from November 1st 1918 to November 2nd 1918, delivering preparation and barrage fire for the attack of November 1st, 1918, in front of Landres et St. George and St. George.

Sincerely,
William J. Donovan,
President, Rainbow Division Veterans.

IN APPRECIATION

Colonel J. M. Johnson, of South Carolina, is surely interested in the Division and has the interests of the Veterans' Organization at heart. He is one of the very few Unit Commanders who send in to the Reveille advice, constructive criticism and, what is more, articles for publication. These latter are not written by him but are instead interesting articles having to do with "The Rainbow" which come to his attention and which he immediately mails to us. By so doing, all the veterans will have a chance to read them in the coming issues of the Reveille. We wish more would follow his example.

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trenches had been leveled, many of the dugouts had been caved in, and their men had suffocated at their positions and in the support position, where the Captain in command was killed. The artillery fire, both preparatory and destructive, had inflicted a heavy toll of dead and wounded. However, when the German came over, he was met by the survivors. He never set foot in our trenches, and for a month there-

after, we were picking his dead from our wire and our portion of No Man's Land. The Company that passed through this attack—for it was nearly an entire company—had a bad night, one of the kind which made trench warfare at its worst worse than any other type of warfare that the division encountered. Isolated in advanced positions, in cramping trenches and caving dugouts, this company had an opportunity to observe the accuracy and effect of previously registered fire, and the power of high explosive; and then, in a brief moment when it all lifted and the enemy sought to rush in and mop up, to meet him and to check him cold. They did this, and it is a source of pride in the 42nd Division that, with this example before them, the enemy never—not even in the heat of their great offensive in July following in the Champagne—succeeded in penetrating our lines. The second attack was of an entirely different nature. The enemy, during the course of persistent shelling in the Forêt de Parroy, sent over into the part of the line held by the 165th Infantry a great quantity of mustard gas, fired with rapidity interspersed with high explosive shells. In this respect, it was, at that time, a novel use of gas. His fire was directed on the front line positions, which there closely resembled open warfare conditions, on all the observation shelters, on the main paths, and lastly, on the assembly position for the support troops while, during the entire operation, carefully controlled trench mortars put down a wicked fire on our front areas which were, at this point, close to the German lines and open to his observation. Despite the fact that this attack was very severe, and had, owing to its skillful preparation, brought nearly a battalion of the 165th Infantry within the sphere of its activity and had done great damage to our front line position, the defending troops, all of that regiment, most gallantly led by their line commanders, withstood it unflinchingly and with entire coolness.

After nearly a month under the French, the 42nd Division was withdrawn from the front, assembled, and about to start on a long march back to the Rolampont Area, when it suddenly received orders to halt its movement and return. This was on March 27th; on the following day the division saw the rainbow standing high in the spring sky of Lorraine. Singularly enough, this same portent welcomed the division in France, and manifested itself on other occasions in the history of the division without fail. Again the Rainbow turned towards the line; it had found its home.

If there are any questions of disputed points, or if anyone is reminded by such accounts as the above, of incidents of interest, write the Reveille about it.

Next month we shall quote that part of the preliminary History which deals with the move of the division to the Baccarat Sector and with the subsequent events which took place.

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carry out a dangerous and difficult operation at Chatillon-sur-Marne. Chatillon is a small town on the north side of the Marne, half way between Chateau-Thierry and Epernay. The Germans in their final advance in June, had reached the river southwest of and in sight of Chatillon. Just north of the town there is a high ridge running northeast from the river. The Germans had reached this ridge above Chatillon and thus had a complete view up the Marne Valley nearly as far as Epernay, so that all the French movement on both sides of the river was under observation and hampered by the German artillery fire. The French were therefore anxious to drive the Germans back off this ridge and prevent their observation and control of the river valley.

The next day, Friday, the writer was dispatched by Colonel MacArthur to the headquarters of the French Fifth Corps, in whose sector Chatillon-sur-Marne was located. The headquarters were in the village of Arty, below Epernay. As the writer went down the Marne Valley into Arty, the German shells were bursting over Chatillon and on the heights on the north side of the river. From Arty we went forward to the front line to look over the ground. The artillery had an excellent observation post on a high point in the Bois de Rademat, east of Chatillon. The ground here rises in steep ascents from the river and is a solid mass of vineyards. The French batteries were in the open in these vineyards, camouflaged with leaves and firing busily. Close up to the batteries, the French peasants were still working on the vines, apparently confident that the German advance would come no further. Chatillon was in full view and was pretty well shot to pieces. Just above Chatillon could be seen the German ridge, which ran at right angles to the river. The French were busy shelling two villages back of the ridge, which could be seen from the observation post, but there was no sign of German activity other than the shells bursting in the valley. The ground in front looked very difficult. The plan, as proposed by the French, was to move both infantry brigades of the Division by motor truck during the second night before the attack, from the region of Epernay to Chatillon, to detain the troops before dawn and to hold them under cover all day and the next night in a small wood on top of the hill above Chatillon. At the dawn of the second day, the infantry would attack from the edge of the wood, advancing straight north across the ridge, taking the enemy there in flank and then wheeling to the left and sweeping down the valley.

Back of the ridge were two villages, Olizy and Violaine. These villages were both strongly held by the Germans and the valley down which the infantry would have to advance after it had taken

the ridge, was completely open to the German artillery. It was evident that our operation would have to be very carefully prepared and that the different units would have to know their ground before the attack was made; otherwise there would be great confusion between the troops which were to advance along the ridge and the units which were to wheel to the left after a shorter advance. If the movement were not properly carried out, our troops would be left in an L shaped formation, with two flanks exposed to a counter-attack.

The next morning, Saturday, the writer visited French army headquarters at Montmort to secure large scale maps showing the ground over which the attack was to be made. After a conference with the Chief of Staff, it had been decided to ask for enough maps to permit of distribution down to sergeants of the attacking units. The French Staff at Montmort were greatly surprised at this demand, and when they were told that we expected each infantry sergeant to have his own map, they were even more surprised. This was apparently something unheard of in the French Army. It was necessary finally to go to the Army Commander, but after some consideration he gave the order for the making and issuance of the maps. The French Staff's attitude then seemed to be that Americans were most surprising persons, somewhat foolish, but that if they wanted unheard of things, it was just as well to let them have their way.

The same afternoon the writer went forward through the village of Chatillon, up the hill back of it and into the woods in which our infantry were supposed to rest during the day and night preceding the attack. It was then evident that the troops would have to unload at the river level, march through the village and up the steep hill behind it into woods which were scarcely large enough to give cover to the two brigades. It also became apparent that the German observation posts were close at hand on the upper ridge, and that unless all the troop movements were done at night, they would come under German observation and be subject to artillery fire. Even at night, it would be very difficult to unload and march two brigades into the sheltering woods without making so much noise that the German observers would know what was going on. Also, it would be plain to the Germans that if a troop movement had taken place, the troops could be nowhere but in this Bois de Rarey, above the village. The woods were being fired on at intervals while the writer was making his observation and it was evident that if a heavy fire were opened on the woods, the waiting troops could not be moved into any shelter and would suffer terribly. Even if the presence of our troops were not discovered the first night, would it be possible to keep all the troops out of sight within the woods during the whole day before the attack? Knowing the American doughboy, the writer was

inclined to think that during that day more than one officer and more than one man would make his own private reconnoissance along the edge of the woods. This meant certain discovery. The edges of the wood were entirely open and visible to the German observatories in Violaine and Olizy. Then would come the German artillery fire and the losses would be heavy.

The French Troops, holding the front, were dug in well back in the woods. Their Division had been driven back in the German advance of May and June, their men were few and the line was only thinly held. They had been fighting and retreating for nearly a month and were white and worn, but there were no fresh troops to relieve them. For the first time the writer saw troops in fox holes and the men were so tired that they had not spent much labor in making their fox holes very deep. Both the French Division Commander and the French Corps Commander told the writer that their front line troops were too weary and worn from their recent fighting and too few in number to make the heavy attack which would be necessary to sweep the Germans back from the ridge overlooking Chatillon and the Marne valley. Nevertheless, it was necessary to dislodge the enemy as a preliminary to any counter-offensive, so the Rainbow Division had been called upon for help.

However, in war the best laid plans are often overturned in a moment and willing as we were to help, this help was never given. When the writer returned to headquarters that night, Saturday, June 29, 1918, he found the whole Division on the march forward to the line to go into reserve behind the 21st French Corps, in front of Chalons. The next day it turned out that the Division had not yet been put under command of the Fourth Army and was still part of the reserve of French Grand Headquarters. There was still a chance of making the attack at Chatillon. The plans for the operation were worked out by the staff, and the infantry brigades began to rehearse the movement. We were to have a certain number of French tanks, but these were to join us at Chatillon the night of the attack. For three days the brigades continued with their maneuvers, but on July 3, because of the imminence of the German attack on the front of the Fourth Army, we received orders transferring the Division from the Reserve of Grand Headquarters to the command of General Gouroud.

On the night of July 5-6, the Division went into the line with the 21st French Corps. Off to our left could be seen the Montagne de Rheims and far to the right was the Butte de Tahure, both the scene of fierce fighting in 1916 and 1917. We were on an historic front and were soon to play our own part in making history. Our first trial at arms, however, was now to be, not at Chatillon-sur-Marne, but in the Champagne.