



HISTORY OF THE 42^D THE RAINBOW DIVISION

LUNÉVILLE
BACCARAT
CHAMPAGNE
CHATEAU THIERRY
THE OURCQ
ST. MIHIEL
ARGONNE-MEUSE
SEDAN
ARMY OF THE RHINE

A BRIEF STORY

OF THE

RAINBOW DIVISION

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by

Rainbow Division Veterans

THE following brief account of the 42nd Division was written, at the suggestion of the Division Commander, in order that it might be available to each member of the Division upon his return to the United States.

A detailed and more extended record of the Rainbow is being prepared for early publication by the author of these pages, Major Walter B. Wolf, in which the personalities of the soldiers and leaders of the Rainbow that it was impossible to include within the compass of this account will be dealt with at length.

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A Brief Story of the Rainbow Division

The concentration of the 42nd Division was accomplished during the latter part of August and the first half of September, 1917, at Camp Mills, N. Y. On September 13th it was completed. Assembled from the four winds, this division comprised twenty-seven selected units of the National Guard of long standing and established excellence, drawn from twenty-six of the United States and from the District of Columbia. All of these units had been previously inducted into Federal Service; in fact, some, such as the Fourth Alabama, had been in that service since the Mexican call of the President in June, 1916. Even before its concentration and at the very time when the authorization for its formation was announced, the 42nd Division received the alternative name by which it is more commonly and widely known—the Rainbow Division. This name was given it by its first Chief of Staff, then Colonel Douglas MacArthur, who was its first member. To every person the symbol of the rainbow suggests the same idea in a different way. The many states of the Union, the many types of life, the many colors and shades of thought and points of view that were all brought together in the 42nd Division at a new camp in New York in the fall of 1917 were as contrasting, as carefully blended, as strong and far reaching as the rainbow, which, for always, has epitomized the beauty and strength of Union, and the endlessness of Union—for who has ever found the end of the rainbow—as well as the constancy of Hope, which will alone bring victory.

This is but a fragmentary story of the journey of the 42nd Division on two continents, merely the outline of the crusade of an American division which bore on its flag, as its personal device, the harmony and perpetual light of the rainbow.

At Camp Mills, New York.

The new division, one of the very first of the new American Army, drew its four infantry regiments from New York (165th Inf.), Ohio (166th Inf.), Alabama (167th Inf.), and Iowa (168th Inf.); its three machine gun battalions from Pennsylvania (149th M. G. Bn.), Wisconsin (150th M. G. Bn.), and Georgia (151st M. G. Bn.); its two light artillery regiments from Illinois (149th F. A.), and Minnesota (151st F. A.), and its six-inch artillery



THE HEIGHTS OF THE OURCQ.

German Machine Gun Nests in the Foret de Fere. German Dead at This Destroyed Position Seen on Left of the Picture Wearing Red Cross Armlet. Typical of the Many Similar Positions Assaulted by the Rainbow on the Ourcq.

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regiment from Indiana (150th F. A.); its trench mortar battery from Maryland (117th T. M. B.); its engineer regiment in equal parts from South Carolina and California, and its engineer train from North Carolina; its field signal battalion—117th—from Missouri; its military police companies from Virginia; its headquarters troop from Louisiana; its ammunition train from Kansas; its supply train from Texas; and its sanitary train from seven states and the District of Columbia;—the 165th Ambulance Company from New Jersey; the 166th Ambulance Company from Tennessee; the 167th Ambulance Company from Oklahoma, and the 168th Ambulance Company from Michigan; the 165th Field Hospital from the District of Columbia; the 166th Field Hospital from Nebraska; the 167th Field Hospital from Oregon, and the 168th Field Hospital from Colorado. At Camp Mills, the Rainbow awaited early embarkation for France, devoting its time to foot drill, practice marches, and to its equipment with those things which were to be transported with it. In the meantime, the animals belonging to the units that made up the division were gathered at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, for separate crossing. Twice the division was reviewed. Once, on a warm Sunday, it defiled past the Secretary of War along the streets of Hempstead and Garden City, Long Island, and two weeks later, on a balmy afternoon in Indian Summer, it swept by in powerful platoon waves over the bare sands outside the camp.

With the change in the season, it became windy and dusty and chilly. The tents of Camp Mills grew cold. It had been hoped to move the division to France as an entirety, but the plans based on this hope were altered to meet a change of conditions at the port of embarkation at Hoboken. On a bright and crisp morning, the first contingent of the main body of the division entrained for the outskirts of New York, ferried to the Hoboken docks, quietly boarded the transports, and lay in the harbor until sunset of that day. And so on the 18th of October, the S. S. Covington; the S. S. President Lincoln; the S. S. President Grant; the S. S. Tenedaros; the S. S. Pastoris, and the S. S. Mallory stood out to sea. Escorting them was a cruiser and two destroyers, later joined by a transformed German raider.

Behind the Lines in France.

At night on October 29th, the forerunners of the Rainbow troops anchored in the harbor of St. Nazaire, and in the early morning swept with the tide into that busy and crowded inlet. One of the convoy—the S. S. President Grant—was forced by engine trouble to turn back in mid-Atlantic. The troops on this transport arrived by another ship at Liverpool, but in the

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meantime, the remaining elements of the division had entered France at Brest and England at Liverpool. The entire artillery brigade, with the exception of the trench mortar battery, proceeded straight from St. Nazaire in the early days of November to Coetquidan, where it was to receive its final training as a brigade. After a brilliant record in the course there, this brigade joined the division on the line in February, 1918. The trench mortar battery in the meantime proceeded to Fort de la Bonnelle, near Langres, for special training, and returned to the Rainbow shortly before the division took the front.

The first home of the remainder of the division was in the Vaucouleurs Area, within sight of the gun flashes and sound of the detonations on the lines north of Toul. It was *behind the lines* in the exhilarating atmosphere of war. It is only in such a place, as the Rainbow soon found out for itself, that War holds forth Romance or Enchantment. There it remained until the 11th of December, and gained its first knowledge of billets. Billets, like camouflage and a few similar expressions, carries an immense variety of meaning to the American public. The billets in the Vaucouleurs Area, however, could not have had all the qualities that the popular mind would attribute to them, for they were in general, cramped, chilly and dark, and not overly clean. They resembled stables, whenever in fact they were not stables, in which fortunate event, they were usually the small human packing case which was a specialty of the French Army Engineers. But there were things to distract the mind from them, for, in the valleys in which we found ourselves, Joan of Arc was born, had heard her mission and had received her command; and, as crusaders with the crusader's heart, the Rainbow was stirred with the very martial spirit that she had, in her lifetime, inspired in others. It worked hard and hoped the day when it would move out along these valleys to the line would be advanced.

Instead, it quite unexpectedly received an order to proceed southward on December 11th to the La Fauche Area, which it did by marching over an average distance of 55 kilometers and at an average elapsed time of 2 ½ march days through cold and blustery weather. In our second area, the 168th Infantry and the 149th Machine Gun Battalion, the last arrivals, joined the division, and the route marching and target practice, which the Rainbow's first overland march in France had interrupted, were resumed.

Promptly with the advent of Christmas week, the division received a warning order for a movement further south past Chaumont, to begin on December 26th. By Christmas Day, a great deal of snow had fallen. The hilly roads were heavily glazed; the wind was high, and under these circumstances, the thermometer could do nothing but keep on dropping—which it

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did, below zero. The march was a long one. The bulk of the division's animals had not reached it as yet. There were but a handful of trucks, scarcely twenty, and a few small ambulances. On Christmas Day the mules were received—for the most part unbroken and unshod. With the equipment available and the distance to be traversed, the march had to be made in as short a time as possible in order to feed the columns on the road.

The details of the march would not be emphasized except that in retrospect, this task appears one of the most trying and arduous with which the division was ever confronted. In a blinding snow storm it commenced. The roads were deep with snow, with a treacherous glassy base and full of long grades and sharp turns. The thermometer kept on dropping and the men proceeded through these conditions in the same uniform in which they passed



Column of 117th Field Signal Battalion During Last Stage of Its March to Rolampont Area December 27, 1917.

in review before the Secretary of War on that balmy Sunday afternoon in Indian summer. The same uniform it was, except for the inroads of four months hard wear. At the very last moment and by dint of extraordinary effort, a few thousand shoes were rushed to the division. The march the

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troops had previously passed through had so broadened and swollen their feet that it was extremely difficult to make use of what had been so obtained. There were many men without overcoats; and gloves were the exception. Over an average of three full march days and 75 kilometers distance, the division bucked the adversity of a blizzard and pushed steadily ahead on the slippery roads. It did its work uncomplainingly. Many a foot left a red trail on the snow and many a soldier, if not all, was chilled from start to finish of this magnificent effort. In the history of this division there is no page more full of courage and determination than that on which this journey is recorded. The columns, with gallantry and grit, drove ahead at least 25 kilometers a day and came in well closed and accounted for. The wagon transportation, with the green and unshod animals, arrived, despite the footing and the hills, under darkness at each night's destination. Those who saw it cannot forget the sight of the Colonel of the 166th Infantry, at the head of his wagon train, indicating the way through the drifts and superintending a long, hard haul outside of Nogent. It was all summed up by a soldier of his foot column who, limping and with his feet in rags, crossed the bridge at Rolampont. Sliding and slipping under the weight of his pack and covered with the snow from the gale that he was combatting, "Valley Forge—Hell!" he said, "there ain't no such animal."

From this march the spirit of the division was born. The experience settled each man who took part—he became veteran, at least so far as contending with the elements was concerned, and he had shown a tenacity and nerve which, when the Rainbow took the field, was never more surely demonstrated. It was a great march; such was the judgment of those who observed it, whether at Chaumont where one of the columns—that of the 167th Infantry—skirted the cliffs on which the city is perched, or on the white and drifted roads on which the columns passed.

The exceptional severity of the winter of 1917-18 continued throughout January. In its new area, the division sprawled over an incredible territory, consisting of small and scattered towns. Here it remained a scant six weeks. Never was training more seriously and feverishly pushed than then on the frozen hillsides and through the snow. During the last weeks, with the assistance of two battalions of the 32nd French Regiment, the outlines of trench warfare were imparted, grenade practice and some range practice had, a school of fire for Stokes Mortars, one pounders and machine guns organized and operated, and such maneuvers as the frozen ground and snow permitted were carried out with vigor and in great earnest. A day arrived when the Rainbow heard that it was to be given preference to any other division in the matter of supplies. Then its equipment came as quickly as it

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could be received, and at the same time, the motor and other transportation which, for nearly three months, we had felt the lack of. Upon the 16th of February, the 42nd Division began to move by rail from the Rolampont Area north to that part of the Lorraine front known as the Luneville, St. Clement and Baccarat Sectors. The Rainbow was never behind the lines again, except, as will be seen, during a brief period in August.

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 instruction 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 Army 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 164th 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

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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 divisions 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 165th 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 missions 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 Neuviller. 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 encaging 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 trenches had been leveled, many of their dugouts

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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 thereafter, 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



The Personal Device of the Rainbow Division Unfurled for the First Time in France in the Rolampont Area Behind the Lines, at the Moment When the 42nd Division Left for Its Service at the Front.

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—

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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 Foret de Parroy, sent over into the part of the line held by the 165th Infantry a great quantity of mustard gas, fired with rapidity and 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.

The Rainbow Takes Over the Baccarat Sector.

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. The 42nd Division, in its own name, right, title and interest, took over the Sector of Baccarat, relieving the 128th French Division, on April 1st, 1918.

From this point on, the employment of the 42nd Division was controlled by the developments on the Western Front. The powerful German attack on March 21st demanded the services of the strong VIIth French Corps elsewhere, and gave us our opportunity to hold our own sector somewhat earlier than might otherwise have been the case. Thus it was that the Rainbow was the second American division to be entrusted a sector, and the first in point of time to be entrusted with an entire divisional, two brigade-in-the-line, sector. From the outset, the 42nd Division had, during its occupation of the Baccarat Sector, both its infantry brigades and its artillery brigade in the line. The 84th Brigade, on the right, as it continued to be thereafter

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through all the division's operations, held the Sub-sector of Neufmaisons, which abutted on the boundary between the VIIIth French Army commanded by General Gerard (with whom we were) and the VIIth French Army, which was in the Vosges on our south. The 83rd Brigade, on the left, held the Sub-sector of Merviller, and had on its left a French division. On the south, our divisional boundary lay through dense tangled woods and skirted treacherous trails through the steep and forest country of the foothills of the Vosges; on the north it followed well-defined roads through a rolling country, which, in the spring that was about to break, was idyllic with its soft green woods and farm fields; the River Meurthe formed the rear line of the division. It was a front of thirteen kilometers as the crow flies, and about sixteen kilometers with all its meanderings, and one of unusual interest, containing an alternation of patches of woods and farm lands, and finally, on the south, the ravinous and forest country of the Vosges. This front had, except for the past month, been quiet ever since the German had overrun it in the first hours of the war and were driven back across it by the defeat that Castelnau administered to them at Grand Courronne. It did not abound with chateaux, but it did consist of numerous small towns and villages closely connected by good roads, and of the two somewhat larger towns of Badonviller and Baccarat at both of which lay factories—at the former town, devoted to the making of pottery, and at the latter, the celebrated Baccarat Glass Works. Except for these industrial works, the life of the sector in peace times was pronouncedly agricultural. The whole territory lay about fifteen kilometers west of the 1914 German frontiers. At the Baccarat Sector, the opposing lines made the sharp break to the south which appeared so marked on all maps, and, due to this fact, this sector was considered the hinge for the entire Alsatian front, and important as such. A great road leading through Baccarat to Ramberviller and Epinal, if held by the enemy, would cut the main line of supplies to Alsace, and might sever the Vosges from the rest of the front, or might give the enemy an opportunity to sweep back of the River Meurthe past Luneville and threaten the line near Nancy and Pont-a-Mousson. This sector, with its great size and the strategic significance of its front, the division took over in great earnestness as a sacred trust. In a very short time the French command was entirely convinced that the new American division could be relied on to defend it successfully in case of attack.

The atmosphere in these days was one of great caution and conservatism because of the heavy successes that the German had just had, and was at that time gaining, and because of his then known superiority in numbers along the entire front. Every precaution was taken against a surprise at-

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tack. Owing to the situation on other fronts and the fact that the activity here had sharply diminished by the middle of April, the French command required accurate information as to what the enemy troops opposite the Rainbow were and were doing. As a result, the 42nd Division patrolled the front with incessant energy by day and night, and during the first few weeks of its occupancy, gained the ascendancy, and soon thereafter, the absolute control of No Man's Land. Daylight patrols drove far into the enemy lines; night patrols inhabited the German trenches and stayed there for periods as long as three days. Combat patrols crossed the front and drove the enemy to cover. It was not long before it was observed that the German had practically evacuated his front line, holding it here and there, at always changing points, in strength by night, and, except where the lines were far removed, evacuating it by day. Although the division's mission was purely a defensive one, it was ordered, for the purpose of gaining identifications, to put over a number of raids. One was undertaken by the 166th Infantry on the north half of the Bois des Hales, and a number of smaller ones were launched by the 167th Infantry and 168th Infantry. The raid of the 166th Infantry was carefully rehearsed and prepared under the immediate direction of General DeBazelaire. It was launched with a powerful artillery accompaniment, and, unfortunately, yielded no results on account of the retirement by the Germans from the attacked salient. It was splendidly executed in every respect, and the failure to gain prisoners was due entirely to the German plan of defense, which, by a somewhat long artillery preparation, was easily put into operation. The site of this raid was rendered a shattered and howling wilderness, and so long as the Rainbow held the sector, was left abandoned by the Germans. Similarly, a daylight patrol of the 167th Infantry, on a sunny Sunday morning, impudently entered a populous German redoubt and offered battle with disastrous effects to the enemy, and later, on the same morning, the scout officers of this regiment boldly returned with a mere handful of the original raiding party, and engaged in a sharp fight with the alerted Germans at the very heart of their own strong point. They came back with valuable identifications and the body of one of their victims.

The German Attacks Our Front.

In return for the offensive spirit shown by the Rainbow, the German resorted to his own peculiar methods. On the left of the sector he attempted to surprise the front of the 166th Infantry, putting down a severe fire with high explosive and gas on center positions, and then attempted to pinch

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these positions out with a strong raiding force, in a manner similar to that in which a small, but very bold patrol of the 165th Infantry had, without artillery preparation, surprised and snatched off the entire enemy outpost at the hamlet of Ancerviller on the German side of No Man's Land. Despite the larger numbers that the German employed and the powerful ar-



An Emplacement of Battery A, 149th Field Artillery, During Its First Days on the Front. Near Domjevin, St. Clement Sector.

tillery assistance he had, the garrison easily and quickly beat off this attempt upon them. Previously to this attempt, the German struck twice and with great power, although in an entirely different way. On the south of the sector, at the deep glen which was known as Village Negre, the German chose his first target. The lines were close together, lying over a hogback from each other and separated by shell shattered trees. At about midnight, on a morning

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early in May, a tremendous concussion was felt in the whole sector. The German had set loose a gas attack by projector, a sort of trench mortar that hurled a huge gas-filled bomb. He then sprayed the forward and rear positions of Village Negre with artillery and, finally, he sought, under cover of what he imagined to be the demoralization caused by this attack, to penetrate our front lines and gather in the garrison, which, he expected, would then have been rendered helpless by the gas he had set down. The violence and magnitude of the attack on this small area cannot be overstated. It broke loose with no preparation at a time when, owing to the nature of the night, a maximum number of troops were on duty. The gas was most powerful and included phosgene and arsenic, as well as mustard. The projectors were installed without observation very close to our lines and fired accurately into our positions. The fumes from the bombs turned the leaves of such trees as were still able to show foliage from their spring green to an ashen white. The gas was so intense that when liberated near a man, the explosion blew his mask off and the man was suffocated. Nevertheless, the battalion of the 168th Infantry on duty was not demoralized; its gas discipline was above criticism. All who were not overcome and killed on the spot by the two great concussions that were hurled into them, manned the parapet and threw back the raiding troops without difficulty. However, a large number, nearly a hundred, were gassed, killed outright, without warning or chance to escape, by this projector assault. The effect on the survivors was very marked. A hatred and contempt for the German that beggars words grew up and the Cromwellian austerity with which the 168th Infantry fought its future battles was doubtless attributable in part to what the German attempted to do in May, as well as by what he attempted to do in March.

Airplanes at last took the air to spot the projectors that had done this job. Their emplacements were located, were explored by patrols, and found to be unoccupied. The battery of them was at least one hundred pieces strong and had been dug in in a long row very quickly and pulled out with an equal alacrity. However, it was not silenced. About ten days later, another reverberation, although not quite so strong, shook the sector. The target for this projector attack was again the 168th Infantry in those combat groups in front of Badonviller which had encountered the German thrust in March and which, owing to their forward position and isolation, peculiarly tempted the German. However, on this occasion, the gas itself did little damage despite the intensity and power of the attack. Under the cover of the gas wave, a strong assault by special troops was attempted. The garrison again met the German in front of or in its trenches, and put him entirely to rout.

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In hand-to-hand conflict, the American trench was filled with German dead and the special storm troops left numerous prisoners, mostly wounded, in our hands. The 168th Infantry had its first chance to avenge the Village Negre on that day, and from the sight of the scene, its vengeance was full and swift.

The Work of the Artillery and Engineers.

There was a great deal more accomplished in the Baccarat Sector than has here been stated. The artillery with alertness supported all the minor operations of the division and harassed the German with great effectiveness, and in so doing drew down upon it frequent and powerful attempts by the enemy to destroy our battery emplacements while, at the same time, it, and all the trench mortar battery, defended our lines on every occasion with a vigorous fire loosed upon but a moment's notice; and lastly, in order to frustrate the German plan of neutralizing our batteries by gas and temporarily making their positions untenable, the artillery prepared in a most complete and workmanlike manner, a series of alternate, and in many cases, third positions, which enabled our batteries, though often shelled from one emplacement, to escape with a minimum of casualties. The engineer troops, in splendid co-operation with the infantry during this entire period, combatted the inroads of spring and the abundance of mud and water; and in addition, with great skill, prepared and wired new positions to be used in case the German struck on that part of the line.

Relieved—From Trench Warfare.

The situation on other fronts was such as to make the diminishing activity in the Rainbow's sector a source of great restlessness. And thus, when information was received that the 42nd Division would be withdrawn to another front, the news, long hoped for, was most welcome. On June 21st, the 61st French Division, with the 77th American Division (recently released from duty with the British) as a reinforcing element, relieved the Rainbow. Accordingly, after 140 days in the trenches, the Rainbow stood emancipated from trench warfare, to which it never returned. Of that period, it had occupied the Baccarat Sector for an unbroken stretch, as a division, of 82 days, during which time the 84th Brigade was constantly in the line, and the 83rd Brigade had alternated its regiments in the line, beginning with the 166th Infantry. The whole division had, at this stage, and luckily for it at this stage, its first taste of the Spanish Influenza, which after three days of

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heavy fever disappeared and left the personnel attacked by it in a somewhat weakened but not incapacitated state. The artillery, the engineers, and the field signal battalion (which by hard work and great fidelity had established a model system of sector communications), as well as the divisional units, including the trains and military police, had served an unbroken period of four months without relief. As a result, the entire division was slightly jaded; its animals and transportation were unrestored from the mud and rigor of the winter and spring, and the men were smudged up and beloused as only trench warfare can smudge and belouse a man. But the desire to be released from the confines of trench warfare was great; and the desire for actual combat was great; and all these were emphasized by the stress of the moment. The German, in those days, was on the Marne from Chateau Thierry to Dormans, and it was the wish of the entire division, despite its long tour in sector, to throw its weight into the scales that at this time continued to incline in favor of the German. From the front, the Rainbow proceeded to the line of the Moselle, and there promptly upon arrival, it started entraining at the towns of Thaonles Vosges, Chatel-sur-Moselle and Charmes for destinations unknown.

We Take the Front in Champagne.

The Rainbow's destination was the valley of the Marne between Vitry-le-Francois and Chalons-sur-Marne, where it arrived after a twenty-hour rail journey, and was momentarily located in comfortable, though troopworn towns along the Paris-Nancy highroad. Here it remained, luxuriating, for about four days. Without warning, it was transferred to the 4th French Army, commanded by the celebrated General Gouraud, and then, on the sultry night of June 28-29, it made a long punishing march of 35 kilometers towards the front, and at dawn dragged into stations situated on and around the famous drill and maneuver ground known as the Camp de Chalons, 15 kilometers behind the line, and also on both sides of the Chalons-Suippes road and at about an equal distance from those two towns. It was a historic battle ground. In nearly every stage of military combat it had played an important part, and at no time was it more fought over than in the present war. Its long, bare undulations were cut by military roads, running straight as an arrow, as well as by similar highways of the Romans. It was studded with historic names and reminiscent of Attila and the Saracens. In the present war, it had been swept over by the Germans in 1914 when Chalons was taken, and the Germans swept back across it after the First Battle of the Marne. The French jumped off from it in the Nivelle Offensive of 1917.

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On its left flank were the famous Monts—Haut, Carnillet, Sans Nom, Teton and Casque, taken at great cost and then held by the French. It was the Champagne—the arid and outlandish part of the Champagne, with not a vineyard, not a garden, and not a field of wheat,—known, because of its meagreness, as the “lousy Champagne.” It was very white and very deso-



The Artillery Fired Their Missions in Long Known Emplacements in Spite of the Exceptionally Heavy Shelling They Received. Damage to an Emplacement of the 149th Field Artillery Near Benamenil St. Clement Sector

late. The scrubby trees were dwarfed and gnarled and, with their patchy foliage, merely emphasized the blankness and glare of the scene. Heather abounded, chalk was everywhere; chalk reflected the heat and kept the cool of the ground in, made the roads firm, and readily afforded deep dugouts of great strength and resisting power. The only touch of color on the

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widths of these plains was the thick poppy fields, then full-blown. Here the division was, immediately upon its arrival, ordered to prepare for a special operation with the Fifth French Army aimed to drive a wedge from Chatillon-sur-Marne in the direction of Olizy and Violaine into the new German positions on the north bank of the Marne in the locality of Dormans. Without delay, rehearsals of the attack, including the use of tanks, were inaugurated by the infantry brigades and carried out under the direction of the French Corps commander, General Pelle. Nothing before or since has ever been received with greater enthusiasm by the Rainbow. All the infantry were eager to carry out the operation. It was, however, never carried out. The chance to swing back and carry the fight to the German, after months of defensive warfare, was deferred—deferred on the very morning when the infantry were prepared to move by camion back of Chalons, and the artillery and animal transportation were alerted to move by road. Instead, the Rainbow was, on July 4th, amalgamated with General Gouraud's Army as an integral part of the defense by the 21st Army Corps against what, we were informed, would be the main offensive effort of the German, designed to force a conclusion of hostilities and the defeat of the Allied cause. Upon the Fourth of July, our own National holiday, we accepted this responsibility as though it were a charge to defend the integrity of our own country, whose birth was that day being celebrated.

The Plan of Defense.

The situation that we found, as the entire division took over on July 5th the defensive positions in the rear of the sectors held by the 170th and 13th French Division was one of incredible quietude. On this front where, during the period of the war, it has been estimated that more men had been killed and wounded for each minute of the war than at any other place in the line, not a shell came over by day, not an aeroplane was up by day, and there was very little movement or circulation by day. At night, similar conditions prevailed; the infantry were virtually at a truce and but few guns were fired. Only the purr of the bomber's plane on these clear, luminous nights carried any martial suggestion. As a matter of fact, the French awaited a German attack of great size and power on the front of General Gouraud's Army, and had brought careful and extensive plans to defeat it to a state of completion. The positions on both our, and the enemy's, side were very strong by nature, and in addition had been organized for defense with incredible labor and detail. Accordingly, on the 7th of July, General

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Gouraud published this order, now famous of exhortation and of confidence in his command, of whom the soldiers of the Rainbow were the sole American members:

“To the French and American soldiers of the Fourth Army:



DOMJEVIN, ST. CLEMENT SECTOR.

Military Burial of the First American Soldier of the Rainbow Killed in this Sector,
— Private Bird, Company “D,” 166th Infantry, Who Was Killed in a Listening
Post by a German Raiding Party, and as His Last Words Warned
His Comrades in the Advance Position of the Enemy’s Attack.

“We may be attacked at any moment.

“You all know that a defensive battle was never engaged under more favorable conditions.

“We are awake and on our guard.

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“We are powerfully reinforced with infantry and artillery.

“You will fight on a terrain that you have transformed by your work and your perseverance into a redoubtable fortress. This invincible fortress and all its passages are well guarded.

“The bombardment will be terrible. You will stand it without weakness.

“The assault will be fierce, in a cloud of smoke, dust and gas.

“But your positions and your armament are formidable.

“In your breasts beat the brave and strong hearts of free men.

“None shall look to the rear; none shall yield a step.

“Each shall have but one thought: to kill, to kill a-plenty, until they have had their fill.

“Therefore, your General says to you: You will break this assault and it will be a happy day.

“(Signed) GOURAUD.

“By authority of the Chief of Staff.
PETTELAT.”

In order to defeat the newly devised German form of attack, which consisted in infiltrating through organized positions, General Gouraud worked out a scheme by which he planned to break the entire shock of the German blow which he anticipated would be delivered by a superior number of troops and possibly supported by more artillery. It was to withdraw from those forward positions which the enemy would naturally plan to assault with the greatest forces, and on which he would, in preparation for this assault, put down his heaviest artillery blow; and in this way, the aggressive and brilliant French General reasoned, he would cause the force, probably the greatest and most brutal force of the German blow, to land in the void. To carry out this plan of defense, he ordered the front-line positions, that were extremely strong and had been won at great cost and which the German would never suspect would be voluntarily given up, to be evacuated at the moment the German attack was launched. The withdrawal from the front positions having been properly effected at the last moment, the plan of General Gouraud was then to slaughter the enemy by artillery on the evacuated positions and to complete the slaughter by the infantry on the intermediate and second positions directly in the rear. It was a daring plan, which could only be carried out by great boldness on the part of the defending troops, by measures calculated to deceive the enemy, and lastly, by the establishment of signal groups who would stay in the front line, and even though surrounded and cut off, advise the artillery and infantry as to the

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progress of the enemy. In furtherance of this plan, the 42nd Division had at first placed its infantry brigades upon, and its artillery brigade along, the second position, but was later ordered to send elements forward to the intermediate position, where the full brunt of the German blow would be struck, after the abandoned first position had been passed. Accordingly, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 165th Infantry, the 3rd Battalion of the 166th Infantry, the 2nd Battalion of the 167th Infantry, and Companies E and F, 2nd Battalion, 168th Infantry, went forward to reinforce the two French Divisions on the intermediate position, the rest of the infantry of the Rainbow and the entire engineer regiment holding the second position. Thus, on a front of thirteen kilometers and of two French Divisions, the Rainbow garrisoned for the defense one third of the first line, on which General Gouraud planned to check the enemy, and the entire support line, and in addition, had a number of elements advanced forward to “sacrifice” stations in the front line position that was to be abandoned.

“Francois 570.”

For an entire week, the suspense continued. Finally, on the 14th of July, the French National holiday, the 21st Army Corps, with whom the Rainbow was serving, called the 42nd Division to the telephone, gave it the signal—FRANCOIS 570—verified it, and said, “Good Luck!” This code signal meant that a general German attack on a wide front was expected to break, and was the order for all troops to take their battle posts and kill—and kill a-plenty—until the German had their fill. The suspense was broken. Troops who had been two nights on the alert of their posts and had borne the strain with indifference, were lolling in the patches of the woods or stretched at the bottom of the trenches for a heavy sleep. They were roused, covered with white dust that gave them an ashen and worn appearance. But they had but a few minutes more to wait. Shortly before midnight, the entire line started. Thousands of French guns broke the weeks of quiet and fired with an intensity that caused the atmosphere to shake with a constant rolling, unbroken sound. The deep roar of the heavy guns, smashing detonations of the middle calibers, and the bark of the 75's coalesced with the vibrating swishing note of the departing projectile. It was a hellish music. To its accompaniment, the stars were snuffed out and the skies turned in blotches and splashes and flashes to red, yellow and green. The surface of the earth was like a shaking table. Back of the line of the Monts there was a perfect ribbon of flame and, out of the void, where was the Montague de Reims, the gun flashes loosed a matchless nocturnal rainbow,

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The 42nd Division, girdled by a semicircle of active guns, each firing its maximum rate, moved into a spectacle such as it never saw again. For ten minutes the French guns alone were firing, and, sharply on the break of midnight, the infernal intermingling of sounds that developed from our lines seemed suddenly to be silenced and a similar, wilder, and more violent one to rush from the Germans. All of the German guns had broken loose; they had broken loose according to schedule. At 10:45 on the evening of July 14th, we had been told by the French Corps that the German attack would come about 4:00 o'clock the next morning, and that his artillery preparation would start at midnight; that this had been gained from prisoners taken in the very front lines, taken but a few minutes before, and that the French artillery would begin its counter-preparation at the very earliest moment. Every syllable of this message had proven to be correct. In the many instances of valor that this great battle afforded, the flashing raid led by the French Lieutenant into the teeth of the German position after dark on the evening of the 14th of July by which he gathered up and brought back at top speed to his lines a large number of prisoners from the assaulting troops, who gave the exact information as to when the enemy's artillery preparation would start and his assault begin, stands out as one of the most brilliant and certainly most valuable. And the premature launching of the Allied artillery preparation which this information afforded caused a carnage to the enemy that will long remain unknown. With absolute accuracy, the artillery had thrown their metal far into the German lines and then brought it down forward to the abandoned lines in such a way as to catch the fresh troops that had been brought in for the assault in their assembly positions.

Attending this immense volume of artillery, in which the freaks of acoustics seemed to indicate a numerical superiority of the enemy, myriad rockets of all colors rose and fell while flares of every type sent out blinding and wavering plans of light. It was often so bright that one could read as though by day. Overhead was the sound of shells racing in both directions and along the lines and along the roads, and back in the towns were the spurts of light and the geysers of smoke that marked the end of their trajectories. The highroad from Suippes to Chalons was in a mist of powder that hung among the great trees lining it; in Vadenay, Bouy, La Cheppe and St. Remy-sur-Bussy, fires had shot up and a black nimbus hung as though each were Pompeii and each doomed. Dumps, like great pyres, were burning in every direction, barracks and hutments were in flames, draft animals, surviving the destruction of their hitch, dashing maddened through the plain, fell from the wounds they had suffered. The white, dusty scene was slashed into a spectrum of color through which the mouths of many furnaces of conflagra-

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tion showed the ugly teeth of the gutted works of man. For four hours this kept up and the transformation that these minutes worked is beyond the conception of the single mind. Along the roads, ammunition boxes were tumbled in irregular piles, men lay dismembered. Animals lay across the trails and most important roads, passed over and plowed through by the hard-ribbon caisson and ammunition columns. The German preparation answered no rule. On the right of our sector, it went deep into the camps



BACCARAT SECTOR.

Battalion Headquarters, 166th Infantry. An Extremely Comfortable Cover Near an Important Crossroad, Showing Camouflage.

of reserves back of the second position, and searched out the draws for trench and other artillery. Towards the rear, it raked the roads and made the trails that were built for detours under these identical conditions a most welcome refuge.

On the Monts, there was a prairie fire of bursting shells and lastly, on the front line position, the projectiles rained, and rained, and rained—into the void. Breaking dawn carried with it the very tints and flashes that this wild night had shown, and day pulled across the landscape as unannounced,

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unobserved, and as silently as the European express train to its platform. This day was to hold the future of France and perhaps the civilized world.

Hardly was it light than the hitherto uninterrupted intensity of the roar of the German guns was augmented to high straining howling notes. The rolling barrage was launched at 4:15 A. M., and from behind it, those German troops which had not been caught in the brilliant handling of the French artillery, moved forward in wave after wave to the attack. Again the French artillery, and with it our own artillery, came down, and for a steady hour, with its sound, rolled high over that of the Germans. Enemy shells came in as though from aeroplanes. The German guns, not firing in the barrage, attended to the abandoned front and intermediate positions with their fire confined within an area of barely three kilometers in depth designed to obliterate the garrison and, so far as the few survivors were concerned, to shake their nerves asunder. On came the German waves and into the trenches of the front line. Up went the rockets of the signal groups, and had it not been for the volume of other sound, the click of their automatic rifles in self-defense and against the engulfing would have been heard. The fight was bitter and violent, defending machine guns were cracking on a field of targets, and yet the German pushed on. The outpost position from the Monts to the Main de Messiges was in his hands by design of the French and with the greatest cost to the German. Halting but a moment and reforming, the machinery of the assault was again under way; now it was a different story. In some way, the garrison on the intermediate positions although bearing heavy casualties had weathered the storm of the artillery of the enemy. On them, closer and closer came the waves, and of a sudden, fifty, a hundred, yea, five hundred groups of combat loosed at close range their small arms fire and light artillery (75's), from which no concealment was possible for the German.

The surging waves shivered and broke backward on the impregnable breakwater of the infantry. At this impact, the force of the German assault started to spend itself. The lines of attack were halted in disorder, shattered, gashed by hand-to-hand combat and slaughtered by artillery in the abandoned positions and by infantry on the defended positions. Recoiling from the defense, the German tried to work around the points of resistance. The Catalonic plains were not to be penetrated. Again and again the assault was renewed, but each time it was less. There was a hopelessness in the last few efforts, and then it stopped. The intermediate position stood on the front of the 21st Army Corps with the exception of two small points on the extreme right in the sector of the 43rd French Division into which the German had succeeded in penetrating by help of the broken ter-

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rain, and from these points he was shortly thereafter ejected. The German Army, which by 10:00 o'clock had figured on being through the second position along the road from Suippes to Chalons, had taken with terrible loss just that which General Gouraud was willing to concede them. On our left, the enemy held the Monts, on our front they held the abandoned outpost lines, and on our right they were being thrown back where they had gained temporary foothold north of Perthes-lez-Hurlus. After ten hours, the infantry attacks died out, the artillery fire continuing with high intensity. The battle was at an end.

On this front where the Rainbow was entwined with the 170th and 13th French Divisions, the 1st German Division, the 4th Prussian Guard Cavalry Division (dismounted), the 2nd and 1st Bavarian Divisions, from left to right in the first line, and the 72nd Reserve and 30th German divisions, from left to right, in the second line, fell in disaster and defeat. It is the pride of the Rainbow that it was present at the heart of the German assault and that it helped drive into the breast of this powerful effort the death blow.

The Rainbow Is Shifted Westward.

During the afternoon of the 15th, and during the 16th of July, the battle resolved itself into a vigorous artillery combat, attended by constant and daring harassing of all Allied troops and all roads by flotillas of unpunished German planes. On the evening of July 18th, the division on two hours' notice descended from the lines, and on July 21st, entrained at St. Hilaire-au-Temple, Chalons-sur-Marne, Coolus, and Vitry-la-Ville for points on the Marne in the locality of Meaux and LaFerte-sous-Jouarre, and about 20 kilometers southwest of Chateau Thierry. During the brief period between our withdrawal from the line and our entrainment, the entire complexion of the Western Front had changed, owing to the heavy defeat administered by General Gouraud's Army to the great German Army. This defeat carried larger and more decisive results than the battle itself presented. From high morale and superiority of numbers, the German had been brought to a point where the forces on his side were about equal to those of the Allies, and his morale had decidedly slumped. Troops from America, who had been coming in in ever-increasing numbers during the spring were now known to be present in France in such a way, and in such size, that it was clear the balance of man power had been shifted in favor of the Allies. American and French troops had gained a new impetus, and a new inspiration of victory. From long, tedious periods of defensive, they saw before them an opportunity of picking up the offensive and holding it until the German

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capitulated. In the meantime, General Foch had swung all available troops into a savage and surprise attack in the locality of Soissons, which, by its success, unsteadied the lines along the Marne and put the entire salient of Tardenois in jeopardy. It was to this scene that the Rainbow proceeded.

It Breaks Through to the River Ourcq.

During the few days it was in transit, it received replacements for the 43 officers and 1,610 men it had lost in killed and wounded in Champagne, and for the 81 officers and 1,815 men that it had lost in killed and wounded in the training and Baccarat Sectors. As soon as the division was reassembled after detrainment, its foot troops proceeded by camion, and its artillery and mounted troops by road, beginning on the evening of July 25th, to the locality of Epieds and Verdilly, about five kilometers north of Chateau Thierry, as a part of the 1st American Army Corps, then commanded by General Liggett, in the Sixth French Army, commanded by General des Gouttes. There the 84th Infantry Brigade, the first to arrive, took over the front held by our 26th Division, which was reinforced by the 56th Brigade of the 28th Division. It was about three kilometers across the entire front of the 1st American Corps at that time. The 83rd Brigade upon its arrival, came up with the 165th Infantry on the left of the 167th Infantry, a disposition that was preserved during all the subsequent battles of the division. The 165th Infantry and the 166th Infantry took over the rapid relief of the fronts of the 167th, 164th and 51st French Divisions, and later, the 52nd French Division. The actual front of the four divisions so taken over was not more in total than three kilometers, but the burden assumed by the 83rd Brigade and performed in less than 24 hours from its arrival, entailed an immense amount of movement and reconnaissances, and was a maneuver of the greatest complexity by which the front of the 1st Corps was extended about 1 ½ kilometers to the north. The 42nd Division found before it a battlefield bitterly fought over, and littered with the dead and the debris of combat, over which the enemy aeroplanes were playing with impunity. Immediately in front, where the lines were checked, was the bulk of the Foret de Fere in which the German had concentrated large quantities of his ammunition and stores for his now frustrated drive on Paris. And, further, at the foot of the steep hills, was the River Ourcq, with the dense Foret de Nesles starting on the crest of its north slope. The lines were deadlocked, at a standstill. The key to the position was the Croix Rouge Farm that stood in an opening of the woods, and owing to machine guns in great numbers that dominated the entire clearing, forbade an advance

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in any direction. This position was flanked on the edges of the woods near which it stood by long lines of German machine guns, in nests, which, from every conceivable angle, swept the open space and all the numerous roads and trails that passed or radiated from the farm itself. The German had settled for a stand there. An advance at this point would threaten the



American Patrol Proceeding Over the Hogback to the Captured German Trench
Mecklenbourg, Front of 168th Infantry Near Village Negre, Baccarat
Sector. (See Page 17.)

entire pocket of what was known as the Tardenois—the center portion of the area between the Marne (from Dormans to Chateau Thierry), and the Vesle (from Reims to Soissons), and throw the immense number of German troops then in that pocket in complete disorder and danger of capture. At 5:30 in the afternoon of July 27th, barely 24 hours after its arrival on this front, the division attacked with great power. Two battalions of the 167th

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Infantry, assisted by the 168th Infantry on the right and the 165th Infantry on the left, with the greatest courage and gallantry, and suffering most severe losses, seized Croix Rouge Farm at the point of the bayonet. By taking advantage of the fringe of the woods, a rise of ground here, and a patch of bushes there, and the lightly wooded patches along the highroad, these troops pushed every effort for the bitterest sort of an hour, took the Farm in brilliant hand-to-hand combat, and thereby unstabilized and unhinged the entire positions on the front of the lower Tardenois. The unexpectedness and violence, and the difficulty of this brief but vital operation cannot be overestimated; the gallantry and courage of the assaulting troops has never been excelled in the Rainbow's history. In one trench alone, 250 odd Germans were shortly thereafter interred as a witness to the desperation of this encounter. This bulwark fallen, the division swept forward.

It Seizes the Crossings of the Ourcq.

The 165th and 167th Infantry cleared the dense and deep Foret de Fere. The 168th Infantry swept along the edge of the woods into the open and through the wheat fields and down the steep south slope of the Ourcq, while the 166th Infantry on the left flank, after a difficult march of 15 kilometers and the manifold relief it had accomplished, reached the northwest point of the Foret de Fere, which was now solidly ours. In the meantime, during the same evening, the 165th, 167th and 168th Infantry each crossed at least one battalion over the Ourcq in the teeth of the machine gun resistance that the enemy loosed from known and prearranged positions in the wheat fields on that river, at but a few hundred meters distance. With the night came rain. The woods and valleys were drenched with gas. The troops established bridge heads and hung on; hung on despite the constant fire from nearby machine guns and the enemy artillery, which, still undisplaced and sharply in the rear of the assaulting waves on the right flank, fired heavily into the backs of the Rainbow. The next morning, the entire battle map showed a great bulge which, if the facts had then been published, would have revealed the 42nd Division exposed on its right and left flanks, thrust boldly across the Ourcq. Three days of the most bitter fighting ensued. During this time, the 166th Infantry, in liaison with the 165th Infantry on its right and a fresh French division on its left, drove forward in a splendid assault and seized Hill 184, from which point the Americans took the towns of Seringes and Nesles at the southwest tip of the Foret de Nesles, and the French completed their encirclement of Fere-en-Tardenois and took possession of that town. The blow that had been so unexpectedly delivered had

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put in jeopardy all the German troops in the Tardenois, and the German, therefore, reinforced his lines with great promptness and held to his position, the natural strength of which was, under the then prevailing conditions of open warfare, more difficult for the assault than the more gradual heights and undulations in the Champagne. In the wheat fields on the north slopes of the Ourcq, the poppies waved red, as mute testimony to the bloodiness of the struggle. The 165th Infantry gallantly took the clusters of woods known as the Bois Colas and the Bois Brule and then Meurcy Farm. The 167th Infantry, later reinforced with two battalions of the 47th Infantry, attacked again and again the steep crest, and thrust its lines forward, leaving a high-water mark of dead along the spine and over this crest. The 168th Infantry, after bitter struggles, took and held Sergy, and then seized the hill on its right in an effort to clear the patches of woods, known as Les Jomblets and de la Planchette, from which the enemy, in favored positions, was sweeping the entire front of the Rainbow with a violent enfilade fire. During all this time, the heavy artillery, pounding from the rear, continued. During all this time, constant flights of German airplanes, flying low, raked and bombed our lines and artillery positions. From prisoners on our front we learned that the 4th Prussian Guard Division (which was commanded by the Kaiser's son, Prince Eitel Friedrich), the 201st German and 10th Landwehr and 6th Bavarian divisions had orders to hold at all costs. Finally, on August 1st, the right flank of the Rainbow was covered and the pressure of the artillery and machine guns at its rear was relieved. The division was, however, low in numbers by casualties incurred in the daily and repeated assaults, and from sickness spread on the littered and polluted battlefield, that grew daily more foul under the blazing July sun.

It Pushes Forward to the Ridge South of the Vesle.

On the morning of August 2nd, the division was to attack in conjunction with the 32nd Division. As reinforcements, the 117th Engineers were placed on the right of the Rainbow's line with the 168th Infantry. At dawn of this day, the Chief of Staff of the Rainbow joined the Engineer Commander on the front line. Light artillery fire was observed, which in a moment grew desultory. The clatter of machine guns, which had been constant throughout the week, was missing. There was not a plane in the air. The Chief of Staff and the Engineer Commander, sensing these conditions, immediately proceeded over Hill 212 and without interference, into the patchy woods of Les Jomblets and Bois Pelger. Not a shot was heard. The Chief of Staff, immediately concluding that the enemy had broken contact with

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the last squall of the artillery that he had thrown over and was now withdrawing, proceeded along the entire front of five kilometers of the Rainbow, giving instructions to all line commanders—advising all organization and brigade commanders, and informing the artillery, that the enemy was retiring out of contact and that pursuit would be taken up. Within two hours the entire division, after its week of desperate fighting, was galvanized into close pursuit, and in spite of constant rain and heavy and uncharted roads, had by night seized the entire Foret de Nesles and reached the last ridge south of the Vesle on the line from Chery-Chartreuve to Mareuil-en-Dole. In so doing, the Rainbow had snatched this important forest from the enemy before he had time to stand and defend it. And then, during the night of August 2-3, the Rainbow, less its artillery brigade and ammunition train, was relieved—its engineer regiment on the right being farthest north between Chery-Chartreuve and Mont St. Martin. This gallant lunge of a division that had fought with every ounce of its strength, cleared the Foret de Nesles and made imperative the withdrawal of the enemy from the Bois de Dole. The troops of the 42nd Division, already brought to the pinnacle of their endurance, with the greatest pluck and devotion to duty, drove forward through a battered and muddy terrain on the very heels of the enemy, realizing a maximum advance on that day of nine kilometers and a minimum advance of five kilometers, and leading the relieving division in their wake to the ridge south of the Vesle. It was a swiftly conceived and brilliantly executed movement that received prompt recognition from the 1st American Corps commander and from the 6th French Army commander. In eight days on this front the Rainbow had accomplished one of the greatest advances that had been recorded up to that day. During this period it had progressed, in the face of enemy resistance, 18 kilometers and played a leading roll in the freeing of the Tardenois, at a cost, in killed and wounded, of 184 of its officers and 5,469 of its men.

The Rainbow is Withdrawn from the Front—For the First and Last Time.

The artillery brigade and ammunition train of the Rainbow continued in the line, now in support of the 4th Division, on the chain of heights south of the Vesle. During this time the remainder of the division was reassembled and bivouaced in the Foret de Fere. After eight days in this damp, dirty and inclement woods that was tainted with gas and rank with decay, the division was rejoined by its artillery and its ammunition train, and proceeded, over the period of August 11th to 17th, down to the Valley of the

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Marne. In the month just past, the infantry of the Rainbow had passed through the hardest and bitterest fighting of its entire career, while the artillery had done uninterrupted and constant service of great brilliance and efficiency, involving a most vigorous defense from positions in the open in Champagne, and numerous hurried reconnaissances in the Tardenois, and the constant support of the countless operations that the infantry had there undertaken, as well as a long and rapid march to the front near Epieds, and four difficult changes in position, each under open warfare conditions;



German Dispatch Dog Killed by Lieutenant Monett, 166th Infantry, in the Barbed Wire Outside of Ancerviller, Baccarat Sector.

the ammunition and supply trains had toiled night and day over the damaged roads through a great press of traffic, and had, with great boldness, assured the supply of the division with both ammunition and food; and the sanitary train evacuated more casualties than it was ever called upon to do before or since, and was without intermission, moving twenty-four hours a day in order to bring the wounded from the Valley of the Ourcq back through Chateau Thierry to an evacuation hospital that was located an unbelievable distance of about fifty kilometers south of the Valley of the Marne. During the last few days on this front, the number of evacuated sick equalled the

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number of wounded that had been sent to the rear during active operations there.

Into the valley of the Marne, through the old lines, and now privileged to move by day, the reduced ranks of the Rainbow made its exodus from the scene of its second great battle. Over the debris and desolation of lovely Chateau Thierry and through the forlorn destruction of Vaux, its march led. In discolored uniforms, torn and out at the knees, the troops pushed by. Their transportation was scarred and marred by heavy usage. Its hard driven animals were emaciated and worn.

After but a few days in the lush valley of the Marne with the opportunity to bathe and clean up in that clear stream, and freshened by the sight of the charming hillsides that were now relieved from the threat of German occupation, the division entrained at Trilport, Chateau Thierry, La Ferte-sous-Jouarre, and Lizy-sur-Ourcq for the Bourmont Area on August 17th-19th, without event excepting the persistent searching on the bright nights by fleets of enemy bombing planes. Our first and only rest area centered around the picturesque town of Bourmont on the Langres-Neufchateau road and lying in the triangular area between that road and a similar road from Neufchateau to La Marche, and east of and separated by one other divisional area from the Rolampont Area. Historically, it was the southwestern point of the original Lorraine, a hilly agricultural country with frequent settlements and small charming villages. It was cut by streams and fertile. The trim well-built homes were alluring to the eye and the firm, clean roads and fine turf caught the fancy and presented ideal places where, forgetful of all that had passed since he took the line, the soldier of the Rainbow could relax himself and indulge in the luxury of having the lacy clouds of late August guide the course of his thoughts. The air was gentle and the weather unusually fine. To the organizations came a re-equipment of clothing and then of ammunition, and then a replacement of men. For a number of days the division lay fallow and then, little by little, assimilated the property that had been issued it and the personnel it had received, devoted its time to attack formations and to the application of the lessons its service had taught. In these pleasant and congenial surroundings, the infantry would break into assaults on supposititious machine gun nests or deploy in waves for the attack. Barely a week was passed in this manner. On August 30th, another move order came. We were to pass to the IVth American Corps, then commanded by General Dickman, and to commence a large scale movement northward in the direction of Toul. In the meantime, those thoroughly reliable but always surprising sources of information which, having no official sanction, yet quote the names of officials and exact places, advised us that a

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major operation in the St. Mihiel Salient was under contemplation, that the 1st Division had been assembled in rear of the line and that the 2nd Division was, with ourselves, tending that way. These indirect advices were substantiated by the prattle of officers, and others, in the military cities between Neufchateau and Paris. As so often happens in cases where secrecy is sought for, apparently all the world but the individuals concerned were informed of it. Thus it happened that the division moved in this limbo of obfuscation until it passed Toul. It did this in two stages, breaking the trip in the Chatenois Area above Neufchateau for a period of three or four days and then assembled in a wet corner of the Foret de la Reine, north of the hard road from Boucq to Sanzey. During all the march to the assembly positions the division moved entirely at night under strict precaution against enemy observation. Troops which less than a month before had seen the heaviest type of engagement and who were to be employed as fresh troops after two weeks of rest, were given the test of their vitalities by a series of no less than six night marches in ten days over an average traversed distance of more than one hundred kilometers, and seventy kilometers as the crow flies. However, on passing Toul and moving up the highroad leading north from that fortress, the journey was suddenly made by day. This reversal of policy on the very eve of the mission that, up to that time, still remained undivulged to us, presented a paradox that afforded to the philosophical troops of the division more amusement than it did consolation. The division was massed, covered by a dripping, soggy woods, in which, during the opening days of September, an ever increasing quantity of rain fell. It was on the left rear flank of the sector of the 89th American Division. The woods were bustling with preparation and the heavy trucks and tanks and artillery plowed the rudimentary roads of this forest into deep grooves of sticky mud. This was our introduction to the Woevre, where the plains and hills and dales and sizeable forests were all equally renowned for their inexhaustible supply of water and moisture. The slippery chalk of the Champagne and the greasy heavy clods of the Tardenois came back to our minds. Here was a soil whose consistency was even greater and a country which, owing to the state of its unmetaled roads, made the shortest distances the heaviest sort of a burden for our transportation, not to mention the foot troops. The division never encountered anything as fettering as this except during its October operations in the Meuse and Argonne campaigns. Bivouaced in a forest that had a large pond, the Etang Rome, in it to keep it permanently in a state of ooze, the Rainbow turned its mind to the assault that was now about to be made by it as the center division of the IVth Army Corps in the initial field operation of the First American Army.

Suppressing the St. Mihiel Salient.

The IVth Army Corps was the left of the two American Corps whose mission it was to reduce the south face of the St. Mihiel Salient. For the purpose of this operation, this Corps was to be composed of the Rainbow in the center, with the 1st American Division on its left, the 89th American Division on its right, and the 3rd American Division in reserve. The front of the Rainbow extended from a point about one kilometer west of Flirey to and including Seicheprey, and the road north from that town in the direction of St. Baussant, the latter town being more than a kilometer within the enemy's lines. It was a front of long standing, which, at one time or another, had been carefully organized, but which had now become a quiet one, where many of the American divisions had received their battle training. The 89th American Division was holding not only the sector from which it subsequently attacked but that assigned to the 42nd Division.

With a maximum discomfort and an increasing desire to be employed, the troops awaited the day and hour of their departure. Until the very last, the details of the artillery plan, owing to changes which had been introduced, was not known to the troops this arm was to support. However, there was, as could be seen, an immense concentration of guns, while ocular evidence of a large supply of ammunition abounded. On the night of September 10th, the preliminaries of the operation, in the shape of the relief of the front line elements of the 89th Division by elements of each infantry brigade of the 42nd Division, were disposed of.

On the night of September 11-12, the Rainbow marched from the soaked woods of the Foret de la Reine and made its way to its departure positions, with orders to be in place by midnight. Information was received that the artillery preparation would start at 1:00 A. M., as it did, and would be in all probability of four hours duration, as it was. The difficulties of getting into position were increased by the withdrawal of certain of the remaining elements of the 89th Division, through no fault of either concerned, and by the fact, increasingly evident, that the German had prior intimation of the plans of the First American Army. This fact took the form of a vigorous and very disheartening and harassing interdiction fire from him (on the frequently crowded highroads upon which the troops were constrained to travel in order to get in place after their long march to the front at the hour ordered), as well as some very determined counterbattery fire on known positions in the sector.

Nevertheless, despite the long march which could commence only under cover of darkness, the infantry brigades made their battle dispositions ac-

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cording to instructions under which the Rainbow was to attack with all four infantry regiments in line, the 83rd Infantry Brigade in its customary position on the left. Finally, to assist in the attack, a large number of specialties and special troops were attached to the division,—tanks, gas and flame troops and reinforcing artillery,—many of which were greatly hampered in coming up by the congestion on the road behind the lines, and in the immediate rear of the front. At one o'clock on September 12th, a savage rain storm broke over the



“IN THE LOUSY CHAMPAGNE.”

The So-Called Employment of “Reading His Shirt.” A Constant Pursuit.

plains of the Woevre, and almost at the same moment, the preparatory artillery fire cracked out. Compared with that on the Champagne, the intensity of this fire was decidedly less, and certainly the German reply to it was strikingly inferior. After a short while, perhaps ninety minutes on the front of the Rainbow, the enemy artillery responded with readiness, but not with power. The number of small caliber guns fired was apparently not great. These indications so readily noted, gave the thought that the problem on the day of the attack would not be as severe as had been expected, within the division. Obviously, the German sector troops were not reinforced with artillery, and by that token, were probably not reinforced at all. It ap-

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peared not unlikely that a German retirement in force was already under way and that we were receiving the fire from the covering batteries. As obstacles on the division front, there were in the first place, two streams, the more southerly of which, known as the Rupt de Mad, ran diagonally across the center of attack, while the other, called the Madine, flowed from east to west so as to cut straight across the lines of advance of the Rainbow after that division had cleared the ridge to the north of the Madine's playmate—the Rupt de Mad. The amount of water that had fallen preliminary to the change of seasons, and which had beaten on the troops in their bivouacs and on their way up to the lines, had raised in each mind the question of how serious these streams would be on "D" Day. In addition, on our front were known to be heavy bands of wire, the reconnaissance of which was not possible by the division at large in view of the surprise element that attended its induction into the line. And further, there stood on the left of this, that which had been the cynosure of all troops who happened on that front,— the long, sharp-faced protuberance of Mont Sec, which since the first days of the German occupation of the St. Mihiel Salient, had afforded a matchless artillery position on its steep north slopes and a craggy observatory over all the activities of the Allied troops within their lines on the plains rolling below and south of it. This vantage point, which was understood to be on the left flank of the 1st Division, but outside of the front of attack, was looked at askance by the troops whose course would inevitably lie around it. Lastly, straight across the entire front of assault of the 84th Infantry Brigade was the Bois de la Sonnard, which was known to be a position of great strength and had, in years past, been the scene of repeated and costly efforts on the part of the French to gain it. It was a thickly grown woods of trees of middle growth, stunted by artillery incursions. The enemy evidently assumed that in any possible attack, the waves of assault would sweep around it, and be exposed at the western tip of the woods to a blighting artillery fire. The boundary line between the two brigades of the Rainbow left a latitude to the 84th Infantry Brigade commander of about 400 meters along this western tip in which to effect an envelopment of this obstacle, and inasmuch as the entire brigade sector was confronted by this woods, this commander, who had been the first Chief of Staff of the division, concluded to drive straight through it, cleaning it out in passage.

Just Like a Picture.

The arrival of the "H" hour and the departure of the first waves from their positions on the murky morning revealed a scene of great power.

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Across the south face of the Bois de la Sonnard and through the open gap that stretched out to Mont Sec, enemy shells burst in sheets of flame and sent up their pyramids of smoke. Rolling through No Man's Land, the powerful barrage from our own guns laid a perfect line of fire, while silhouetted against the bulk of Mont Sec an artillery smoke screen and the screen of the gas and flame troops, sent long and serrated plumes of pitchy blackness rolling northward before the breeze which was blowing straight into the enemy lines. The rattle of the supporting machine guns rose. The waves swept down the depressions in No Man's Land and made their way through the many bands of wire that the enemy organizations still held. As was to be expected, in the Bois de la Sonnard, a sharp resistance was immediately encountered. The 3rd Battalion, 168th Infantry, most determinedly led, slashed into this resistance to the accompaniment of heavy machine gunnery, and with splendid elan, drove straight into the woods and seized its near edges with all their defenders. By this time, the column of tanks waddled over the heavy terrain, tracking towards the clearing west of the Bois de la Sonnard and seeking to avoid the craters of the long fought for No Man's Land. As far as the eye could reach, west and east, the waves of assault rolled steadily forward with a power and irresistibility that made this scene more resemble an especially staged spectacle than an important operation. It was just like a picture.

In the first hour the character of the attack had defined itself along the entire Rainbow front as one in which the enemy had anticipated our assault and had told off delaying detachments who had, after a brief stand, fallen into our hands. However, the left of the 165th Infantry and the right of the 166th Infantry in the region of St. Baussant, and the 168th Infantry in the Bois de la Sonnard, developed very sharp fighting, which was, however, short. Except for these two initial difficulties, the division rolled on in perfect formation, and at noon had reached the objective assigned for the day, and was with its leading elements along an east and west line through a point on the Pannes-Beney highroad about midway between these two towns. Back of it lay both the Rupt de Mad, which had occasioned considerable difficulty to the 83rd Infantry Brigade at the outset of the operation near St. Baussant and Maizerais, and also the rivulet Madine. Back of the Rainbow, in addition, were long columns of about one thousand prisoners taken without great difficulty, who were apparently highly gratified with their lot.

From this beginning, the operation progressed to its final stage without a hitch. Early on the morning of the 13th, the machinery of the Rainbow rolled inexorably along to the final objective (running in a general way east

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and west through the town of St. Benoit) that had been assigned the division. Harassed by enemy artillery, which had been a constant obstacle during the previous day, the Rainbow in most powerful and regular formations, moved as though this resistance were non-existent, and by 9:30 in the morning, had firm possession of its ultimate objective, with elements of the 165th Infantry pushed at least two kilometers forward in the direction of Woel, and elements of the 84th Infantry Brigade about the same distance forward in the north fringes of the woods of Dampvitoux. From these positions, Metz lay less than twenty kilometers distant,—an attractive target for a further advance, which was, however, not ordered. On this day, the infantry chased limbering batteries of artillery and fired on the retiring trucks that were pulling out from the headquarters of the Corps that had been located in the Chateau of St. Benoit, and each infantry regiment had the opportunity of sending patrol detachments in running pursuit of the enemy groups who were standing out across its front. It was a bright, clear day after the rain that had preceded the operation, in which the infantry, with impudence, roamed the woods of the Woevre and indulged in man-hunting as a light amusement. Until noon on the 13th of September, the Rainbow was thrust forward alone on the line of the Army Objective, and then the 39th French Division (which had been in front of St. Mihiel on September 12th), had by this time pulled abreast of the left flank of the 42nd Division, pinching out the 1st Division, while the 89th Division was coming up onto the line on the right flank. The Rainbow now found itself confronting the retirement position of the Germans, known alternately on this front as the Hindenburg or Michel Position, through which, it had seemed on the morning of September 13th, the division could then easily have passed without serious difficulty, such was the speed and power of its progress. In less than 29 hours it had realized an average advance of 19 kilometers through the center of the south face of the former St. Mihiel Salient, and now, on its newly created front, lay stout and strong as a manifest menace to that magnet name of the Lothringian frontier—the fortress of Metz.

The Rainbow Remains Two Weeks Longer on This Front.

On September 14th, the 42nd Division organized a front outlined for it by the First American Army, which was taken over in its entirety on September 16th by the 84th Infantry Brigade. With the able and industrious assistance of the engineer regiment, the troops on this new front, known as

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the St. Benoit Sector, dug with rapidity and wired in their new position, and remained in sector occupation for about two weeks. On the nights of September 26-27 and 27-28, the 83rd Infantry Brigade took over the divisional front, and the 84th Infantry Brigade went back to reserve; and



THE CREST ON THE NORTH SLOPES OF THE OURCQ.

“The 167th Infantry Attacked Again and Again the Steep Crest and Thrust Its Lines Forward, Leaving a High-Water Mark of Dead on These Heights and Over This Crest.” (See Page 33.) In the Background—the South Slopes of the Ourcq and Northeast Faces of the Foret de Fere.

then, in turn, on the night of September 30-October 1, the entire division was relieved in the Woevre by the 89th Division, which extended its lines to the left for that purpose. During this time, the divisional artillery was con-

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stantly shifting within the sector of the Rainbow and the division on its right (the 89th), and supported numerous operations which were ordered as diversions for the great attack north of Verdun that broke loose in the last part of September. In preparation of and as cover for this attack, a round-robin of raids was prescribed, designed to keep the enemy lines unsettled and our intentions unknown to the Germans. As one of the first divisions to undertake these minor operations, the Rainbow executed on the morning of September 22nd two very successful thrusts into the enemy positions opposite. The left raid was carried out in less than fifty minutes and with great skill and dash by a company of the 167th Infantry, who, ably supported with Stokes Mortars and one pounders and by splendidly handled artillery, crept up on Haumont under the cover of the preparatory fire, and the moment that fire lifted, dashed at top speed into that town and skinned in all the remaining garrison from a Jaeger battalion that had been shortly before thrown in as a stop-gap, returning in jig time with seventeen prisoners. The right raid, executed by three platoons from the 168th Infantry, supported likewise in a powerful manner by field artillery, jumped upon the most advanced enemy position on the front of that regiment, bringing back nine prisoners from the 5th Landwehr Division. These swift and carefully accomplished incursions were probably the most fruitful on that entire front and were made with extremely light casualties to the raiding parties.

It Proceeds to the Locality of Verdun.

From the front in the Woevre, the division proceeded back to the locality of Apremont, whence, on October 1st, its foot troops moved by camion and its mounted troops by marching, to the area of Souilly, along the Bar-le-Duc to Verdun and Bar-le-Duc to Clermont-en-Argonne highroads, and about 15 kilometers south of Verdun, where the Rainbow passed into the reserve of the First American Army as a preliminary to its employment on the Meuse-Argonne front.

From these stations the troops marched on October 4th, to stations along the south of that road, and on October 5th, to the northern portion of the Bois de Montfaucon. At this juncture, the 67th Field Artillery Brigade was detached from the division and from October 7th to October 12th, supported the 32nd Division in its operations in the locality of Romagne.

On October 12th the Rainbow Takes Over the Front of the 1st Division East of the Varennes-Fleville Highroad.

After nearly a week in the crowded, shattered and muddy woods of Montfaucon, the division was, on the afternoon of October 11th, hurriedly ordered to proceed that night to the locality of Exermont and take over the front of the 1st Division. Over torn-up and almost non-existent roads and under considerable enemy shelling, it made its way to the line Sommerance-Cote de Maldah—Hills 263 and 269, and by midnight on the night of October 12-13 had relieved the 1st Division and became the left division of the Vth American Army Corps, of which General Summerall had that day taken command.

The terrain on which the Rainbow found itself was singularly rugged, exceptionally arduous, and, during this particular season, peculiarly water-logged. For nearly two weeks it had been almost constantly rained upon. Within our lines it consisted of four huge conical hills, two in perfect alignment from front to rear in each infantry brigade sector. To these eminences the steep valleys were the only means of access. Excepting on the extreme left of the division's sector, the roads were rudimentary or, worse than that, trails a foot deep in mud, along which the water cupped itself as though they were canals. On most of these paths it was impossible for animal transport—even machine gun carts—to pass. For a distance of 5 kilometers all food and ammunition, especially in the right brigade's area, was manhandled by carrying parties. Rarely, and then only through Herculean effort, could an ambulance be brought to the midway dressing station. The ground was of that remarkably oily nature, which, impervious to water, seemed to be dissolved by it. The naming, centuries before, of this particular stretch west of the Argonne as the "wet Champagne" seemed to us most accurate. Over these steep hills and in the defile that ran east and west past Exermont there was an abundance of middle sized trees and tangled shrub. The entire position lent itself to the enemy's artillery plan in execution of which he had frequently each hour sent violent squalls of gas and shell into the wet draws through which alone ingress and egress were possible. The scene had been bitterly fought over and won by the 1st Division, as the destruction and dead there too clearly told. Upon this terrain the Rainbow, which for over forty-five days had been either fighting or bivouaced in wet woods, or marching, made its entrance. On the 13th of October, the artillery brigade, released from duty outside the division and by dint of a forced march, rejoined the Rainbow. Worn by its hard service, and subject

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to the weaknesses that days in the cold and wet were bound to cause, the 42nd Division was none the less very high in spirit and its uncomplaining willingness never was more surely shown than in the days to follow. In the St. Mihiel offensive the division had lost in killed and wounded 49 officers and 1,069 men, of which number the larger part was, owing to the heavy fighting in the Bois de la Sonnard, sustained by the front line battalions and machine gun elements of the 84th Infantry Brigade.

The Rainbow Pulls the Pin Out of the Kriemhilde Stellung.

The axis of attack of the division was approximately north. Confronting the Rainbow sector were enemy positions which in natural strength and difficulty exceeded that of the Rainbow sector just described. On the right of the front and running obliquely to it from southwest to northeast was a bulwark of strong hills extending from Romagne to a point outside of Landres-et-St. Georges, the steepest and bitterest of which was Hill 288. Crossing the valley, the south slopes of which formed the 42nd Division's front line, rose a large plateau. Perched on this was a conical, densely wooded hill known as the Cote de Chatillon, which blocked the northward advance in the right half of our sector. Between the Cote de Chatillon and Hill 288, was Hill 242, and on the north fringe upon the opening between the woods of Romagne and the woods of the Cote de Chatillon were the la Musarde Farm on the west and le Tuilerie Farm less than a kilometer northeast of it. Back of Hill 288 was another sharp hill of about the same altitude, then also held by the enemy. The slopes of 288 were almost upright, and the ravines about it were heavily wooded and without paths. The entire line from Hill 288 into la Musarde Farm and around over the top of the plateau in front of Landres-et-St. Georges and the village of St. Georges, was carefully and skillfully entrenched along its military crest. In front of the sector of the 83rd Infantry Brigade, instead of the dense woods that opposed the 84th Infantry Brigade, was a bare up-slope along the crest of which was powerful enemy wire that likewise extended across the west and south bases of the Cote de Chatillon. The exceptional power of the bastion just described was known to the High Command, and this particular position had been, for the last week, recognized as the pin that held the Kriemhilde Stellung. On October 13th, the 1st Artillery Brigade of the 1st Division was assigned to reinforce the 42nd Division, and the latter division was ordered to participate in the general attack of the Vth Corps, covered by the Ist Corps on its left, on October 14th, the purpose of which was (so far as

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the 42nd Division was concerned) to take the bastion that was at the same time both the key and anchor of the position to which the enemy had retired. All through this territory the German had defended himself desperately and to the utmost, constantly reinforced in numbers and in both machine gun and artillery material.



Dressing Station, 117th Sanitary Train, Epieds, July 27, 1918. Evacuation of American and French Wounded. (See Page 35.)

At 5:30 A. M. on October 14th, the attack of the 42nd Division commenced. It was assigned to the right brigade to take Hill 288 and drive through to the Cote de Chatillon, and to the 83rd Brigade to clear the bare slopes of the ridge south of Landres-et-St. Georges. On the right flank the lines were sharply refused, and immediately after the hour for departure,

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heavy machine gun and artillery fire was pouring into the assaulting troops on this exposed right flank and especially from the heights of Hill 280, directly in the rear of Hill 288. The 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, made slow progress in the first instance in the face of this opposition and through this tangled terrain, and two companies of the 2nd, and supporting, battalion of that regiment were immediately assigned to it with instructions to work around the east face of 288 and strive to find a way up the precipitous heights of that position. The struggle was foot by foot and of the grimmest type. It was relentlessly pushed by the front line battalion commander, who, at 7:00 A. M., began to gain a foothold on that hill and to push up it despite the resistance on it and from his rear. All through the morning the combat on this position continued. In the meantime, the rest of the division had swept forward to the dense wire on the crest south of Landres-et-St. Georges on the west and south faces of the Cote de Chatillon, the 167th Infantry having with its 3rd and 2nd Battalions isolated and later seized la Musarde Farm. On the entire Corps front, the attack was checked, with the exception that the 84th Infantry Brigade kept pushing forward on Hill 288 against the face of the bastion. Finally, at 12 o'clock noon, that position fell to it. Splendidly supported by the machine guns of the brigade, handled as a unit, the 167th and 168th Infantry, each with two battalions, pushed the attack through the entire day of October 14th, and continued it on the following day. On October 15th, Hill 242 was taken by the 168th Infantry, and at dark of that day one reinforced battalion swung across the gap between the woods of Romagne and the woods of the Cote de Chatillon and seized le Tuilerie Farm, ascertaining under cover of the night that the heavy bands of wire within the edges of the woods terminated shortly north of there. From this position, with this information, and supported by a most vigorous massed machine gun fire from the 151st Machine Gun Battalion and the brilliantly controlled artillery fire of the 151st Field Artillery, the 168th Infantry pushed up the Cote de Chatillon and sent strong flank detachments to clean out the trenches in the opening on the east face of that hill. Simultaneously, the 167th Infantry assaulted the positions north of la Musarde Farm and threw a large part of its front line companies through the opening in the wire back of the le Tuilerie Farm, while the flank detachment of the 168th Infantry seized and captured all the survivors of a German battalion that strove to counterattack against the right flank of its regiment. At 2 o'clock on the 15th of October, the Cote de Chatillon was in the hands of the 167th and 168th Infantry. The hilly bastion of the Kriemhilde Stellung was taken by storm.

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At dusk of that day the remaining and reserve battalions of those two regiments, the 3rd Battalion of the 168th Infantry and the 1st Battalion of the 167th Infantry, took over the front line, prepared to exploit their success in case that had been ordered. It was, however, not ordered.



Departure Position for St. Mihiel Drive at Seicheprey on Extreme Left of the Rainbow's Front.

It Remains Two Weeks on the Exermont Front.

By pulling the pin out of the Kriemhilde Stellung, the pressure on the right of the sector was relieved and the 32nd Division without delay swept forward on the Rainbow's right to the north edges of the Bois de Bantheville. In the meantime, the Rainbow, under orders from the Vth Corps, consolidated and organized its captured positions on Hills 288, 242 and the Cote de Chatillon, and then, on October 21st, the 83rd Brigade extended to the right and took over the front of the 84th Brigade, which in turn moved back in reserve to cover in rear of the valley of Exermont. By strong patrolling,

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the 83rd Infantry Brigade gained a mass of invaluable information concerning the enemy positions on its front, from which the conclusion was patent that the German was in the process of drawing his lines back of Landres-et-St. Georges to positions on the heights in its rear. Finally, preliminary to the general attack planned for November 1st, the machine gun battalions and artillery of the Rainbow were emplaced to support the assault, and on November 1st they fired in aid of the 2nd Division, which by October 31st had relieved the infantry of the Rainbow. In the attack of November 1st, the 42nd Division in its assembly position passed to reserve of the 1st Army Corps on the left of the Exermont front, the 1st Artillery Brigade, after its thorough and able support, returning to the 1st Division. On November 2nd, the Rainbow took up the advance in the wake of the assault and made a most difficult and trying series of marches through the blocks and knots of the dense traffic on all roads and trails leading forward that were complicated by the slippery condition of the roads on which the rain was still falling.

On the night of November 4-5, the division bivouaced in the locality of Fontenois-Authe, north of the Buzancy-Vouziers road, and that night received orders to pass through the 78th Division and to attack at noon upon the following day from the line Verrieres—Brieulles-sur-Bar.

Advance to Sedan.

Thus it was that on November 5th, the division jumped off for its advance through the lower Ardennes, a country sharply dissimilar from that of the “wet Champagne” through which it had come, a land of high ridges and deep valleys, heavily wooded throughout, containing clean, fresh fields and undamaged towns that until this moment had been entirely spared from the litter and desecration of the battlefield. Fine, broad roads ran in all directions, and rapid deep brooks cut the fertile vales and crossed under the highways through stone culverts.

On the front north of Exermont, the division had lost in killed and wounded a total of 75 officers and 3,000 men, and in sick and otherwise incapacitated by the illnesses of dysentery and fever, nearly an equal number. The troops were fatigued by constant employment and exposure. The animals were pitifully poor, brought to a point where they were barely able to move owing to the long heavy hauls on the congested, sticky, and slippery roads in the “wet Champagne.” Nevertheless, the Rainbow, charging ahead

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with great power and driving in the enemy rear guard shortly after 1:00 P. M. on November 5th pushed forward in rapid pursuit and was caught by night and by a violent rain north of Stonne-Le Chesne highroad in the north fringes of the Bois de Mont-Dieu and east of the great highroad from Le Chesne to Sedan. Immediately in front of it were the determined detachments of the German rear guard, reinforced by light artillery whose exit



German Prisoners Taken in the St. Mihiel Offensive Proceeding Back to Prison Stockade. (See Page 41.)

from the towns through which the Rainbow rapidly passed usually preceded our entrance by about 45 minutes. To complicate the entire movement, the enemy had sedulously and thoroughly blown out all the culverts and bridges on every road, and had gapped the great highroads by powerful mines, the largest of which was immediately north of Stonne.

At daylight on November 6th the advance was continued with all the infantry and machine gun elements of the division in close liaison, while the

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artillery, signal troops, engineers and trains sought to come forward over blown-out and destroyed roads. Irresistibly the division drove ahead, machine gunners negotiating the difficulties of fallen bridges by carrying their carts, and even their animals, through the swollen and unfordable streams. The desperate efforts of the German rear guard to stand were vain. The pursuit was so rapid and so hard that, despite the repeated attempts, the delaying detachments of the German had no time to take up a position. At 5 o'clock, in the afternoon, the 167th Infantry in liaison with the 165th Infantry, passed Thelonne, and still by daylight, reached the heights dominating the Meuse and Sedan. In the meantime, the 166th Infantry swept up along the Sedan highroad north of Chehery, and the 168th Infantry on the right flank seized the hills around Remilly-Aillicourt, above the river road on the south bank of the Meuse. November 6th found the entire Rainbow confronting Sedan moving down to Pont Maugis and the river at that point. On its front, the steep hills 346, 340 and 252 still held out on the south of the Meuse. On the following morning the 167th and 165th Infantry attacked in the direction of Noyers, and the 166th Infantry in the direction of Hill 340. After a most desperate defense by the German, and when ammunition had failed on both sides, Hills 346 and 252 fell to the 165th Infantry at the point of the bayonet, and that afternoon a patrol of the 165th Infantry, dashing led by its regimental commander, pushed into Wadelincourt on the south bank of the Meuse immediately opposite Sedan, and similar patrols of the 166th Infantry went boldly forward down the Sedan highroad to the outskirts of Torcy, from which point ran the main bridge across the Meuse to Sedan. During this day, the 1st American Division, which had moved up from the south, came into the sector of the 42nd Division and 1st American Corps, of which the Rainbow was the left division. On the night of November 7-8, the 84th Brigade took over the front of the 42nd Division, which was at that time narrowed to about three kilometers, and after two days in occupation there, the 84th Infantry Brigade was relieved on November 10th by the 77th Division, which, throughout the advance to Sedan, had been upon its right flank. On November 10th the entire division was grouped south of the Stonne highway, where it received the news of the armistice that was to go into effect on the following morning. In its rapid advance to Sedan, the 42nd Division, despite the destruction of natural obstacles in its path, had advanced against enemy resistance an average distance of 21 ½ kilometers in twenty-nine hours, and had seized on the evening of November 6th, the heights on the south bank of the Meuse dominating Sedan.

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The March to the Rhine.

Reassembled in the Buzancy Area, the Rainbow proceeded to the locality of Landres-et-St. Georges on November 14th, and from the German side of



Prisoners from a Jaeger Battalion Taken in a Flashing Raid by the 167th Infantry on September 22, 1918, in Front of Brigade Headquarters at Chateau St. Benoit. This Chateau Was Three Days Later Destroyed by Eight German Shells.

one of its severest fights had the opportunity of realizing, from the enemy viewpoint, the difficulty that it had successfully overcome and the damage it had done. On November 16th and 17th, the Rainbow was concentrated east of the Meuse in the Breheville-Brandeville-Stenay-Baalon Area, where,

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as the reserve division of the IIIrd Corps, commanded by General Hines, it was equipped and prepared for the march to the Rhine, which, for it, commenced on November 20th. It followed in long columns the highroad from Montmedy to Virton, west of which latter town it passed into Belgium, and thence through Saint Leger and Arlon, east of which latter town it passed into the Duchy of Luxemburg.

On November 23rd the division was regrouped in Luxemburg, where it remained over Thanksgiving Day and until December 1st, when it proceeded to stations on the east frontier of Luxemburg immediately west of the Sauer River, between Echternach and Wasserbillig.

On December 2nd the Rainbow crossed into Germany, and proceeded along the axis Bitburg—Kylburg—Gerolstein—Hillesheim—Dollendorf—Dumpelfeld—Rech—Ahrweiler—Neuenahr and Sinzig to the west bank of the Rhine between Brohl and Rolandseck in the Kreis of Ahrweiler. The march through German territory was broken by a halt from December 9th to 13th, at the average distance of two days' march from the Rhine, in the area Dumpelfeld—Adenau—Boos—Hinterweiler—Hillesheim.

The Army of Occupation.

On reaching the Rhine, the division passed to the command of the IVth Army Corps, commanded by General Muir, and found itself in a well-populated and wealthy community about midway between Coblenz and Bonn, with its area cut through from east to west by the Valley of the Ahr. It was on the extreme left flank in the front line of the Army of Occupation, the Third American Army, commanded by General Dickman. Here it rested for a few days and received new shoes and other much needed equipment. The march had been difficult for both men and animals, covering as it did a distance of approximately 250 kilometers over the shortest route, the first half of which was under favorable weather conditions over fairly good roads, and the latter half in Germany through abominably wet and raw weather and over heavy roads that were badly torn up by the great German exodus over them. It was excellently and most creditably accomplished by all elements of the Rainbow, which moved through it, despite the condition of the roads, in close-knit and solid columns.

On about December 20th, the division undertook the training that was

The Story of the Rainbow Division.

prescribed for it, until the end of February broken only by the rest through Christmas week. Despite the damp and inclement weather, the division drilled and maneuvered for a period of at least five hours a day in execution of the schedules prescribed by higher command. Later the rigors of this schedule were, simultaneously with the breaking up of winter, ameliorated.



CAUGHT BY GERMAN REAR GUARD BATTERIES.
St. Mihiel, September 12, 1918.

Finally, on March 16th, the division was reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief as a valedictory to its service in France. Immediately thereafter, preparations for departure from the Army of Occupation and from Europe were undertaken.

The Story of the Rainbow Division.

Home.

The arc of the Rainbow will, it is understood, shortly touch the shores of the United States. Before leaving, the Rainbow renders its deep reverence to those who so gallantly met their death under its flag. To those others who have either been with the division or are now returning with it, it accords its admiration for their splendid, devoted and most courageous services. It wishes them all the best of fortune—it hopes that each of them will find, at the end of the Rainbow, the storied pot of gold.

* * * * *

March 22, 1919.

APPENDIX 1.

Copy of Letter from the Commander-in-Chief.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,

FRANCE, MARCH 22, 1919.

Major General Clement A. F. Flagler,
Commanding 42nd Division,
American E. F., Ahrweiler, Germany.

MY DEAR GENERAL FLAGLER:

It afforded me great satisfaction to inspect the 42nd Division at Remagen on March 16th, during my trip through the Third Army, and to extend at that time to the officers and men my appreciation of their splendid record while in France.

The share which the 42nd Division has had in the success of our Armies should arouse pride in its achievements among all ranks. Arriving as it did on November 1, 1917, it was one of the first of our combat divisions to participate in active operations. After a period of training which lasted through the middle of February, 1918, it entered the Luneville sector in Lorraine, and shortly afterwards took up a position in that part of the line near Baccarat. In July it magnificently showed its fighting ability in the Champagne-Marne defensive, at which time units from the 42nd Division aided the French in completely repulsing the German attack. Following this, on July 25th the division relieved the 28th in the Aisne-Marne offensive, and in the course of their action there captured La Croix Rouge Ferme, Sergy and established themselves on the northern side of the Ourcq. In the St. Mihiel offensive the division made a rapid advance of 19 kilometers capturing seven villages. Later, during the Meuse-Argonne battle, it was twice put in the line, first under the 5th Corps and second under the 1st Corps, at which later time it drove back the enemy until it arrived opposite Sedan on November 7th.

Since the signing of the Armistice, the 42nd Division has had the honor of being one of those composing the Army of Occupation, and I have only words of praise for their splendid conduct and demeanor during this time. I want each man to realize the part he has played in bringing glory to American arms, and to understand both my pride and the pride of their fellows throughout the American Expeditionary Forces in their record. My good wishes accompany your command on its return to the United States, and my interest will remain with its members in their future careers.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) JOHN J. PERSHING.

APPENDIX 2.

Organizations of the Rainbow Division

Organization	Original (State) Designation	Commanding Officers
42d Division	Composed of National Guard Units from 27 States.	Major Generals Mann, Meno- her, Brigadier General Mac- Arthur, Maj. Gen. Flagler.
83d Infantry Brigade. .	Composed of National Guard Units from 4 States.	Brig. Gen. Lenihan; Col. Reilly, Brig. Gen. Caldwell.
165th Infantry	69th N. Y. Inf.	Lt. Col. Reed, Colonels Hine, Barker, McCoy, Mitchell, Lt. Col. Dravo, Colonels How- land, Donovan.
166th Infantry	4th Ohio Inf.	Col. Hough
150th M.G. Battalion	Cos. 1, 2 and 3, 2nd Wis. Inf. and Co. I, 4th Pa. Inf.	Majors Hall, Smith, Capt. Graef, Maj. Calder.
84th Infantry Brigade .	Composed of National Guard Units from 4 States	Brigadier Generals Brown, Cald- well, MacArthur.
167th Infantry	4th Alabama Inf.	Col. Screws.
168th Infantry	3d Iowa Inf.	Colonels Bennett, Tinley.
151st M.G. Battalion .	Cos. B, C and F, 2d Ga. Inf. and Co. K, 4th Pa. Inf.	Maj. (Lt. Col.) Winn.
67th F. A. Brigade	Composed of National Guard Units from 5 States	Brigadier Generals Summerall, McKinstry, Gatley.
149th Field Artillery .	1st Ill. F. A.	Col. Reilly.
150th Field Artillery .	1st Ind. F. A.	Col. Tyndall.
151st Field Artillery .	1st Minn. F. A.	Col. Leach.
117th Trench Mortar Battery	3d and 4th Cos., Md. C. A. C. . . .	Captains Gin, Carson, 1st Lt. Greene, Capt. McCabe.
117th Ammunition Train	Kansas Ammunition Train	Lt. Col. Travis, Majors Frank Cushing, Lt. Col. Martin.
149th M. G. Battalion .	Cos. L and M, 4th Pa. Inf.	Major Reitzel, Captains God- ley, Peacock, Majors Mills, Frank, Caldwell, Palmer.
117th Engineers	1st Bn. from South Carolina; 2nd Bn. from California	Colonels Kelly, Johnson.
117th Engr. Train . . .	N. C. Engr. Train	Capt. Clowe, 1st Lt. Hines.
117th Field Signal Battalion	1st Field Bn., Missouri Signal Corps	Majors Garrett, Smith.
117th Supply Train	Texas Supply Train	Majors Devine, Becker.
117th Military Police (42d M. P. Co.)	1st and 2d Cos., Va. C. A. C. (2d Co., Va. C. A. C.)	Majors Shannon, Battle, Potts, Worthington, Capt. Varney.
42d Hdqrs. Troop	2d La. Cavalry	Captains Taylor, Caldwell.

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APPENDIX 3.

<i>Unit.</i>	<i>Sector Occupied</i>	<i>Dates</i>
42d Div.	LUNEVILLE (Div. Hq.)	21 Feb. — 23 Mar. 18
	BACCARAT.	1 Apr. — 21 Jun. 18
	FME. DE VADENAY, Champagne-Marne Defensive. Had control of 2d position, with 4 ½ bns. on 1st Position of Resistance.	4 Jul.— 17 Jul. 18
	Aisne-Marne Offensive. Front of 1st U. S. Army Corps.	25 Jul. — 3 Aug. 18
	ST. MIHIEL Offensive.	12 Sep. — 16 Sep. 18
	ESSAY and PANNES Sector. Woevre.	17 Sep. — 30 Sep. 18
	Argonne-Meuse Operation, Left Division of Vth Army Corps.	13 Oct. — 31 Oct. 18
	Argonne-Meuse Operation, March on SEDAN, Left Division of 1st Army Corps.	5 Nov. — 9 Nov. 18
	Kreis of Ahrweiler, Army of Occupation.	15 Dec. 18 2 Apr. 18