# John H. Plumb World War I scrapbook

**Section 8, Pages 211 - 239**

A scrapbook created by John H. Plumb containing photographs documenting Plumb's training and service in World War I, taken mostly between November 6, 1917 to July 3, 1919. The scrapbook is entitled "Some Great Events of the Great War." It contains pictures of aviation and flights in Kansas as early as 1911, including Plumb's first plane ride in 1915. It also includes Plumb's medals earned at La Marne, France, and at the Battle of St. Mihiel in 1918. The bulk of the photographs document Plumb's training in the United States, departure from New York, arrival and activities in Sheffield, England, and service in France. Also included are photographs of naval battles and factory scenes manufacturing weapons. The photographs are arranged chronologically by event.

Creator: Plumb, John H.

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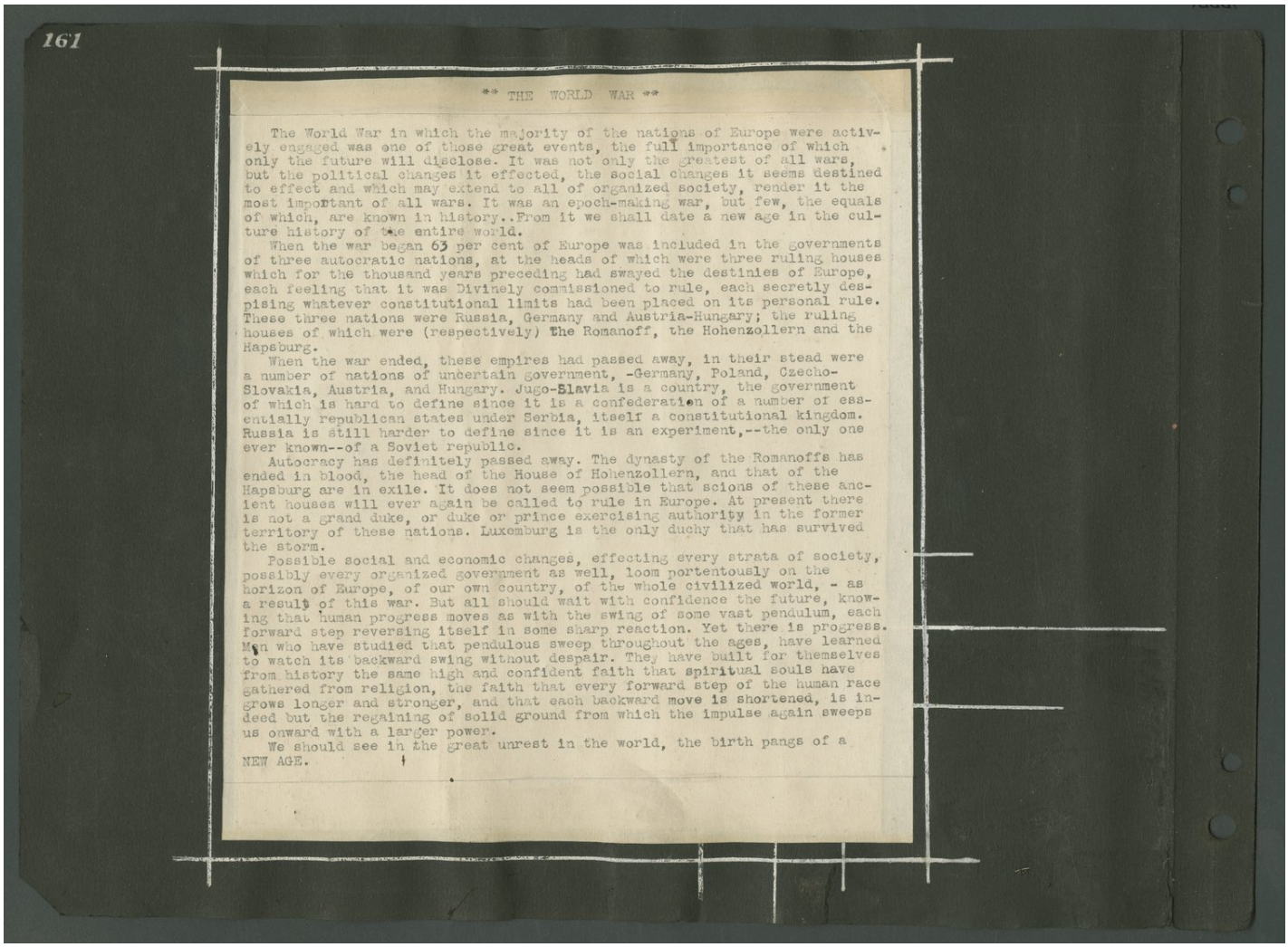

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** THE WORLD WAR **

The World War in which the majority of the nations of Europe were actively engaged was one of those great events, the full importance of which only the future will disclose. It was not only the greatest of all wars, but the political changes it effected, the social changes it seems destined to effect and which may extend to all of organized society, render it the most important of all wars. It was an epoch-making war, but few, the equals of which, are known in history..From it we shall date a new age in the culture history of the entire world.

When the war began 63 per cent of Europe was included in the governments of three autocratic nations, at the heads of which were three ruling houses which for the thousand years preceding had swayed the destinies of Europe, each feeling that it was Divinely commissioned to rule, each secretly despising whatever constitutional limits had been placed on its personal rule. These three nations were Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary; the ruling houses of which were (respectively) The Romanoff, the Hohenzollern and the Hapsburg.

When the war ended, these empires had passed away, in their stead were a number of nations of uncertain government, -Germany, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary. Jugo-Slavia is a country, the government of which is hard to define since it is a confederation of a number of essentially republican states under Serbia, itself a constitutional kingdom. Russia is still harder to define since it is an experiment,--the only one ever known--of a Soviet republic.

Autocracy has definitely passed away. The dynasty of the Romanoffs has ended in blood, the head of the House of Hohenzollern, and that of the Hapsburg are in exile. It does not seem possible that scions of these ancient houses will ever again be called to rule in Europe. At present there is not a grand duke, or duke or prince exercising authority in the former territory of these nations. Luxemburg is the only duchy that has survived the storm.

Possible social and economic changes, effecting every strata of society, possibly every organized government as well, loom portentously on the horizon of Europe, of our own country, of the whole civilized world, - as a result of this war. But all should wait with confidence the future, knowing that human progress moves as with the swing of some vast pendulum, each forward step reversing itself in some sharp reaction. Yet there is progress. Men who have studied that pendulous sweep throughout the ages, have learned to watch its backward swing without despair. They have built for themselves from history the same high and confident faith that spiritual souls have gathered from religion, the faith that every forward step of the human race grows longer and stronger, and that each backward move is shortened, is indeed but the regaining of solid ground from which the impulse again sweeps us onward with a larger power.

We should see in the great unrest in the world, the birth pangs of a NEW AGE.


CHRONOLOGY OF UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATIONS

1917

April 6 - United States declares war on Germany.

May 4 - First squadron U. S. Navy reaches England.

June 13-15 - General Pershing (page 3) arrives in France.

June 26-27 - First U. S. Contingent lands in France.

Nov. 3 - First American trench fight on Rhine-Marne Canal.

Dec. 7 - United States declares war on Austria-Hungary.

Dec. 8 - United States Destroyer "Jacob Jones" torpedoed.

1918

Feb. 6 - "Tuscania" torpedoed; 212 American Soldiers lost.

April 20 - Americans repulse German raid at Seicheprey.

April 26 - Americans in line at Picardy front.

March 23 - Germans first shell Paris with 76 mile gun. (See page 33.)

(Earlier operations were not under United States' command. The troops were officially under French or British command.)

April 28-29--A sector in the vivinity of Breteuil, northwest of Montdidier, was occupied by the First Division.

May 28--Cantigny (map page 34) was captured by the First Division. A detachment of our troops, reinforced by Fr. artillery, successfully attacked the enemy on a front of about 2,200 yards. We occupied Cantigny, captured some 200 prisoners, and inflicted severe losses on the enemy.

June 10--The Second Division attacked in Bois de Belleau, advancing the line 900 yards on a front of one and one half miles, capturing 300 prisoners, 30 machine guns, 4 trench mortars, and stores of small arms, ammunition and equipment. Held all of Hill 204 down to the village on the northeast slope, thus preventing the enemy from concentrating his forces in the nothern part of Chateau-Thierry. (See page 36.)

June 11--The Second Divison continued its advance in the Bois de Belleau, capturing more prisoners and machine guns and two 77mm. fieldpieces.

Our aviators executed their first bombing raid, dropping numerous bombs on the railway station at Dommary-Baroncourt, northwest of Metz. (see pages, 58, 75 and 87) All of our planes returned in safety.

The artillery of the Second Divison shelled the enemy in their areas, preventing concentration near Torcy, Monthiars, Hill 128, and La Gonetrie farm. It discovered and dispersed a group of 210 machine guns in the woods south of Etrepilly. The Second Divison captured the last of the German positions in the Bois de Belleau, taking 50 prisoners, machine guns and trench mortars.

July 18--French and American troops advanced under the cover of a heavy storm on the front between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry. The greatest advance was in the northern part of the sector, where a depth of 5 miles was attained,

and we reached the heights southwest of Soissons, dominating the railroad and highways.

July 24--The advance of the Franco-American forces continued, and in the evening the line ran east of Buzancy to Tigny, to Hartennes, Grand Rozoy, Ouichy-le-Chateau, Armentieres, Coiney, Courpoil, and then joined the old line at Jaulgonne. West of Reims, Marfaux was retaken, and the line ran Aubilly, through Mezy, and joined the old line at Coulommes.

July 25--The line ran from the Ourcq to the Marne, where the allied troops advanced 6 kilometers in the center and 3 to 4 kilometers on the flanks. The line in the evening ran from Armentieres to Bruyeres, the eastern edge of the Bois de la Tournelle, the eastern edge of Beuvardes, the eastern edge of Le Charnel, the crossroads at Gros Chene, la Boulangere, the northern edge of Treloup, Chassins.

July 26--The line ran: Nanteuil, Notre Dames, Hill 123, Hill 118, la Misere, Hill 100, southwestern part of Bois de la Tournelle, Hill 111, Le Charnel. Hard fighting continued all day, and the French and Americans steadily advanced on Fere.

July 28--The Forty-second Division renewed the assault, crossed the river, and after vigorous fighting took Seringes-et-Nesles, Nesles and Sergy.

The Twenty-eighth Division held the line about one kilometer north of the Ourcq. During the day slow progress was made, the enemy slowly falling back after bitter rearguard action.

July 27--The Forty-second Division tried to cross the Ourcq, but was driven back by heavy artillery fire.

July 29--Franco-American troops advanced 3 kilometers from Ouichy to Villers Agron, and Bougeneux, Saponay, Seringes, Nesles, and Cierges were included in our lines.

July 30--Our pressure continued on the right bank of the Ourcq. The railroad station at Fere and Cayenne Farm remained in our possession. We lost Seringes-et-Nesles, but reoccupied Sergy, Hill 312, and the woods 8 kilometers north of Roncheres.

July 31--The Twenty-eighth Division retook Seringes-et-Nesles. The Thirty-second Division attacked in Crimpettes Woods with success; the woods were taken, and the troops advanced to Cierges. German counterattacks were brilliantly repulsed with the bayonet, and an immense amount of material and equipment was taken from the enemy.

Aug. 3--After continuous fighting late in the evening Soissons was taken, and a line extending along the Vesle to between Braisne and Bazoches was being consolidated. South of the Aisne our troops drove back the enemy rear guard. Acting with the Fourth Division, the Thirty-second Division reached a line from Ville Savoye to a point just north of St. Gilles.

Aug. 4--A large enemy patrol attacked in the vicinity of Coulees, but was driven off by a combat group of the Fifth Division, which had been reinforced. Our troops were very active in patrolling, having sent out over seven reconnoissance, combat, and ambush patrols.

The Thirty-second Division took Fismes. In an eight-day battle this division forced the passage of the Ourcq, took prisoners from six enemy divisions, met, routed, and decimated a crack division of the Prussian Guards, a Bavarian division, and one other enemy division, and drove the enemy back 16 kilometers.

Aug. 6--The Twenty-eighth Division launched an attack the objective of which was the north bank of the Vesle. The att-

ack was met by exceedingly heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. On the right our troops succeeded in crossing the river and advancing to the highway which runs from Rheims to Soissons. On the left the advance was held up by the enemy's fire. (See map, page 36)

Aug. 7--The units on the left advanced across the river and occupied the railroad lines on the north bank. The casualties resulting from this operation were considerable. Aviolent enemy counter-attack was completely repulsed, and a number of prisoners and machine guns were left in our hands.

Aug. 8--As a result of successful operations on the evening of Aug. 8, 11 companies of infantry and some machine-gun detachments of the Twenty-eighth Division reached the north bank of the Vesle.

Aug. 10--The Twenty-eighth Division launched an attack in Fismette. A creeping barrage moved ahead of them. They made some progress, but were soon exposed to flanking fire from both the east and west and were forced to fall back into Fismette. The position here was very difficult. Flanking machine-gun fire came from both sides and heavy casualties were reported. A box barrage was placed around the town and ammunition was sent up. The town was held by one battalion, with one machine-gun platoon, which received orders to hold the position at all costs.

Aug. 17--After strong artillery preparation the infantry of the Fifth Division captured the village of Frapelle and consolidated the lines north of the road running into the town from the southeast.

Aug. 19--The enemy continued shelling Frapelle positions and the artillery of the Fifth Division replied actively.

Aug. 21--The Fifth Division repulsed hostile attack with heavy loss to the enemy and with no casualties to themselves.

The Thirty-second Division, acting with the Tenth French Army, advanced to and held Juvigny.

The Seventy-seventh Division cleared the small wood between the Vesle and the railroad west of Chateau du Diable.

Sept. 3--During the five days prior to Sept. 3 the Thirty-second Division made daily advances against the enemy, gaining 6 kilometers through very difficult terrain and against violent opposition. It captured 11 officers and 920 enlisted men. A large amount of guns and munitions was captured. A patrol of the Seventy-seventh Division penetrated to Bazoches.

Sept. 5--French and American units advanced to the Oise-Rheims area as far as Conde. Strong patrols of the Seventy-seventh Division were pushed forward north of the Vesle and were encountered by machine-gun resistance. Other casualties were slight.

The Twenty-eighth Division crossed the Vesle in force and pursued the enemy to the north.

Sept. 6--The artillery of the Twenty-eighth Division directed harassing and destructive fire on the Aisne bridges, while the enemy harassed the villages in our rear areas, using a great number of gas shells.

Sept. 7--The Twenty-eighth Division repulsed two enemy counterattacks. The Twenty-seventh Division drove the enemy out of La Cendiere Farm and passed the Aisne Canal.

Sept. 12--After four hours' bombardment our troops advanced on the south and west flanks of the St. Mihiel salient,-

at 5 A. M. (See page 89.) By 7:30 A. M. the forces operating on the south had reached the southern edge of the Bois Juli, the Quart de Reserve, and the northern edge of the Bois de Mort Mare. By noon they had reached Essey and Vieville and the army operating in the difficult ground in the west had captured Les Eparges. At 6 P. M. the troops had reached a point one kilometer east of Senzey and had taken St. Remy and Combres. During the night the troops on the western flank of the salient advanced 5 miles in five hours, reaching Vigneulles by 3 A. M. (Map page 57 and 79.)

Sept. 14--There was a general advance along the entire line, and the American Army established itself on the following front: Manheulles, Fresnes, Pintheville, St. Hilaire, Doncourt, northeast of Woel, south end of the Etang de Lachaussee, Vandieres, and across the Moselle at Champey.

On the southern face of the salient was the First Corps, Maj. Gen. Liggett, commanding, with the Eighty-second, Ninetieth, Fifth, and Second Divisions in line, extending from the Moselle westward. On its left was the Fourth Corps, Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman, commanding, with the Eighty-ninth, Forty-second, and First Divisions, the left of this corps being opposite Montsec. These two Army Corps delivered the principal attack, the line pivoting on the center division of the First Corps. The First Division on the left of the Fourth Corps was charged with the double mission of covering its own flank while advancing some 20 kilometers due north toward the heart of the salient, where it made contact with the troops of Fifth Corps. On the western face of the salient lay the Fifth Corps, Maj. Gen. George H. Cameron, commanding, with the Twenty-sixth Division, Fifteenth French Colonial Division, and the Fourth Division in the line, from Mouilly west to Les Eparges and north to Watronville. Of these three divisions, the Twenty-sixth alone was to make a deep advance directed southeast toward Vigneulles, The French Division made a short progression to the edge of the heights in order to cover the left of the Twenty-sixth. The Fourth Division was not to advance. In the center, between our Fourth and Fifth Army Corps, was the Second French Colonial Corps, Maj. Gen. E. J. Blondlat, commanding, covering a front of 40 kilometers with 3 small French Divisions. These troops followed up the retirement of the enemy from the tip of the salient.

The operation was carried out with entire precision. The rapidity with which our divisions advanced overwhelmed the enemy. We captured nearly 16,000 prisoners, 443 guns, and large stores of material and supplies. The energy and swiftness with which the operation was carried out enabled us to smother opposition to such an extent that we suffered less than 7,000 casualties during the actual period of the advance.

The air forces, composing pursuit, observation and bombing groups, gave us the largest assembly of aviation that had ever been engaged in one operation. Our heavy guns were able to reach Metz and to interfere seriously with German rail movements.

The strength of the First American Army in this battle totaled 500,000 men, of whom about 70,000 were French.

Sept. 17--American troops advanced along the Moselle within 300 yards of Paguy.

Sept. 18--The Twenty-sixth Division made two raids during the night. One against St. Hilaire was without result, as the enemy had retired; the other against the Bois de Warville resulted in the capture of 15 prisoners.

Sept. 19--The Ninety-second Division repulsed an attempted enemy raid in the St. Die sector.

Sept. 20--The Ninety-second Division repulsed two enemy raids in the region of Lesseux.

Sept. 26--The First Army attacked northwest of Verdun (Page 40 and 79) on a front of 20 miles and penetrated to an average depth of 7 miles.

Sept. 27--The One Hundred and Seventh Regiment of the Twenty-seventh Division attached east of Bellicourt and attained its objectives.

Sept. 29--In the Argonne (Page 68 and 76) the Americans met with furious resistance. Their losses were heavy, and they were unable to do more than hold their own.

Sept. 30--The Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Divisions took prisoners north of St. Quentin totaling 210 officers and and more than 1,200 men.

Oct. 1--The Twenty-eighth Division repulsed a hostile counterattack on the entire divisional front in the Aire Valley, with very heavy losses to the enemy.

Oct. 3--The Second Division, operating with the French Army, made an advance of 2 kilometers, reaching Medeah Farm in the afternoon. In the evening the Second Division advanced about 5 kilometers, and their line ran from Medeah Farm southwest along the road to Blanc Mont. They captured 1,000 prisoners, and casualties were estimated at 500.

Oct. 4--The First Division attacked on both sides of Exermont, and made progress in spite of strong opposition from the enemy, who resisted with machine guns in organized opposition. Approximately 300 prisoners were taken, and our casualties were 1,500.

Oct. 5--The First Division captured Arietal Farm, and th e line was advanced 400 yards beyond. The Sixth Division repulsed a large enemy raid on Sondernach.

Oct. 7--A brigade of the Eighty-second Division advanced 7 kilometers, occupying Hill 223, north of Chatel Chehery; 46 prisoners were captured, including 1 officer. Our casualties were light. Later the enemy counterattacked and occupied Hill 223, north of Chatel Chehery.

Oct. 8--The Sixty-ninth Brigade of the Thirtieth Division attacked at 5 A. M. over a front of 5,000 yards, gained all first objectives by 9 A. M., and second objectives by noon. Fifty officers, 1,500 men, and four 101-millimeter guns were taken.

Oct. 8-9--The Second Corps advanced about 7 miles on a front of 4,000 yards and captured about 2,000 prisoners and 30 guns.

Oct. 9--In spite of strong resistance the First Division advanced in the Fleville sector and captured 230 prisoners. The Thirty-third Division, operating with the Seventeenth French Army Corps, attacked early in the morning north of Consenoye and reached its final objective about 9 A. M. About 650 prisoners were taken.

Oct. 10--The First Corps reached Cornay-La Besogne Ridge and passed Malassise Farm, east of Grand Ham. The Sixtieth Brigade of the Thirtieth Division advanced 6 kilometers, reaching the Selle River, and held St. Benin-St. Souplet-La Haie-Menneressa line, Up to the evening of the 9th, 50 officers, 1,800 men, and 32 guns were captured.

Oct. 12--The Fourth Division repulsed two counterattacks by machine-gun fire, with severe loss to the enemy.

Oct. 13--An attack on Grandpre this morning met very heavy machine-gun fire, and troops of the Second Corps were finally forced to retire south of the Aire. A hostile count-

terattack at 8 P. M. south of Landres-et-St. Georges was repulsed.

The Eighty-first Division repulsed an enemy raid in St. Die sector.

The Seventy-seventh Division took Grandpre.

Oct. 17--The Twenty-ninth Division advanced to the summit of Bois de la Grand Montagne, east of the Meuse.

The Forty-second Division took Cote de Chatillon.

The Second Battalion of the Seventy-sixth Division reached the northern edge of Bois des Loges, west of Champigneulle.

In an attack on a 4,000 yard front from St. Souplet to Molain our troops advanced 3,000 yards against very stiff resistance. All counterattacks repulsed. Prisoners taken were estimated at 2,500.

Oct. 19--The Thirtieth Division arracked with the British at dawn and advanced 2,000 yards. Prisoners captured since the morning of the 17th totaled 44 officers and over 1,500 men.

The Seventy-eighth Division pushed its lines forward to Bellejoyeuse Farm and began to mop up the Bois des Loges.

Oct. 21--In attacks on the Bois des Rappes the Fifth Division met with stubborn resistance by machine-guns, supported by artillery and infantry fire. It captured the entire position, with 170 prisoners, including 5 officers. An enemy counter attack, supported by heavy artillery fire, was repulsed with heavy losses.

The Fifth and Third Divisions took Hill 297 and Bois des Rappes.

Attacking in the evening, the Eighty-ninth Division occupied the northern and eastern edge of the Bois des Bantheville.

Oct. 23--Troops of the Third Corps reached the north edge of the village of Bantheville, taking, 171 prisoners.

The Twenty-ninth Division captured the ridge of the Bois d'Etrayes and Hill 361.

Oct. 27--The Seventy-eighth Division entered Bellejoyeuse Farm, northeast of Grandpre, and found it unoccupied. The occupation of the right of way north and northwest of Grandpre was completed. (Page 101)

Oct. 30--Patrols were active along the entire front of the Twenty-eighth Division. The Thirty-third Division, in the face of heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, north of Grandpre advanced its lines and occupied the Bellejoyeuse Farm. On Oct. 30, 2,000 high explosive and gun shells fell in the vicinity of Fresnes. One of the divisional patrols captured five prisoners.

Nov. 1--The troops of the First Army captured Clery-le-Grand. North of Ancreville they took 53 additional prisoners and continued their advance into the Bois of Bantheville. During the night of Nov. 1-2, the troops of the Thirty-seventh Division consolidated their positions and effected a crossing of the river Scheldt, confronted by enemy machine-gun and rifle fire. The Ninety-first Division, supported by artillery and machine-gun fire, rapidly advanced over 6 kilometers in spite of enemy artillery and machine-gun fire. The enemy was driven from the west bank of the Scheldt and at noon the heights northwest of Audenarde were taken.

Nov. 2--In the evening the troops of the Seventy-eighth Division drove the enemy from the Bois des Loges and closely followed his retreat. The Ninety-second Division, in spite of machine-gun resistance, pushed forward and advanced the line 3 kilometers.

Nov. 3--The Ninety-first Division, in spite of active machine-gun resistance, forced its way toward the bank of the Scheldt in the vivinity of Eyne.

Nov. 4--A brigade of the Seventy-ninth Division attacked an enemy sector, taking 81 prisoners and 8 machine guns, encountering strong resistance and repulsing several counterattacks.

Nov. 5--The troops of the Seventy-seventh Division engaged in severe fighting, and overcame strong enemy resistance along the entire line. The artillery was active, firing on the enemy's retreating columns. Harassing artillery fire was returned by the enemy. Aviation was active on both sides. The enemy flew over our front lines and delivered machine-gun fire on our advancing troops. Two enemy planes were brought down.

Nov. 6--Our troops of the First Corps continued their successful advance, forcing the enemy to retire. The towns of Flabas, Raucourt, Haraucourt, and Autrecourt were taken, and patrols pushed on as far as the Meuse at Liny. (See page 95) Large quantities of materiel were captured during the advance.

Following heavy bombardment on the enemy's divisions the troops of the Fifth Division attacked, rapidly overcoming the enemy's resistance, capturing Liondevant-Dun, (See pages 58, 95.) Murvaux, Fontaine and Vilosnes-sur Meuse, (Page 43) taking more than 250 prisoners.

Nov. 7--The troops of the Second Division cleared the west bank of the Meuse of the remaining machine guns and snipers in the vicinity of Mouzon at Pouilly. (See page 80) The Fifth Division, supported by artillery fire, continued its advance despite the enemy's continued resistance principally with machine guns. Most of the artillery crossed to the east bank of the Meuse, following in support of the infantry. Additional prisoners were taken including 2 officers and 132 men.

Nov. 8--The patrols of the Second Division crossed the Meuse south of Mouzon. The troops of the Thirty-third Division, aided by barrage fire, carried out a successful raid on Chateau Aulnois, capturing 1 officer and 22 men. Strong combat patrols were sent out from the lines of the Ninety-second Division. Prisoners were captured and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Nov. 9--During midnight the patrols of the Fifth Division drove back the enemy, inflicting many casualties and capturing 6 prisoners. The troops consolidated, and, despite stubborn resistance, principally from machine guns, drove the enemy from Bois du Canol and La Santinelle and captured Brandeville. In these operations 47 prisoners, 125 machine guns, and other materiel were captured. A strong combat patrol was active along the entire front of the Thirty-third Division, meeting with heavy machine-gun resistance from the enemy, and a patrol of one company captured 8 prisoners in the Bois de Warville. The troops of the Seventy-ninth Division advanced in a generally northeasterly direction, with the right flank in Bois de Damvillers. The Forty-second and units of the First seized the heights south of Sedan. (Page 102)

Nov. 10--The Thirty-third Division carried out a successful raid on Marcheville, occupying the town and taking 80 prisoners, including 3 officers. Strong patrols from the line engaged in sharp fighting. The Thirty-seventh Division, operating with the Thirty-fourth French Army Corps, attacked in order to force a crossing of the Scheldt. Violent enfilading machine-gun fire, heavy artillery,

and the flooded condition of the terrain delayed the construction of bridges and crossings. In the face of continuous heavy artillery fire, supported by machine guns, the troops advanced about 2 kilometers. The Ninetieth Division advanced toward Sudlon, encountering no resistance. The Ninety-second Division reached Bois Trehaut and captured 710 prisoners.

Nov. 11--The Third Division advanced 3 kilometers east of Breheville. Despite increased resistance by machine-gun and artillery fire, the Fifth Division continued to advance, capturing 18 prisoners, 3 large-calibre guns, 6 minenwerfers, and considerable materiel. In accordance with the terms of the armistice, hostilities on the front of the American Armies ceased at 11 A. M.

STORMING OF THE ARGONNE

America's Greatest Battle !!

To Americans the Argonne struggle will ever remain the chief battle of the war. Our chieftain, General Pershing, was presented with the fully established facts, knew that here lay the strongest German defenses, because here, as the Germans well knew, their lines of supply were most dangerously near the front, and hence defeat would be most disastrous. The French and British generals had readily conceded to the fresh and powerful American troops the duty and honor of attacking this most impregnable section of the German defense. They have said frankly that none but the Americans could have stormed the Argonne.

When on October 16th the victorious Americans entered Grandpre (page 101) north of the Argonne, all men knew that Germany was beaten, that not 1919 but the few remaining weeks of 1918 were to behold their expulsion from France. Both in number of men engaged and in the number slain, this was by far THE BIGGEST BATTLE IN AMERICAN HISTORY. In the deadly desperation of its fighting, it was second to none. We had a million men in the attack; and the Germans, fighting behind their almost impenetrable defenses, had perhaps as many. In mere size therefore, this battle ranks among the great ones of the war; and in decisive importance it ranks among the very greatest.

We should not however, think of the tremendous smashing of the German front as being wholly an American affair. Our troops had indeed to bear the main brunt of the battle; but west of the Argonne the French army undertook an advance simultaneous with ours, and they kept close pace with us. They fought over open counrty and we through the world-famed obstacles of the Argonne: (See pages 67-76). The French even exceed us in the number of prisoners captured. While we gathered in 18,000, they took more than 20,000; but the fighting on our front was not the sort that leaves many prisoners behind. No European has ever questioned, or ever will seriously [illegible] question, the splendid character of the American fighting which won the Argonne.

FIRST PHASE--

On the night of September 25th, the 9 divisions to lead in the attack were deployed between the Meuse river and the western edge of the Argonne Forest. On the right was the Third Corps, Maj. Gen. Bullard commanding, with the Thirty-third, Eightieth, and Fourth Divisions in line; next came the Fifth Corps, Maj. Gen. Cameron commanding, with the Seventy-Ninth, Thirty-seventh, and Ninety-first Divisions; on the left was the First Corps, Maj. Gen. Liggett commanding, with the Thirty-fifth, Twenty-eighth, and Seventy-seventh Divisions. Each

corps had 1 division in reserve and the Army held 3 divisions as a general reserve. About 2,700 guns, 189 small tanks, and 821 airplanes, were concentrated to support the attack of the infantry.

The axis of the attack was the line Montfaucon-(See pages 39-103) Romange-Buzancy, the purpose being to make the deepest penetration in the center, which, with the Fourth French Army advancing west of the Argonne, would force the enemy to evacuate the forest without our having to deliver a heavy attack in that difficult region.


U. S. Official
*General John J. Pershing.*

Following three hours of violent artillery fire of preparation, the Infantry advanced at 5:30 a. m. on September 26th, accompanied by tanks. During the first two days of attack, before the enemy was able to bring up his reserves, our troops made steady progress through the network of defenses. Montfaucon was held tenaciously by the enemy and was not captured until noon of the second day.

By the evening of the 28th a maximum advance of 11 kilometers had been achieved and we had captured Baulny, Epinonville, Septsarges, and Dannevoux. (page 46) The right had made a splendid advance into the woods south of Brieulles-sur-Meuse, but the extreme left was meeting strong resistance in the Argonne. The attack continued without interruption, meeting six new divisions which the enemy threw into line before September 29th. He developed a powerful machine-gun defense supported by heavy artillery fire, and made frequent counter-attacks with fresh troops, particularly on the front of the Twenty-eighth and Thirty-fifth Divisions. These two divisions had taken Vareanes, Cheppy, (Pages 76-68) Baulny, and Charpentry, and the line was within 2 kilometers of Apremont.(Page 92) We were now necessarily committed, to a direct frontal attack against strong, hostile positions fully manned by a determined enemy.


U. S. Official
*General Hunter Liggett.*

By nightfall of the 29th the First Army line was approximately Bois de la Cote Lemont-Nantillois-Apremont (page 92)---southwest across the Argonne. Many divisions especially those in the center that were subject to cross-fire of artillery, had suffered heavily. The severe fighting, the nature of the terrain over which they attacked, and the fog and darkness sorely tried even our best divisions. On the night of the 29th the Thirty-seventh and Seventy-ninth Divisions were relieved by the Thirty-second and Third Divisions respectively, and on the following night the First Division relieved the Thirty-fifth Division.

The critical problem during the first few days of the battle was the restoration of communications over "No man's land." There were but four roads available across this deep zone, and the violent artillery fire of the previous period of the war had virtually destroyed them. The spongy soil and the lack of material increased the difficulty. But the splendid work of our engineers and prisoners soon made possible the movement of the troops, artillery and supplies most needed. By the afternoon of the 27th. all the divisional artillery, except a few batteries of heavy guns, had effected a passage and was supporting the infantry action.

SECOND PHASE--

At 5:30 a. m. on October 4th the general attack was renewed. The enemy divisions on the front from Fresnes-en-Woevre to the Argonne had increased from 10 in the first line to 16, and included some of his best divisions. The fighting was desperate, and only small advances were realized, except by the First Division on the right of the First Corps. By evening of October 5th the line was approximately Bois de la Cote Lemont-Bois du Fays-Gesnes-Hill 240-Fleville-Chehery, southwest through the Argonne.


U. S. Official
*Major General James G. Harbord.*

It was especially desirable to drive the enemy from his commanding positions on the heights east of the Meuse, but it was even more important that we should force him to use his troops there and weaken his tenacious hold on positions in our immediate front. The

further stabilization of the new St. Mihiel line permitted the withdrawal of certain divisions for the extension of the Meuse-Argonne operation to the east bank of the Meuse River.

On the 7th the First Corps, with the Eighty-second Division added, launched a strong attack northwest toward Cornay, to draw attention from the movement east of the Meuse and at the same time outflank the German position in the Argonne. The following day the Seventeenth French Corps, General Claudel commanding, initiated its attack east of the Meuse against the exact point on which the German armies must pivot in order to withdraw from northern France. The troops encountered elaborate fortifications and stubborn resistance, but by nightfall had realized an advance of 6 kilometers to a line well within the Bois de Consenvoye, and including the villages of Beaumont and Haumont. Continuous fighting was maintained along our entire battle front, with especial success on the extreme left, where the capture of the greater part of the Argonne Forest was completed. The enemy contested every foot of ground on our front in order to make more rapit retirements further west and withdraw his forces from northern France before the interruption of his railroad communications through Sedan. (Page 102)

We were confronted at this time by the insufficiency of replacements to build up exhausted divisions. Early in October combat units required some 90,000 replacements, and not more than 45,000 would be available before November 1st to fill the existing and prospective vacancies. It also became necessary for us to send the Thirty-seventh and Ninety-first Divisions from the First Army to assist the Sixth French Army in Flanders.

At this time the First American Army was holding a front of more than 120 kilometers; its strength exceeded 1,000,000 men; it was engaged in the most desperate battle of our history, and the burden of command was too heavy for a single commander and staff. Therefore, on October 12th, that portion of our front extending from Port-sur-Seille, east of the Moselle, to Fresnes-en-Woevre, southeast of Verdun, was transferred to the newly constituted Second Army with Lieut. Gen. Robert L. Bullard in command, under whom it began preparations for the extension of operations to the east in the direction of Briey and Metz. (Page 87-75-58) On Oct. 16th the command of the First Army was transferred to Lieut. Gen. Hunter Liggett and General Pershing's advance headquarters was established at Ligny-en-Barrois, from which the command of the group of American Armies was exercised.

Local attacks of the First Army were continued in order to particularly to adjust positions preparatory to a renewed general assult. The First and Fifth Divisions were relieved by the Forty-second and Eightieth Divisions, which were now fresh. An attack along the whole front was made on Oct. 14th. The resistance encountered was stubborn, but the stronghold on Cote Dame Marie was captured and the Hindenburg Line was broken. Cunel and Romagnesous-Montfaucon were taken and the line advanced 2 kilometers north of Sommerance. A maximum advance of 17 kilometers had been made since Sept. 26th and the enemy had been forced to throw into the fight a total of 15 reserve divisions.

During the remainder of the month important local operations were carried out, which involved desperate fighting. The First Corps, Maj. Gen. Dickman commanding, advanced through Marcq (Page 101) and Grandpre; the Fifth Corps, Maj. Gen. Charles P. Summerall commanding, captured the Bois de Bantheville; the Third Corps, Maj. Gen. John L. Hines commanding, completed the occupation of Cunel Heights; and the Seventeenth French Corps drove the enemy from the main ridge south of La Grande Montagne. Particularly heavy fighting occurred east of the Meuse on Oct. 18th, and in the further penetration of the Kriemhilde-Stellung on October 23rd the Twenty-sixth Division entering the battle at this time relieved the Eighteenth French Division.

Summarizing the material results which had been attained by the First Army by the end of October, we had met an increasing number of Germany's best divisions, rising from 20 in line and reserve on Sept. 26th, to 31 on Oct. 31st; the enemy's elaborately prepared positions, including the Hindenburg Line, in our front had been broken; the almost impassable Argonne Forest was

in our hands; an advance of 21 kilometers had been effected; 18,600 prisoners, 370 cannon, 1,000 machine guns, and a mass of material captured; and the great railway artery through Carignan to Sedan was now seriously threatened.

Combat troops were held in line and pushed to the attack until deemed incapable of further effort because of casualties or exhaustion; artillery once engaged was seldom withdrawn and many batteries fought until practically all the animals were casualties and the guns were towed out of line by motor trucks.

While the high pressure of these attacks was agreat strain on our troops, it was calamitous to the enemy. His divisions had been thrown into confusion by our furious assaults, and his morale had been reduced until his will to resist had well-nigh reached the breaking point. Once a German division was engaged in the fight, it became practically impossible to effect its relief. The enemy was forced to meet the constantly recurring crises by breaking up tactical organizations and sending hurried detachments to widely separated portions of the field.


THE FINAL DRIVE TO VICTORY

In order that the attack of the First army and that of the Fourth French army on its left should be simultaneous, our attack was delayed until November 1st.

The immediate purpose of the First army was to take Buzancy and the heights of Barricourt, to turn the forest north of Grandpre' and to establish contact with the Fourth French army near Boult-aux-Bois. The army was directed to carry the heights of Barricourt by nightfall of the first day and then to exploit this success by advancing its left to Boult-aux-Bois in preparation for the drive toward Sedan. (page 102) By strenuous effort all available artillery had been moved well forward to the heights previously occupied by the enemy, from which it could fully cover and support the initial advance of the Infantry.

On the morning of November 1st, three Army corps were in line between the Meuse River and the Bois de Bourgogne. On the right the Third Corps had the Fifth and Ninetieth Divisions; the Fifth Corps occupied the center of the line, with the Eighty-ninth and Second Divisions, and was to be the wedge of the attack on the first day; and on the left the First Corps deployed the Eightieth, Seventy-seventh, and Seventy-eighth Divisions.

Preceded by two hours of violent artillery preperation, the Infantry advanced, closely followed by "accompanying guns." The Artillery acquitted itself magnificently, the barrages being so well coördinated and so dense that the enemy was overwhelmed and quickly submerged by the rapid onslaught of the Infantry. By nightfall the Eighty-ninth and Second Divisions, in the center, had realized an advance of almost 9 kilometers, to the Bois de la Folie, and had completed the capture of the heights of Barricourt, while the Vifth and Ninetieth Divisions, on the right, had captured Aincreville and Andevanne. Our troops had broken through the enemy's last defense, captured his artillery positions, and had precipitated a retreat of the German forces about to be isolated in the forest north of Grandpre'. On the 2nd and 3rd we advanced rapidly against heavy fighting on the fronts of the right and center corps; to the left the troops of the First Corps hurried forward in pursuit, some by motor trucks, while the Artillery pressed along the country roads close behind. Our heavy artillery was skillfully brought into position to fire upon the Carignan-Sedan Railroad and the junctions at Longuyon and Conflans. By the evening of the 4th, our troops had reached La Neuville, opposite Stenay, and had swept through the great Foret de Dieulet, reaching the outskirts of Beaumont, while on the left we were 8 kilometers north of Boult-aux-Bois.

The following day the advance continued toward Sedan with increasing swiftness. The Third Corps, turning east-ward, crossed the Meuse in a brilliant operation by the Fifth Division,

driving the enemy from the heights of Dun-sur-Meuse (pages 58 and 95) and forcing a general withdrawal from the strong positions he had so long held on the hills north of Verdun. (page 93)

By the 7th the right of the Third Corps had exploited its river crossing to a distance of 10 kilometers east of the Meuse, completely ejecting the enemy from the wooded heights and driving him out into the swampy plain of the Woevre; the Fifth and First Corps had reached the line of the Meuse River along their respective fronts and the left of the latter corps held the heights dominating Sedan, the strategical goal of the Meuse-Argonne operation, 41 kilometers from our point of departure on November 1st. WE HAD CUT THE ENEMY'S MAIN LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS. RECOGNIZING THAT NOTHING BUT A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES COULD SAVE HIS ARMIES FROM COMPLETE DISASTER, HE APPEALED FOR AN IMMEDIATE ARMISTICE on November 6th.

Meanwhile general plans had been prepared for the further advance of American forces between the Meuse and the Moselle rivers, to be directed toward Longwy by the First Army, while the Second Army was to assume the offensive toward the Briey Iron Basin. Orders directing the preparatory local operations involved in this enterprise were issued on November 5th.

Between the 7th and 10th of November the Third Corps continued its advance eastward to Remoiville, while the Seventeenth French Corps, on its right, with the Seventy-ninth, Twenty-sixth, and Eighty-first American Divisions and 2 French Divisions, drove the enemy from his final foothold on the heights east of the Meuse. At 9 p. m. on November 9th appropriate orders were sent to the First and Second Armies in accordance with the following telegram from Marshal Foch to the Commander of each of the Allied armies.

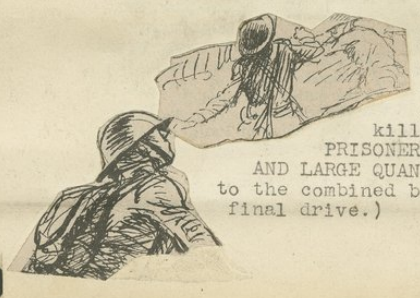
* BY MARSHAL FOCH *

The enemy, disorganized by our repeated attacks, retreats along the entire front. It is important to coördinate and expedite our movements. I appeal to the energy and the initiative of the Commanders-in-Chief and of their armies to make decisive the results obtained.

* * * *

In consequence of the foregoing instructions, our Second Army pressed the enemy along its entire front. On the night of the 10th and the morning of the 11th the Fifth Corps, in the First Army, forced a crossing of the Meuse River east of Beaumont and gained the commanding heights within the reëntrant of the river, THUS COMPLETING OUR CONTROL OF THE MEUSE RIVER LINE. At 6 a. m. on the 11th notification was recieved from Marshal Foch's headquarters that the Armistice had been signed and that hostilities would cease at 11 a. m. Preparatory measures had already been taken to insure the prompt transmission to the troops of the announcement of an Armistice. However, the advance east of Beaumont on the morning of the 11th had been so rapid and communication across the river was so difficult that there was some fighting on isolated portions of that front after 11 a.m.

Between September 26th and November 11th, 22 American and 4 French divisions, on the front extending from southeast of Verdun to the Argonne Forest, had engaged and decisively beaten 47 different German divisions, representing 25 per cent. of the enemy's entire divisional strength on the western front. Of these enemy divisions 20 had been drawn from the French front and 1 from the British front. Of the 22 American divisions 12 had, at different times during this period, been engaged on fronts other than their own. The First American Army suffered a loss of about 117,000 in killed and wounded. IT CAPTURED 26,000 PRISONERS, 847 CANNON, 3,000 MACHINE GUNS, AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF MATERIAL. (The figures apply to the combined battles of the Argonne and of the final drive. final drive.)



* * * *


Die Wacht am
1
Rhein.

COMRADES
WE
GREET YOU.

In presenting our efforts to you the

FIRST DIVISION

extends its hands in greeting, with that feeling of friendship and love that can only exist between brothers whose hearts have been put to the test, ——— and have not been found wanting. ———

THE FIRST DIVISION

PRESENTS

# "DIE WACHT AM RHEIN"

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED IN GERMANY

BY

THE FIRST U. S. ENGINEERS.

Under the Direction of
2nd Lieut. NATHAN HARRIS,
Co. A., 1st U. S. Engineers.

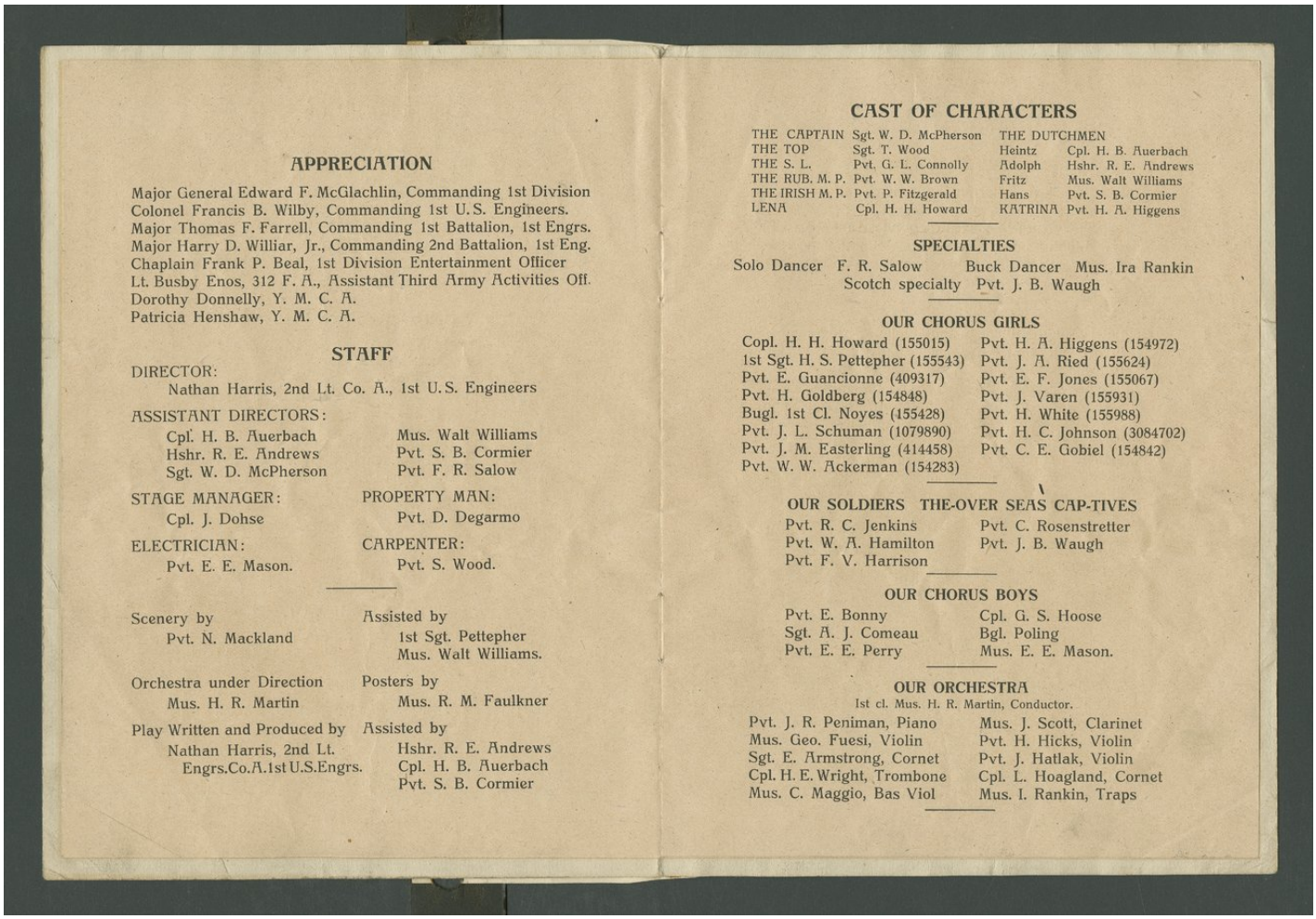
A MUSICAL COMEDY

WITH A REAL PLOT.

ORIGINAL AND UP-TO-DATE

IN

FOUR SCENES AND TWO ACTS.



## APPRECIATION

Major General Edward F. McGlachlin, Commanding 1st Division
Colonel Francis B. Wilby, Commanding 1st U.S. Engineers.
Major Thomas F. Farrell, Commanding 1st Battalion, 1st Engrs.
Major Harry D. Williar, Jr., Commanding 2nd Battalion, 1st Eng.
Chaplain Frank P. Beal, 1st Division Entertainment Officer
Lt. Busby Enos, 312 F. A., Assistant Third Army Activities Off.
Dorothy Donnelly, Y. M. C. A.
Patricia Henshaw, Y. M. C. A.

## STAFF

DIRECTOR:
Nathan Harris, 2nd Lt. Co. A., 1st U.S. Engineers

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS:
Cpl. H. B. Auerbach
Hshr. R. E. Andrews
Sgt. W. D. McPherson
Mus. Walt Williams
Pvt. S. B. Cormier
Pvt. F. R. Salow

STAGE MANAGER:
Cpl. J. Dohse

PROPERTY MAN:
Pvt. D. Degarmo

ELECTRICIAN:
Pvt. E. E. Mason.

CARPENTER:
Pvt. S. Wood.

Scenery by
Pvt. N. Mackland

Assisted by
1st Sgt. Pettepher
Mus. Walt Williams.

Orchestra under Direction
Mus. H. R. Martin

Posters by
Mus. R. M. Faulkner

Play Written and Produced by
Nathan Harris, 2nd Lt.
Engrs. Co. A. 1st U.S. Engrs.

Assisted by
Hshr. R. E. Andrews
Cpl. H. B. Auerbach
Pvt. S. B. Cormier

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| THE CAPTAIN | Sgt. W. D. McPherson | THE DUTCHMEN | |
| THE TOP | Sgt. T. Wood | Heintz | Cpl. H. B. Auerbach |
| THE S. L. | Pvt. G. L. Connolly | Adolph | Hshr. R. E. Andrews |
| THE RUB. M. P. | Pvt. W. W. Brown | Fritz | Mus. Walt Williams |
| THE IRISH M. P. | Pvt. P. Fitzgerald | Hans | Pvt. S. B. Cormier |
| LENA | Cpl. H. H. Howard | KATRINA | Pvt. H. A. Higgens |

### SPECIALTIES

Solo Dancer F. R. Salow — Buck Dancer Mus. Ira Rankin
Scotch specialty Pvt. J. B. Waugh

### OUR CHORUS GIRLS

| | |
|---|---|
| Copl. H. H. Howard (155015) | Pvt. H. A. Higgens (154972) |
| 1st Sgt. H. S. Pettepher (155543) | Pvt. J. A. Ried (155624) |
| Pvt. E. Guancionne (409317) | Pvt. E. F. Jones (155067) |
| Pvt. H. Goldberg (154848) | Pvt. J. Varen (155931) |
| Bugl. 1st Cl. Noyes (155428) | Pvt. H. White (155988) |
| Pvt. J. L. Schuman (1079890) | Pvt. H. C. Johnson (3084702) |
| Pvt. J. M. Easterling (414458) | Pvt. C. E. Gobiel (154842) |
| Pvt. W. W. Ackerman (154283) | |

### OUR SOLDIERS THE-OVER SEAS CAP-TIVES

| | |
|---|---|
| Pvt. R. C. Jenkins | Pvt. C. Rosenstretter |
| Pvt. W. A. Hamilton | Pvt. J. B. Waugh |
| Pvt. F. V. Harrison | |

### OUR CHORUS BOYS

| | |
|---|---|
| Pvt. E. Bonny | Cpl. G. S. Hoose |
| Sgt. A. J. Comeau | Bgl. Poling |
| Pvt. E. E. Perry | Mus. E. E. Mason. |

### OUR ORCHESTRA

1st cl. Mus. H. R. Martin, Conductor.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pvt. J. R. Peniman, Piano | Mus. J. Scott, Clarinet |
| Mus. Geo. Fuesi, Violin | Pvt. H. Hicks, Violin |
| Sgt. E. Armstrong, Cornet | Pvt. J. Hatlak, Violin |
| Cpl. H. E. Wright, Trombone | Cpl. L. Hoagland, Cornet |
| Mus. C. Maggio, Bas Viol | Mus. I. Rankin, Traps |

## PROGRAMME

"DIE WACHT AM RHEIN" — A Musical Comedy
In Two Acts and Four Scenes

Overture by our own Orchestra
Liberty Lads — Lee Orean Smith
Greeting — Fray Mahl

### ACT I

Scene 1
A small German Village in the Coblenz Bridgehead.

1. "We Don't want the Bacon" sung by Sgt. Wood and Chorus
2. "Military Sketch" "The Over-Seas Cap-tives"
3. "We're the Bosses" (Lyric by Lt. Harris) Sung by Sgt. McPherson, Sgt. Wood & Connelly
4. "Ver iss die Goils"
5. "Hientz" sung by Auerbach and Andrews
6. "What do you want to make those eyes at me for", sung by Harrison and Chorus
7. Solo Dance, by Salow
8. "At Dawning" sung by Hoose
9. "Girlies get your kisses from a soldier" (Lyric by Lt. Harris) Sung by Jenkins, Higgen and Chorus.

DROP
Dance Specialty — by Rankin

### WE'RE THE BOSSES

We're the bosses of this little Company,
We don't care how much we make you do.
Saturday inspections are just pie for us,
All we have to do is make an awful fuss.
Then we cut your hair when your feet are bare,
And make you stand in the cold, cold air.
Then we exercise you for an appetite,
And feed Corn Bill or beans that night.

### ACT I

Scene 2
A Park at the edge of the village.

1. "I'm with you", sung by Ried, Fitzgerald & Chorus
2. "Der Trouble commences yet"
3. "They go Wild Over me", Walt Williams and Chorus
4. "Ebenezer Frye", sung by Brown
5. "On the Road to Home Sweet Home", sung by Jones
6. "Vat iss die matter mit em"
7. "We want to go back to the U. S. A." (Lyric by Lt. Harris) sung by Sgt. Wood and Chorus.

CURTAIN

### STARRING OUR ORCHESTRA

Indianola — Henry & Onivan
Lassus Trombone — Slim Wright

## ACT II

Scene 1

Interior of German Wirtschaft.

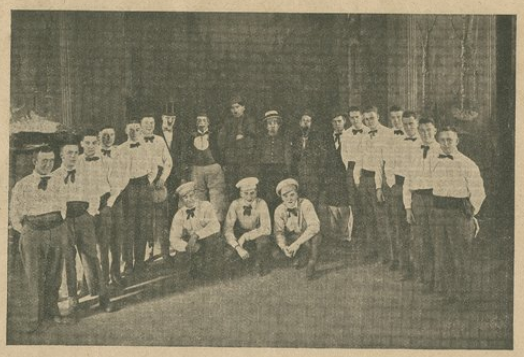
1. "When we get Back", sung by Rankin and Chorus
2. The Plot
3. "Thats why we love you Betsy Ross", sung by Varen, Higgens and Chorus
4. The Society Favorites

"THE CASTLES ON THE RHINE"
Salow and McPherson

5. "Don't you ever get Lonely" Fitzgerald and Chorus
6. Cooties
7. "In The Land of Yamo Yamo", sung by Sgt. Wood and Sgt. McPherson

DROP

Back Home in Tennessee, sung by Rankin.



## ACT II

Scene 2

A German Dance Hall.

1. The Plot Thickens
2. "The Army Sherlock Homes" (written by Mus. R. M. Faulkner), sung by Brown and Fitzgerald
3. "At the Ball", sung by Fuesi and Chorus
4. Quartett-Hoose, Comeau, Bonny, Poling
5. "A bit of Scotch" sung by Waugh
6. "Kiss 'em where you find 'em", sung by Sgt. Wood & Ch.
7. The Plot Busts.

FINALE

We want to go back to the U. S. A.
Heres to Uncle Sammy.

---

### WE WANT TO GO BACK TO THE U. S. A.

Chorus:

We want to go, we want to go,
To the Land we love, where everything is real.
Where Hearts are true and Skies are Blue,
Where Friendship holds like Steel.
Please take us back, Please take us back.
To that Grand old Land of Liberty.
Where the earth and Sun shines down on everyone,
We want to go back to the U. S. A.

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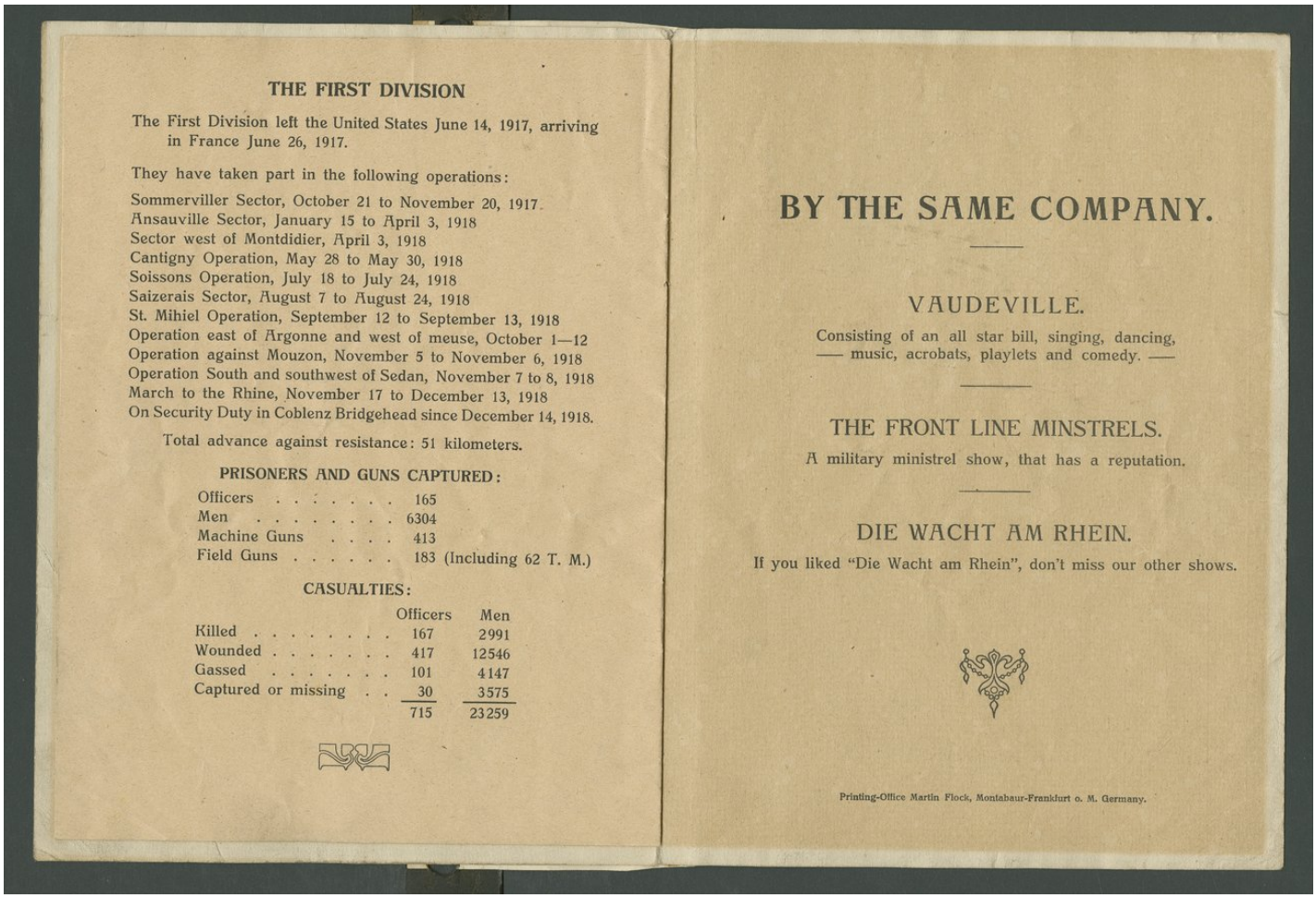

## THE FIRST DIVISION

The First Division left the United States June 14, 1917, arriving in France June 26, 1917.

They have taken part in the following operations:

Sommerviller Sector, October 21 to November 20, 1917.
Ansauville Sector, January 15 to April 3, 1918
Sector west of Montdidier, April 3, 1918
Cantigny Operation, May 28 to May 30, 1918
Soissons Operation, July 18 to July 24, 1918
Saizerais Sector, August 7 to August 24, 1918
St. Mihiel Operation, September 12 to September 13, 1918
Operation east of Argonne and west of meuse, October 1—12
Operation against Mouzon, November 5 to November 6, 1918
Operation South and southwest of Sedan, November 7 to 8, 1918
March to the Rhine, November 17 to December 13, 1918
On Security Duty in Coblenz Bridgehead since December 14, 1918.

Total advance against resistance: 51 kilometers.

**PRISONERS AND GUNS CAPTURED:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Officers | 165 |
| Men | 6304 |
| Machine Guns | 413 |
| Field Guns | 183 (Including 62 T. M.) |

**CASUALTIES:**

| | Officers | Men |
|---|---|---|
| Killed | 167 | 2991 |
| Wounded | 417 | 12546 |
| Gassed | 101 | 4147 |
| Captured or missing | 30 | 3575 |
| | 715 | 23259 |

## BY THE SAME COMPANY.

### VAUDEVILLE.

Consisting of an all star bill, singing, dancing, — music, acrobats, playlets and comedy. —

### THE FRONT LINE MINSTRELS.

A military minstrel show, that has a reputation.

### DIE WACHT AM RHEIN.

If you liked "Die Wacht am Rhein", don't miss our other shows.

Printing-Office Martin Flock, Montabaur-Frankfurt o. M. Germany.

# John H. Plumb World War I scrapbook

Stork Escadrille," as Spad 3 of the French aviation was called. The "Flying Circus," officially Jagdstaffel No. 1, was supported by Jagdstaffels 2 and 3, the former commanded by Captain Loerzer, who had forty-two victories to his credit, and the latter by Captain Bettenge, whose record shows twenty-five victories. Richtofen himself was then at the height of his career, with more than seventy victories on his list and more coming.

The French had been bled white and they were able to give but little support to the small American pursuit group. German reports of that period said:

"The Americans fight more like Indians than like soldiers. They upset our training by plunging single-handed against our formations and do not seem to realize their deficiency in tactical advantages."

**A Bad Day for American Fliers.**

Outnumbered and inadequately equipped, the Americans nevertheless made their presence felt by the Germans. Fighting against the cream of German aviation, the Yanks lost thirty-six pilots in the next few weeks, but shot down thirty-eight of the enemy, thus keeping the balance by a slender margin of two victories.

July 31, 1918, saw the greatest losses of the Americans. Rickenbacker, who had been ill and in the hospital for several weeks came back to duty that morning, but was not yet strong enough to take to the air. The part of the 94th which went up that afternoon included Alan Winslow of Chicago, who had brought down the first German plane credited to the squadron. He was last seen pursuing a Fokker down through the clouds. He did not return and he was crossed off the rolls as "killed in action." A month later a letter came in from a German hospital, signed by the "dead man." He had been shot through the left arm and brought down behind the German lines, where his arm had been amputated. He wrote that he was well on the way to recovery.

That same morning Lieutenant John McArthur of Buffalo, led out five other planes in a raid on Richtofen's airdrome north of Pismes. They reached their objective without incident and used up their ammunition on the Richtofen headquarters. When they turned to fly back home they found that a wind of forty miles an hour was blowing against them. Their gas supply was low and they knew they had little chance of getting back to the allied lines. Still, they made a try, only to find themselves cut off by several squadrons of German planes, who knew that they could fly but little farther and who laid in wait for them inside German territory. After using up most of their precious remaining fuel seeking a way out, McArthur led a rush at a line of German planes, going down himself in the first blast of fire, Lieutenant Jason Hunt dying with him. Lieutenant Beauchamp had already crashed to his death. The three surviving pilots flew through the German lines with empty guns, but one by one their motors sputtered and died and they were forced to land and surrender. Only one man won through and landed his plane on a French airdrome with a dead engine.

**Moved to Verdun.**

The summer wore on for the First Pursuit Group, the days heavy with losses and lightened by victories. The doughboys cleared the Marne salient and threw the Germans back to the Aisne, from whose banks they had started their drive on Paris in the last days of May. Then the scene began to shift to the East, where Pershing was forging the hammer that was to have a test of its striking power at St. Mihiel and then to show its full weight in beating down the German defense in the Argonne Forest and so bringing the long war to an end.

September 1 the First Pursuit Group moved back to the Verdun area and occupied a new airdrome at Erize-la-Petite and prepared itself for its new campaign—a campaign that was to be dominated by the personality of a tow-headed boy from Phoenix, Ariz. The story of Frank Luke, jr., has already been told in these columns; it was told first because it was the most amazing performance of the whole war in the air. Other air miracles and deeds of heroism were to mark this final phase of the Great War, and some of them will be told here.

ONE of the brightest names on the honor roll of the Air Service is that of Capt. Field E. Kindley of the 148th Aero squadron. Born at Pea Ridge, Ark., he must have imbibed some of the atmosphere of battle which still clings around that little town where Franz Sigel won his great battle early in the Civil War.

When the United States entered the World War, Field Kindley was the owner and proprietor of a motion picture theater at Gravette, Ark. Perhaps as he stood in the back of the house on busy nights and watched the first "war pictures" flickering across the screen, he felt a stirring of that remarkable courage and flying ability which was to mark his army career so distinctly.

He "joined up" with the reserve officers' training school at Ft. Riley, Kas., at the outbreak of the war in April, 1917, and three months later was sent to the ground school at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill. He sailed for England September 16 and was assigned to the royal air force for training as a combat pilot. That he took his training seriously is evidenced by the fact that King George of England decorated him with the British distinguished flying cross and that he was credited by the R. A. F. with nine German planes shot down and three more driven down out of control.



—Courtesy U. S. Signal Corps.

CAPT. FIELD E. KINDLEY, ONE OF THE NOTED A. E. F. AIRMEN, AND HIS MASCOT "FOKKER."

**A Great Fighting Record.**

The reports of his air battles while with the 148th squadron are one of the best collections of air fighting records in existence. They are reproduced here as one of the most interesting parts of this story. They are taken from the files of the war department at Washington.

The most historic of these battles is the one he fought on July 13, in which he won the first victory credited to the 148th squadron. It reads:

"July 13, 1918.

"Time—8:57 a. m.; locality—West Ypres; height—12,000 feet; enemy aircraft—Albatross D5.

"At 8:57 a. m. I saw about six enemy aircraft below us between Poperinghe and Ypres. An Albatross came out of the clouds between me and my formation. After climbing head-on over him, I half rolled and shot two bursts of 100 rounds into him at point-blank range. Soon he and another E. A. were on my tail, diving vertically at me. Of course, I was watching them and when the one I had fired two bursts at tried to climb out of his dive I saw his tail come loose and he went down in a vertical dive with the tail plane hanging to his fuisage. He continued to dive vertically through the clouds and, to the best of my knowledge, must have crashed not far from the lines southeast of Ypres. By this time three E. A. were firing upon me and I maneuvered my way through the clouds back to the lines and rejoined my formation."

The victory was officially confirmed by the commander of the 65th wing, Royal Air force, to which the 148th U. S. squadron was attached at that time.

**Made Certain of His Victory.**

The next battle report of this redoubtable fighter reads:

"August 3, 1918.

"Time—9:30 a. m.; height—10,000 feet; enemy aircraft—Fokker biplane.

"Engaged enemy aircraft, attacking one of the formation. Fired seventy-five rounds at eighty yards and enemy aircraft started to turn. In the turn his nose went down and he fell on his back for a few seconds and then into a slow spin. Continued to fire on him until he went into the clouds. Later I went down under the clouds at Ostend and saw, southeast of Ostend, what appeared to be an airplane burning on the ground underneath scene of engagement."

Ten days later the former young movie magnate had occasion to write another report, briefer than usual but just as conclusive as those which had preceded it.

"August 13, 1918.

"Time—1:52 p. m.; locality—north of Roye; height—6,000 ft.; enemy aircraft—probably Fokker.

"Attacked six enemy aircraft, firing burst of 125 rounds into a two-seater which went down with left wing low and upon landing ran into a shell-hole, turning upon its left wing and nose. I attacked another at fifty yards when both guns jammed and not being able to clear them I washed out."

The weather for the next two weeks was bad and so it was not until September 2 that Kindley again took his pen in hand to write the following:

"September 2nd, 1918.

"Time—11:50 a. m.; locality—south of Romaucourt; height—3,000 ft.; enemy aircraft—Fokker biplane.

"Dived on Fokker which was close on tail of one of our Camels. Fired only a short burst when E. A. went over on his back with a stream of black smoke issuing from his fuselage. The smoke cleared away before he crashed. Was then attacked by one Fokker and one Hannoveraner who were very stout. The Fokker left, but the Hannoveraner continued to riddle me with bullets, which, I believe, were explosive, while I could only get one burst into him."

**His Fourth Victory.**

It was only three days after Kindley's encounter with these two "very stout" foes that he wrote another report in the following words:

"September 5, 1918.

"Time—5:20 p. m.; locality—over St. Quentin Lake; height—9,000 ft.; E. A.—Fokker.

"My formation was dived on by two Fokkers which came out of an E. A. (enemy aircraft) formation of nine machines overhead. I turned to fight one off the tail of a Camel, when the formation broke up. Having zoomed he dived on me at once. While trying to put a burst into him, I stalled and went into a spin. Just as I came out I opened fire on an E. A. upon a Camel's tail. He half rolled; I followed him down till my guns jammed. When I last saw him he was spinning at 1,500 feet."

There is a gap to ten days in the record at this point, the next document in the file being:

"September 15, 1918.

"Time—10:55 a. m.; locality—Over Dartford Wood; Height—6,000 ft.; E. A.—Fokker biplane.

"After firing a burst of eighty rounds head-on into a Fokker, he made a very gentle turn. On the turn I followed him with both guns and continued to fire until he pulled up in a stall and then into a very slow spin. I last saw him spinning at 2,000 feet through a cloud."

To one who remembers the war days in the air over the Flanders mud, those terse, vivid reports from Kindley's modest pen bring back the yesterdays. The early morning mist and the dawn breeze bringing its hint of freshness into the stale smells of the battlefields—flat, pungent smells of burnt powder, sour stinks of gas pockets at the bottom of shell-holes, shell-churned graves too near the surface. Then there was the sharp, damp chill floating in from the North Sea that made men feel the need of something warm for breakfast and wish that sometime it might be ended so that they could go home and be warm and clean once again before they died.

Over all the sound of the guns—sometimes faint and far away like the trial taps of the drummer as the orchestra tunes up while the audience rustles into the seats—sometimes bellicose and quarrelsome and insistent—again riding in the full-throated bellowing thunder of the drumfire preceding an infantry attack. No matter what concerns might fill the mind, the voice of the guns rode above them all, for their voice was the voice of death and every man listened for the moment when his name might be called.

THEN there was the early morning bustle about the hangars, a sort of brisk importance in which each of the men unconsciously strove to emphasize his vitality and vigor by curt words and snappy movements—an activity to keep one from thinking about the possibility that by night that vigor might be no more and that what had come to so many would that day come to you.

The tugging of puffy-eyed mechanics against the propellers of cold, obstinate motors, sputters, roars that half started and then died blastingly, the great roar as first the motor caught, skipped and then held its note—then the purring to which you listened with every nerve, the open throttle, the roaring progress across the ground, the pull on the stick and the slow lift into the air—all of these live again in Kindley's reports for "the man who was there."

**Shooting It Out.**

"September, 17, 1918.

"Locality—Epinoy; height, 7,000 feet; enemy aircraft, Fokker biplane.

Let's read a few more of them:

"Fired 150 rounds at E. A. (Enemy Aircraft), before he came head-on at me. Fired head-on at him until we nearly collided, while the E. A. did not fire. He, as well as his engine was evidently crippled for his maneuvers were poor while Lieutenant Creech followed him down until he crashed near Epinoy."

A great game, that wartime flying, with an even chance for life or death, and the odds on the better man. Head-on with all guns going until one man went down; just as in the old days Viking axmen stood toe to toe and traded blows until one blade bit bone. But let's get back to the story.

"September 18, 1918.

"Time—7:20 a. m.; locality—west of Cambrai; height—14,000 feet.

"Patrol dived on seven E. A. north of Bourlon Wood, which resulted in a dog fight lasting about ten minutes. One E. A. stalled and I fired into him. He went into a slow spin. I fired at him down to 4,000 feet, and left him because he seemed to be out of control. However, I watched him crash and burst into flames on the ground.

"As I followed the E. A. mentioned above I noticed another E. A. on the ground. Shortly after about twenty E. A. came over at 13,000 feet, and we withdrew across the lines."

**Fighting at Close Range.**

A day's rest and then:

"September 20, 1918

"Time—3:30 p. m.; locality—Rouzecourt; height—15,000 feet; E. A.—Fokker biplane.

"Two Fokkers were close on the tail of an SE5 (English) when I dived from 10,000 feet on them. One went north and the other followed the SE5 at close range. Fired a burst of 75 vertically at him and then a burst of 125 after he turned east. To avoid collision with him I pulled aside and pumped pressure and then started to turn upon his tail again, but could not see him anywhere in the air. He must have gone down."

Now comes into Captain Kindley's vivid picture Elliott White Springs, good fellow, good pilot and writer of good stories.

"September 26, 1918.

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"Time—1:25 p. m.; locality—Cambral road; height—4,000 feet; E. A.—Fokker biplane.

"Lieutenant Springs's flight dived on two Fokkers, who dived toward six other Fokkers. I led my flight down until the six other Fokkers turned east and then leveled out to keep my height, although two Fokkers were chasing Lieutenant Springs's flight. After seeing Lieutenant Springs's flight did not turn back, I led my flight down upon the two Fokkers. The other six at once came into the fight. I saw Lieutenant Creech go through the clouds close on to a Fokker, and a few seconds later I drove an E. A. down into a spin, firing until he went through the clouds. I did not follow him down."

**A Magnificent Fight.**

Then a classic fight, including airplanes, ground machine guns and a final battle in the clouds without ammunition.

"September 27, 1918.

*"Time—9:20 a. m. Locality—Marcoing-Noyelles. Height—900 feet.*

"At 9 a. m. dropped bombs on railway south of Marcoing, where transports were seen. Then with flight attacked a balloon near Noyelles sur l'Escaut. Continued to fire until balloon took in my whole sight. Had only 200 rounds of Buckingham, which was gone before balloon was punctured. Both observers jumped and they pulled the balloon down immediately. At 9:05 a. m. attacked troops on the ground. Observed one of our ground machine guns firing east and thereby located an enemy machine gun, which I attacked and silenced from a height of 600 feet. At 9:10 climbed west to about 2,000 feet and started for another machine gun emplacement when a 2-seater attacked me with his front gun. He started west with me under his tail at 600 feet. After a few rounds he burst into flames. I was then at so low an altitude that I cannot pinpoint where he crashed. At 9:25 a. m. noticed two tanks of ours and troops near beet root factory, east of Flesoulres. At 10:10 a. m. Lieutenant Clay attacked five 2-seaters, which, I and another of my flight attacked from above; they turned east. Their mission was evidently ground strafing. Three times they attempted to cross and each time they were turned back.

"Dived on two E. A. without any ammunition. However, they turned east."

There are more of these reports, a bit dim after their 10-year sleep in the files of the army air corps. Every one of them is in effect the same. Each is a record of a daring and yet conscientious workmen going about his job, without thought of risk or death, or any other factor than the work that lay before him.

Field Kindley's praises have not been sung in any mighty chorus, but to those who know the air this young man who came from the box office of an Arkansas movie theater to play his part on the hard stage of war, is one of the outstanding inspirations of that war. This belief is well expressed in two more documents copied from the files at Washington. The first tells with military briefness why he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross: It reads:

"KINDLEY, FIELD E., first lieutenant, 148th aero squadron, air service. Near Bourlon Wood, France, September 24, 1918, he attacked a formation of seven hostile planes (type Fokker), and sent one crashing to the ground."

The other document is longer because it has a longer story to tell.

YOU have already read Kindley's own story of his fight September 27, and it will be interesting to read the report of that same day as the high officers of the A. E. F. saw it. In awarding him an Oak Leaf Cluster to wear with his Distinguished Cross the following citation was made public:

"Oak Leaf Cluster:

"A bronze oak leaf is awarded to Lieutenant Kindley for the following act of extraordinary heroism in action near Marcoing, France, September 27, 1918: Flying at a low altitude, this officer bombed the railway at Marcoing and drove down an enemy balloon. He then attacked German troops at a low altitude and silenced a hostile machine gun, after which he shot down in flames an enemy plane (type Halberstadt) which had attacked him. He has so far destroyed seven and one-half enemy aircraft and driven down three out of control."

Field Kindley finished his share in the war with the rank of captain and with twelve officially verified air victories to his credit. When the rush back to civilian life began he remained with the air service he had learned to love to the exclusion of all other ambitions. One of the few aces of the war who survived and remained in the service, he was an important part of the little nucleus from which sprang the army air corps of today.

**Always Hate War.**

The American people have always followed their wars with a revulsion against the machinery of war. Following the Civil War the army and navy were permitted almost to disappear. We had seen so much of them in the four years of that struggle that the debt-burdened people felt that they never wanted to see them again. New interests claimed their attention, and it was not until the guns of Santiago and Manila awoke a new generation that the country again realized the necessity of armed protection. From 1898 the pendulum swung ever higher until it reached the apex of its journey in the titanic effort of 1917 and 1918.

Then came the inevitable revulsion. The air service was the newest arm of our defense and it was understood by few. The fact that we had thousands of some sort of planes somewhere seemed to be enough. To the uninitiated, an airplane is an airplane. There were disputes and delays and none of them helped to build the kind of air force the country must have for its needs. Most of the fliers who had learned the new art of war in the air had gone back to civil life, many of them with sincere resolves to continue active in the reserve —but the demands of business and family do not tend to leave a man much time for seemingly needless and unpaid patriotism.

**Kindley's Death.**

Kindley stayed in the army as a pilot. His record an inspiration to the younger men coming into the air service and his experience an invaluable guide to their training. First with the Army of Occupation in Coblenz and then at various flying fields in the United States he worked in the cause of American aviation, both civil and military. A skilled pilot, his duty took him all over the United States, testing and demonstrating new planes and new methods of using them, instructing flying cadets in the finer phases of the art of flying.

Late in January, 1920, his round of duty called him to Kelly Field, Texas. Here, on February 20, 1920, the hero of a score of fierce battles in the air, the man who matched dice with death daily for months fell a victim to a broken bit of wire. Flying low over the field in company with two other pilots, a control wire on his plane snapped. He was too close to the ground to use his skill to maneuver to a safe landing and his ship crashed to the ground, catching fire from the impact. Captain Kindley was caught in the wreckage and burned to death.

Sacrifice? Yes. A wasted sacrifice? No. Disappointment and delayed hopes and a terrible death—all these were the rewards he got, that is true—but the example of his life and death is one of the forces that is helping to lead the United States to its proper place in the air.

**A Story of Sacrifice.**

I want to tell you one more story of sacrifice—one almost Scriptural in its exemplification of the text, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he giveth his life for his friend." Wilbert Wallace White was a pilot of the 12th squadron. He was 20 years old and had a wife and two children waiting for his return to his New York home. He had served bravely and well. That his courage and skill had been proven beyond question is proven by the following citation:

"Distinguished service cross.

"Second Lieut. Wilbert W. White, pilot 147th aero squadron, air service.

"While protecting three allied observation planes in the region of Etain, Lieutenant White was attacked by three Halberstadt fighters. He engaged them immediately, successfully fighting them off and leading them all away from the observation planes, which were thus permitted to carry on their work unmolested. While returning home he dived through a cloud to attack an enemy balloon near Chambley, bringing it down in flames. Two Fokker scouts then attacked him, and although he was alone, with intrepid courage he attacked the first Fokker head-on, shooting until it went down in a vertical dive out of control. Pulling sharply, he fired a long burst at the second Fokker as it went over him, putting it to immediate flight."

On October 10 Lieutenant White ranked as the leading ace of his squadron, with eight officially verified victories. That day he took aloft for his first flight a young novice, a "rooky" whose family he knew. He had promised to keep a guarding eye on the initiation of the new man until the latter had gained enough experience to take care of himself.

**Rammed the German Plane.**

The initiation flight soon developed into a "dog-fight" in which the newcomer was at a hopeless disadvantage. Lacking the skill of his veteran guardian, he was about to fall victim to the guns of a German Fokker when Lieutenant White performed one of the most magnificent sacrifices in the history of the war. Let the dispassionate statement of the army awards board tell the story in the citation they published when giving White an oak leaf cluster to keep company with his Distinguished Service Cross—not to be worn with it, as the regulations provide, for in winning it Wilbert White put himself forever out of the world of men who wear the decorations of this life.

"Oak Leaf Cluster.

"For the following act of extraordinary heroism in action, near Toul, France, October 10, 1918, Lieutenant White is awarded an oak leaf cluster to be worn with his Distinguished Service Cross: In command of a patrol of four planes which was attacked by five German Fokkers, he attacked the enemy plane which was hard pressing a new pilot. The German Fokker had gotten at the tail of the American plane and was overtaking it, Lieutenant White's guns having jammed, he drove his plane head-on into the German Fokker, both crashing to earth, 500 meters below."

TEN years is a long time. So much has happened since the stirring autumn of 1918 that it is not easy for most of us to remember the things that thrilled us so deeply then—few have forgotten Whittlesey and his "Lost Battalion."

October 2, 1918, the German line in the Argonne Forest was still fighting grimly for every foot of ground. Machine guns sent their blazing lances of death from concealed nests behind the tangle of barbed wire interlaced through the natural jungle of trees, brush and rocks. The tortuous tangle of the Argonne gave little opportunity for strategy; progress was a matter of soldiers rather than of commanders. Each point of vantage had to be taken by the men immediately in front of it—and the going was hard.

The 77th division of the A. E. F. had had seven days of this and to them the emergency of this particular day was just one more attack, one more struggle to get enough men through the tangle to kill the German machine gunners. They had become hardened to the danger of death and wounds. They had learned the soldiers' lesson that losses are the price of victory.

**Takes Its Objective.**

The division's job was to break through. There was no opening on either flank—direct frontal attack into the teeth of the German resistance was the only course. At ten minutes to one in the afternoon, the first wave of the 77th moved forward, supported by a storm of shell fire from their artillery



LIEUTS. HAROLD GORTTLER AND ERWIN BLECKLEY DROPPING SUPPLIES TO "THE LOST BATTALION" IN THE ARGONNE FOREST. AFTER REACHING THEIR OBJECTIVE BOTH FLIERS WERE KILLED BY GERMAN MACHINE GUN FIRE.


John Philip Sousa
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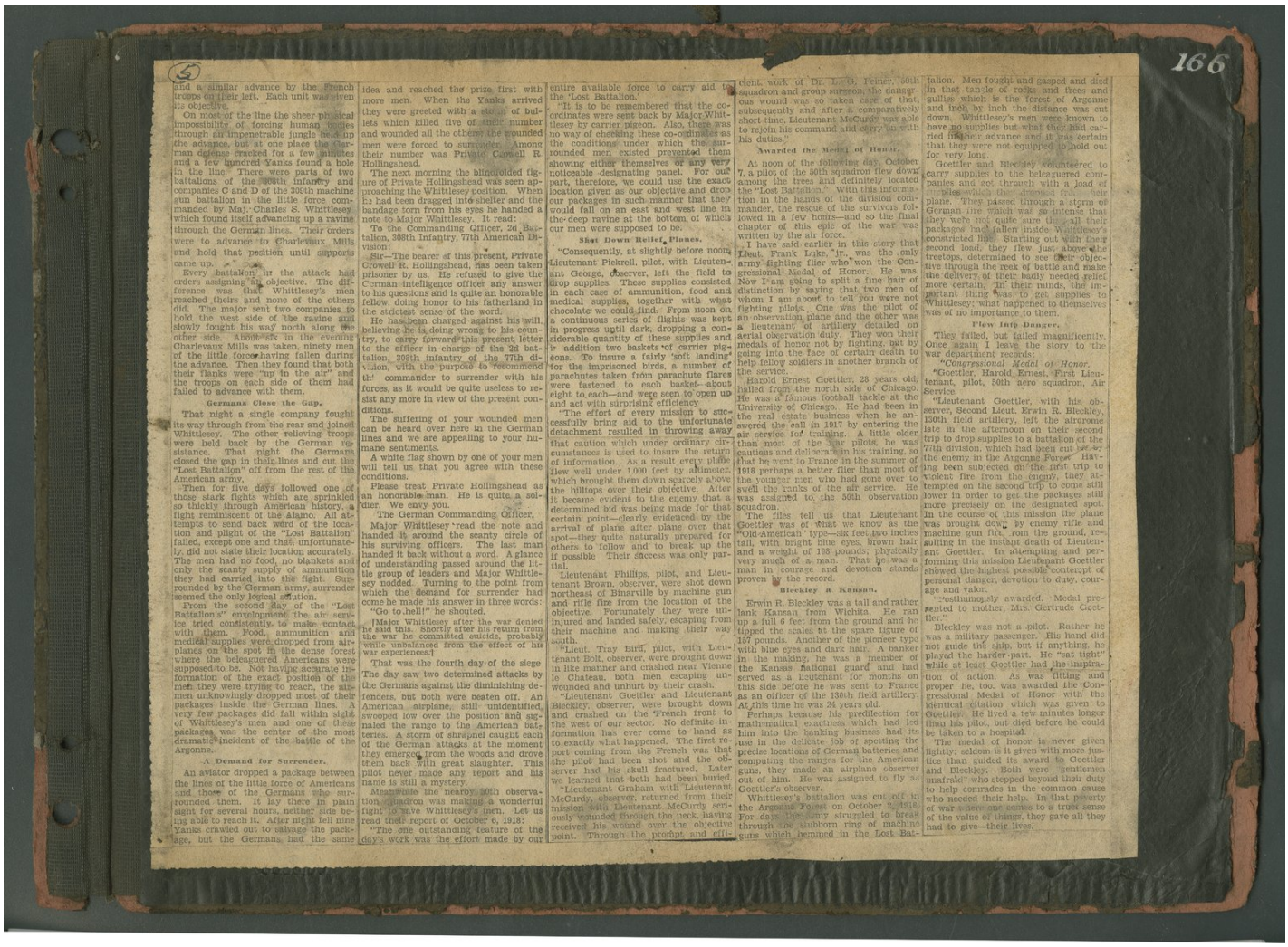
**John H. Plumb World War I scrapbook**



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and a similar advance by the French troops on their left. Each unit was given its objective.

On most of the line the sheer physical impossibility of forcing human bodies through an impenetrable jungle held up the advance, but at one place the German defense cracked for a few minutes and a few hundred Yanks found a hole in the line. There were parts of two battalions of the 308th infantry and companies C and D of the 306th machine gun battalion in the little force commanded by Maj. Charles S. Whittlesey which found itself advancing up a ravine through the German lines. Their orders were to advance to Charlevaux Mills and hold that position until supports came up.

Every battalion in the attack had orders assigning it objective. The difference was that Whittlesey's men reached theirs and none of the others did. The major sent two companies to hold the west side of the ravine and slowly fought his way north along the other side. About six in the evening Charlevaux Mills was taken, ninety men of the little force having fallen during the advance. Then they found that both their flanks were "up in the air" and the troops on each side of them had failed to advance with them.

**Germans Close the Gap.**

That night a single company fought its way through from the rear and joined Whittlesey. The other relieving troops were held back by the German resistance. That night the Germans closed the gap in their lines and cut the "Lost Battalion" off from the rest of the American army.

Then for five days followed one of those stark fights which are sprinkled so thickly through American history, a fight reminiscent of the Alamo. All attempts to send back word of the location and plight of the "Lost Battalion" failed, except one and that unfortunately did not state their location accurately. The men had no food, no blankets and only the scanty supply of ammunition they had carried into the fight. Surrounded by the German army, surrender seemed the only logical solution.

From the second day of the "Lost Battalion's" envelopment the air service tried consistently to make contact with them. Food, ammunition and medical supplies were dropped from airplanes on the spot in the dense forest where the beleaguered Americans were supposed to be. Not having accurate information of the exact position of the men they were trying to reach, the airmen unknowingly dropped most of their packages inside the German lines. A very few packages did fall within sight of Whittlesey's men and one of these packages was the center of the most dramatic incident of the battle of the Argonne.

**A Demand for Surrender.**

An aviator dropped a package between the lines of the little force of Americans and those of the Germans who surrounded them. It lay there in plain sight for several hours, neither side being able to reach it. After night fell nine Yanks crawled out to salvage the package, but the Germans had the same idea and reached the prize first with more men. When the Yanks arrived they were greeted with a storm of bullets which killed five of their number and wounded all the others; the wounded men were forced to surrender. Among their number was Private Cowell R. Hollingshead.

The next morning the blindfolded figure of Private Hollingshead was seen approaching the Whittlesey position. When he had been dragged into shelter and the bandage torn from his eyes he handed a note to Major Whittlesey. It read:

To the Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 308th Infantry, 77th American Division:

Sir—The bearer of this present, Private Crowell R. Hollingshead, has been taken prisoner by us. He refused to give the German intelligence officer any answer to his questions and is quite an honorable fellow, doing honor to his fatherland in the strictest sense of the word.

He has been charged against his will, believing he is doing wrong to his country, to carry forward this present letter to the officer in charge of the 2d battalion, 308th infantry of the 77th division, with the purpose to recommend to commander to surrender with his forces, as it would be quite useless to resist any more in view of the present conditions.

The suffering of your wounded men can be heard over here in the German lines and we are appealing to your humane sentiments.

A white flag shown by one of your men will tell us that you agree with these conditions.

Please treat Private Hollingshead as an honorable man. He is quite a soldier. We envy you.

The German Commanding Officer.

Major Whittlesey read the note and handed it around the scanty circle of his surviving officers. The last man handed it back without a word. A glance of understanding passed around the little group of leaders and Major Whittlesey nodded. Turning to the point from which the demand for surrender had come he made his answer in three words:

"Go to hell!" he shouted.

Major Whittlesey after the war denied he said this. Shortly after his return from the war he committed suicide, probably while unbalanced from the effect of his war experiences.

That was the fourth day of the siege. The day saw two determined attacks by the Germans against the diminishing defenders, but both were beaten off. An American airplane, still unidentified, swooped low over the position and signaled the range to the American batteries. A storm of shrapnel caught each of the German attacks at the moment they emerged from the woods and drove them back with great slaughter. This pilot never made any report and his name is still a mystery.

Meanwhile the nearby 50th observation squadron was making a wonderful fight to save Whittlesey's men. Let us read their report of October 6, 1918:

"The one outstanding feature of the day's work was the effort made by our entire available force to carry aid to the 'Lost Battalion.'

"It is to be remembered that the coordinates were sent back by Major Whittlesey by carrier pigeon. Also, there was no way of checking these co-ordinates as the conditions under which the surrounded men existed prevented them showing either themselves or any very noticeable designating panel. For our part, therefore, we could use the exact location given as our objective and drop our packages in such manner that they would fall on an east and west line in the deep ravine at the bottom of which our men were supposed to be.

**Shot Down Relief Planes.**

"Consequently, at slightly before noon Lieutenant Pickrell, pilot, with Lieutenant George, observer, left the field to drop supplies. These supplies consisted in each case of ammunition, food and medical supplies, together with what chocolate we could find. From noon on a continuous series of flights was kept in progress until dark, dropping a considerable quantity of these supplies and in addition two baskets of carrier pigeons. To insure a fairly 'soft landing' for the imprisoned birds, a number of parachutes taken from parachute flares were fastened to each basket—about eight to each—and were seen to open up and act with surprising efficiency.

"The effort of every mission to successfully bring aid to the unfortunate detachment resulted in throwing away that caution which under ordinary circumstances is used to insure the return of information. As a result every plane flew well under 1,000 feet by altimeter, which brought them down scarcely above the hilltops over their objective. After it became evident to the enemy that a determined bid was being made for that certain point—clearly evidenced by the arrival of plane after plane over that spot—they quite naturally prepared for others to follow and to break up the if possible. Their success was only partial.

Lieutenant Phillips, pilot, and Lieutenant Brown, observer, were shot down northeast of Binarville by machine gun and rifle fire from the location of the objective. Fortunately they were uninjured and landed safely, escaping from their machine and making their way south.

"Lieut. Tray Bird, pilot, with Lieutenant Bolt, observer, were brought down in like manner and crashed near Vienne le Chateau, both men escaping unwounded and unhurt by their crash.

"Lieutenant Goettler and Lieutenant Bleckley, observer, were brought down and crashed on the French front to the west of our sector. No definite information has ever come to hand as to exactly what happened. The first report coming from the French was that the pilot had been shot and the observer had his skull fractured. Later we learned that both had been buried.

"Lieutenant Graham with Lieutenant McCurdy, observer, returned from their mission with Lieutenant McCurdy seriously wounded through the neck, having received his wound over the objective point. Through the prompt and efficient work of Dr. L. G. Feiner, 50th squadron and group surgeon, the dangerous wound was so taken care of that, subsequently and after a comparatively short time, Lieutenant McCurdy was able to rejoin his command and carry on with his duties."

**Awarded the Medal of Honor.**

At noon of the following day, October 7, a pilot of the 50th squadron flew down among the trees and definitely located the "Lost Battalion." With this information in the hands of the division commander, the rescue of the survivors followed in a few hours—and so the final chapter of this epic of the war was written by the air force.

I have said earlier in this story that Lieut. Frank Luke, Jr., was the only army fighting flier who won the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was. Now I am going to split a fine hair of distinction by saying that two men of whom I am about to tell you were not fighting pilots. One was the pilot of an observation plane and the other was a lieutenant of artillery detailed on aerial observation duty. They won their medals of honor not by fighting, but by going into the face of certain death to help fellow soldiers in another branch of the service.

Harold Ernest Goettler, 28 years old, hailed from the north side of Chicago. He was a famous football tackle at the University of Chicago. He had been in the real estate business when he answered the call in 1917 by entering the air service for training. A little older than most of the war pilots, he was cautious and deliberate in his training, so that he went to France in the summer of 1918 perhaps a better flier than most of the younger men who had gone over to swell the ranks of the air service. He was assigned to the 50th observation squadron.

The files tell us that Lieutenant Goettler was of what we know as the "Old-American" type—six feet, two inches tall, with bright blue eyes, brown hair and a weight of 198 pounds; physically very much of a man. That he was a man in courage and devotion stands proven by the record.

**Bleckley a Kansan.**

Erwin R. Bleckley was a tall and rather lank Kansan from Wichita. He ran up a full 6 feet from the ground and he tipped the scales at the spare figure of 157 pounds. Another of the pioneer type with blue eyes and dark hair. A banker in the making, he was a member of the Kansas national guard and had served as a lieutenant for months on this side before he was sent to France as an officer of the 135th field artillery. At this time he was 24 years old.

Perhaps because his predilection for mathematical exactness which had led him into the banking business had its use in the delicate job of spotting the precise locations of German batteries and computing the ranges for the American guns, they made an airplane observer out of him. He was assigned to fly as Goettler's observer.

Whittlesey's battalion was cut off in the Argonne Forest on October 2, 1918. For days the army struggled to break through one stubborn ring of machine guns which hemmed in the Lost Battalion. Men fought and gasped and died in that tangle of rocks and trees and gullies which is the forest of Argonne and inch by inch the distance was cut down. Whittlesey's men were known to have no supplies but what they had carried in their advance and it was certain that they were not equipped to hold out for very long.

Goettler and Bleckley volunteered to carry supplies to the beleaguered companies and got through with a load of supplies which they dropped from their plane. They passed through a storm of German fire which was so intense that they were not quite sure that all their packages had fallen inside Whittlesey's constricted lines. Starting out with their second load, they flew just above the treetops, determined to see their objective through the reek of battle and make the delivery of their badly needed relief more certain. In their minds, the important thing was to get supplies to Whittlesey; what happened to themselves was of no importance to them.

**Flew Into Danger.**

They failed, but failed magnificently. Once again I leave the story to the war department records:

"*Congressional Medal of Honor.*

"Goettler, Harold Ernest, First Lieutenant, pilot, 50th aero squadron, Air Service.

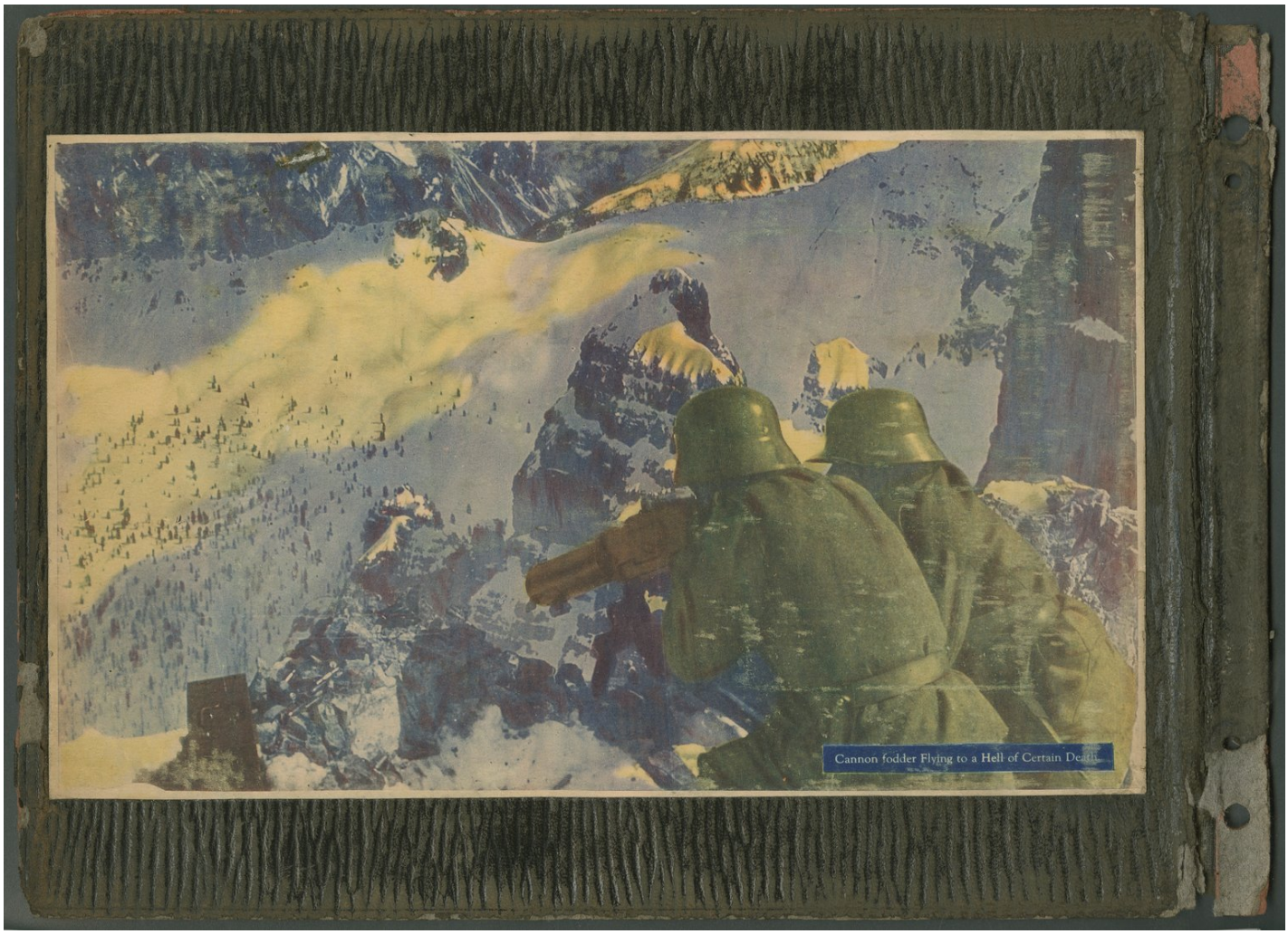
"Lieutenant Goettler, with his observer, Second Lieut. Erwin R. Bleckley, 130th field artillery, left the airdrome late in the afternoon on their second trip to drop supplies to a battalion of the 77th division, which had been cut off by the enemy in the Argonne Forest. Having been subjected on the first trip to violent fire from the enemy, they attempted on the second trip to come still lower in order to get the packages still more precisely on the designated spot. In the course of this mission the plane was brought down by enemy rifle and machine gun fire from the ground, resulting in the instant death of Lieutenant Goettler. In attempting and performing this mission Lieutenant Goettler showed the highest possible contempt of personal danger, devotion to duty, courage and valor.

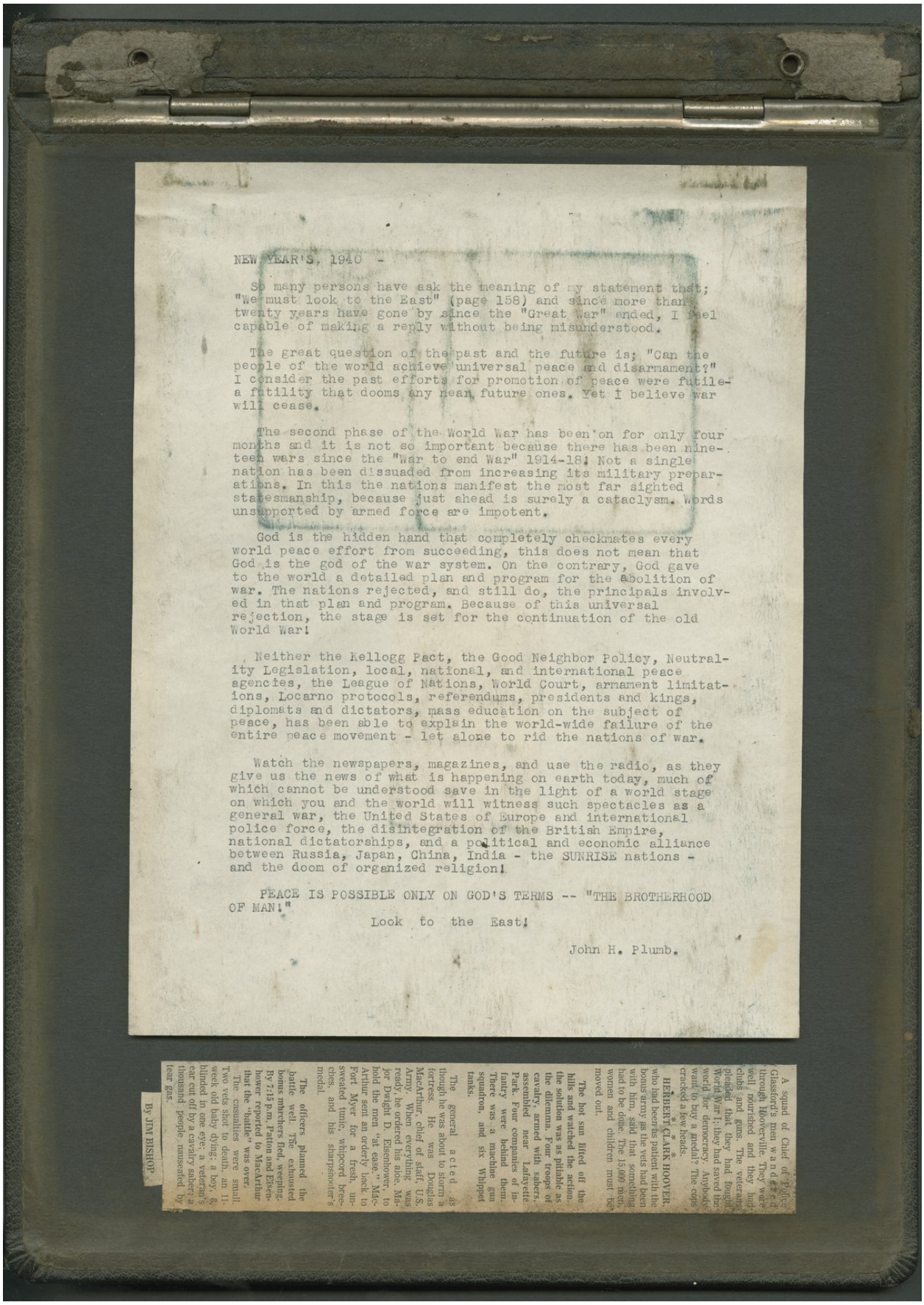
"Posthumously awarded. Medal presented to mother, Mrs. Gertrude Goettler."

Bleckley was not a pilot. Rather he was a military passenger. His hand did not guide the ship, but if anything, he played the harder part. He "sat tight" while at least Goettler had the inspiration of action. As was fitting and proper he, too, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor with the identical citation which was given to Goettler. He lived a few minutes longer than his pilot, but died before he could be taken to a hospital.

The medal of honor is never given lightly; seldom is it given with more justice than guided its award to Goettler and Bleckley. Both were gentlemen unafraid who stepped beyond their duty to help comrades in the common cause who needed their help. In that poverty of war where one comes to a truer sense of the value of things, they gave all they had to give—their lives.

# John H. Plumb World War I scrapbook





NEW YEAR'S, 1940 -

So many persons have ask the meaning of my statement that; "We must look to the East" (page 158) and since more than twenty years have gone by since the "Great War" ended, I feel capable of making a reply without being misunderstood.

The great question of the past and the future is; "Can the people of the world achieve universal peace and disarmament?" I consider the past efforts for promotion of peace were futile- a futility that dooms any mean future ones. Yet I believe war will cease.

The second phase of the World War has been on for only four months and it is not so important because there has been nineteen wars since the "War to end War" 1914-18! Not a single nation has been dissuaded from increasing its military preparations. In this the nations manifest the most far sighted statesmanship, because just ahead is surely a cataclysm. Words unsupported by armed force are impotent.

God is the hidden hand that completely checkmates every world peace effort from succeeding, this does not mean that God is the god of the war system. On the contrary, God gave to the world a detailed plan and program for the abolition of war. The nations rejected, and still do, the principals involved in that plan and program. Because of this universal rejection, the stage is set for the continuation of the old World War!

Neither the Kellogg Pact, the Good Neighbor Policy, Neutrality Legislation, local, national, and international peace agencies, the League of Nations, World Court, armament limitations, Locarno protocols, referendums, presidents and kings, diplomats and dictators, mass education on the subject of peace, has been able to explain the world-wide failure of the entire peace movement - let alone to rid the nations of war.

Watch the newspapers, magazines, and use the radio, as they give us the news of what is happening on earth today, much of which cannot be understood save in the light of a world stage on which you and the world will witness such spectacles as a general war, the United States of Europe and international police force, the disintegration of the British Empire, national dictatorships, and a political and economic alliance between Russia, Japan, China, India - the SUNRISE nations - and the doom of organized religion!

PEACE IS POSSIBLE ONLY ON GOD'S TERMS -- "THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN!"

Look to the East!

John H. Plumb.

A squad of Chief of Police Glassford's men w a d e d through Hooverville. They were well nourished and they had clubs and guns. The veterans pleaded that they had fought World War I; they had saved the world for democracy. Anybody want to buy a medal? The cops cracked a few heads.

* * *

HERBERT CLARK HOOVER.

who had been as patient with the bonus army as the vets had been with him, said that something had to be done. The 15,000 men, women and children must be moved out.

The hot sun lifted off the hills and watched the action. the solution was as pitiable as the dilemma. Four troops of cavalry, armed with sabers, assembled near Lafayette Park. Four companies of infantry were behind them. There was a machine gun squadron, and six Whippet tanks.

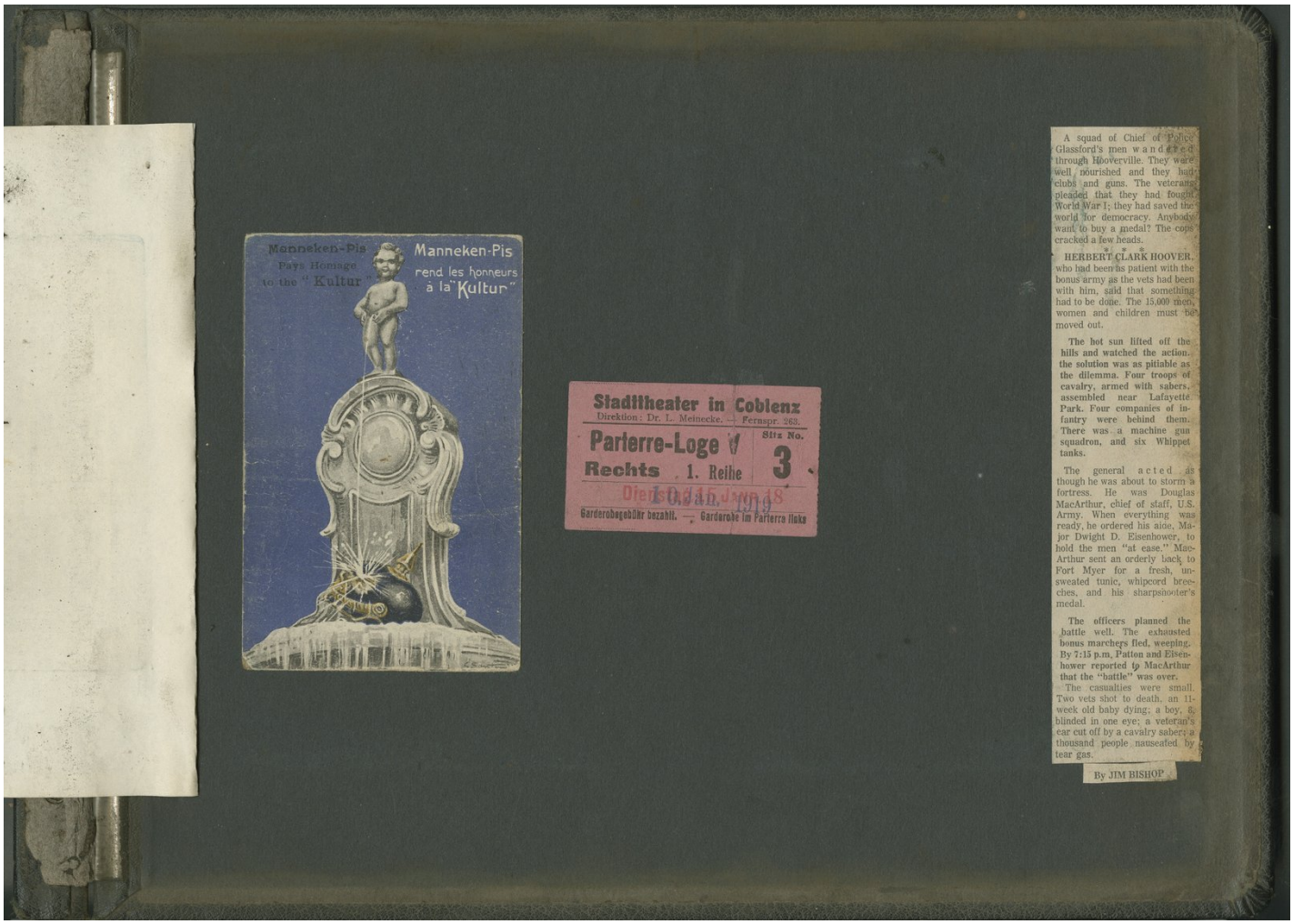
The general acted as though he was about to storm a fortress. He was Douglas MacArthur, chief of staff, U.S. Army. When everything was ready, he ordered his aide, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower, to hold the men "at ease." MacArthur sent an orderly back to Fort Myer for a fresh, unsweated tunic, whipcord breeches, and his sharpshooter's medal.

The officers planned the battle well. The exhausted bonus mbrchers fled, weeping. By 7:15 p.m. Patton and Eisenhower reported to MacArthur that the "battle" was over.

The casualties were small. Two vets shot to death, an 11-week old baby dying; a boy, 6, blinded in one eye; a veteran's ear cut off by a cavalry saber; a thousand people nauseated by tear gas.

By JIM BISHOP

# John H. Plumb World War I scrapbook






Stadttheater in Coblenz
Direktion: Dr. L. Meinecke. — Fernspr. 269.
Parterre-Loge V
Sitz No. 3
Rechts 1. Reihe
Dienstag, den 18. Juni 1919
Garderobegebühr bezahlt. — Garderobe im Parterre links

A squad of Chief of Police Glassford's men wandered through Hooverville. They were well nourished and they had clubs and guns. The veterans pleaded that they had fought World War I; they had saved the world for democracy. Anybody want to buy a medal? The cops cracked a few heads.

* * *

HERBERT CLARK HOOVER, who had been as patient with the bonus army as the vets had been with him, said that something had to be done. The 15,000 men, women and children must be moved out.

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