

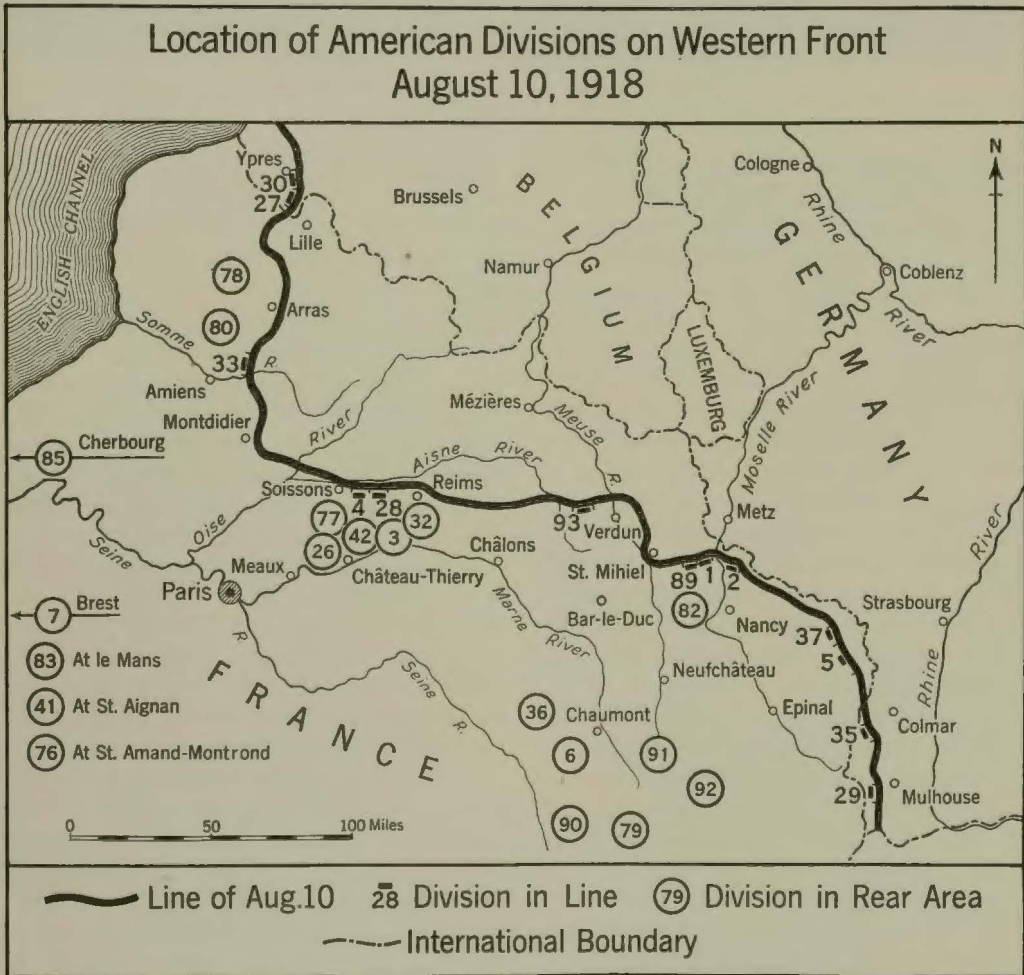
Chapter III

AMERICAN OPERATIONS IN THE ST. MIHIEL REGION

THE St. Mihiel offensive, which began on September 12, 1918, was the first operation in the World War carried out by a complete American army under the separate and independent control of the American Commander-in-Chief.

The plan to develop an army near St. Mihiel when sufficient troops were avail-

able of the American Headquarters in France. This plan was constantly kept in mind by the American High Command and beginning in January 1918 the battle front near St. Mihiel was used to give front-line experience to American divisions and to acquaint them with the region in which they would later attack.



able, and to reduce the salient there as a preliminary to a more decisive operation in the same vicinity, was proposed by General Pershing and was agreed to by General Pétain at the first conference between them shortly after the arrival

The succession of German drives in the spring of 1918 made it necessary to postpone the original plan, as all available troops were urgently needed at other places on the front. Consequently, although there were more than 1,200,000 American



Wartime View From Top of Montsec
Arrows indicate successive barriers of wire

soldiers in France in July, the American combat units were widely distributed along the entire front, either serving in line with the French and British Armies or undergoing training in rear areas.

When the reduction of the Aisne-Marne salient was assured General Pershing pointed out to the Allied Commander-in-Chief that the improved situation made possible the concentration of American units, and insisted that the formation of an American army be resumed. Although the French but more especially the British urged that American units be left with their forces, an understanding was reached that most of these units should soon be assembled into an independent army in the neighborhood of St. Mihiel.

The American First Army Headquarters began to function on August 10 and on that day started vigorous preparations for the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient. The assembling of units commenced soon thereafter and on August 30 the First Army took command of the battle front from Port-sur-Seille, 5 miles east of the Moselle, to Watronville, 7 miles southeast of Verdun.

The St. Mihiel salient was shaped roughly like a triangle with its points near Pont-à-Mousson, St. Mihiel and Verdun. It was 25 miles wide at its base, extended 16 miles into the Allied lines and had remained almost un-

changed in shape for four years. Its western face ran diagonally across the wooded heights east of the Meuse River, and its southern face extended from St. Mihiel to the Moselle River, traversing the Heights of the Meuse, the Heights of the Moselle and the intervening Woëvre Plain. This plain is cut by small streams and dotted with woods of varying size. It is comparatively low ground containing many large ponds and swampy areas, thus making cross-country travel difficult especially in wet weather.

Within the German lines at the south face of the salient were the high isolated hills of Loupmont and Montsec. These were not only strong natural defensive positions but in addition afforded the enemy excellent observation of much of the ground behind the Allied lines.

Two strong German positions had been prepared in front of the one across the base of the salient, and all had been strengthened by elaborate systems of trenches, barbed-wire entanglements, concrete shelters and machine-gun emplacements. The salient was therefore a veritable field fortress against which the French in the preceding years had made a number of unsuccessful attacks.

The value of the salient to Germany lay in the fact that it protected the strategic centers of Metz and the Briey iron basin; interrupted traffic on the main

Paris-Nancy railroad; cut the Verdun-Toul railroad; and threatened the Allied territory in its vicinity, especially west of the Meuse. Its reduction was imperative before any great Allied offensive could be launched against the Briey and Metz region or northward, between the Meuse River and Argonne Forest, toward the general area around Sedan.

The preparations for the attack against the salient were well along when, on August 30, the Allied Commander-in-Chief suggested to General Pershing that the offensive be reduced greatly in scope, that most of the American divisions be used for an attack about September 15 between Verdun and Reims and that in the new attack some of the American divisions be assigned to operate under certain of the higher French commands.

General Pershing felt that the St. Mihiel offensive should be carried out as planned and definitely stated that the American divisions would fight in the future only as part of an independent American army. After a series of conferences with Marshal Foch it was finally agreed, on September 2, that the St. Mihiel attack would be carried out, but that its objectives would be strictly limited so that the American Army could undertake another major offensive about ten days later on the front between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest.

This agreement put a great burden upon the American First Army as under it the Army was called upon to carry to a conclusion the important offensive at St. Mihiel which was scheduled to start on September 12, to concentrate an enor-





Reserves Moving Forward During the St. Mihiel Offensive
Note Montsec in the distance

mous force on the Meuse-Argonne front, and to initiate a still greater operation there, all within the brief space of two weeks. In other words, at the time the agreement with the Allied Commander in-Chief was made the American Army undertook the mission of launching within the next 23 days two great offensives on battlefields 40 miles apart. Never before on the Western Front had a single army attempted such a colossal task,

I Corps, extending from Port-sur-Seille westward, had the 82d, 90th, 5th and 2d Divisions in line from right to left, and the 78th in reserve. The IV Corps continued the line to the west as far as Marvoisin, with the 89th, 42d and 1st Divisions in line, and the 3d in reserve.

The American V Corps, composed of the 26th Division, the French 15th Colonial Division and part of the 4th Division, in line from right to left, and



and its successful accomplishment reflects great credit on all those concerned.

The final plans for the St. Mihiel operation provided for a main drive against the southern face of the salient, a secondary blow against the western face, and holding attacks and raids against the tip. The American I and IV Corps were designated to deliver the main attack. The

remainder of the 4th in reserve, was to make the secondary attack on and from that part of the Heights of the Meuse to the south of Haudiomont.

The French II Colonial Corps, composed of three French divisions, each occupying large sectors of the front line around the tip of the salient, was to support the left of the main attack and the



Road Near Sanzey Just Before the
St. Mihiel Offensive

Note its muddy, torn-up condition typical of
most roads in the region at that time

right of the secondary attack and to hold the enemy at the apex of the salient while the other attacks were being made.

Of the three American corps and the nine American divisions which took part in the attack two of the corps and four of the divisions had never before been engaged at the front in offensive combat.

The First Army had the 35th, 80th and 91st Divisions in reserve for use in case of necessity. The Army's needs for additional aviation, artillery and tanks, to round out the normal proportions of these arms in the higher units, were largely met by the French and British.

More than 550,000 Americans and about 110,000 French were involved in the offensive. The air force concentrated for it, 1,481 airplanes, was the largest ever brought together up to that time and consisted chiefly of French and British planes. The Army had about 400 French tanks available of which 350 were light ones and 144 were manned by Americans. About 3,000 pieces of artillery were used and approximately 3,300,000 rounds of artillery ammunition were brought into the area in preparation for the offensive.

The secret movement of such a large number of troops to the battle front and the many details involved in planning the operation and in providing the necessary special troops put a tremendous strain upon the Army Staff which it successfully met. Finally, after weeks of effort, on the night of September 11-12 all preparations had been completed, and the First Army was in position ready for battle.

Opposing it, holding the salient, was an enemy force known as Army Detachment "C". It was composed of 8 divisions and 2 brigades in line and 5 divisions which were held in the rear areas in reserve.

The Germans suspected that an attack was being prepared but believed that it would not take place until late in September. In anticipation of this attack, and to shorten their front line because their reserves on the Western Front were being depleted, the German High Command issued orders on September 11 for a gradual withdrawal from the salient and the destruction of all things of military value which could not be moved. The execution of this order, however, had

Wrecked Bridge at Flirey

Note double line of traffic, continuous for three days after the attack of September 12, 1918





German 21-Centimeter Mortar Battery Firing on Western Front, October 1918. © G

not begun when the American attack burst upon the defenders of the salient.

The bombardment of the hostile positions began at 1:00 a. m. on September 12 and was so intense and overpowering that the German guns could not make effective reply. At 5:00 a. m. the infantry of the main attack jumped off. Despite the lack of tanks, only a few of which came up in time to assist the troops through the wire entanglements, the entire advance proceeded according to schedule.

The plan provided that the greatest initial penetration should be made by the IV Corps and the left of the I Corps, the objectives for September 12 requiring a 5-mile advance. In its execution the 1st Division, on the left flank of the main attack, captured Nonsard and entered the woods to the north; the 42d Division pushed on beyond the towns of Essey and Pannes; while the 89th seized Bouillonville. In the I Corps, the 2d Division captured Thiaucourt, and the 5th drove through Viéville-en-Haye, with its eastern flank bent back to connect with the 90th Division, which was at the pivot of the main attack on the first day.

On the western face of the salient the artillery preparation was continued until 8:00 a. m., when the infantry of the V Corps launched its assault. By nightfall the corps had advanced about 2 miles.

While the attacks on the two faces were progressing reports indicated that the Germans were retiring from that part of the salient in front of the French troops, although raids into the opposing lines made by the French near the town of St. Mihiel met with considerable opposition principally from machine gun units.

With the idea of cutting off the retreat of as many Germans as possible, General Pershing, early on the evening of the 12th, directed that troops of the IV and V Corps be rushed with all speed to the vicinity of Vigneulles. Part of the 26th Division marched along a narrow forest road directly to the heart of the salient, and soon after 2:00 a. m. Vigneulles was in its possession. About dawn on the 13th it met patrols of the 1st Division just northeast of that town. This marked the closing of the salient and the German soldiers who had not retired beyond that vicinity were cut off and captured.

Practically all objectives had been gained by the evening of September 13,

American 75-Millimeter Gun Firing Toward Montsec From a Position Near Beaumont, September 12, 1918





Supplies Moving Forward and Prisoners Marching to the Rear at St. Baussant,
September 12, 1918

and the organization of the new position, roughly along the line joining Vandières and Haudiomont, was begun. Deep raids and local attacks were pushed, especially on the eastern part of the front of attack, until September 16, by which time the whole of the Bois des Rappes and much adjoining territory had been captured.

Although the new front was 21 miles shorter than the former battle line, by September 17 the enemy forces had been increased to 10 divisions and 2 brigades in line, and 10 other divisions in reserve, an actual increase of seven divisions during the period of the offensive. The First Army had placed the 78th Division in line during the same period and had withdrawn from the line the American 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th and French 26th Divisions.

The complete success of the American Army in its first offensive greatly stimulated the morale of the Allies and depressed that of the Germans. The American casualties were less than 9,000, yet

more than 15,000 prisoners and about 450 cannon had been captured, and over 200 square miles of territory, with its remaining French population, had been restored to France. The railroads in the vicinity of St. Mihiel had been freed for Allied use, the threat of the salient against the surrounding country had been removed and one of the most important obstacles to an advance toward the vital Briey-Metz region or Sedan had been overcome. American staffs had shown their ability to maneuver and control large masses, and the whole Army had developed added self-confidence and a sense of power which was to be of great value in helping it to surmount the difficult tasks ahead.

The battle was the first large Allied offensive of the year against a carefully prepared trench system, the previous Allied attacks of 1918 having been made against salients created by the Germans in their spring and summer offensives and which were only partially organized for defense. The clean-cut victory of the American Army at St. Mihiel indicated that no longer could any German positions on the Western Front be considered strong enough to be impregnable.

The ability displayed by the Americans in penetrating formidable wire entanglements so favorably impressed the French High Command that selected groups of officers and enlisted men were sent from neighboring French armies to view the strength of the obstacles through which the American soldiers had made their way. The French official comments at the time characterized the conduct of the American divisions in this battle as "magnificent".

German Prisoners at Beaumont,
September 12, 1918





Gas Alarm for an American Unit on Western Face of the St. Mihiel Salient,
April 30, 1918

The transfer of American units to the Meuse-Argonne region, their next great battlefield, was begun even before the completion of the St. Mihiel offensive, and by the 20th of September only the 26th, 42d, 78th, 89th, 90th and four French divisions were left to serve on this front.

These divisions, and those which entered the line from time to time as relieving units, continued to strengthen the positions and to conduct local attacks to secure points of vantage. Artillery bombardments by both sides were of frequent occurrence.

On October 12 Major General Robert L. Bullard, the Commanding General of the newly organized American Second Army, took command of the front between Fresnes-en-Woëvre and Port-sur-Seille, then held by the 7th, 37th, 79th, 92d and two French divisions. The 28th American Division was in Army reserve.

At that time the First Army offensive in the Meuse-Argonne region had been in

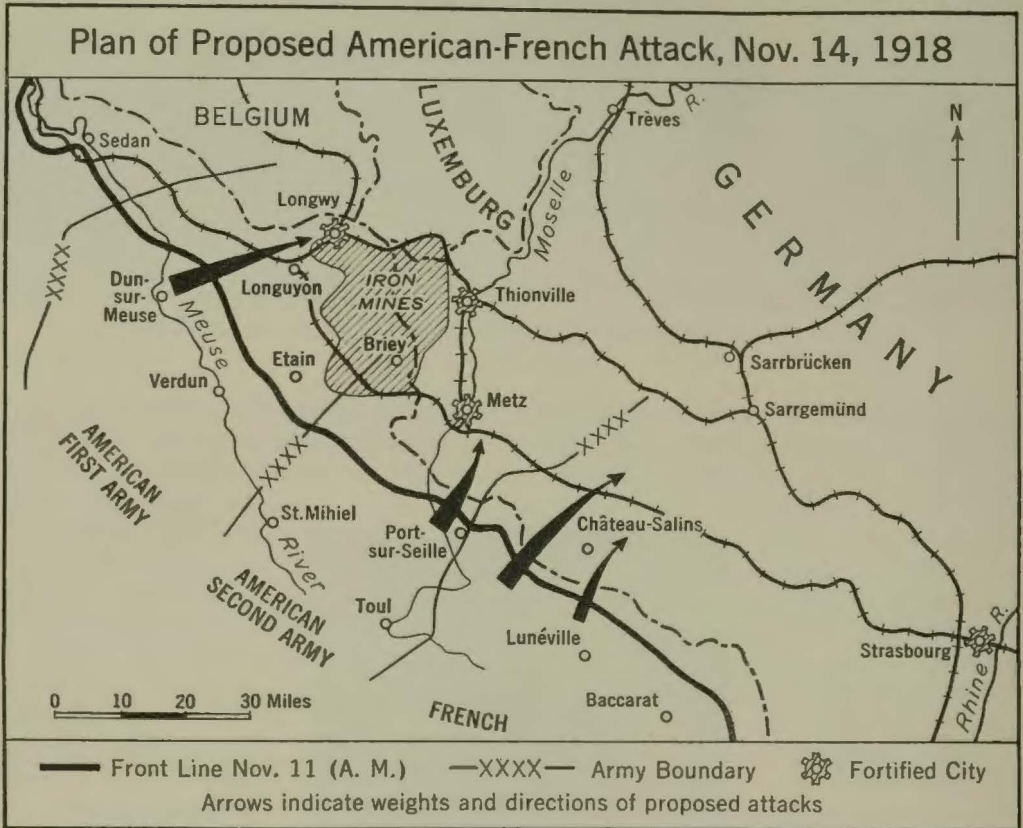
progress for more than two weeks, and the situation there demanded that every American division be used to the limit of its endurance. The Second Army, therefore, had for the time being the rôle of holding its front principally with tired divisions while they rested and prepared for another tour of duty in the Meuse-Argonne fighting. Active patrolling and raiding were continued, however, and the artillery carefully registered on targets in anticipation of a possible major offensive to be undertaken later.

Early in November it became evident that the Allied and American attacks, covering almost the entire front from the Meuse to the North Sea, were producing great disorganization within the German armies, and on November 5 the American

Commander-in-Chief ordered the Second Army to begin advancing its lines in preparation for an offensive in the direction of Briey. The Army planned to



Lieutenant General Robert L. Bullard
Commanding General of the
Second Army from October 12, 1918,
to April 15, 1919



launch these attacks on November 11 but on the evening of November 9 a message was transmitted from the Allied Commander-in-Chief which directed that vigorous pressure be applied immediately along the whole front.

The 7th, 28th, 33d and 92d Divisions, then on the Second Army front, began at once the attacks already planned. The scarcity of troops prohibited strong concentrations but in spite of this and of stubborn resistance encountered, the Army made a considerable advance, recovering a total of approximately 25 square miles of French territory.

In the meantime the Allied Commander-in-Chief had decided upon an offensive east of the Moselle River, and requested that six American divisions be designated to take part in it. General Pershing had long favored an attack in that direction and had planned to launch one there following the St. Mihiel offensive. He therefore selected the 3d, 4th, 28th, 29th, 35th and 36th Divisions for

the task, with the stipulation that these units should operate under the command of the American Second Army.

The plans prepared by the Second Army for its part in this offensive provided for a powerful drive in a northeasterly direction from the vicinity of Port-sur-Seille, east of the Moselle River. On its right flank a French army group was to attack at the same time and the American First Army from its location in the general vicinity of the Meuse River was to drive eastward in the direction of Longwy, as shown on the sketch at the top of this page.

The date for the commencement of this combined offensive, which without doubt would have produced far-reaching results, was fixed by the French High Command as November 14. The American divisions directed to take part on that section of the front east of the Moselle River were already in movement toward their new positions when the Armistice became effective on the morning of November 11.

A TOUR OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELDS IN THE ST. MIHIEL REGION

THIS tour begins and ends at Verdun. It is 96.1 miles (154.6 kilometers) long and can be completed in eight hours if care is taken not to spend too much time at the interesting places. It is suggested that lunch be carried.

The data given on pages 520-521 will be helpful to those following this tour.

The narrative at the beginning of the chapter should be kept in mind and the map facing page 164 consulted so that the operations which took place in this region will be more clearly understood.

The speedometer distances given on the following pages are mainly for general reference purposes and, except for a few places at the beginning and near the end of the tour which are specifically noted in the road instructions, these distances are not essential in following this tour.

When following this itinerary, unless contrary road instructions are given, the tourist should continue straight ahead.

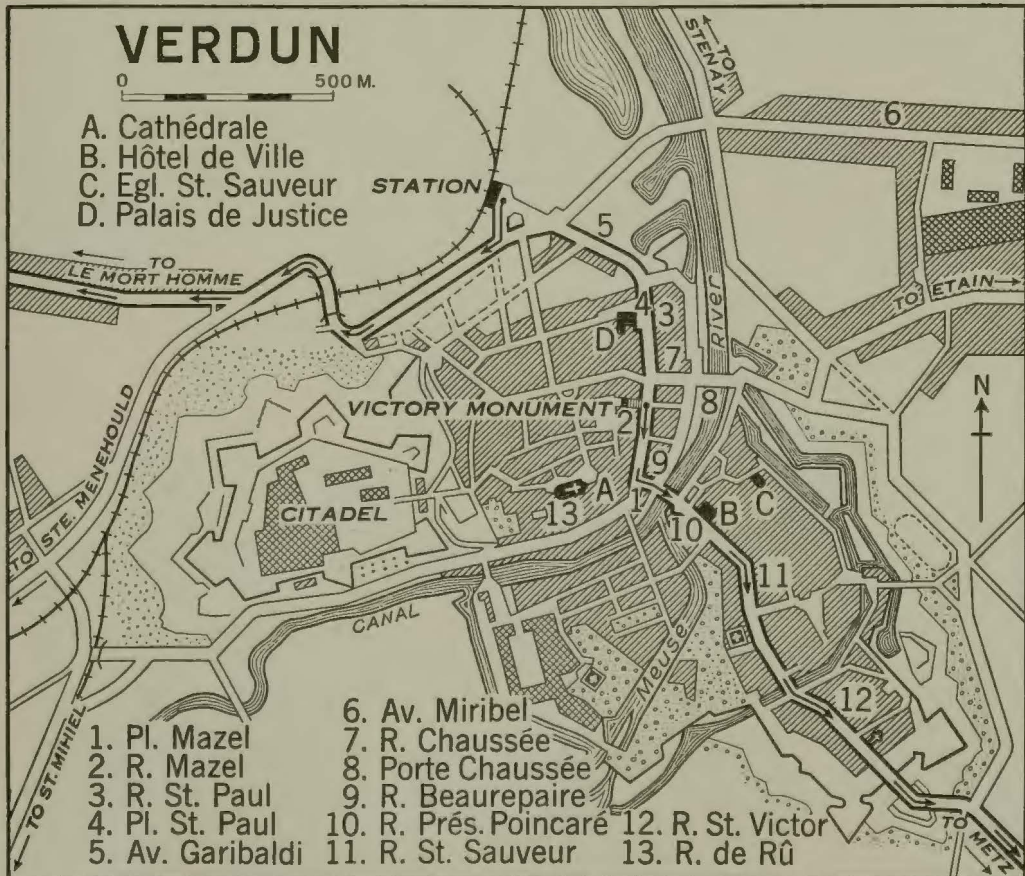
EN ROUTE VERDUN TO CÔTE DE SENOUX

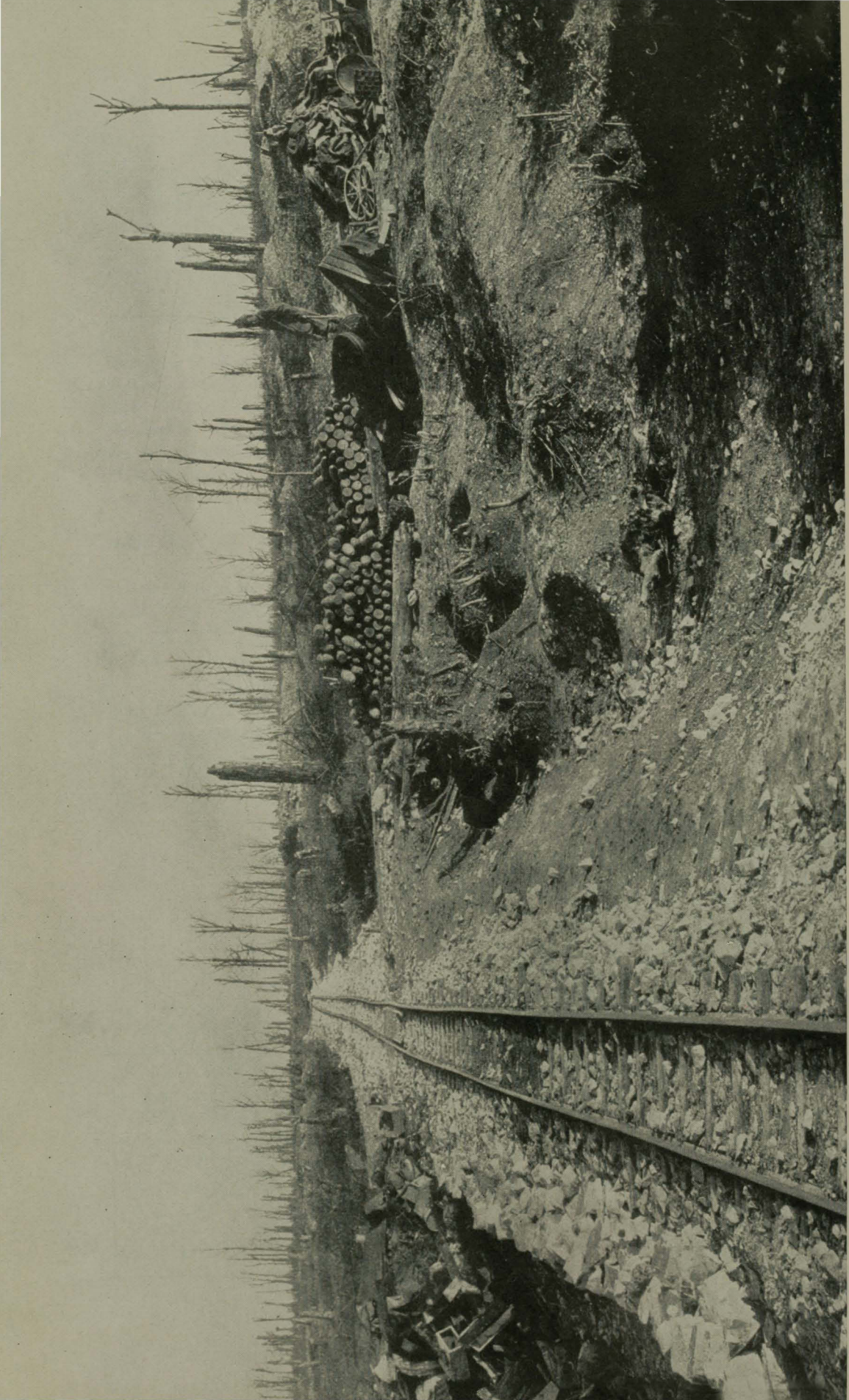
Speedometer distance is measured from the Victory monument in Verdun.

(0 m 0 km) At large World War monument near center of city (Monument à la Victoire et aux Soldats de Verdun), with the flight of steps up to the monument on the right-hand side of automobile, set speedometer at zero. Proceed straight ahead, at the second street turn left and cross the Meuse River.

Beyond town, follow the road signs toward the city of Metz.

(6.1 m 9.8 km) At road fork 6.1 miles (9.8 kilometers) from starting point, bear





Côte de Senoux, January 1919

to the right toward the village of Hattonchâtel. Note the speedometer reading.

The tour now goes on a narrow road along the wooded Heights of the Meuse River directly to Hattonchâtel.

This road is called the Grande Tranchée de Calonne. It is said to have been built by direction of M. de Calonne, Minister of Finance under Louis XVI, as a means of access to his château at Hattonchâtel.

During the war it was of great importance as an avenue of supply and communication. Near it, concealed in the trees, were hundreds of shacks, underground shelters, artillery emplacements, temporary roads, narrow-gauge railway tracks and supply depots of all kinds.

In the periods of intensive fighting on the front ahead this road was the scene of great activity as motor trucks and other vehicles moved thousands of tons of ammunition, supplies and equipment to the front lines, and innumerable men used it in going to and returning from battle. This activity was carried on mainly at night and consequently during the hours of darkness the road was packed with continuous streams of traffic moving in both directions.

On August 30, 1918, the American First Army took command of the front which included the St. Mihiel salient. Its orders for the offensive on September 12 provided for a main attack by six divisions against the southern face, a secondary drive by one American and one French division against the face in front of here, and a holding attack by a French corps around the tip of the salient. The main attack was to be made by the American I and IV Corps at 5:00 a. m. and the secondary attack by the American V Corps at 8:00 a. m.

The V Corps at the time of the offensive was composed of the 4th and 26th Divisions and a French division.

As an additional help in locating the stopping point indicated in the next paragraph, it should be noted that a small monument to Lieutenant Robert Guillie, a French officer, is located on the crest immediately preceding, alongside the left of the road.



Changing the German Name of a Street in Vigneulles From "Hindenburg Strasse" to "Wilson, U. S. A."

(12.6 m 20.3 km) At top of crest, 6.5 miles (10.5 kilometers) from road fork where speedometer reading was noted, STOP.

This is the Côte de Senoux.

Face down the road, which at this point runs approximately south.

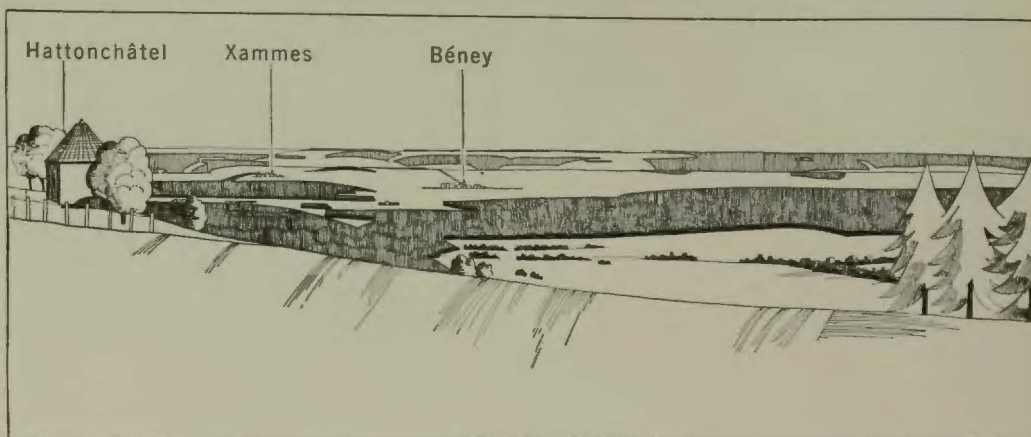
The American 2d Division received its first training in the battle line near here during March, April and May of 1918.

The French front-line trenches which ran through this point at right angles to the road had been located here for nearly four years when on September 8 the 26th Division took command of this part of the front. The German trenches were then about 100 yards ahead, the intervening ground being no man's land.

Only a faint idea can now be obtained of the scene of appalling destruction which existed here at that time. The land was a grayish-white waste with but little vegetation. Thick masses of barbed wire and other debris covered the ground and shattered and splintered trees dotted

Maneuvering a Balloon Near Haudainville





Panorama From Stop

the landscape. Trenches furrowed the area in all directions and interlocking shell holes were everywhere.

Taking part in the great offensive of the First Army against the St. Mihiel salient, the 26th Division from its sector astride this road attacked at 8:00 a. m. on September 12, after a seven-hour artillery bombardment. In spite of considerable resistance and the difficult nature of the terrain, it had advanced by nightfall more than 2 miles along this road.

The main attack from the other side of the salient started at 5:00 a. m. and progressed so rapidly in this general direction that by afternoon the success of the entire offensive was assured. In order to reap the full benefits of the victory and to prevent the escape of German units still remaining in the salient, General Pershing early in the evening directed that the 26th Division rush troops to the vicinity of

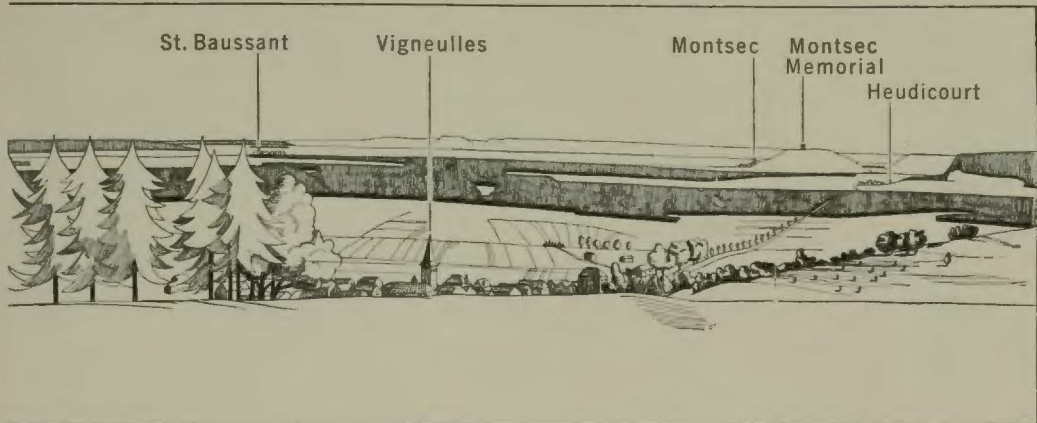
Hattonchâtel, about 8 miles from this point, to meet the advanced elements of the American troops in the main attack.

In compliance with this order a brigade of the division, reinforced by artillery and machine gun units, formed a column on this road some distance ahead, and shortly after dark boldly marched forward to accomplish its mission. Although the Germans were considerably disorganized by the American successes of that day, nevertheless the night march was dangerous and difficult. After having captured a considerable number of prisoners the brigade reached Hattonchâtel about 2:00 a. m. and by daybreak had established contact below that village with the troops of the main attack.

After leaving this point the tour now enters the area captured by the American First Army in its September 12 offensive and goes to the heart of the salient.

German Cavalry Regiment Deployed for Counterattack, September 1918. © G





Near Hattonchâtel

EN ROUTE CÔTE DE SENOUX
TO HATTONCHÂTEL

Note the speedometer reading.

(15.0 m 24.1 km) 2.4 miles (3.8 kilometers) farther on, near the kilometer post seen to the left of the road, is the place from which the night march of the 26th Division began. During the advance small detachments were placed to guard each road and trail leading off to the right with the object of trapping the Germans who had not already retreated to the left across this road.

(20.6 m 33.1 km) About 80 yards this side of next village, Hattonchâtel, STOP.

Face the town of Hattonchâtel, which direction is approximately east.

This point is near the center of the St. Mihiel salient. When the troops of the 26th Division reached here during the night of September 12-13 they saw the Woëvre Plain below ablaze with burning

buildings and supply dumps which the retreating Germans were destroying. The leading elements promptly moved down from these heights and occupied Vigneulles, the village seen to the right not far from the foot of this hill.

The isolated hill seen to the right in the distance, 7 miles away, is Montsec. The memorial on its summit was built by the United States Government to commemorate the St. Mihiel and other American operations in this part of France.

The main attack on September 12 was launched in this general direction by the American I and IV Corps from a line to the left of and beyond Montsec. The blow fell with crushing effect on the surprised defenders and the victorious troops on the first day swept forward approximately 5 miles. The Germans, realizing that they could not hold the salient in the face of this tremendous

American Narrow-Gauge Train Bringing Up Rations Near Ménil-la-Tour





Vigneulles Soon After Its Capture

advance, began quickly to withdraw and to destroy all supplies and other articles that could not be taken with them.

By dark on September 12 the 1st Division, the nearest flank unit of the main attack, was in the center of the large wood seen to the right front. Contact between these troops and the 26th Division was established about dawn on September 13, at the foot of these slopes, thus closing the salient.

On September 13 the rapid advance of the main attack continued and all divisions moved up to a line approximately straight ahead from this point. By nightfall practically all objectives of the offensive had been gained.

On that day the 26th Division moved into Viéville-sous-les-Côtes and Billy-sous-les-Côtes, the two villages to the left close in at the foot of this hill. It was at and near those towns that a composite squadron of the American 2d Cavalry reconnoitered on September 13. This is of interest as it is one of the few times that American cavalry was used as combat units during the war and gives a good indication of the extent of the breakthrough during the St. Mihiel attack.

The village to the left front, some dis-

tance away, is Woël. On September 14 the troops of the First Army captured it and that night the front line of the Army was established just beyond Woël, running generally at right angles to the observer's line of vision when facing in the direction of that place.

One brigade of the American 4th Division was in line along the edge of the heights about 8 miles to the left of here, at the pivot of the attack on this face of the salient. On September 12 and 13 its activities were confined to reconnoitering but on September 14 it moved forward capturing considerable ground.

For several days after September 14 fighting took place at a number of points along the First Army front as the divisions repulsed counterattacks and made local attacks to determine definitely the new enemy line of resistance and to establish their own lines in the most advantageous positions. The area in which this fighting occurred is passed through toward the end of this tour.

At the far side of Hattonchâtel is a picturesque château to which visitors are admitted. It was restored soon after the war and from its grounds an excellent view of the surrounding country is obtained.

EN ROUTE HATTONCHÂTEL TO MONTSEC

(20.7 m 33.3 km) Immediately after entering Hattonchâtel, turn sharply to the right and descend the hill.

(21.9 m 35.2 km) In the center of Vigneulles where road ends abruptly, turn to the right; then to the left.

In Vigneulles the 26th Division captured a considerable number of prisoners, including a regimental band, and a great quantity of military supplies.

(22.3 m 35.8 km) Beyond town, at first road junction, to the right of the road was located one of the many big supply depots which the Germans had constructed along the Western Front during the war. These depots consisted of a large number of storehouses so arranged in a network of railroad lines and roads that supplies delivered to them from Germany by standard-gauge railway could be re-shipped with a minimum of labor to units in the front lines by narrow-gauge railroads, motor trucks and wagons.

(22.4 m 36.0 km) To the right up the small valley is seen the town of Creuë, which was entered early on September 13 by patrols sent out by the 26th Division.

Continue through Heudicourt, which

was captured by a patrol of the 26th Division early on the morning of September 13.

Straight through the villages of Buxières and Buxerulles which were occupied by a French division on September 13. In the wooded ravines to the right of these towns were located many German war establishments. These included a large hospital camp, a dressing station and extensive supply dumps for food, engineer materials and ammunition.

(28.8 m 46.3 km) In next village, Woinville, turn sharp left toward Montsec.

This village was the location of the headquarters of the American IV Corps after the St. Mihiel offensive, from November 3 to the Armistice.

(29.2 m 46.9 km) Beyond town, to the right is seen Loupmont Ridge. It is a long narrow ridge which lay in rear of the German front line and was an important part of their defensive system. Numerous deep underground shelters had been dug into this side of it.

(31.9 m 51.2 km) At far side of the next village, Montsec, turn right toward the village of Loupmont.

(32.1 m 51.7 km) At the next road junction, bear to the right up Montsec hill.

(33.1 m 53.2 km) At flagpole, STOP.

Anti-Aircraft Gun in Action





St. Michael American Memorial on Montsec

This imposing monument is one of the three principal memorials erected by the United States Government in France. Its site upon this high isolated hill, dominating the surrounding country in nearly all directions, cannot be surpassed.

The hill of Montsec is well known to the soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces as a large number of American divisions had their first service in the battle line near this place.

The following description of the combat operations should be read by the observer when standing upon the upper terrace of the monument in the space between the first columns to the south (right as flagpole is faced) of the steps.

This hill was close to the south face of the St. Mihiel salient. Because of its natural strength and height it was an exceptionally important point in the German defensive system. On this side it was protected by numerous trenches, machine-gun emplacements and barbed-wire entanglements. On the other side tunnels led to large underground shelters in the hill and to observation posts along this crest from which the German artillery fire was directed and controlled.

Except for the weakness inherent to all salients, which is the danger of attack from both sides at once, the St. Mihiel salient was exceptionally strong. Proof of this is that it projected into the Allied lines for four years. In 1914 the Germans had established themselves near here on strong natural positions and had spent the following years in constructing elaborate trenches, vast masses of barbed-wire entanglements, concrete machine-gun emplacements and other field works in an endeavor to make these positions impregnable. It was feared by many that attacking the salient would prove to be a difficult and costly undertaking.

The plan of the offensive consisted of a main attack by the I and IV Corps on a 14-mile front on this face of the salient, a secondary attack a few hours later by the V Corps, whose zone of action we have already visited, and a diversion and exploitation by the French II Colonial



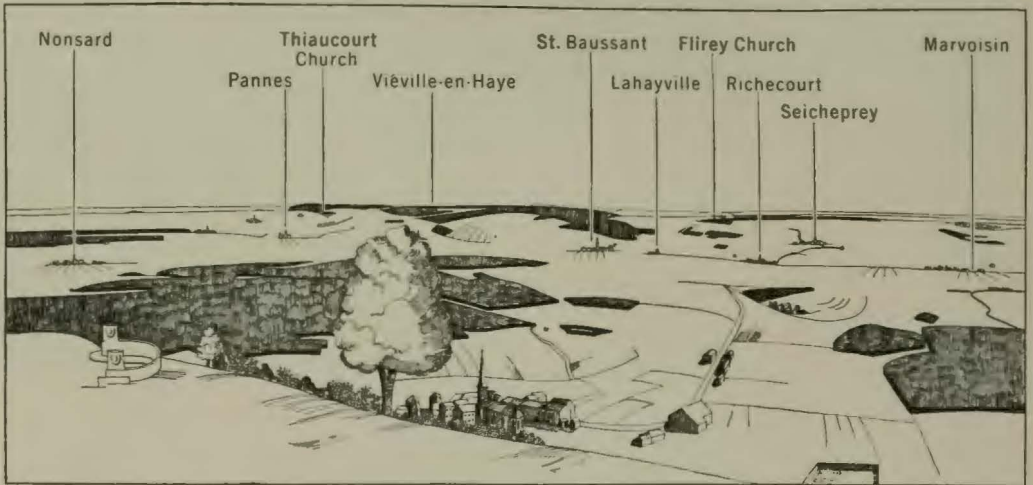
Church at Montsec



German Artillery Telephone Exchange at Montsec



German Dugout Entrance on Montsec
The hill was honeycombed with dugouts



Panorama Looking East From Montsec

Corps which held the tip of the salient.

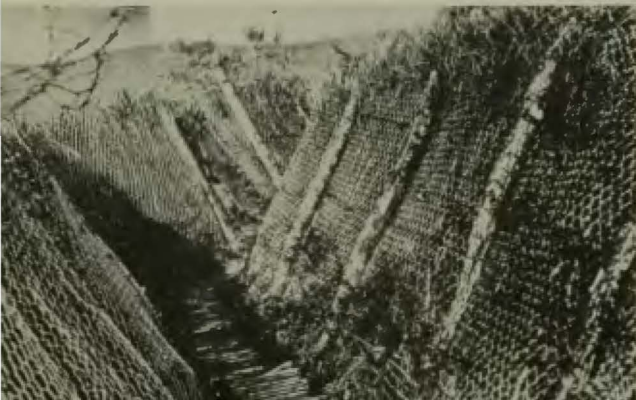
The places mentioned below should be identified by means of the direction arrows located between the columns.

Spread out before the observer like a huge relief map is part of the ground over which the main assault of the First Army swept on September 12, 1918.

The jump-off line extended from Marvoisin, the small village seen to the right front just beyond the nearest wood; passed between Richecourt and Seicheprey; ran this side of Flirey, whose church steeple is seen to the left of Seicheprey; and continued on to the Moselle River, which is about 15 miles away.

The divisions in the initial assault were, in order from the observer's right to left, the 1st, 42d, 89th, 2d, 5th and part of the 90th. The rest of the 90th Division and that part of the 82d Division beyond it on this side of the Moselle did not attack until the second day of the offensive.

German Communication Trench Between
Montsec and Richecourt

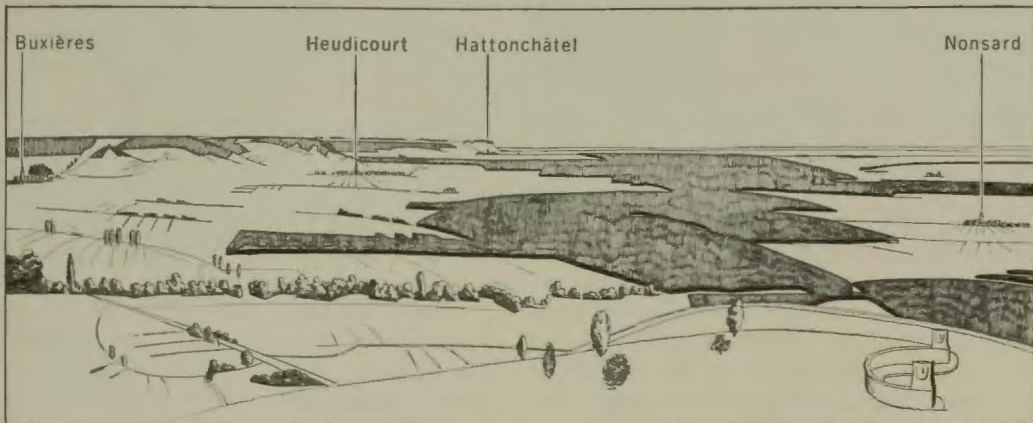


The battle started at 1:00 a. m., dotting the countryside in front of here with flame as about 3,000 pieces of artillery of all calibers commenced a violent bombardment. In the next few hours thousands of shells crashed into the hostile battery emplacements, observation posts, communication centers, trenches and other vital points, while a smoke screen was placed around this hill to prevent the German observers on it from seeing and reporting details of the advance.

The infantry assault in front of here began at 5:00 a. m., in a drizzling rain and mist. The strength and suddenness of the attack completely disrupted the German defense and the divisions advanced steadily. Within a few hours sufficient ground had been gained to assure the success of the entire operation.

Richecourt and Lahayville, the town seen to the left of Richecourt, promptly fell to the 1st Division while St. Baussant, the large village seen to the front, was captured by the 42d Division.

Before noon the 1st Division had captured Nonsard, the nearest village to the left front, and by night was advancing in the large wood seen to the left of and beyond that village. The 42d Division seized Pannes, seen to the right of Nonsard, and advanced several miles beyond it while the 89th Division reached a line near Thiaucourt, which town can be seen



Panorama Looking North From Montsec

to the left front on a clear day. The 2d Division captured Thiaucourt and the 5th captured Viéville-en-Haye, the village seen some distance to the right of Thiaucourt just below the sky line in an open space between two large woods.

Go to space between first columns on opposite side of the steps.

The village seen to the front on the nose of the hill is Hattonchâtel. About dawn on September 13 patrols of the 1st Division met the advanced elements of the 26th Division below that place, thus actually closing the salient.

During September 13 the advance was continued with the right of the 90th and the 82d Division on this side of the Moselle River joining in the attack. By late evening of the 13th practically every objective of the offensive had been secured.

On that day this hill and the villages seen to the left along the base of the heights were evacuated by the Germans.

The main attack terminated on the 13th although during the next three days local operations continued and numerous small advances were made at various places as the American units attempted to improve their positions.

The offensive here was launched at a most propitious moment. The German High Command had decided to abandon the St. Mihiel salient so as to shorten the line held by its forces, and orders had been issued on September 11 for a gradual and orderly withdrawal. The plans for this

withdrawal and the laying waste of the country in the salient were completely frustrated, however, by the suddenness and strength of the American attack.

As a result of this offensive a large number of prisoners and great quantities of matériel and supplies were captured, and several important roads and railroads south of Verdun were released for Allied use. The successful conclusion of the operation had a marked adverse psychological effect upon the enemy and greatly improved the morale of the Allies.

Before leaving this spot the tourist should step to the right and from the space between the next columns note the St. Mihiel American Cemetery near Thiaucourt, identified by its white stone chapel and field of white headstones, which can be seen in the distance on a clear day on a line just to the right of the round plaza at the flagpole. At that cemetery are buried more than 4,000 American soldiers among which are many of those who so gallantly gave their lives in the battle which has just been described.

German Trench Southwest of Montsec



Within the circle of columns, resting upon a stone platform decorated with carvings of military equipment carried by American soldiers, is a large bronze relief map of the St. Mihiel salient. Upon it are shown the front lines before and after the American offensives in this region. By lining up the monument on the map with any feature on the map, that feature on the ground, if visible, will be seen in the distance on the same line and thus can be identified.

To aid the visitor in understanding the military operations illustrated by the bronze map, and to permit identification by name of the villages shown on it, three round porcelain maps of Sèvres manufacture have been placed in the border.

The names of the American and French units whose brilliant services are commemorated here have been recorded on the inside attic wall. The inscription which appears below them is from the final report of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Other interesting features of the upper terrace are the insignia of the principal arms and branches of the American forces which have been carved on the shields below the eagles of the pilaster capitals; the compass included in the inlaid design of the floor; and the inscription on the stone base of the relief map which gives a brief record of the accomplishments of the American Army near here.

The dedicatory inscriptions, in French on one side and in English on the other, are on the large inclined stones at the sides of the steps descending from the upper terrace. Included in these inscriptions is a tribute to the friendship and cooperation of the French and American Armies during the World War.

The names on the outside frieze above the columns are those of villages in this general region which were captured by American troops. These places when considered as a whole give a good idea of the large area covered by the American combat activities in Alsace and Lorraine.

Close-Up View of St. Mihiel American Memorial





Distant View of American Memorial on Montsec

The coats of arms carved on the stone pillars near the flagpole are those of France and the United States, whose divisions fought side by side in this region; and of Alsace and Lorraine, the two French provinces in which occurred the fighting commemorated by this memorial.

EN ROUTE MONTSEC TO EAST
OF SEICHEPREY

Descend hill to the village of Montsec.
(34.3 m 55.2 km) **In town, turn sharp right on the descending road.**

(34.8 m 56.0 km) **Beyond town, by looking to the rear, can be seen the view of Montsec most familiar to the American soldiers who served in this region.**

(36.0 m 57.9 km) **Just before reaching the next sharp RIGHT bend in road, the zone of action of the 1st Division during the main attack is entered.**

(36.5 m 58.7 km) **The next village, Richecourt, was just within the enemy front line. The Germans had elaborately organized it as a strong point and the immediate surroundings were a maze of trenches and wire entanglements. The town itself was completely obliterated by Allied shellfire during the war.**

At the far edge of the town the Rupt de Mad is crossed. This small stream, which ran obliquely across a considerable part of the zone of attack, was a serious obstacle to the tanks and transportation of the First Army until its destroyed bridges were replaced by the engineers.

(36.7 m 59.0 km) **Beyond town, at first crossroad, continue straight ahead.**

(36.8 m 59.2 km) **At top of next crest, where a good view to the left front is obtained, STOP without leaving the car.**

The German front-line trench ran at right angles to this road and passed through this point. Near the bottom of the shallow valley ahead was located the American front line, the intervening ground being that of no man's land.

Sectors in this vicinity were held for considerable periods of time by the 1st, 26th, 82d and 89th Divisions before the concentration for the St. Mihiel attack.

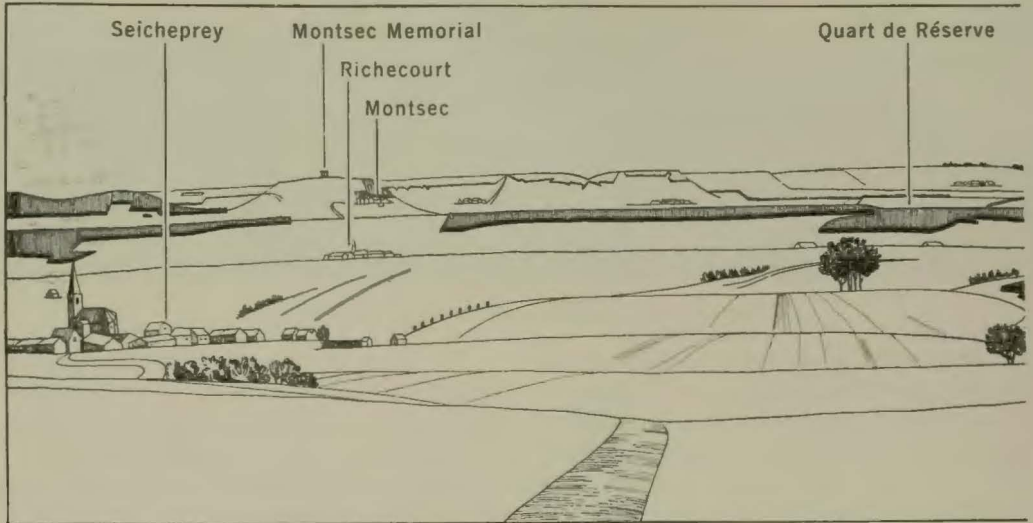
The village seen to the front is Seicheprey and the wood in the valley to the left of it is the Bois de Remières.

Early on the morning of April 20 Seicheprey was the scene of a German raid against the 26th Division, which was then holding this part of the front. The Germans placed a heavy "box barrage" around Seicheprey and the Bois de Remières to prevent supporting troops from entering that area. Then, screened by a dense fog, about 1,200 picked German assault troops, starting from near here, quickly overran the American front lines and entered Seicheprey. They destroyed the dugouts, battalion first-aid station and kitchen, and captured a considerable number of prisoners. Soon thereafter the Germans withdrew from the town and remained most of the day in the American front-line trenches. They retired to their own lines shortly before an American counterattack could be launched to drive them out.

Continue.

(37.4 m 60.2 km) **The railroad which is next crossed is a strategic railroad which has been constructed since the war.**

The ridge seen on the sky line ahead was the location of the Allied main line of resistance. That position had been



Panorama Looking North

elaborately prepared for defense by the French Army during the preceding years.

(38.1 m 61.3 km) At near edge of next village, Seicheprey, the sector which was held by the 42d Division is entered.

In Seicheprey, alongside the church, is a small memorial fountain presented to the village by men and women of the State of Connecticut. To visit it, turn to the left in the town. Time of side trip—3 minutes.

Fountain at Seicheprey
Erected by Inhabitants of Connecticut



(38.3 m 61.5 km) In town turn right, at first road turn to the left toward Flirey.

(39.2 m 63.0 km) About 50 yards from the next large wood, STOP.

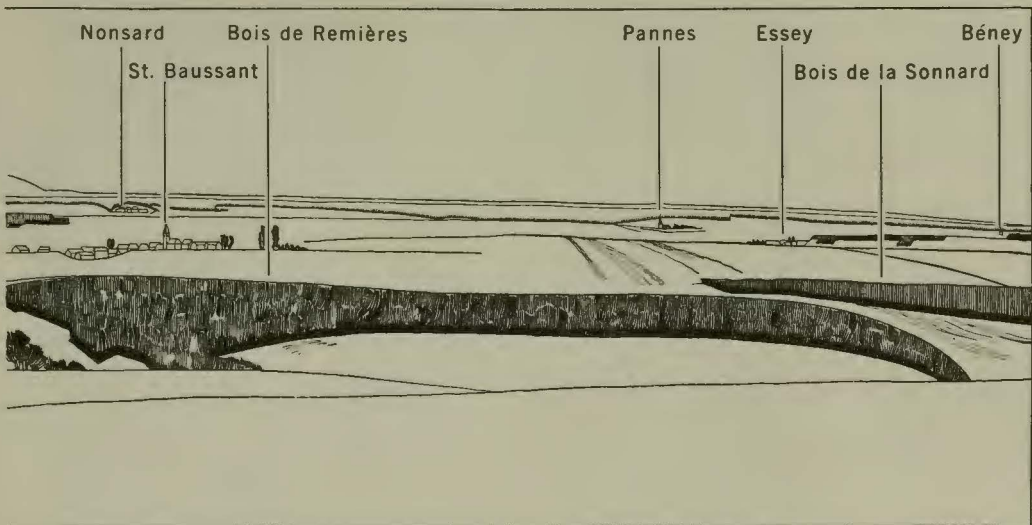
To the left rear the nearest wood which is seen is called the Bois de Remières.

Face its center, which direction is approximately north.

Montsec is visible to the left front.

From observation posts located near here a large part of the ground within the German lines could be seen. In these posts, which were carefully concealed, observers continuously watched the enemy positions during daylight hours and reported at once all signs of unusual activity. This work was supplemented by the use of captive balloons stationed several miles in rear of the forward trenches at intervals along the entire front. The occupants of these balloons also studied the hostile positions through powerful glasses and telephoned immediately to the ground forces all information gained. The balloon observer, his helpers on the ground, and the protecting anti-aircraft artillery had to be constantly on the alert for German airplanes, as a successful airplane attack on the inflammable balloon invariably caused it to burst into flames and be destroyed.

A large amount of important information was also obtained by the Air Service



From Stop Near Seicheprey

which periodically sent airplanes over the enemy lines to reconnoiter and to take photographs of the hostile battle lines. These photographs, when compared with others previously taken, gave valuable indications of changes in the enemy defensive organization and in his plans.

This point is near the center of the zone of the IV Corps, which attacked on September 12 with the 1st, 42d and 89th Divisions in line from left to right.

The German front line at that time ran just this side of Richécourt, the second village between here and Montsec; just beyond the Bois de Remières; and along the near edge of the Bois de la Sonnard, the large wood which is seen to the right of the Bois de Remières.

The troops here jumped off at 5:00 a. m. in a rain and fog, closely following a heavy rolling barrage. The 1st Division promptly captured Richécourt but encountered considerable resistance in the Quart de Réserve, the wood seen just beyond the left side of the Bois de Remières. Overcoming this before noon, it captured Nonsard, the village seen beyond and to the right of the Quart de Réserve, and was advancing at dark in the wood seen beyond that place.

The 42d Division, in front of here, met stubborn resistance from machine gun units at St. Baussant, the village seen to

the front, and in the Bois de la Sonnard. It drove forward aggressively, however, capturing Essey, the first village seen over the right side of the Bois de Remières, about noon, and Pannes, whose church is seen to the left of Essey, about 2:00 p. m. Lamarche, seen in the distance to the left of Pannes, was beyond the first day's objective. It was, how-

Flare Used at Night to Call for an Artillery Barrage





Ruins of Richecourt
The described route passes over the road to the right

ever, entered by a patrol of the 42d Division in the afternoon and occupied by the 1st Division that night.

The 89th Division, to the right of here, advanced rapidly through the large wood, Bois de Mort-Mare, in front of its jump-off line and that night established itself about a mile this side of Béney, the village seen on a clear day in the distance to the right of and beyond Essey.

The rapid advance of the IV Corps on this front made certain the success of the whole attack of the First Army.

EN ROUTE EAST OF SEICHEPREY TO EAST OF REGNIÉVILLE

(39.7 m 63.8 km) At the next road junction, turn to the left.

Beyond the road junction, the front trenches of the Allied main line of resistance ran immediately alongside this road for the next several miles.

(40.8 m 65.3 km) Before reaching the next village, Flirey, the sector held by the soldiers of the 89th Division is entered.

(41.0 m 66.0 km) At entrance to town are seen the embankments of a large railway bridge which formerly spanned the road. This bridge was destroyed by the French Army early in the war.

The 89th Division Headquarters during the attack was located in dugouts at the embankment nearest the road.

(41.3 m 66.4 km) In center of town, on the right is seen a monument erected by the people of Lorraine to commemorate the services of the American Army in this region. On it are listed the American divisions which fought near here.

(41.4 m 66.6 km) At far edge of town are seen the ruins of the old village, Flirey having been rebuilt on a new site.

(41.5 m 66.8 km) To the left of this road, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, was the location of a successful raid made on August 4 by the 82d Division, which occupied this sector for about one month before the St. Mihiel offensive. Two companies of the division penetrated the German lines to a depth of more than 600 yards, inflicting a number of casualties on the enemy forces and capturing three machine guns before returning to their own trenches.



French Monument at Flirey Listing American Units Which Fought in the Vicinity

(42.1 m 67.7 km) Beyond town, at top of first crest, was the scene of a strong German raid early on August 31 against the 89th Division, which was then occupying this sector. The Germans passed through the American front line between two regiments, crossed this road and in a trench along the right side of it moved in the direction the tourist is traveling, at the same time calling out in English that they were from the adjoining American regiment. This ruse failed to mislead the American platoon commander, who

Church at Limey





Air Photograph of Bridge Near Flirey
The front lines were near top of picture. Note communicating trenches



Dugouts in Rear of the 89th Division Jump-Off Line Near Flirey

View of Flirey on September 13, 1918





Ruins of Remenauville, October 1918

repulsed the raiding party by a courageous and well executed defense. The Germans were forced to abandon two of their dead within the American lines.

(42.6 m 68.5 km) While approaching the next village, Limey, to the left is seen a ridge upon which were located jump-off trenches of the 89th Division.

(43.5 m 70.0 km) Near this side of the town, the sector of the 2d Division before the offensive is entered.

(43.8 m 70.5 km) Just before reaching the far end of Limey, turn sharply to the left toward Remenauville.

(43.9 m 70.6 km) Beyond town, to the front is seen Ansoncourt Farm, which was near the boundary line between the zones of action of the 2d and 89th Divisions.

That farm, which was a strong point in the German lines, was captured by the 89th Division on September 12. During the attack on it Second Lieutenant J. Hunter Wickersham of the 89th Division won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Severely wounded in four places by a high-explosive shell, and with his right arm disabled, he declined aid for himself until he had dressed the wounds of his orderly, who had been wounded at the same time. Leading his men forward again he continued fighting, using his pistol with his left hand until exhausted from loss of blood he finally fell and died.

(44.5 m 71.5 km) On far side of first valley, a 2d Division boulder marker, one of a number erected after the Armistice by that division on its former battlefields, is passed near the road.

(44.7 m 71.8 km) Near the top of the next crest were located the front-line trenches of the 2d Division. They are still (1937) plainly to be seen.

(45.0 m 72.4 km) The church seen to the left of the road marks the site of the former village of Remenauville which was completely destroyed during the war. That town was just within the German front line. On September 12 it was captured by the 2d Division which met determined resistance in the Bois du Four, the large wood seen to the left. After a severe fight the enemy troops were driven out, and by 1:00 p. m. the division had advanced about 5 miles.

(45.2 m 72.7 km) Upon reaching the next road junction, turn to the right.

(45.4 m 73.0 km) At the bottom of the valley the zone of action of the 5th Division during the attack is entered.

(45.7 m 73.5 km) At the top of the next hill are seen (1937) traces of the trench system held by the 5th Division before it jumped off for the main attack.

(45.9 m 73.8 km) The church seen ahead marks the site of Regniéville, which was just within the American lines. The

town was totally demolished during the four years of fighting in this vicinity.

At the road junction ahead is a 5th Division marker, one of many erected by that division shortly after the Armistice; also a French marker indicating the farthest advance of the German forces during the last year of the war.

(46.2 m 74.3 km) **Upon reaching the road junction, turn to the right.**

The road running to the left at this point is the most direct route to Thiaucourt.

(46.7 m 75.1 km) **Just before reaching the top of the next crest, when a good view is obtained to the rear, STOP.**

If the growth of trees has obstructed the view go off the road or back down hill in order to obtain the best view possible.

Face so that the church just passed, which marks the site of the former village of Regniéville, is seen to the left front. The direction which the tourist is now facing is approximately north.

This point is close to the center of the jump-off line of the I Corps.

The church which is seen to the left is the one passed a short time ago in the former village of Remenauville.

The German front line in this vicinity ran from the observer's left of Ansoncourt Farm, seen beyond and to the right of the church of Remenauville; included Remenauville; passed on the other side

of Regniéville; ran along the near slopes of the ridge seen ahead; and continued on to the right crossing the Moselle River, which is about 5 miles away.

On September 12 the 2d, 5th and the left of the 90th Division attacked at 5:00 a. m. and made rapid and deep penetrations into the hostile positions.

The 2d Division promptly captured Remenauville and advanced quickly to the Bois du Four, the wood seen to the left front, where considerable resistance from machine-gun nests was encountered. This was overcome by 7:00 a. m. and Thiaucourt (not visible), 4 miles away beyond the right edge of the Bois du Four, was captured about noon. The 2d Division dug in that night on a position north of Thiaucourt, which was one of the main objectives of the offensive.

The 5th Division jumped off from near Regniéville and made steady progress through the German trenches and thick wire entanglements on its front. Determined resistance from machine guns in the wood, Bois de la Rappe, seen fringing the ridge ahead, was overcome about 6:15 a. m. and from then on the advance was rapid until that night, when the front line of the 5th Division was established about 3 miles ahead of this point.

The left of the 90th Division, which attacked to the right of this point, met

Regniéville in October 1918





90th Division Engineers Repairing Road at Fey-en-Haye, September 1918

obstinate resistance from machine-gun nests and snipers in the wood, the treetops of which can be seen in the distance to the right front. That resistance was cleared out during the morning and by 1:30 p. m. the division had reached its objective. The position consolidated that night was 2 miles from here, at about right angles to the observer's line of vision when looking in the direction of his right front.

The masses of barbed-wire entanglements on this front were very formidable but the extensive preparations which had

EN ROUTE EAST OF REGNIÉVILLE TO NORTH OF PONT-À-MOUSSON

(47.8 m 76.9 km) The next village, Fey-en-Haye, has been rebuilt on a new site. The site of the old town, which was destroyed, is about a mile to the left of this road, on the 90th Division jump-off line.

(48.9 m 78.6 km) Beyond the town, at the next crossroad, turn to the left.

The opposing front lines between here and the Meuse River ran about a mile to the left of this road. They traversed the Forêt du Bois-le-Prêtre, a dense wood in



Pont-à-Mousson, October 1918

been made by the American divisions to pass through them without loss of time proved to be unexpectedly effective.

The fighting after September 12 of the divisions which attacked from this part of the front will be discussed later when the area of that fighting is visited.

On the preceding page is a section of a wartime map, scale 1/20,000 (about 3"=1 mile), showing Remenauville and Regniéville. This map, which is of the type most commonly used by American front-line units, gives a good idea of the extent of the trench system existing in this region before the American attack.

which the Germans had established themselves early in the war and from which the French had made several unsuccessful attempts to drive them out.

When the 90th Division took over a sector in this vicinity on August 24 the opposing positions in some places were only 20 yards apart, each of them being composed of wide zones of deep trenches, bristling with machine guns in concrete emplacements and strongly protected by numerous thick bands of barbed wire.

(50.0 m 80.5 km) After leaving the wood, to the left front across the valley is seen a French World War cemetery.



Memorial Fountain of the American Field Service in Pont-à-Mousson

The 1st and 2d Divisions held adjoining sectors near here for a short time in August.

(50.5 m 81.2 km) While approaching the next town, Montauville, over it is seen Mousson Hill, upon which is located the village of Mousson. That place served as an excellent observation point for the French and American units on this front.

The ruins of an 11th Century castle and a church tower, upon which stands a statue of Joan of Arc, are visible on the hill.

After passing through Montauville and the adjoining village, Maidières, the tour enters Pont-à-Mousson which was captured by the Germans in 1914. It was retaken by French troops shortly thereafter and remained in the hands of the Allies from then on. Pont-à-Mousson being near the front line was often heavily shelled by the German artillery.

The churches of St. Laurent and St. Martin are places of interest.

(52.5 m 84.5 km) After entering the town, cross over the railroad tracks.

In center of town, at large plaza with the arcades, to the right is seen a Renaissance fountain reconstructed by the American Field Service as a memorial to its war dead. That Service was composed of a number of American ambulance sections, organized in the fall of 1914, and truck units, formed in the spring of 1918. It served with the French Army both before and after the United States entered the war, although it was made part of the American Army in 1917.

(52.7 m 84.8 km) At center of the large plaza with the arcades, turn to the left toward Pagny-sur-Moselle.

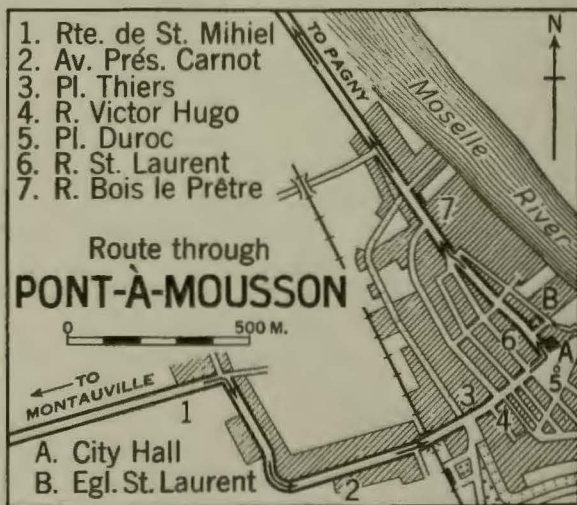
The tour now goes north down the Moselle valley and for approximately the next 4 miles follows in the direction of advance of the American Army.

(54.5 m 87.5 km) Beyond the town, after crossing the railroad, at the first crest where a good view of the hill to the front is obtained, STOP.

Face down the road, which, at this point, runs approximately north.

The Moselle River is to the right in the valley. The high peak, seen to the right on the other side of it, is Xon Hill.

On September 12 the 82d Division was holding a line, astride the river, which ran through this point and included Xon Hill. Its right connected with the French at Port-sur-Seille, a town about 6 miles



away to the right rear, and its left joined the 90th Division, at a point which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the left of here.

No attack was made on this front on September 12, the mission of the 82d Division being to exert pressure on the enemy by raiding and patrolling, but not to make a permanent advance. At this particular place, in carrying out this mission, an enemy strong point at the house seen down the road was raided.

On September 13 the 90th Division was ordered to advance its right about 1 mile and the 82d was directed to protect its flank. The 90th Division attacked at 9:30 a. m., drove the enemy in determined fighting out of the woods and quarries in its zone of action and by 5:00 p. m. had reached its objective which it held in spite of a severe gas and high explosive bombardment. The 82d Division attacked after dark, advanced across the valley ahead under heavy hostile fire from the other side of the Moselle and reached a line just beyond the crest of Hill 324, seen ahead. Its position was then abreast of the line of the 90th Division.

On the 15th the 90th again drove forward, early in the morning, and advanced to a ridge $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles farther on. Shortly after noon the 82d passed through Vandières, about 2 miles down this road, to a

Light Tank Manned by Americans Crossing a Trench During the St. Mihiel Operation



German Front-Line Trench and Barbed Wire Near Fey-en-Haye, September 1918

position alongside that of the 90th. The ground held by the 82d Division was exposed to artillery fire from the north and from across the river so, after many casualties, it was given up. Vandières will be passed through and the position just mentioned will be seen later in the tour.

One of the outstanding deeds of daring in the fighting near here was that of Lieutenant Colonel Emory J. Pike, 82d Division, on the far slopes of Hill 324. Going beyond the call of his own duties as division machine gun officer he volunteered to assist in reorganizing advanced units under a terrific bombardment. Although seriously wounded while going to the aid of an injured soldier in the outpost line he continued in command and remained in the position until it was prepared for defense, encouraging everyone



90th Division Detachment Coming Out of Line Near Vilcey-sur-Trey,
September 15, 1918

with his cheerful spirit, courage and confidence. This gallant soldier died from his wounds. For his heroic actions in this fighting he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On September 18 that part of the 82d Division on this side of the river was relieved by the 90th Division and on the 20th the remainder of the division was replaced in the line by French troops.

On October 9 the 92d Division took over a sector just beyond the Moselle River and on October 26 its front was extended for a short distance on this side. On November 10 the division attacked and captured the Bois Fréhaut, the wooded area seen to the left of Xon Hill, held it under heavy bombardment and made other minor gains farther to the right.

In the region of the Vosges Mountains, lying to the right rear from here, many American divisions had their first service in the battle lines. The nature of that country was such that large operations were practically impossible, and the sectors there were ordinarily held by tired or newly formed divisions. (See Chapter VII for information of that region.)

EN ROUTE NORTH OF PONT-À-MOUSSON
TO SOUTHEAST OF THIAUCOURT

(55.0 m 88.5 km) Upon reaching the road
fork on the next low crest, bear right.

(55.2 m 88.8 km) Up the valley leading to the left is seen Norroy, which was occupied by troops of the 82d Division during the evening of September 13.

The next village, Vandières, was captured by the 82d Division on September 15. Due to intense hostile artillery fire the division withdrew from the village early the next day. The 90th Division, after relieving the 82d on September 18, advanced its front line beyond the town.

(56.7 m 91.2 km) In Vandières, turn to the left toward Villers-sous-Prény.

The tour turns west at this point and from now on runs generally across the zone of action of the American First Army.

American Officers at a Captured German Canteen,
Nonsard, September 13, 1918





Light Railway Operated by the American Army, Moving Civilian Property From the Vicinity of the Front Line

(57.1 m 91.9 km) Beyond town, leading up from the right of the road, are the slopes of the hill captured by the 82d Division on September 15, and from which it later withdrew because of intense hostile artillery bombardments.

(57.6 m 92.7 km) At next group of farm buildings seen to the left near the road, the zone of action of the 90th Division during the attack is entered.

The high bald ridge with the irregular crest seen to the left is Hill 324, which was mentioned at the last stop. The village of Norroy is located just the other side of it. The front line of the 82d Division on both September 13 and 14 was just beyond the crest of that ridge.

Road Work

The silk hat was found in Thiaucourt



(58.3 m 93.7 km) Some distance farther on to the right is seen a high wooded ridge, captured on September 15 by the 90th Division. In the Bois des Rappes, the dense wooded area on its summit, considerable fighting occurred.

(58.7 m 94.4 km) Continue through the village of Villers-sous-Prény.

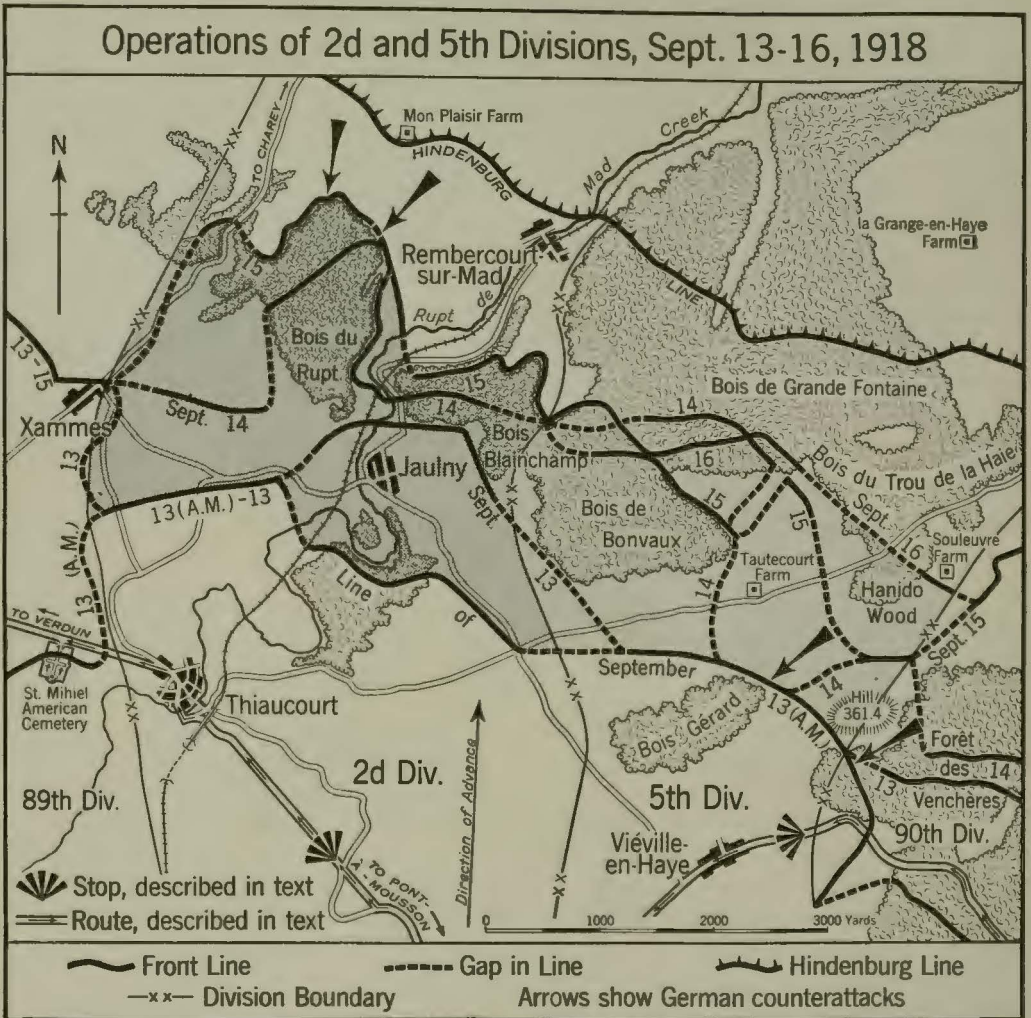
The valley which the road now follows received a continuous bombardment of gas and high explosive shells after its capture on September 15, from German batteries on the hills seen to the rear beyond the Moselle River. On account of this shelling it received the name of the "Valley of Death" from the American soldiers who served near here.

(59.4 m 95.6 km) While approaching the next village, Vilcey-sur-Trey, to the right front is seen the edge of the wood, Forêt des Venchères, along which the 90th Division line rested on September 13. That line crossed this road at right angles just this side of the town.

(60.1 m 96.8 km) Continue through the village of Vilcey-sur-Trey.

(61.0 m 98.1 km) In the large wood, Forêt des Venchères, next entered, the 90th Division encountered stubborn resistance from the Germans who were driven out of it on September 13.

In this wood was located a large German rest camp for troops waiting to enter



the front lines. Hundreds of huts had been constructed under the trees, where they were concealed from the view of hostile aviators, and many facilities for the comfort of the soldiers were provided.

(61.1 m 98.3 km) On the far side of the small valley which the road follows was located the front line of the 90th Division on the evening of September 12.

(62.1 m 99.9 km) After leaving wood, just before reaching sharp bend in road, the front line of the 5th Division on the first day of the attack is crossed. It ran almost at right angles to the road and at this point faced in the direction opposite to that which the tourist is traveling.

(62.4 m 100.4 km) Beyond bend, at the first crest, STOP without leaving car.

The village seen ahead is Viéville-en-Haye, one of the objectives of the I Corps in the St. Mihiel offensive. In an attack launched from the edge of the wood, Bois de St. Claude, seen to the left, the 5th Division captured that town about noon on September 12. Its front line was then established about a mile to the right of this road and included the Bois Gérard, located just over the ridge seen to the right. The upper parts of several of the highest trees of that wood can be seen topping the ridge to the right front.

Due to this deep penetration by the 5th Division, parts of two fresh German divisions were put into the line on this front. These launched a strong counterattack on the afternoon of September 13 and

although small hostile units succeeded in entering the Bois Gérard, the division line at midnight was not materially changed.

On the 14th the 5th Division once again attacked and after severe fighting, during which another German counterattack was repulsed, advanced its line a mile in the left part of its zone of action and approximately 800 yards in the right part.

During September 15 and 16 further fighting occurred but the division line remained practically unchanged except on its extreme right where an advance of approximately 800 yards was made.

Its mission having been efficiently accomplished the 5th Division was relieved on September 17 by the 78th Division.

Continue.

(62.8 m 101.0 km) **Straight through the village of Viéville-en-Haye.**

(63.1 m 101.5 km) **Beyond village cemetery, to the right front on the sky line is seen the American monument on Montsec hill, visited earlier in the tour.**

(63.9 m 102.8 km) **Near first pronounced LEFT bend in road, the zone of action of the 2d Division is entered.**

(64.1 m 103.1 km) **In the wood, Bois d'Heiche, seen to the right, taken by the 2d Division about 9:30 a. m. on September 12, a large number of prisoners and great quantities of supplies were captured.**

(64.2 m 103.3 km) **Upon approaching the next crossroad, to the left front can be seen (1937) the remains of a German concrete machine-gun emplacement.**

In a building, called Loge Mangin, near the edge of the wood seen to the left front, the 2d Division Headquarters was established on September 12. When that division was relieved from this front the building was used as the 78th Division Headquarters until October 5.

(64.4 m 103.5 km) **Upon reaching the next crossroad, turn to the right.**

(64.5 m 103.8 km) **Beyond crossroad, to the left is seen the large wood, Bois du Beau Vallon, taken by troops of the 2d**

No Man's Land Along Southern Face of St. Mihiel Salient
Shows character of the terrain advanced over





Thiaucourt Being Shelled by the Germans After
Its Capture by the 2d Division

and 89th Divisions on the morning of the first day of the offensive of September 12.

(65.3 m 105.1 km) At the next road crossing, turn to the right.

(65.4 m 105.3 km) Immediately beyond the next crossroad, **STOP**.

Face down the road, which direction is approximately northwest.

From this point on a clear day may be seen to the left and left front a wonderful panorama of the Woëvre Plain over which the American troops advanced.

To the left in the distance is seen Montsec, crowned by the American monument, with the village of Montsec at its base. The jump-off line of the main attack on September 12 was approximately parallel to the observer's line of sight when facing Montsec and about 3 miles to the left of that line. Between here and the hill of Montsec the line of vision cuts directly across part of the zone of action of the 2d Division and through the zones of action of the 89th, 42d and 1st Divisions in that order.

To the left front Hattonchâtel with its picturesque château is plainly visible just below the sky line, perched on one of the prominent heights which rim the plain in

that direction; and to the left of it, strung along the forward slopes of the confining heights, are the villages of Vigneulles, Heudicourt, Buxières, Buxerulles and Woinville which were passed through earlier in the tour.

The observer is near the middle of the 2d Division zone of action. That division reached this vicinity about 9:00 a. m. on September 12 and by early afternoon had captured Thiaucourt, the town seen in the valley ahead, and had established its line on the Army objective about 2 miles to the right front from here. Later in the afternoon the division repulsed two strong hostile counterattacks.

Thiaucourt was an important point in the German supply system, and with its capture there fell into American hands 11 field guns loaded on railroad cars, numerous empty railway cars, and vast quantities of food, lumber and military supplies and equipment of all kinds.

The St. Mihiel American Cemetery, identified by its white chapel and field of white headstones, can be plainly seen to the left of and beyond Thiaucourt.

The 89th Division drove forward on September 12 through the wooded areas

in front of its jump-off line and about noon captured Euvezin, identified by the nearest building between here and Montsec. Later in the day it captured the ground upon which the American cemetery now stands. It dug in that night with its front line running near the right edge of the present cemetery area.

The prominent church tower with the slate colored roof, seen some distance to the right of Euvezin, is in Pannes which lay within the zone of action of the 42d Division and was captured by it early in the afternoon on September 12.

Slightly to the right of and beyond the church tower in Pannes is seen the church steeple of Nonsard. That village lay within the zone of action of the 1st Division and was taken by it about noon on the first day of the attack.

On September 13 the 89th Division captured the Bois de Xammes which can be seen on the sky line immediately above and beyond the church steeple in Thiaucourt, and the 2d Division drove forward in the direction of the observer's right front for approximately three fourths of a mile in the right of its zone of action.

During the 14th and 15th, the 2d Division pushed strong reconnaissance patrols to the front and on the 15th several hostile counterattacks were broken up. The division line was advanced slightly along all of its front during these days.

The 2d Division was relieved from the line on September 16 by the 78th. The 89th Division remained on this front until October 7 when it was relieved by the 37th. Both divisions had brilliantly performed their battle assignments.

EN ROUTE SOUTHEAST OF THIAUCOURT TO ST. MIHIEL AMERICAN CEMETERY

(65.9 m 106.0 km) **While approaching Thiaucourt, along the right side of the road is seen a German military cemetery.**

Thiaucourt is well known to troops of the 7th, 28th, 37th, 78th and 89th Divisions, which served in the line north of it at various times between September 16 and the Armistice. It was subjected to heavy German shelling soon after its capture by the Americans.

(66.6 m 107.2 km) **In town, cross right-hand bridge over the Rupt de Mad.**

(66.8 m 107.5 km) **Near the church, passed on the left, is the village monument upon which are named the American units that fought in this vicinity during the St. Mihiel offensive.**

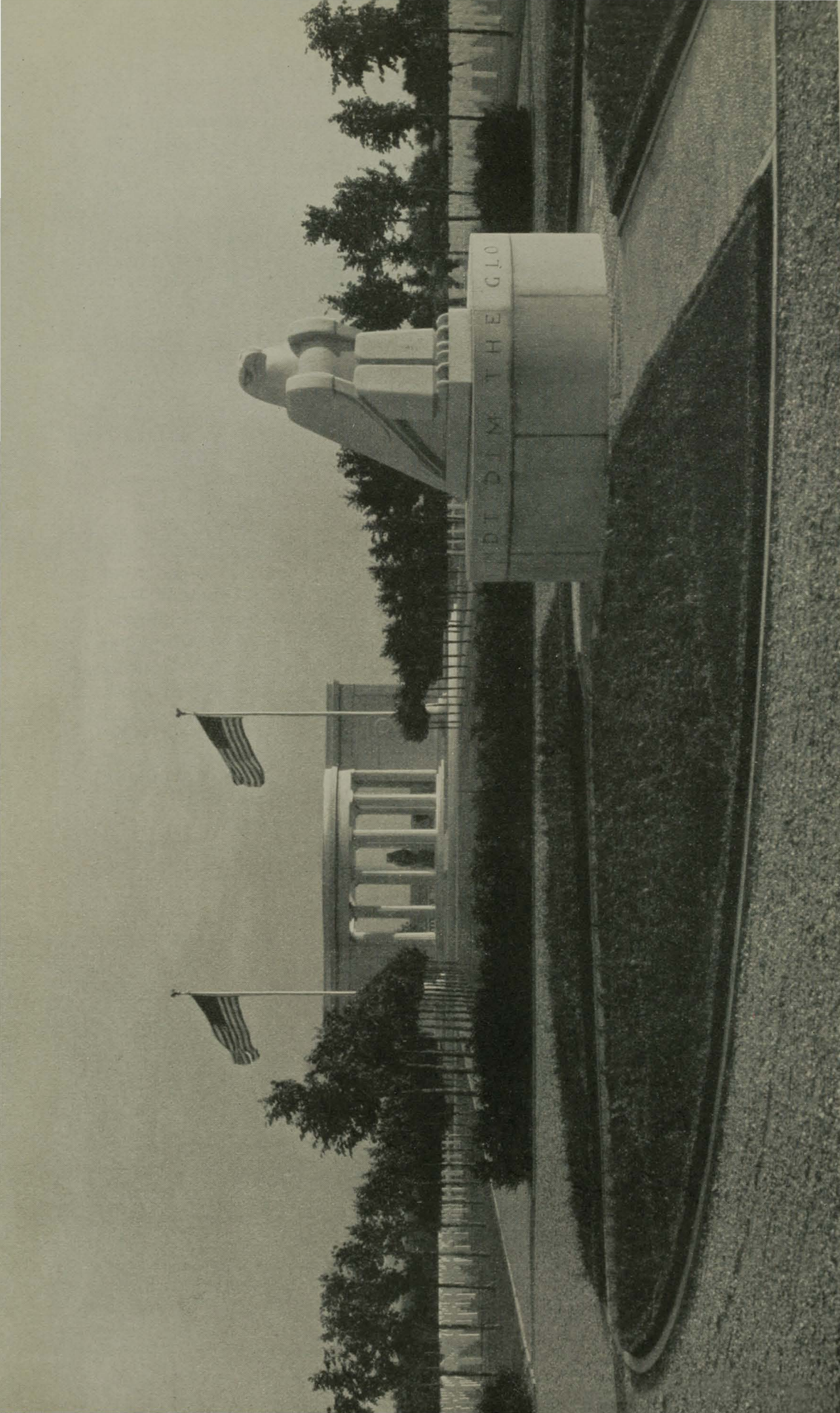
(66.9 m 107.6 km) **At the small monument farther on, bear to the left.**

(67.1 m 108.0 km) **At far edge of town the zone of action of the 89th Division during the attack is entered.**

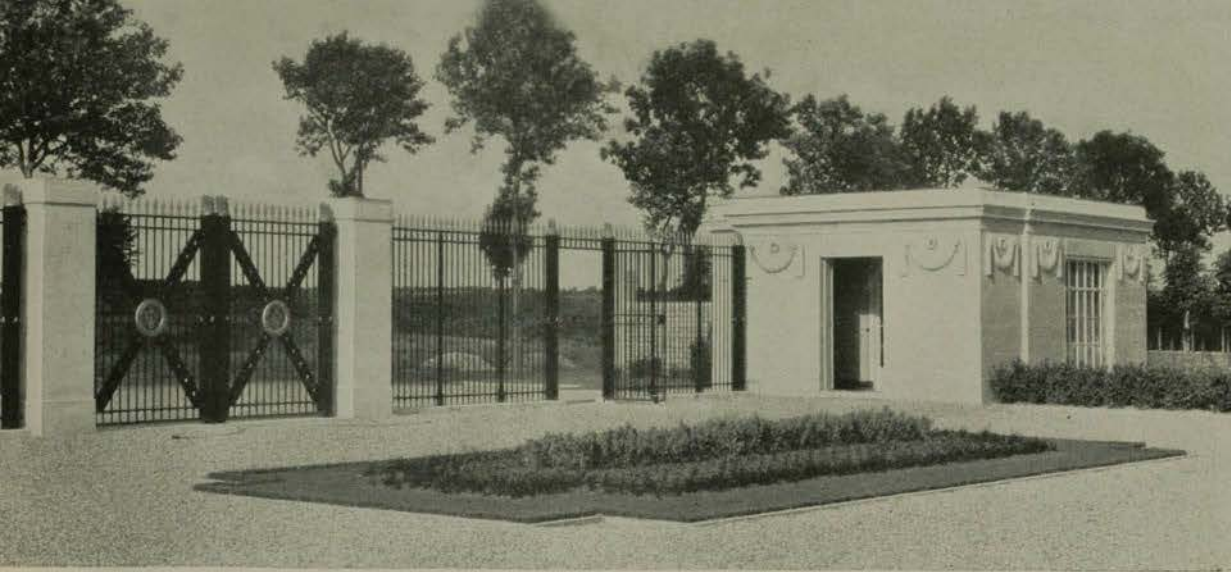
(67.5 m 108.5 km) **Beyond town, at the large cemetery at left of road, STOP.**

Street in Thiaucourt After the German Bombardment





General View of the St. Michael American Cemetery



Entrance, St. Mihiel Cemetery

This is the St. Mihiel American Cemetery. It is the third largest of the eight American military cemeteries in Europe and contains 4,152 graves. Most of the men buried here gave their lives in the St. Mihiel offensive. The majority of the others died while serving in sectors in this region or in the divisional training areas which were located to the southwest.

The architecture of the cemetery is classic in design and the entire development has been made along formal lines. A harmonious and beautiful effect has thus been obtained which can not fail to impress the visitor from America with the fitness of this as a final resting place for these gallant soldier dead.

The formal entrance, with its gem-like pavilions and ornamental black and gilded grill fence, is of striking beauty. Through it an excellent view of the cemetery can be obtained from the main highway.

As the cemetery is entered, the pavilion to the right contains the superintendent's office. Inquiries concerning the location of a particular grave or requests for other information should be made there. The pavilion to the left contains a well-appointed reception room and other facilities for the convenience of visitors.

Although the flower beds and roses and the large green lawns which carpet the grave areas are now in their final beauty, visitors during the next few years will have to draw upon their imaginations to visualize the greater beauty that will

come when the trees and shrubbery have reached their full growth. In time the cemetery will be sheltered on all sides by masses of vegetation outside the stone walls, and the main paths will pass through leafy canopies formed by overhanging boughs of the trees along them.

The white marble headstones, which are the same in all the American military cemeteries in Europe, are of a cross design for those of the Christian faith and a six-pointed star design for those of the Jewish faith. The changing beauty of these fields of crosses when seen at various times throughout the day and in different lights is unusually impressive.

At the center of the cemetery is a large sundial of attractive design surrounded by beautiful beds of flowers. Carved around the top of its base appears the prophetic inscription "TIME WILL NOT DIM THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS."

From this point the beautiful perspectives along the cross axes of the cemetery catch the eye. Between the trees and flower beds along one axis is seen a small monument depicting a typical American soldier in his wartime uniform, standing in front of a stone cross. Behind this and framing it is a stone hemicycle intended ultimately to be set off by a high square-trimmed tree hedge. At the end of the other axis there is seen an ornamental urn on a semicircular platform from which a fine view of Thiaucourt and the terrain in that direction may be obtained.



Sundial at St. Mihiel American Cemetery Near Thiaucourt
Note American Memorial on Montsec in the distance

From the center of the cemetery there is a splendid view of the chapel, a building of great simplicity and dignity, which has been built of fine white stone.

The two flags flying in front of the chapel bring a feeling of patriotism to American visitors and a sense of gratification that the brave men who rest here will always sleep beneath their country's flag.

Carved inscriptions in French and English on the front of the chapel state that it has been dedicated "TO THOSE WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY", and this thought has been repeated in the main inscription inside the peristyle which reads: "THIS CHAPEL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF HER SONS WHO DIED IN THE WORLD WAR."

These words, carved in stone, emphasize the fact that the chapel stands not to commemorate the glory of battles won nor the triumph of victory achieved, but as a direct tribute of America to those who made the supreme sacrifice for it.

The large rose-granite urn with its carved drapery at the center of the peristyle recalls to mind an ancient funereal vase. One of the decorative features on it is a winged horse, which is intended to symbolize the flight of the immortal soul to their resting place in the life beyond.

The bronze door to the left, decorated with stars and two miniature bronze soldier heads, leads to the impressive interior of the chapel. As the visitor enters, his attention is first attracted to the carved, ivory-tinted altar, with its beautiful cross and the rich mosaic above it, portraying an angel sheathing his sword. The mosaics on the end walls have as their main features large shields displaying the national colors of the United States and of France.

The coffered ceiling is decorated in gold and blue, while the floor and lower wall-paneling are of inlaid marble with light and dark green markings. Disposed about the chapel in appropriate places are graceful candelabra and bronze-decorated seats and kneeling-benches.

On the other side of the peristyle is a



View at St. Mihiel Cemetery Chapel

room upon the end walls of which are recorded, in carved and gilded letters on black marble panels, the names of all American soldiers who are carried on the rolls as missing in the operations in this vicinity. The wall opposite the door displays an inlaid marble map, to a scale of 1/10,000, upon which the ground gained by the American divisions is shown in various colored marbles.

Behind the chapel, corresponding in position to the flagpoles in front, are two weeping willows and filling the four corners of the chapel terrace are large masses of trimmed evergreen trees.

From the rear of the peristyle, the American monument on Montsec is plainly visible in the distance on a clear day.

EN ROUTE ST. MIHIEL AMERICAN CEMETERY TO WEST OF WOËL

From this cemetery the tour follows the main road to Verdun. For most of the distance to Haudiomont, 20 miles away, the front line held by the American troops at the end of the war lay generally from 1 to 3 miles to the right of and approximately parallel to this road.

(67.8 m 109.1 km) **Beyond first crest, to the right**, the nearest village is Xammes, which was close to the final objective of the First Army in the St. Mihiel offensive. It was occupied by the 89th Division early on the morning of September 13.

On September 16 the front line of the First Army was established about a mile beyond Xammes. It was located there when the American Second Army took over this front on October 12.

(68.2 m 109.7 km) **To the left front, in the distance, Montsec** is clearly visible.

(68.5 m 110.2 km) **Continue through Béney**, which was captured before dawn on September 13 by the 89th Division.

(69.0 m 110.9 km) **At far edge of the**

village the zone of action of the 42d Division during the attack is entered.

(69.1 m 111.2 km) **Beyond town, to the left** is seen the wood, Bois de Thiaucourt, near the left end of which, approximately parallel to this road, was located the front line held by troops of the 42d Division on the evening of September 12.

(69.6 m 111.9 km) **To the left front** is seen the Bois de Béney, at the near edge of which during most of the war the Germans maintained and flew an observation balloon. In that wood was captured a large German supply depot.

(70.9 m 114.0 km) **While approaching the next village, St. Benoit, in its right edge** is seen a château where a brigade headquarters of the 42d Division was located after the capture of the town on September 13. Several times after that date it was heavily shelled.

(71.4 m 114.9 km) **Continue through the village of St. Benoit.**

As part of a general forward movement of the 42d Division early on September 13, one of its battalions drove out small hostile units in the woods near this road,

A Battalion Headquarters of the 89th Division Near Béney,
September 16, 1918





42d Division Patrol Near Hassavant Farm,
September 14, 1918

captured Hassavant Farm, the next group of buildings, organized a position beyond the farm, and sent patrols still farther along down the road.

The 42d Division was relieved by the 89th Division during October 1.

(73.0 m 117.5 km) **At Hassavant Farm, to the left** is seen Hattonchâtel which was visited earlier in the tour. In the area to the left of that place the 1st Division was assembled on September 14, having been pinched out of the front line due to the meeting of the two forces advancing from the sides of the salient. Its movement to the Meuse-Argonne region was started from there on September 20.

(76.1 m 122.4 km) **Continue through next village, Woël**, which was occupied by a French division on September 14.

(77.0 m 123.9 km) **Beyond town, at far side of crest where the next village, Doncourt, comes in full view, STOP.**

Face to the right, which direction is approximately northeast.

After September 16 this part of the front became stabilized and the activities here from then on were mainly those of

patrolling, with an occasional raid into the German lines to find out information concerning the dispositions of their troops and their future plans of action.

On September 26, when the Meuse-Argonne operation began, the troops here were ordered to make demonstrations with the idea of confusing the enemy as to the exact point of the American attack. Consequently, artillery bombardments lasting as long as nine hours were laid down and strong patrols were sent to attack the enemy lines. These maneuvers served to hold the German reserves behind this front much longer than would otherwise have been the case.

On October 12 the American Second Army took command of this part of the front. Its sector extended from Port-sur-Seille, on the other side of the Moselle River, to Fresnes-en-Woëvre, about 5 miles to the left from here. The front line at that time was practically in the same place as it was at the termination of the main St. Mihiel attack.

Comparatively little activity occurred on this front during the month of October.



Crossroads at St. Hilaire

Early in November the Allied attacks, covering almost the entire front from the Meuse River to the North Sea, produced great disorganization in the German forces. The Second Army was therefore ordered to keep close watch of the enemy for any indications of a withdrawal.

At that time the Second Army front was held, in order from right to left, by the VI Corps with the 92d Division in line, the IV Corps with 7th and 28th in line, and the French XVII Corps with the American 33d Division in line.

The 33d Division held this part of the front and its sector included the towns of Woël, seen to the right; the far edge of Doncourt; and Wadonville, seen to the left of and beyond Doncourt.

The nearest part of the sector held by the 28th Division was at the woods seen in the distance to the right.

On November 9, while the Armistice negotiations were in progress, urgent orders were issued by Marshal Foch, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, directing that the enemy be pushed all along the Western Front and that he be given no time to rest or reorganize his troops.

In carrying out these instructions all divisions on this front, following some local operations on November 9, launched attacks on November 10 and 11 in the general direction the observer is facing. This American offensive is generally referred to as the Woëvre Plain operation.

These attacks resulted in substantial gains and by the time of the Armistice the

front line had been advanced to include the large wood, seen to the right front; the first wood, Bois de Warville, seen to the left front; and St. Hilaire, the village whose church steeple may be seen at certain seasons of the year beyond Doncourt.

Jonville, whose church is seen to the front, was never captured although the ground between here and that village was the scene of numerous severe combats.

EN ROUTE WEST OF WOËL TO EAST
OF HAUDIOMONT

(77.5 m 124.7 km) Straight through the village of Doncourt.

The 79th Division held a sector in this vicinity during most of the month of October. It was relieved by the 33d Division which assumed command on October 26.

(79.1 m 127.3 km) The next village, St. Hilaire, was occupied on September 13 by a French division and was taken over from it by the 26th Division on the same day. It was abandoned on September 15, after an enemy attack had been repulsed, because by its retention a sharp salient was created in the American line.

The town was raided by American troops a number of times before its capture on November 10 by the 33d Division. The front line at the time of the Armistice was near the far edge of the village.

(80.3 m 129.2 km) The next village, Marchéville, had been elaborately organized for defense by the Germans before September 1918. After the salient was eliminated the village was strongly held

by German troops and was the scene of much vicious fighting until November 11.

On September 26, as part of the demonstration on this front at the time of the opening of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, a battalion of the 26th Division made an attack against the town and entered it at 9:00 a. m. after stubborn fighting; a counterattack by a German unit was beaten off about noon, and the town changed hands four times before the troops of the 26th Division were ordered to withdraw that evening.

On November 10 the village was attacked in force by the 33d Division which inflicted heavy losses in overcoming the stubborn resistance of the enemy. Sharp hostile counterattacks from the front and flanks and heavy artillery fire caused a withdrawal to the higher ground seen to the left of the village. On November 11 another attack was launched and fighting was going on in the streets when notification of the Armistice was received.

(80.9 m 130.2 km) **Beyond town, at the road fork, bear to the right.**

(82.3 m 132.4 km) **While approaching the next town, Fresnes-en-Woëvre, on the right are seen (1937) several concrete machine-gun emplacements which were part of one of the main German defensive lines which ran near here.**

(82.8 m 133.2 km) **Straight through Fresnes-en-Woëvre, captured on September 14 by the 4th Division. The front line remained near this town until the morning of November 11 when the 33d**

Division advanced it $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the right of the road which the tourist is following.

(83.2 m 133.9 km) **Beyond town, about 500 yards, was located the boundary between the American First and Second Armies at the close of hostilities.**

(84.5 m 136.0 km) **At next road junction is seen a monument erected by the 4th Division after the Armistice.**

(84.7 m 136.3 km) **Continue through next village, Manheulles, captured by the 4th Division on September 14. During October and the early part of November it was just within the American lines. Its exposed location made it subject to frequent and intense bombardments from hostile artillery.**

(85.5 m 137.5 km) **Beyond town, just beyond second bend in road, before reaching the railroad, STOP.**

Face down the road, which direction is approximately west.

On November 7 the 81st Division relieved the 35th on a line which ran along the edge of the heights seen ahead. It was at that time the right flank division belonging to the American First Army.

On November 9 the division attacked as part of the general forward movement on this front. It advanced to the right of this road well into the wood, Bois de Manheulles, seen in that direction. Only two isolated groups, however, remained in the wood during the night. The smaller of these withdrew about 10:00 a. m. the next day to the road on which the observer is standing. The

On Front of 81st Division Near Manheulles, November 10, 1918





Troops of the 81st Division in Manheulles, November 10, 1918

other group, a company, was attacked by the Germans early on the morning of the 10th and about half of its men were captured. The remnants, however, about 40 men, bravely fought their way back to the American position at Haudiomont, which is the village seen ahead.

No attack was made here on November 10 but on the 11th the 81st Division met resistance in its efforts to advance in the Bois de Manheulles. Its front line was in the wood at the time of the Armistice.

About 4 miles to the right front from here the left of the 81st Division made successive advances during November 9, 10 and 11, for a total gain of about 3 miles.



As this is the last stop on the tour, a brief summary of the events connected with the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient will serve to fix them more definitely in the mind of the reader.

Shortly after the American Expeditionary Forces reached France in 1917 General Pershing decided that the American Army should be built up and enter the battle line in this region, and that the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient should be its first major operation of the war.

In the spring of 1918 the formation of

the American Army was postponed because of the great demand for divisions to meet critical situations created on other parts of the front by the successful German offensives at that time.

Early in August of that year the situation became such that General Pershing felt free to insist that the creation of an American army be no longer delayed. As a result the First Army was formed and took over on August 30 all of the front line around the St. Mihiel salient.

The original plans for the attack provided for exploiting toward Metz and the Briey iron region if the situation became favorable. These plans, however, were

Captured Burros Carrying Water Near Haudiomont, November 1918





Effect of a Direct Hit on a German
Concrete Shelter

changed in order to fit in with those for an offensive in the Meuse-Argonne region and it was finally decided that the St. Mihiel operation should be limited merely to the reduction of the salient.

After almost superhuman efforts on the part of all concerned the First Army was in place on this front ready to attack early on the morning of September 12.

The main attack was carried through with dash and precision and ended on the evening of September 13, all major objectives having been gained.

The effect upon morale of this striking victory of the American Army in its initial major offensive is almost beyond evaluation. The Germans were greatly

depressed, as the superb fighting qualities of the American soldier had again been demonstrated and the American high commanders and their staffs had successfully proved their ability to conduct large operations, an ability previously doubted by the Germans. The Allies were greatly encouraged and all Americans were elated at the victory, which was far more rapid and clear-cut than even the most optimistic had a right to expect.

Before leaving this stop the speedometer reading should be noted.

EN ROUTE EAST OF HAUDIOMONT
TO VERDUN

(86.5 m 139.1 km) **Straight through the village of Haudiomont.**

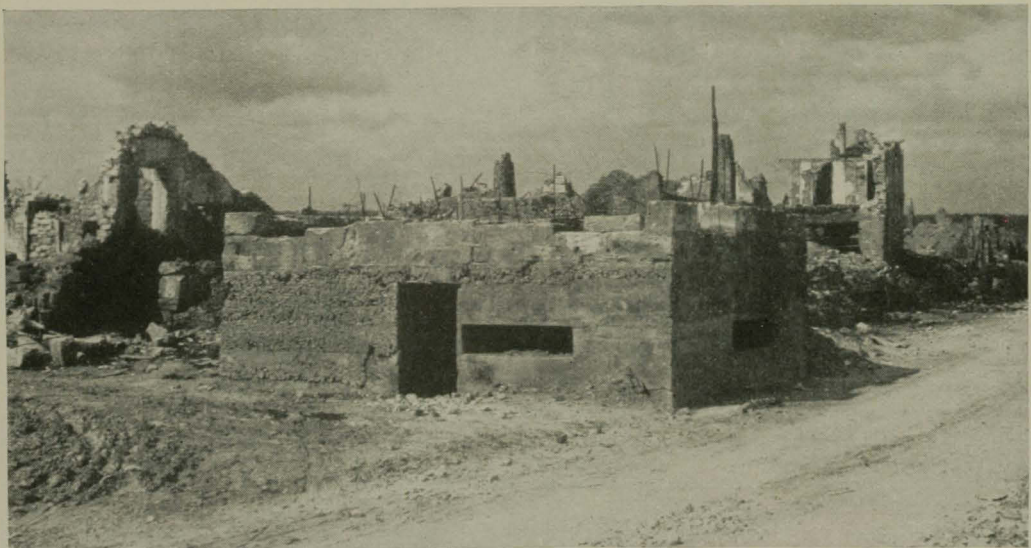
(87.0 m 139.9 km) **Beyond town, while ascending hill, to the rear may be seen a fine view of the Woëvre Plain.**

(90.7 m 145.9 km) **5.2 miles (8.4 kilometers) from the last stop; at top of hill where Fort du Rozellier is to the right of the road; to the right front on a clear day may be seen the shaft of the Meuse-Argonne American Memorial at Montfaucon, approximately 18 miles away.**

(96.1 m 154.6 km) **Continue to the Victory monument in the center of Verdun.**

Verdun is the starting point for the tour of the American battlefields in the Meuse-Argonne region described in Chapter IV.

German Command Post at Manheulles Captured by the 4th Division on September 14, 1918



ADDITIONAL PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE ST. MIHIEL REGION

IN addition to the places whose World War history has been described in the itinerary, there are a number of other places in the St. Mihiel region where interesting war events occurred, where there now exist features of special interest, or which are of sufficient importance in pre-World War history to warrant special mention. For reference purposes and for the benefit of the tourist who travels in the area not on the described route, these places and parts of their history have been recorded on the following pages.

The sketch which appears on this page shows the general location of the places

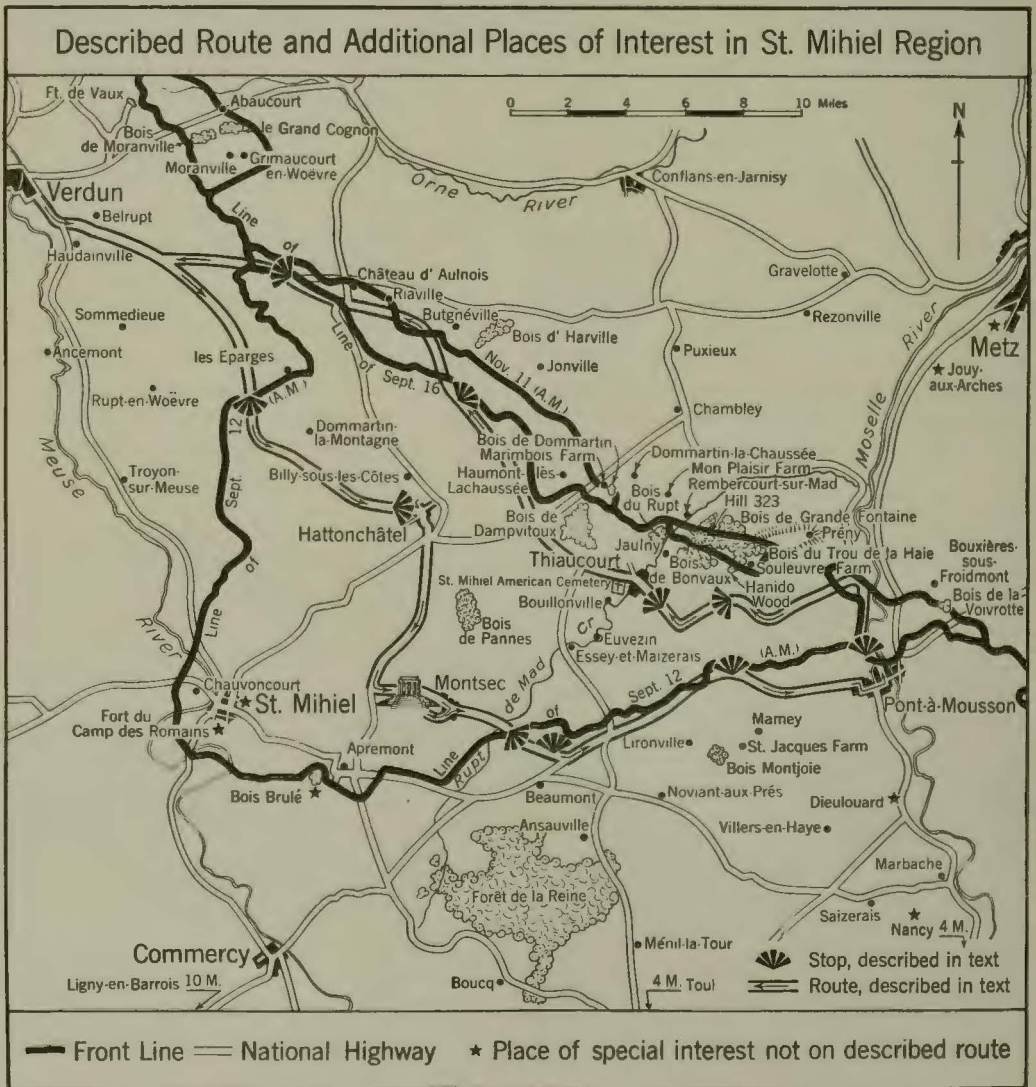
mentioned. At those indicated by a star on the sketch and in the text there is some interesting object such as a memorial, ancient ruins or outstanding World War feature in a good state of preservation.

Abaucourt. Captured on November 10 by the 81st Division after severe fighting.

Ancemont. Location of V Corps Headquarters, September 10-16.

Ansauville. Location of 42d Div. Headquarters, September 9-14.

Apremont. This village, just within the German front lines, was completely demolished by French and American artillery fire. In town, near the church,





Allied Prisoners Returning to American Lines at Abaucourt,
November 13, 1918

is a memorial fountain to the American soldiers who fell at Apremont, donated by the city of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Beaumont. 1st Div. Hdqrs., Sept. 11-13.

Belrupt. 81st Div. Hdqrs., Nov. 9-11.

Billy-sous-les-Côtes. While alone on a voluntary air patrol near this place on September 25, First Lieutenant Edward V. Rickenbacker, Air Service, encountered a hostile formation of seven planes. Disregarding the odds against him he dived on them and shot one down out of control. He then attacked a second which was likewise shot down. For this conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, Lieutenant Rickenbacker was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Bois de Bonvaux. This wood was reached by patrols of the 5th Division on September 12. It was the scene of hard fighting on September 14 when the Germans were driven from it.

★ **Bois Brulé.** Scene of bitter fighting between the French and Germans in 1915. The 26th Division engaged in severe local combats in the vicinity during April 1918. Many interesting trenches and German dugouts are being preserved there (1937).

Bois de Dampvitoux. Near this wood

the Germans had an important aviation field and a group of barracks. The wood was occupied during September 13 by the troops of the 42d and 89th Divisions.

Bois de Dommartin. Located about 600 yards in front of the American lines after the St. Mihiel operation, this little wood was the scene of many small but bitter fights in which at different times the 89th, 37th and 28th Divisions, in that order, participated. It was occupied by the 28th Division on November 10 and held until after the Armistice.

Bois de Grande Fontaine. Scene of severe local fighting by the 5th, 78th and 7th Divisions at various times from September 14 on. During November 1 the southern part of this wood was captured and held by troops of the 7th Division.

Bois d'Harville. The 33d Division attacked and gained a foothold in this wood on November 10 in spite of heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. The wood was abandoned that night, however, because of hostile gas-shell bombardments.

Bois Montjoie, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southeast of Lironville, was the location of the 2d Div. Headquarters, September 10-12.

Bois de Pannes. The 42d Div. Hdqrs. was located here from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1.

Bois du Rupt. A counterattack of the German 31st Division, launched from this wood during the afternoon of September 12, was repulsed by the 2d Division, which inflicted heavy losses. The wood was occupied by the 2d Division on September 14 and remained in American hands until after the Armistice.

Bois du Trou de la Haie. Considerable hard fighting occurred in this wooded area both before and after November 1, on which date the 7th Division established its front line well into it.

Bois de la Voivrotte. The 92d Division captured this wood early on November 11 and from it launched two attacks against Bouxières-sous-Froidmont.

Boucq. Location of 26th Div. Hdqrs., Mar. 31–June 20, and IV Corps Hdqrs. for the period Oct. 10 to Nov. 3.

Bouillonville. Sergeant Harry J. Adams, 89th Division, won the Distinguished Service Cross in this town for an act of great coolness and daring on September 12. Discovering a group of Germans in a building he promptly fired his remaining pistol bullets through the door and demanded the instant surrender of

the occupants. Some 300 Germans emerged and Sergeant Adams, although alone and armed only with an empty pistol, made prisoners of them all.

Butgnéville. A 33d Division attack on November 11 made against this village was repulsed with severe losses.

Chambley. Site of an important German ammunition depot.

Château d'Aulnois. Captured by the 33d Division on November 11. It had been the objective of active patrolling by various American units before then.

Chauvencourt. This town, situated across the Meuse River from St. Mihiel, and the flat-topped hill near it, were captured by the Germans in 1914 and held as a bridgehead until the American attack of September 12 forced their evacuation.

Conflans-en-Jarnisy. Headquarters of the German Army Detachment "C" which was holding the St. Mihiel salient. The town was an important communication center and the objective of many of the American aviation bombing raids.

★ **Dieulouard.** In the northern outskirts of this town, along the main road, are (1937) the remains of a large concrete

Wartime View of German Support Trenches Near Apremont



emplacement for an Allied railroad gun.

Dommartin-la-Chaussée. Site of a large German supply depot. The town was in the main line of resistance of the Hindenburg Line. Attempts of the 28th Division to capture it on November 10 were defeated with considerable losses.

Dommartin-la-Montagne. Fire from this village halted the advance of the left units of the 26th Division on September 12. It was captured the next morning.

Essey-et-Maizerais. Location of the 42d Div. Headquarters, Sept. 14-25.

Euvezin. Captured by the 89th Division. Before the St. Mihiel offensive a German artillery camp was located in the ravine south of the town. The camp was the 89th Div. Hdqrs., Sept. 14-Oct. 7; 37th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 7-16; 28th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 16-29; and 7th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 30 to after the Armistice.

★ **Fort du Camp des Romains.** This fort near St. Mihiel was built by the French about 1879 upon the site of an old Roman camp. It was captured in 1914 by the Germans and retained by them until the attack of the American First Army forced its evacuation. The fort is not used now and is in ruins.

Gravelotte. This village was the scene of an important German victory in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War.

Grimaucourt-en-Woëvre. Captured by the 81st Division on November 10 but not held that night. The next day the division pushed forward through the town and about 1 mile beyond it.

Hanido Wood and Souleuvre Farm. These places were occupied on the afternoon of September 12 by the German Saxon 123d Division which had entered the battle to check the American advance. A counterattack by that division from the wood the next day was repulsed by the 5th Division after severe fighting.

Haudainville. Location of 4th Div. Headquarters, September 9-19.

Haumont-lès-Lachaussée. This village was lightly held by the Germans following the St. Mihiel attack. The 42d, 89th and 37th Divisions raided it several times and the 28th Division occupied it on



Château d'Aulnois, November 1918

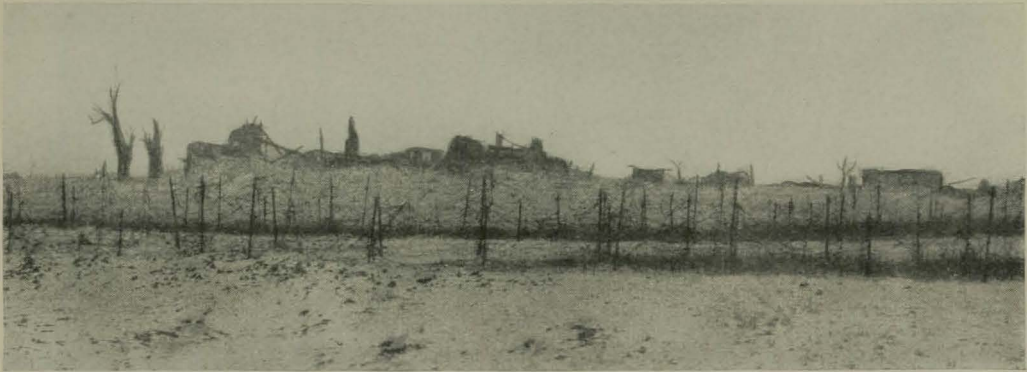
two different occasions; from October 24 to 29, and again from November 9 to 11.

Hill 323, south of Rembercourt-sur-Mad. This hill was strongly held by the Germans following the St. Mihiel offensive. It was the scene of numerous severe combats by the 5th, 78th and 7th Divisions prior to its capture by the latter on November 10. Several determined German attempts to retake it were repulsed.

Jaulny. This town was captured by the 2d Division about 1:00 p. m. on September 12. A German ammunition train and a completely equipped hospital train were captured there. Because the village lay beyond the objective of the American Army it was abandoned later in the day. The Germans reoccupied it but on the next day the 2d Division again drove them from the town and the American lines were then established beyond it.



Learning the Language at Lucey, Near Toul



Mon Plaisir Farm in the Winter After the Armistice

Jonville. On September 14 a group of American tanks, operating considerably ahead of the infantry lines, engaged in a severe fight near this town.

★ **Jouy-aux-Arches.** At this place there are still standing several arches of a large aqueduct built by the Romans to bring water across the Moselle River to Metz.

Le Grand Cognon. This wooded area was captured by the 81st Division on November 10 after a hard fight.

Les Eparges. Scene of bitter fighting between the French and Germans in 1914 and 1915. The remains of large mine craters are still (1937) to be seen there.

Ligny-en-Barrois. Location of First Army Hdqrs., Aug. 28–Sept. 21. Advance G. H. Q., A. E. F., Oct. 25–Dec. 3.

Lucey. 82d Div. Hdqrs., June 27–Aug. 10; 89th Div. Hdqrs., Aug. 10–Sept. 10.

Mamey. Location of 90th Div. Hdqrs., for the period September 11–19.

Marbache. 2d Div. Hdqrs., Aug. 9–19; 82d Div. Hdqrs., Aug. 18–Sept. 20; and 92d Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 9–Nov. 10.

Marimbois Farm. This farm was in German hands at the close of the St. Mihiel offensive. From September 16 on patrols of the 42d and, later, of the 89th and 28th Divisions frequently clashed with the enemy there. It was occupied by the 28th Division on November 9 and held until the Armistice.

Ménil-la-Tour. 1st Div. Headquarters, from January 18–April 3, and IV Corps Headquarters, September 10–October 10.

★ **Metz.** This city, which is strategically located on the Moselle River, has

been a fortress of importance since the time of the Romans, who called it Divodurum. The city was plundered by Attila the Hun in the 5th Century. It was ceded by France to Germany after the War of 1870 and became one of the principal fortified places in the German line of frontier defenses. It was returned to France after the World War by the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.

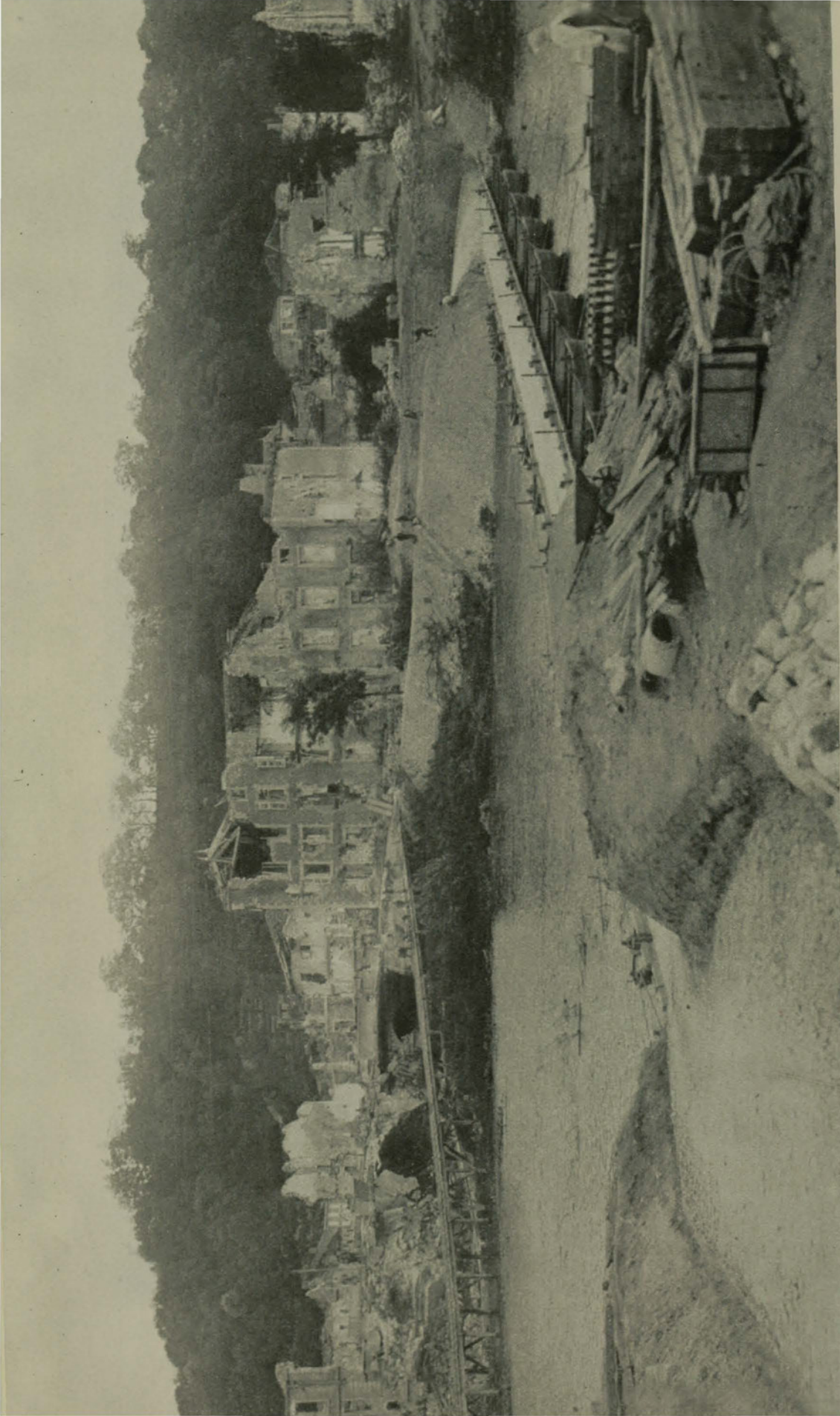
Mon Plaisir Farm. A strongly organized place in the Hindenburg Line which was attacked at different times after the St. Mihiel offensive by the 78th and 7th Divisions. The 28th and 89th Divisions sent patrols to it. The farm was still in the hands of the Germans when the Armistice became effective.

Moranville and the Bois de Moranville. These places in the outpost zone of the Hindenburg Line were captured by the 81st Division on November 9 in spite of determined hostile resistance.

★ **Nancy.** The Kaiser is said to have come to view the German attacks north of Nancy at the beginning of the World War, expecting to make a triumphal entry into the city. Although it was shelled all attempts to capture the town were repulsed. Nancy contains many beautiful buildings and other works of art. It is well worth a visit.

Noviant-aux-Prés. In a dugout along the railroad north of this town was located the 89th Div. Headquarters, for the period September 10 to 12.

Prény. This town, picturesquely situated on a long ridge in the Hindenburg



St. Mihiel Soon After Its Capture
Note ponton bridge built by American engineers

Line, was the objective of frequent raids by the 90th and 7th Divisions. Many hand-to-hand fights took place near it. The interesting ruins of an ancient fortified château are to be seen there.

Puxieux. An important German aviation field and a large munitions depot were located near this town.

Rembercourt-sur-Mad. This village, situated in the valley of the Rupt de Mad, and the wooded heights south of it were hastily occupied on September 12 by the German 31st Division which had entered the battle line to check the American advance. The German division launched a counterattack that afternoon which was repulsed by the 2d Division.

Rezonville. Scene of a desperate battle in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. This battle and that of Gravelotte prevented Marshal Bazaine from retreating toward Paris and forced his army into Metz, where it later surrendered.

Riaville. Captured by the 33d Division on the morning of November 11.

Rupt-en-Woëvre. Location of 26th Division Headquarters, Sept. 6-16.

St. Jacques Farm, about 1 mile southwest of Mamey. 5th Division Headquarters during the period, Sept. 10-17.

★ **St. Mihiel.** This town, at the tip of the St. Mihiel salient, gave the salient its name. The town was captured on September 24, 1914, by the Germans. Several thousand French civilians lived in it during the entire war and for that reason, though near the front line, it was never heavily bombarded by the Allies.

St. Mihiel was not attacked during the offensive of September 12 but was hastily abandoned by the enemy troops when the American divisions broke through the battle line on both sides of it. The town was occupied on September 13 by a French division attached to the American First Army. Soon after its occupation the President of the French Republic sent a message to the United States Government in which he expressed the deep gratitude of the French nation because of the restoration to France of that place.

Among the points of interest in or



Searching Prisoners at Headquarters,
5th Division, St. Jacques Farm,
September 12, 1918

near the town are the churches of St. Etienne and St. Mihiel, and at the northern edge of the town on the road to Verdun are located seven great rocks near which have been found many interesting relics of prehistoric man.

The 370th Infantry, 93d Division, while attached to the French 34th Division had front-line service to the south of this town during the month of June 1918.

St. Mihiel-Apremont Road. Alongside

Off Duty

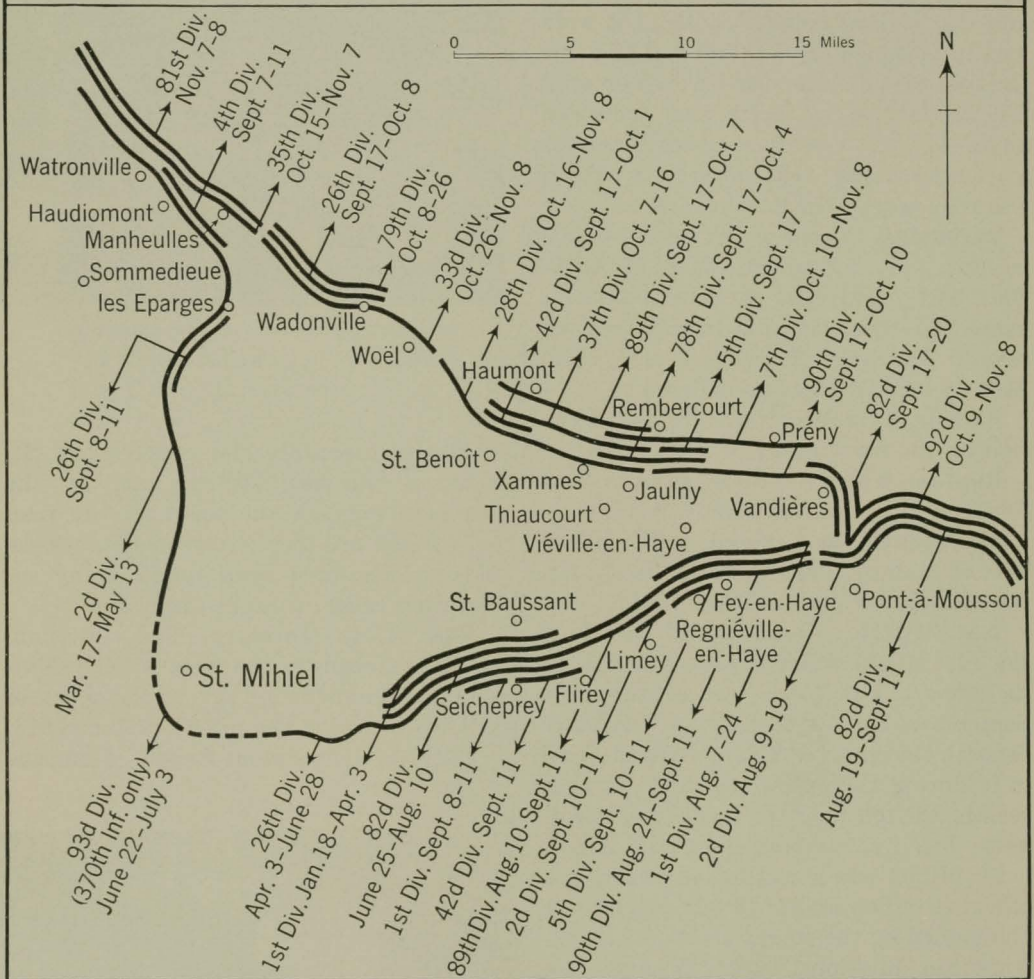


this road are to be seen many interesting examples of wartime military construction. The large concrete shelter extending into the roadway is well worth a visit. It was built by the Germans as a first-aid station. In the wood near by are many other German field works constructed

face of the St. Mihiel salient. Location of 35th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 15–Nov. 7, and 81st Div. Hdqrs., Nov. 7–9.

Toul. This city was the American Second Army Headquarters during the entire time that Army served at the front. IV Corps Hdqrs., Aug. 13 to Sept. 10.

Sectors Held by American Divisions in the St. Mihiel Region



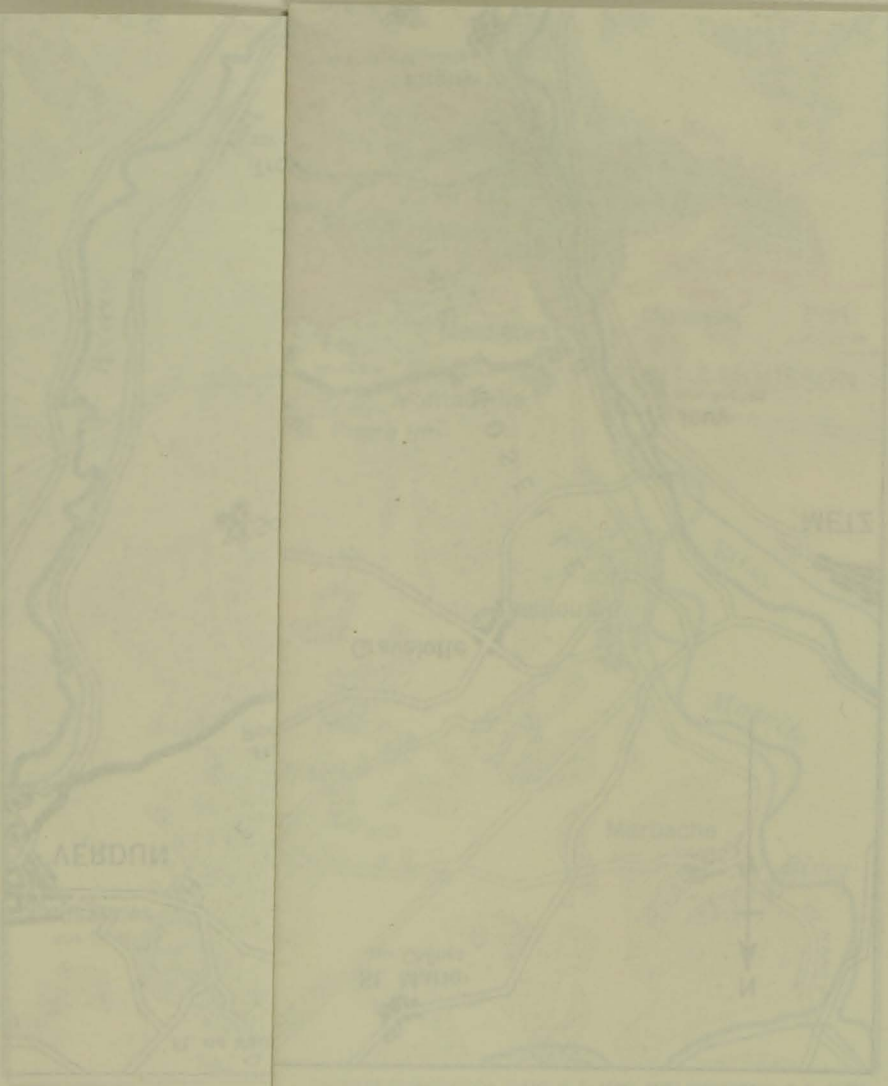
during the four years of trench warfare.

Saizerais. Location of 1st Div. Hdqrs., Aug. 7–24; I Corps Hdqrs., Aug. 21–Sept. 18; and VI Corps Hdqrs., from Sept. 15 until after the Armistice.


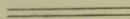
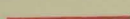

Sommedieue. 2d Div. Hdqrs., during most of the period, Mar. 16–May 9, while the division was training in the front line with the French on the western

Troyon-sur-Meuse. Location of 26th Div. Hdqrs., Sept. 16–Oct. 8; 79th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 8–26; and 33d Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 26 to the Armistice.

Villers-en-Haye. Location of 90th Div. Hdqrs., Aug. 24–Oct. 10, except from September 11 to 19 when it moved forward to Mamey for the St. Mihiel operation. 7th Div. Hdqrs., Oct. 10–30.



Map showing front lines indicated show ground gained by American divisions during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive September 12-1918

-  Stop, used to indicate positions held September 13 and later abandoned; regained
 -  Highway 10
 -  Front line held by American divisions Sept. 17-Nov. 8
 -  Front line 9-11 Operation of American Second Army and 81st American First Army
- All front lines are as noted; thus Sept. 17-1918 on a line indicate the position at midnight of both September 17 and 18, 1918

SUMMARY OF COMBAT SERVICE OF AMERICAN DIVISIONS
IN THE ST. MIHIEL REGION

<i>Name of Div.</i>	<i>Period of Service 1918</i>	<i>Character of Service</i>	<i>Location of Service General vicinity of—</i>	<i>Army to Which Attached¹</i>	<i>Corps to Which Attached¹</i>	<i>Casualties²</i>
1	Jan. 18-Apr. 3...	Training in Line and Sector.	Seicheprey	Fr. First until Mar. 27, then Fr. Eighth.	Fr. XXXII	654
	Aug. 7-24	Sector	Forêt du Bois-le-Prêtre and Regniéville.	Fr. Eighth	Fr. XXXII until Aug. 22, then I.	75
	Sept. 8-11	Sector	Seicheprey	First	IV	13 (1)
	Sept. 12-14	Battle	Richecourt and Non- sard.	First	IV	467 (18)
2	Mar. 17-May 13.	Training in Line.	Northwest of St. Mihiel and Watronville.	Fr. Second until May 11, then French Group of Armies of the Reserve.	Fr. X until Apr. 17, then Fr. II CAC.	881
	Aug. 9-19	Sector	Port-sur-Seille and Pont-à-Mousson.	Fr. Eighth	Fr. XXXII	38
	Sept. 10-11	Sector	Limey	First	I	22
	Sept. 12-16	Battle	Thiaucourt and Jaulny	First	I	1,477
4	Sept. 7-11	Sector	Haudiomont	First	V	17
	Sept. 12-15	Battle	Fresnes-en-Woëvre	First	V	60
5	Sept. 10-11	Sector	Regniéville-en-Haye	First	I	23
	Sept. 12-16	Battle	Viéville-en-Haye	First	I	1,449
	Sept. 17	Sector	North of Viéville-en- Haye.	First	I	86
7	Oct. 10-Nov. 11.	Sector	South of Rembercourt- sur-Mad.	First until Oct. 12, then Sec- ond.	IV	1,676 (85)
26	Apr. 3-June 28..	Sector	Seicheprey	Fr. Eighth	Fr. XXXII	2,194 (7)
	Sept. 8-11	Sector	Côte de Senoux	First	V	24 (1)
	Sept. 12-16	Battle	Côte de Senoux and Vigneulles-lès-Hat- tonchâtel.	First	V until Sept. 16, then Fr. II CAC.	479 (4)
	Sept. 17-Oct. 8..	Sector	Wadonville	First	Fr. II CAC	738
28	Oct. 16-Nov. 11.	Sector	Haumont	Second	IV	1,059 (117)
33	Oct. 26-Nov. 11.	Sector	Woël and Marchéville.	Second	Fr. II CAC until Nov. 6, then Fr. XVII.	825 (78)
35	Oct. 15-Nov. 7..	Battle	Manbeulles and west of Moranville.	First	Fr. XXXIII until Nov. 1, then Fr. XVII until Nov. 6, then Fr. II CAC.	422

¹ All armies and corps are American unless otherwise indicated. In this table Fr. = French.

² Casualties are for period in line only. Figures in parentheses give casualties for units temporarily attached. Add figure in parentheses to the one above in order to obtain the total casualties during the entire operation.

SUMMARY OF COMBAT SERVICE—*Continued*

<i>Name of Div.</i>	<i>Period of Service 1918</i>	<i>Character of Service</i>	<i>Location of Service General vicinity of—</i>	<i>Army to which Attached¹</i>	<i>Corps to which Attached¹</i>	<i>Casualties²</i>
37	Oct. 7-16.....	Sector.....	Xammes.....	First until Oct. 12, then Second.	IV.....	269 (9)
42	Sept. 11.....	Sector.....	Bois de Remières.....	First.....	IV.....	8
	Sept. 12-16.....	Battle.....	St. Baussant, Pannes and Hassavant Farm.	First.....	IV.....	901 (7)
	Sept. 17-Oct. 1.	Sector.....	North of St. Benoît-en-Woëvre.	First.....	IV.....	309
78	Sept. 16.....	Battle.....	North of Jaulny.....	First.....	I.....	58 (7)
	Sept. 17-Oct. 4.	Sector.....	North of Jaulny.....	First.....	I until Sept. 18, then IV.	1,848 (109)
79	Oct. 8-26.....	Sector.....	Wadonville.....	First until Oct. 12, then Second.	Fr. II CAC.....	369 (210)
81	Nov. 7-11.....	Battle.....	Moranville and Bois de Manheulles.	First.....	Fr. II CAC.....	974 (5)
82	June 25-Aug. 10.	Training in Line and Sector.	Forêt du Bois-le-Prêtre and Marvoisin.	Fr. Eighth.....	Fr. XXXII.....	374
	Aug. 19-Sept. 11.	Sector.....	Port-sur-Seille and Pont-à-Mousson.	Fr. Eighth until Aug. 30, then First.	Fr. XXXII until Aug. 22, then I.	99 (1)
	Sept. 12-16.....	Battle.....	Norroy.....	First.....	I.....	816
	Sept. 17-20.....	Sector.....	Port-sur-Seille and Xon Hill.	First.....	I until Sept. 18, then IV.	146
89	Aug. 10-Sept. 11.	Sector.....	Limey and Marvoisin..	Fr. Eighth until Aug. 30, then First.	Fr. XXXII until Aug. 20, then IV.	212 (7)
	Sept. 12-16.....	Battle.....	Bois de Mort-Mare and Xammes.	First.....	IV.....	833 (24)
	Sept. 17-Oct. 7.	Sector.....	Xammes.....	First.....	IV.....	1,351 (11)
90	Aug. 24-Sept. 11.	Sector.....	Forêt du Bois-le-Prêtre and Regniéville.	Fr. Eighth until Aug. 30, then First.	I.....	137 (19)
	Sept. 12-16.....	Battle.....	Vilcey-sur-Trey and Bois des Rappes.	First.....	I.....	1,972 (35)
	Sept. 17-Oct. 10.	Sector.....	Vandières and west of Souleuvre Farm.	First.....	I until Sept. 18, then IV.	1,830 (51)
92	Oct. 9-Nov. 11.	Sector.....	Port-sur-Seille and Vandières.	First until Oct. 12, then Second.	IV until Oct. 23, then VI.	959 (12)
93 (370th Inf. only)	June 22-July 3.	Training in Line.	Southwest of St. Mihiel.	Fr. Second.....	Fr. II CAC.....	0

¹ All armies and corps are American unless otherwise indicated. In this table Fr. = French.

² Casualties are for period in line only. Figures in parentheses give casualties for units temporarily attached. Add figure in parentheses to the one above in order to obtain the total casualties during the entire operation.