

THE STORY OF THE SIXTH

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In Appreciation of
"THOSE WHO WALKED"

"THE STORY OF THE SIXTH", as contained in these pages, is a revision of a manuscript written in 1919 by the G-2 Section of the original 6th Division, with additions, corrections and explanations. Portions of the original manuscript are condensed and many paragraphs rewritten, but no incident or account which would add to the history of the division has been left out. War Department records, including the publication entitled "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War - Divisions", have been used for accuracy and authenticity. Recent records and events are from current division files.

Appreciation is given to those unnamed officers and men who wrote the original manuscript; to Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd C. Parsons, 60th Signal Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington, who furnished a true copy of the manuscript for the library of the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and who provided information clarifying that manuscript; to the Librarian of the Command and General Staff School for the loan of material; and to Lieutenant Colonels Oliver E. G. Trechter, present Inspector General, 6th Division, William Hoover Craig, attached to 3rd Infantry, and Koger M. Still, 3rd Infantry, - officers who were with the 6th Division during the World War - for additional information.

I. The World War Period.

ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES, November 26, 1917 - June 27, 1918. (From "Order of Battles of the United States Land Forces in the World War - Divisions").

November 17, 1917, the War Department directs the organization of the 6th Division, Regular Army. November 26, the organization begins in accordance with the Tables of Organization of August 8, 1917, from Regular Army units stationed at Camps Forrest and Logan, Forts Leavenworth, Riley, and Sam Houston, Vancouver Barracks, and other places; Division Headquarters is established initially at Camp McClellan, Colonel Charles E. Tayman, commanding; training begins. In November and December, the 12th and 11th Infantry Brigades respectively, are organized at Camp Forrest; the 11th Infantry Brigade includes the 51st and 52nd Regiments of Infantry (both formed from personnel of the 11th Infantry in June, 1917); the 12th Infantry Brigade includes the 53rd and 54th Regiments of Infantry (both formed from personnel of the 6th Infantry in June, 1917). December 29, 1917, Brigadier General James B. Erwin assumes command. March 13, 1918, Division Headquarters moves to Camp Forrest. The 6th Ammunition Train, 6th Supply Train, and 6th Train Headquarters and Military Police are also at Camp Forrest. April 4, 1918, the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, formed to include the 3rd Field Artillery, 11th Field Artillery (formed from personnel of the 6th Field Artillery, June 1, 1917), and 78th Field Artillery (organized from the 20th Cavalry in June, 1917), is ordered to concentrate at the Artillery Training Center at Camp Doniphan for ten weeks instruction. May 4 - June 2, 1918, Division Headquarters, 12th Infantry Brigade, 16th and 17th Machine Gun Battalions, 6th Field Signal Battalion, and 6th Train Headquarters and Military Police move to Camp Wadsworth. May 8, 1918, the 318th Engineers and Train sail, and land May 18, at Brest. During May and June drafts totaling 15,000 arrive from Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin; as finally constituted the Division includes personnel of the Regular Army and selective service men. June 13, 1918, units stationed at Camps Doniphan, Forrest, and Wadsworth are ordered to ports of embarkation at Camps Mills and Upton.

(The following taken from the 1919 manuscript).

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DIVISION

Did not attract attention but interested us.

The story up until the time we entered the trenches
Brigadier General James B. Erwin, in command then.

Proverbial to Regular Army reputations, the 6th Division could never be said to have had a home. The separate units of this command came from every quarter of the United States, and while division headquarters moved around from place to place, the several regiments never actually mobilized in one camp so as to be able to call that place home.

And so, as homeless individuals often do, the 6th Division wandered about, first, in the States trying to find a place to call their own, and later in Europe, trying to find a front line sector where they could demonstrate all they had been taught. From the beginning, they never lost the wandering habit.

On November 26, 1917, the headquarters of the division was established at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, and the work of organizing the Division was commenced. The story of the organizing of the several units which were later to comprise the 6th Division may be told as follows:

The 11th Infantry was divided into three parts - one third of the officers and men going to form the 51st Infantry, and one third going to form the 52nd Infantry. Lieutenant Colonel W. O. Johnson was in command of the 51st, and Major Carroll F. Armistead in command of the 52nd.

The 6th Infantry was likewise divided into three parts to form the 53rd and 54th Infantry regiments. Major Lambert W. Jordan was given command of the 53rd, and Major Mathias Crowley the 54th.

The formation of these new regiments took place in June, 1917, at Chickamauga Park, Georgia, on the historic battle ground of the Civil War. For the time being, the new regiments were quartered and rationed with the regiments from which they were formed. It was not until the middle of July, 1917, that they took up separate quarters and severed connections entirely with the 6th and 11th, which later were assigned to the 5th Division.

Recruits were added to the regiments from time to time but numerous transfers to other organizations offset these. Officers and men were transferred to Combat Trains, to the replacement battalion of the 26th Infantry, to new National Army divisions being formed and to several other organizations. During August new officers were assigned to the regiments from the schools at Fort Leavenworth and from the First Officers Training Camps.

The 17th Machine Gun Battalion was organized during the early part of December, 1917, (after the division was formed) by transfer of officers and men from the 51st and 52nd Infantry regiments. 22 officers and nine men composed the battalion at its first roll call. Captain William F. Fitzmaurice by right of seniority, assumed command.

The 18th Machine Gun Battalion was organized during December, 1917, by the transfer of officers and men from the 53rd and 54th Infantry regiments. At its beginning there were six officers and 549 men on its rolls. 1st Lieut. Frank A. Heilmann was the ranking officer and assumed command. It was not until March 26, that a higher ranking officer was connected with the battalion. On that date Captain William Nalle reported and assumed command.

The 16th Machine Gun Battalion (Division) was organized the latter part of December by the transfer of officers and men from all the infantry and machine gun units. Captain Thomas G. Hearn was then in command. At that time, according to the Tables of Organization, the division battalion consisted of four companies, while each of the brigade battalions had only three.

The Military Police of the division was formed by details from each of the infantry regiments, during November, 1917, at Chickamauga Park. Captain James Curren was the ranking officer of the companies, but Colonel Willis commanded both the Military Police and the Trains at the time. Later Captain James Webb was put in command of the Military Police as a separate unit.

Headquarters Troop was organized during December, 1917, from detachments of the 6th, 8th, 14th and 16th Cavalry regiments, which were at that time stationed along the Mexican Border and at San Antonio. Captain F. J. Holzbauer took command, and the troops remained at San Antonio until March 20, when it left to join division headquarters at Camp Forrest, Chickamauga Park.

The Sanitary Train was composed of Field Hospitals #20, #37, #38 and #40 and Ambulance companies of the same numbers. Field Hospital #20 and Ambulance Company #20 were organized at Camp Greenleaf, Chickamauga Park in June, 1917. Previous to assignment to the 6th Division they acted as instruction organizations at Camp Greenleaf, being with the 2nd Division there. At the organization of the division they reported to Camp McClellan, and were temporarily attached to the 29th Division stationed there. Field Hospitals #37, #38 and #40 and Ambulance Companies #37, #38 and #40 were organized at Camp Funston, Kansas. They joined the 6th Division at Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, on May 4. The entire Sanitary Train was first assembled and joined the division in the early part of May, 1918. Lieutenant Colonel Herbert L. Harris, M.R.C., assumed command of the Sanitary Train upon its arrival at Camp Wadsworth.

The 6th Field Signal Battalion was organized at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, June 26, 1917. The battalion commander at the time of organization was Captain Joseph O. Mauborgne. On July 6, Captain John C. Moore relieved Captain Mauborgne as battalion commander.

The 6th Field Artillery Brigade was formed April 4, 1918, to include the 3rd, 11th and 78th Field Artillery Regiments. The 3rd and 78th were 75-mm regiments, while the 11th was a 155-mm regiment. The 3rd Field Artillery was organized in 1907, but traced its lineal descent back an additional hundred years. The 11th was organized June 1, 1917, with personnel from the 6th Field Artillery. The 78th, organized from the 13th Cavalry June 1, 1917, was originally designated the 20th Cavalry, Provisional Field Artillery. This designation was later changed to the 78th Field Artillery (Light). Brigadier General E. A. Millar was placed in command of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade and the three regiments were assembled for training at Camp Doniphan, Alabama.

The 318th Regiment of Engineers was organized at Vancouver Barracks, Washington, December 24, 1917. Although a National Army organization, its personnel consisted of some 1300 regular army men from the 3rd Engineers, 1300 voluntarily inducted men and 180 drafted men. Lieutenant Colonel Stuart C. Godfrey was in command of the regiment when it was formed.

On December 17, 1917, Colonel James N. Pickering reported at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, as Chief of Staff of the 6th Division, and acted as the commanding officer until other officers were assigned. The division had been ordered to mobilize at Camp McClellan, but the 29th Division was occupying that camp at the time, and the place was not large enough to accommodate two divisions at once. Orders were changed, therefore, with the units remaining where they were.

On December 29, Brigadier General James B. Erwin reported at Chickamauga Park to command the 12th Brigade, and as he became the ranking officer he assumed command of the division. Major Walter Harvey, of the 52nd Infantry, had been the ranking officer of the 11th Brigade (51st and 52nd Infantry with the 17th Machine Gun Battalion), but on the same day that General Erwin reported, Brigadier General Charles H. Barth also reported and assumed command of that brigade. General Barth soon left the division, however, and Brigadier General A. D. Gaston was placed in command of the 11th Brigade.

During the early months of 1918 the men were given intensive training in modern warfare. The 6th Division received its share of French and British instructors and Colonel Harvey of the 52nd Infantry took charge of what was called the French and British Mission Schools at Chickamauga Park. Machine Gun schools and anti-gas schools were also established. The machine gun battalions were reorganized with one company from the 16th going to the 17th and one to the 18th, leaving the 16th (Divisional) Battalion with two companies and the 17th and 18th Battalions with four.

On March 13, division headquarters moved to Camp Forrest, Chickamauga Park, but the units of the Division remained separated. The infantry regiments had had their officer personnel filled with new officers from the Second Officer's Training Camps. A staff school was held at Chickamauga Park during the latter part of April for all commanding officers, their adjutants and supply officers, on "The Staff Duties in Modern Warfare."

On May 9, division headquarters, the 12th Infantry Brigade, the 16th Machine Gun Battalion, Sanitary Trains, Ammunition Train, Military Police and other headquarters detachments moved to Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and division headquarters was established there. The 17th Machine Gun Battalion followed soon afterwards. General Gaston left the 11th Brigade and Colonel Ernest V. Smith of the 52nd, by right of seniority, assumed command. On May 12, Brigadier General William R. Dashiell reported and took command of the brigade.

The strength of the division was completed during the months of May and June, 1918. One battalion of each of the infantry regiments held a two-weeks Detention Camp for newly drafted men. At Chickamauga Park they accommodated about 5000 men, while at Camp Wadsworth about twice that many were taken care of. These men came directly from Fort Thomas, Kentucky and had been in the service only two or three days. They were principally from the States of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Maryland, Georgia, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Minnesota. From these camps men were taken to fill vacancies in division headquarters detachments, as well as in the machine gun and infantry units. The division, from then on, was composed of the three classes of soldiers: the old regular army "files", the men who had enlisted for the period of the war, and the conscripted men.

Division training continued with schools being held constantly for both officers and men. Officers were sent to the Artillery Schools at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the mission schools were established for all. Major Koehler of West Point, visited the infantry regiments from time to time and gave them the benefit of his training in physical culture. Athletics were fostered and regimental spirit ran high. Motion pictures of army drills helped considerably in the training of the men.

MOVEMENT OVERSEAS AND FINAL TRAINING (From "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War - Divisions").

June 28, Advance Detachment sails from New York, and arrives July 10, at Glasgow. June 29, Division Headquarters leaves Camp Wadsworth. July 6-7, Division Headquarters, all infantry and some divisional troops and trains sail, and debark: at Le Havre;- July 19, 6th Field Signal Battalion, 6th Sanitary Train; July 22, Division Headquarters, Headquarters 12th Infantry Brigade, 17th and 18th Machine Gun Battalions, 6th Train Headquarters and Military Police;- at Liverpool and Glasgow, July 17, other units. July 12-14, 6th Field Artillery Brigade, 6th Ammunition Train, and 6th Supply Train sail, and debark, July 19 and 26, at Southampton and Liverpool. Units in England, after a brief stay in rest camps, move to Le Havre and Cherbourg. July 23, Division (less artillery and supply train) moves to 9th (Chateau-Villain) Training Area; 6th Field Artillery Brigade and 6th Ammunition Train move to the Val-dahon Area; training. (August 23-26m Division is under administrative control of the VI Corps). August 27, Division (less artillery) moves to the Remiremont Area. (August 27-October 26, Division is under administrative control of VII Corps).

(From the 1919 manuscript.)

*****The long anticipated order came at last. A telegram dated Washington, June 13, 1918, and signed "McCain" read: "Send all units of your division at Camp Wadsworth, Camp Forrest and Camp Doniphan to Port of Embarkation after arranging time of arrival and other details directly with the commander of the Port, etc". A previous telegram, on the 6th, had directed the division to prepare for overseas service. According to instructions, the division sent ahead an advance party to arrange for the billeting of the men in their new training areas in France and also a school detail which was to take a months course in the 1st Corps Infantry Weapons School at Gondrecourt.

The advance party left the States on June 27 and 29, sailing from New York, under the direct command of General Erwin. They landed July 10, at Liverpool, England, and Glasgow, Scotland, after an uneventful trip, and traveled by way of Southampton and Le Havre to their destinations. This party consisted of officers and men from every unit of the division.

The 51st, 53rd and 54th Infantry regiments arrived at Camp Mills, Long Island, N.Y., about the last of June; the 52nd and the 11th Brigade Headquarters going to Camp Upton, not far distant. The three machine gun battalions were also at Camp Mills. More recruits were added to the regiments at these camps to take the place of those lost by sickness or disability. Here the regiments were also equipped as far as could be.

Great expectations were held of these camps around New York City, but the privileges were not forthcoming. However, some of the men did manage, with and without permission, to visit the Gay White Way and other lurid attractions in the Big Town.

After about a week in these camps the regiments stole away in the dark hours of the night in the hope of getting aboard their ships without causing undue notice. The infantry units got aboard ship on the 5th, and a proud lot they were when they went up the gang-plank and became members of the A.E.F.

The division, less the engineers and artillery, sailed from New York just after the 4th of July, the infantry regiments being in one convoy. This convoy consisted of thirteen ships under the protection of the U.S.S. Pueblo, and a British tanker which had been built for speed and became bristling with guns when occasions arose which compelled it to show its true nature. A dirigible airship overhead, torpedo-boat destroyers on the sides, and plenty of good sized ships all around made a grand sight. The first impression of service overseas was indeed a pleasant and assuring one.

Division headquarters, with Colonel Pickering, Chief of Staff in command, headquarters detachments, the 17th and 18th Machine Gun Battalions, Military Police and Trains, embarked from New York in another convoy on July 7. Their first two days were spent in going to Halifax, where their ships joined 18 other crafts of various descriptions for the voyage across the Atlantic. Going over the principle combatant escort was an English cruiser. They also were accompanied by a British tanker, or mystery ship, the same as the infantry convoy.

Just after the 4th of July, the artillery regiments left Camp Doniphan by train for Camp Mills, arriving there about the 9th. Replacements were received and equipment given them there. The 3rd Field Artillery embarked on the 14th, the 78th on the 12th, and the 11th on the 13th.

The 318th Engineers had sailed overseas at an earlier date. The regiment left Vancouver Barracks on April 22, and arrived at Camp Merritt one week later. On the 6th and 7th of May they boarded ship at Hoboken and sailed for Brest, where they arrived on the 18th. On arrival in France the regiment was assigned to the S.O.S. for construction work. The Second Battalion was employed for about ten weeks on the construction of the General Intermediate Supply Depot at Gievres, Loir-et-Cher. The First Battalion worked on construction of the Ordnance Repair Shops at Mehun-sur-Yeu, Cher, for five weeks and on the Montierchaume Storage Depot for another five weeks. On August 10, the regiment received orders to join the division in the 9th Training Area. The movement was made by train immediately and regimental headquarters was established at La Ferte-sur-Aube.

The trip across the ocean took about 12 days, and vivid and unforgettable recollections of army transport life with British rations is a part of unwritten history. On landing the division became widely scattered over the several ports of embarkation in Europe. With the exception of the headquarters ship the division landed in Great Britain.

Division headquarters arrived at Le Havre on July 22, and left the next day - getting acquainted with the "8 Hommes 40 Cheveau" cars - for the 9th Training Area. Arriving there two days later they took up quarters in Chateau Villain. The 17th and 18th Machine Gun Battalions also arrived at Le Havre with division headquarters and proceeded to the 9th Training Area. The 17th Battalion headquarters was established at Gevrolles with the 18th at Orges.

The infantry regiments and the 16th Machine Gun Battalion landed at Liverpool and Glasgow on the 17th and 18th. After spending about five days in rest camps near Winchester they proceeded to Southampton and crossed the channel to Le Havre and Cherbourg. They arrived in the 9th Training Area during the period July 26th-29th. Headquarters was established as follows: The 51st Infantry at Arc-en-Barrois, Haute Marne; 52nd Infantry at Dancevoir; 53rd Infantry at Juzzencourt; 16th Machine Gun Battalion at Rennpont.*

The 3rd Field Artillery and the 78th Field Artillery landed at Liverpool on July 26 and, after a day in rest camps near Liverpool and Winchester, crossed to Le Havre and proceeded to the 9th Training Area. Headquarters for the 3rd were established at Flangebooeche and for the 78th at Vercel, Doubs. The 78th had its baptism of fire while entraining at Rest Camp No. 2, near Le Havre when a bomb from an enemy airplane struck close to where the troops were formed, injuring several men.**

*Note: The 54th Infantry isn't mentioned here although a regimental headquarters at Autreville is spoken of.

**Note: The 11th Field Artillery is not mentioned here. "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War - Divisions" states that the 6th Field Artillery Brigade landed at Southampton and Liverpool, July 19 and 26.

The Signal Corps disembarked on the 23rd at Le Havre, and, after one day in the rest camp, proceeded to the 9th Training Area where it arrived on the 25th and took up quarters at Marmesse.

The entire Sanitary Train arrived at Le Havre on July 22, and at Chateau Villain in the 9th Training Area on the 25th. Ambulance Company #20 and Field Hospital #20 were located at Arc-en-Barrois, where the 11th Brigade headquarters were established, with the rest of the Sanitary Train remaining at Division headquarters.

By the end of August the entire division was settled in their billeting areas and started on their intensive courses of training. Rifle ranges were built, and the infantrymen were put through courses in rifle and automatic rifle firing. Hand and rifle grenades were used for the first time. Bayonet practice was not forgotten but rather specialized in. Gas chambers were built and gas discipline was perfected by long and irritating time trials.

The artillery was located in a different training area from the rest of the division, and from this time on they operated independently. It was not until after the armistice was signed that they rejoined the division.

The division occupied about 60 French villages, and the men were billeted in the houses and barns of the French inhabitants. It was here that they got acquainted with the people of the nation they had come to help; it was here too that the Americans became acquainted with the French wines and liquors and other wet goods.

It was said many, many years ago by the Sages of old that a man must taste of three experiences in this world before he could enjoy the full flavor of life - poverty, love and war. The paymaster had not visited the drafted men since they had come into service, and it is said that some - officers and men - promptly proceeded to make themselves 100% men during their one month's stay in this training area.

The division operated directly under General Headquarters at first, but on the 4th of August they were assigned to the 4th Corps. On the 15th the division was transferred from the 4th to the 6th Corps, and remained with it until ordered into the trenches in the Vosges.

Major General Walter H. Gordon was assigned to the division and joined on the 2nd of August. He came from the 10th Brigade of the 5th Division and relieved Brigadier General James B. Erwin who had been the division's senior officer. General Erwin then again assumed command of the 12th Brigade.

Colonel James N. Pickering, G.S., Division Chief of Staff was transferred on August 21, to the 37th Division. Colonel Joseph W. Beacham, G.S., formerly G-1 of the 42nd Division, was assigned as Chief of Staff.

The division, after having been in the 9th Training Area for about a month, was ordered to take a sector of trenches in the Vosges Mountains. The movement, originally scheduled for August 25, was delayed until the 27th because of the lack of trucks. On that date the division, with the exception of animal drawn transports which proceeded by marching the day before, and of the 318th Engineers which followed on the next day, embussed for the long trip to the vicinity of Remiremont, some 40 kilometers behind the lines. The route followed Nogent-en-Bassigny, Montigny, Meuse, La Marche, Montroux, Darmey, Gurey, Baines-les-Baines, Xertigney, Bellefontaine, Remiremont.

Billeting details always preceded any movement of troops, and they arranged for the quartering of the men at the new stages.

Each camion or bus was supposed to hold 18 men with their full field equipment. Even this was more than crowding them in, but at that the required number of busses didn't arrive and the men were packed 20 to 24 deep. Empty camions followed the long train, to be used in case of emergency.

Animal drawn vehicles for which no animals were on hand were left behind at Bricon, under the Division Quartermaster, to follow by rail or on receipt of animals.

OPERATIONS

(From "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War - Divisions").

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 6, DIVISION (LESS ARTILLERY) PARTICIPATES WITH THE FRENCH IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE GERARDMER SECTOR (ALSACE). August 31, Division is affiliated with French 131 Division and that night, August 31/September 1, the leading elements enter the line to relieve the 35th Division in the Gerardmer Sector. September 2, the command of the sector, which extends from Lauch Creek, one kilometer west of Sengeren, to Weiss Creek, one half kilometer west of Faing, passes to the French 131st Division.

SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 12, DIVISION (LESS ARTILLERY) OCCUPIES THE GERARDMER SECTOR (ALSACE). September 6, Division assumes command of the sector except the centers of resistance of Le Linge and Noirmont; the northern limit is near Grossmatt. September 9-11, the sector is extended north to Weiss Creek, including Le Linge and Noirmont; elements of the French 131st Division are relieved; local actions. October 12, Division, relieved by the French 162nd Division in the north half of the sector and by the French 1st Division in the south half, moves to the staging areas near Corcieux and Saulxures-sur-Moselotte. (October 13, 3rd and 78th Field Artillery regiments move to Liffol-le-Grand; training. October 20, 11th Field Artillery moves to the west of Romagne, where it is attached to the 58th Field Artillery Brigade and, October 26/November 1, supports the 89th Division in the Meuse-Argonne Operations. October 26, Division (less artillery) moves to the south of Les Islettes and Clermont-en-Argonne; training follows.

NOVEMBER 1-8, DIVISION (LESS ARTILLERY) PARTICIPATES IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE OPERATION. November 1, Division, in corps reserve, moves north through the Foret d'Argonne. November 2, Division arrives near Pont-a-l'Aune, Camp de Bouzon, and Champ-Mahaut; elements relieve the 82nd Division in a reserve battle position which extends along the ridges south of the Aire River, from a point on the river west of Hill 174, along the north edge of Boise de Marcq and thence along the east and north edges of the Boise de Negremont. November 3-6, Division moves north via Briquenay and the region of Authie and St-Pierremont, to the vicinity of Stonne and Artaise-le-Vivier. November 6, units move into line to fill a temporary gap which exists between the French and the I Corps near Artaise-le-Vivier, and caused by the movement of the latter toward the northeast. November 9, Division moves via Authie, the Thonorgues-Briquenay Area, the Montblainville-Cornay Area, and Montfaucon to the Verdun-sur-Meuse Area.

(From the 1919 manuscript).

IN THE GERARDMER SECTOR OF THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS

The Vosges Mountains comprise a chain of lofty peaks running in a general northerly and southerly direction. Before the war they formed the boundary line between France and Alsace, then possessed by Germany. The mountains vary in height up to 4500 feet above sea level, and the scenery, while beautiful and grand, had a depressing effect upon men who do all their traveling by hiking. The whole system is well watered with streams and rivulets.

The French mountains are rugged and heavily wooded and exceedingly inaccessible. The German mountains are probably higher with the slopes more abrupt, and at places the vine is grown extensively. The French mountains are long lateral ramifications, more so than the German, and consequently roads are better and more frequent on the Alsacian side. Numerous castles of Alsace land and additional attraction to the German side of the Vosges.

After the initial phases of the war, with the French lines deeply imbedded in German soil, this section of the long battle line in the Vosges Mountains came to be known as a "quiet" sector.

French army corps always commanded the Vosges sector. Whenever American divisions were sent here, they served under the French Military authorities and were joined to French units for tactical purposes.

The Gerardmer Sector was that portion of the battle line lying due east of the town of Gerardmer. It was to this sector that the 6th Division was ordered on the 25th of August, 1918, to relieve the 35th U. S. Division, then holding the position.

On the 28th the division came under the supervision of the 33rd French Army Corps for tactical purposes. For administrative purposes they operated under the 7th Corps U. S. Army. With the 6th Division in the 7th Corps were the 81st and the 88th Divisions U. S. Army. The 6th Division from this time on was a part of the 7th French Army.

On arrival in the Remiremont area, the division went into billets in the towns near that city as far east as La Bresse and as far west as La Challe-Aug-Bois. The Division remained and trained in this magnificent country among the hills behind the high mountains where the lines were located for a few days. This is probably the most beautiful and picturesque country of its kind in the world, and with few exceptions, the men saw for the first time a land made famous by two thousand years of history and romance.

During the training, plans were perfected for the relief of the divisions in the front lines. The troops were to assemble gradually and move forward by bus and by marching to positions in preparations prior to entering the lines. On the 30th the division was ordered to enter the lines and occupy that part of the sector held by the 35th Division between C. R. Collette and R. C. Sulzern, both inclusive. The relief was to be effected gradually as follows: From the 31st of August to September 2nd the division was to reinforce the 131st French Division, forming a reinforced division. From the 3rd to the 9th of September the units of the division were to be substituted progressively for the units of the 131st Division. Beginning with the 10th of September the sector was to be held entirely by the 6th Division.

The personnel of the 131st were to act as instructors and advisors to the personnel of the 6th. The P.C.'s of the division, brigades, regiments and battalions were to be moved to the vicinity of their corresponding French units. In this way the men of the 6th were to receive their "baptism of fire", learn the lay of the land, the system of trench life, the plan of defense of the sector, and the plan of reinforcement from pretrained and experienced men.

Camp Boussat was used as the assembly point for the 54th Infantry; Camp Mittlach for the 53rd; Le Collet for the 52nd and Le Moing for the 51st. Guides from the 35th Division met the units of the 51st and 52nd Regiments at Le Collet, and units of the 53rd and 54th at Kruth.

Composite battalions were formed by combining two of our companies with two French companies. During the night of August 30-31, units of the 35th Division and French units in the front line were relieved by these composite battalions. The remaining units of the division moved into assembly points immediately in rear. Division headquarters had been established at Remiremont; the 11th Brigade at Vagney and the 12th Brigade at Saulxures. On September 3rd the divisional P.C. moved to Gerardmer; the 11th Brigade to Le Collet, and the 12th Brigade to Payrou.

Hardly had the relief of the sector been completed when word was received from the 33rd French Army Corps ordering the 6th to relieve French troops occupying the subsector of the Des La es to the north. This required shuffling around of the regiments to accomodate the new situation. The 51st Infantry took over the new lines occupying C. R. Linge and C. R. Normont. The 52nd Infantry relieved the 51st in C. R. Sulzern, retaining C. R. Jourdan. The 53rd relieved the 52nd in Sattel, and occupied Benoit and Robinson at the same time, while the 54th held de Galbert and Collette. The 51st P.C. was ordered established at Camp Richard, and the 52nd moved to Le Moing. The 51st relieved the 7th B.I.C. (French Chinese) in their new quarters.

The division now hold a front about 21 miles, north to south, with the 53rd Infantry having three battalions in the front line and the other regiments two each.

The 6th Field Artillery Brigade was not with the division in the sector; all artillery under the command was French artillery. This was composed of many different types - 65's (Mountain batteries), 75's, 90's, 120's long, 120's short, 155 long and 155 short. This artillery was organized into two groups, one supporting each infantry brigade, with posts of command adjoining those of the brigades.

The artillery was placed for defensive warfare with three-fourths of the batteries covering the principle lines of resistance. Rather than scatter artillery fire along the wide front, it was thought more advisable to cover the most important points, in view of defense, with a normal barrage of effective density. On those parts of the line which were not covered by the normal barrage, there was provided either an "eventual" barrage fire, or a concentrated fire. No artillery fire was provided where the opposing lines were widely separated since the infantry could cover the open space with their own means.

Orders had been received by the French from higher authority that there could be no more ammunition allotted at that time to the different batteries in this sector. It was therefore necessary to use less ammunition regardless of complaints by the infantry that they were not getting the proper artillery support. During the Spring drives by the Germans in the north, the French had lost valuable stores, and consequently were hard pressed for sufficient ammunition to supply their armies in more active sectors than the Vosges.

The question of supply, owing to the great extent of the divisional areas and the mountainous character of the country, was an exceedingly difficult one. There were two railheads, Cornimont and Gerardmer. From Cornimont supplies were moved by truck to Holtzplatz, from where wagons, pack mules and "pack soldiers" completed the distribution. The northern part of the sector was served by a tramway from Gerardmer to Retournemer, thence by serial cableway over to Hobneck on another cableway to Le Collet, with further distribution by wagons, pack mules and men. Further, a funicular railway ran up to the mountains from Camp Hermitage, near Le Rudlin, to Gazon Martin. Had the occupation of the sector lasted into the winter, still another means of transportation would have been used as teams of Alaska dogs and sleds formed part of the sector equipment.

OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE VOSGES

Patrolling carried on nightly under difficulties
Our Baptism of Fire.

The Vosges Mountains were reputed to be quiet, with a sort of "gentlemen's agreement" forbidding any aggressive efforts on either side. Troops came here to "rest" after hard fighting on other fronts.

This might have been true before Americans came into this region, but it was not so afterwards. The Kaiser once said that Americans could never accustom themselves to the routine and monotonous life of modern trench warfare. He was right, of course, for as soon as Americans came into a "quiet" sector - it was quiet no longer. The natural impetuosity of the men to "start something", together with a little feverish nervousness due to their newness at the military game, made the woods ring day and night with the noise of battle. Patrolling was carried out actively along the entire front to reconnoiter enemy wire and to capture prisoners. Raids of minor nature were frequent.

The mission of the Division was defense. No raids in an attempt to gain ground from the enemy could be undertaken without authority from Army Corps. The plan of the Division was to patrol actively, to control No Man's Land, and to harass the enemy by small raids. The success of these tactics was evidenced by the frequent raids made by the enemy in an effort to secure prisoners and information of our intentions. These raids were all repulsed with heavy loss to the Germans, and the few prisoners they obtained were greatly outnumbered by those taken by the Division from these same raiding parties.

The 51st Infantry suffered the first casualty from enemy fire. On the night of September 6, an ambush patrol was sent out from C. R. Sulzern under Sergeant Alfred Zielinski, Company B. Flares were being sent up from both lines and a rifle shot hit the sergeant when he was observed in the light. His body was recovered and he was buried with all military honors behind the hill on which he fought. Later his body was removed to the American Cemetery at Gerardmer.

On the same night a patrol from the 52nd, under Lieutenant Kent, encountered an enemy patrol of unknown strength in front of P. A. Eck, but on account of the great amount of loose wire in No Man's Land the patrol was not able to get to close quarters. Another enemy patrol was driven from B Company's wire by grenades and rifle fire on this same night. Neither of these encounters resulted in prisoners being taken, but each was a lively skirmish while it lasted.

On the 7th the 52nd Infantry, with its French associates, suffered from considerable enemy fire. Lieutenant Edgar A. Robey of the 53rd Infantry was wounded by the accidental discharge of a pistol when his patrol was returning to the trenches on the night of the 9th. On the night of the 10th the T.P.S., picked up a new German code of the 54th. Prisoners taken in this sector showed that the 54th German Infantry had been opposing the 54th U.S. Infantry up to this time.

Enemy artillery daily shelled the American sections with shrapnel and gas shells. Our artillery replied with retaliatory fire and the thundering of the guns became so usual that after a few days no notice was paid to it.

Camp Richard, the regimental C.P., of the 51st, was shelled with an extra bombardment of large calibre shells on the afternoon of the 12th. That night a small enemy raid was attempted on Morelle Deveille, in the 53rd sector, but the enemy withdrew when challenged by the sentinel on post, who was unable to fire on account of the close proximity of his own troops. Lieutenant Bender, the scout officer of the 1st Battalion of the 54th Infantry, with his ambush patrol of scouts, drew fire from enemy positions opposite C. R. de Golbert, and was forced to retire.

Early on the morning of the 14th enemy raids kept the 52nd Infantry busy. An enemy patrol threw grenades in the sector of Company B, but the attack was repulsed with rifle fire and grenades. About the same time the enemy also attempted a raid on D Company's sector, but this also was repulsed. He made a bolder attempt with a larger patrol on A Company's sector. This raid was accompanied by a comparatively heavy barrage and the use of liquid fire. But again he was repulsed without taking prisoners. He beat a hasty retreat, leaving behind the body of a Bavarian soldier which was discovered not far from our lines some days later by Lieutenant Wilson's patrol.

Sergeant Thurman Love and Corporal Bennie Akins, both of Company A, were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for the gallant work which each performed that night. They held an advanced position throughout the liquid fire attack, driving off the raiding party with automatic rifles and even pursued the enemy back across No Man's Land. Special mention was also made by the Brigade of Private Fred D. Hulse, Company A, who prompted and enthused the other men of his platoon to a stubborn resistance.

Again on the night of the 14th/15th, an enemy patrol was driven off with rifle fire and grenades from Lehmann, held by D Company of the 52nd. Enemy artillery, on the 14th, located the 3rd Battalion of the 54th at Camp Bousat, inflicting casualties, principally to men of Company L.

On the morning of the 15th, three men of M Company, 52nd Infantry, having been on night duty, were sleeping in a dugout about 600 yards from C. R. Sulzern. The roof of the dugout caved in and two men escaped but Private Michael Amatrudi was pinned to his bunk. First Sergeant Edwin Morgan, on duty at the P.C., hurried to the dugout. Private Amatrudi was alive and talked to the sergeant, but was pinned down by a small timber across his legs. The sergeant was forced to work alone, but was not able to extricate his man. While using a bolo to chop the timber, a second cave-in occurred and both men were buried. After an hour's hard work, Sergeant Morgan was rescued, badly bruised. Four hours later Private Amatrudi's body was recovered. This work by Sergeant Morgan was one of the reasons why he later became Lieutenant Edwin Morgan.

At 12:10 A.M., on the 17th the enemy opened fire on P. A. Reichacker, held by Company E of the 53rd, with 37-mm, 75-mm and minenwerfer shells, and on G.C. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 with hand and rifle grenades. During the bombardment all the men entered their dugouts. At 1:10 a bluish green flare went up from his lines. The bombardment was lifted to the second line of combat groups 6, 7 and 8. German infantry immediately attacked G.C. 2, 3 and 5, held by Company K. The Germans succeeded in entering G.C. 2, but were driven back with hand grenades and pistols. One German officer was killed here, and a German soldier was killed at the entrance to a dugout, his body being dragged back to the wire. G.C. 5 reported two Germans killed. The enemy dead carried small tin boxes which were thought to contain gas or some high explosive.

Sergeant J. W. Brown, of Company K, was mentioned for cool and efficient behavior under fire, and Runners Joseph M. Crowley, Ruben N. Staunton and William J. Cox, of Company K were also mentioned for gallant behavior under heavy machine gun fire.

Two men were wounded on the 15th when a patrol consisting of an officer and eight men from the 53rd were attacked near the enemy line in front of C. R. Robinson. The patrol returned safely, however, with their wounded.

On the night of the 16th/17th a patrol of scouts from the 1st Battalion of the 54th and from the 18th Machine Gun Battalion under Major Enoch B. Garey, the Division Scout Officer, with Lieutenant Bender, Lieutenant McIntosh and two other officers, departed from C. R. Benoit with the intention of taking prisoners. On the two previous nights the patrol had been out to reconnoiter No Man's Land and the enemy wire. The enemy wire was crossed with the use of a specially constructed ladder and the patrol entered the enemy trenches and returned, bringing back four prisoners.

First Lieutenant F. M. Hoss, 53rd Infantry, with this patrol, when challenged by a German sentry, answered in German and engaged him in conversation while continuing to advance. When close enough he overpowered the sentry before the alarm could be given.

Private Robert G. Buchanan, Company B, 54th Infantry, while with this patrol, broke into an enemy dugout and captured three Germans. Again on September 29th, Private Buchanan was a member of a raiding party from the Collette sector. He had reached the enemy wire and was engaged in cutting it when he was fired on by an enemy patrol. He continued to cut the wire until ordered back by the patrol leader. For his conduct in both these instances Private Buchanan was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

There was little of importance on the 17th. Lieutenant Showfelt fired on three Germans who were inspecting our wire in front of C. R. Sulzern. Two appeared to be hit, but they managed to make their way back to their lines. At the request of Colonel Smith of the 52nd an artillery barrage was laid on enemy trenches opposite C. R. Sulzern to stop special work being performed there.

On the 18th, we lost one man killed and four men as prisoners to the enemy. Corporal Gaetane Berardi and Corporal Walter D. Jones of Company L, 52nd Infantry, were intercepted by an enemy patrol while working their way from one combat group to another. They were fired upon and blood in the vicinity indicated that one or both might have been hit. The enemy patrol escaped with their prisoners aided by a heavy smoke barrage. Three men of the 18th Machine Gun Battalion, while moving along the road leading from Altmats Kopf to Mittlach, were fired upon by an enemy patrol and Private Frank Ogle was killed. Sergeant Robert C. Faucett and Corporal Grover W. Smith emptied their automatics at the enemy but were overpowered when trying to reload and were taken prisoner. The sergeant managed to get rid of maps he was carrying before being captured.

On the same night Sergeant Constantino Francis and ^{the} 27 men from Company F of the 54th were on patrol along the Tracy road from Collette sector. They ran across a small enemy patrol and opened fire on them, but the Germans escaped in the heavy underbrush.

Early on the morning of the 19th, a mess detail from Company L of the 51st discovered an enemy patrol hiding in our trenches. Private Robert A. Davisson, who was heading the detail, opened fire, killing one German and wounding another. The others rushed over the top of our trenches and were joined by about a dozen more German in their flight back to their own trenches. Although pursued by our men, they managed to escape.

A German machine gun position opposite C. R. Linge was blown up on the 20th by a direct hit from a one pounder of the 51st Infantry. The enemy retaliated with machine gun fire and with artillery and gas shells. Captain Groves and two men were wounded and others gassed. The accuracy of the one pounder was favorably commented upon by the regimental commander.

A patrol of two officers and 16 men from the 52nd went out on the night of the 20th/21st and proceeded to the second string of enemy wire before they were discovered. Our men retreated, but by the time they reached our lines about one hundred Germans were at their heels.

Lieutenant Read, ~~the~~ 3rd Battalion Scout Officer and Lieutenant McIntosh, 2nd Battalion Scout Officer and four scouts of the 54th Infantry went out on the night of the 22nd/23rd to inspect damage to enemy wire caused by our trench mortars. When returning they were nearly surrounded by a large enemy patrol. In the fight, Private Nichols of Company L was killed. The others worked their way back to our lines, bringing Private Nichols body with them.

Major William E. Selbie, Infantry, Division G-2 and Major John L. Jenkins, G.S., Division G-3, were relieved from duty with the Division and put on detached service with the General Staff College. Major M. W. Gray, G.S., became G-2 and Colonel J. E. Bell, Infantry, became G-3. Colonel Bell was relieved by Lieutenant Colonel R. P. Williams, Marine Corps, on October 6.

THE FAKE.

According to instructions from Army Headquarters, the divisions in the line of the Vosges were to make a showing of arms and try to deceive the enemy into thinking that he could expect an attack. The 6th Division carried out their part of the "fake" to perfection. The Germans opposite the 6th organized their positions in depth, keeping one battalion of each regiment in the line. This division kept all four regiments in the line, with each regiment having at least two battalions at the front.

German aeroplanes circled the lines continually and the enemy seemed nervous and uneasy. Actually, the big Argonne offensive was about to begin, and it was the duty of the 6th to keep as many divisions of the enemy occupied as possible in the Vosges region until after the offensive got under way.

It was arranged that troops should march from place to place in the early hours of the morning and thus give the impression of being the tail-end of an all night march. The 16th Machine Gun Battalion proceeded by hiking from Beillard to Le Collet, and two companies of the 51st marched from Pre Carre, starting at 5 o'clock, to Camp Richards. Two companies of the 54th marched at the same time from Camp Boussat to Le Mayour. This force drew fire from enemy artillery and suffered some casualties. This hiking was done under strict military discipline, and smoking and loud talking was forbidden. At night these forces returned to their original quarters.

The artillery moved one gun from each ^{of} four batteries to new positions and registered on enemy targets. The P.C., of the 11th Brigade closed at La Collet and opened at Camp Nicolas. Division headquarters was moved forward from Gerardmer to Le Collet. Two new radio sets were installed and fake messages were sent during the night of the 23rd/24th. A fake message was also sent in the clear over the phone, referring to the new division, and immediately a stinging rebuke was returned for sending the message in the clear with the hope that the enemy would catch it with his detector set.

All this, it was hoped, would give the impression that an additional division had taken position with the 6th in preparation for an attack. Along the German lines there was unusual activity. The enemy became anxious to secure prisoners and identification.

On the 26th of September the big offensive to the north began, and the maneuvering of the 6th was completed. The P.C. of the division returned to Gerardmer, and the 11th Brigade headquarters returned to Collet. The two additional radio stations were dismantled, and the normal life of the sector was resumed.

FINAL DAYS IN THE VOSGES.

Enemy patrols had been coming nightly to a large rock in front of K Company, 51st Infantry. On September 25th, Sergeant Petschler, Sergeant Kinsey, Sergeant Flynn and Corporal Janson went to this rock to ambush the enemy. However, the Germans, with a large patrol had arrived first. While returning, our men were sighted, but not recognized, by a friendly patrol. Shots were fired and both Sergeant Petschler and Sergeant Kinsey were wounded, Sergeant Petschler dying the next day.

On the night of the 24th, pursuant to instructions from division headquarters, special efforts were made to capture prisoners in front of C. R. Noirmont. Among the patrols sent out was one commanded by First Lieutenant John H. Carter, 51st Infantry. Besides the lieutenant, the patrol consisted of four sergeants and two corporals of Company F. The mission given the patrol was to proceed towards the town of Orbey and capture prisoners or bring back identifications. As the patrol pushed out Lieutenant Carter said: "Captain, you know I'm not afraid of the Boche or the devil, but I am afraid of that electric wire."

This patrol left the lines at 5:30 in the evening, and upon approaching the enemy wire saw two of the enemy sentinels. Lieutenant Carter and one sergeant left the patrol and went north with the idea of working around the right flank of these sentinels. They had no sooner crossed the creek than two flares went up from the enemy lines. Two shots were fired and Lieutenant Carter fell across the electric wire. The sergeant crawled up and caught hold of the body of the lieutenant and tried to throw it off the wire but was unable to do so, receiving a shock from the electricity. In order to prevent having his patrol wiped out, the sergeant led his men back to our trenches. By the time a report was made to the battalion commander it was too late to send out another patrol before daybreak.

Nightly patrols were sent out from the 51st to recover Lieutenant Carter's body, but it was not until the night of October 5, that they were successful. Some of the patrols passed within twenty yards of it but were unable to locate the exact spot. First Lieutenant Frank H. Terrell, 51st Infantry, with a patrol of 14 men from H Company, was out on the night of October 5, with the mission of cutting enemy wire and securing prisoners. The wire was cut, but no enemy was encountered. Instead, when a flare was sent up, the body of Lieutenant Carter was seen on the wire not far away. It was recovered and brought back to our lines, being buried in the American Cemetery at Gerardmer. Sergeant Oscar L. Shugart, Headquarters Company, 51st Infantry, showed extraordinary courage and presence of mind as a member of Lieutenant Terrell's patrol.

Sergeant Edwin Morgan, Company M, 52nd Infantry, went out alone in front of his company trenches on the morning of the 27th to search for a man who had become lost while on patrol the night before. Sergeant Morgan went boldly out into No Man's Land in full view of the enemy trenches, making his way from place to place. He found his man and brought him back safely even though under the fire of the enemy.

Patrols went out as usual on the night of the 28th. Lieutenant McIntosh and Private Oscar L. Burke, Company H, 54th Infantry, made an extensive exploration of enemy wire and returned. Lieutenant Bender with another officer and 17 men of the 54th went out looking for a fight in front of C. R. Gaullert. They met two strong enemy patrols and killed one German. A patrol of four non-commissioned officers and 12 privates from Company E, 52nd Infantry under Sergeant Lloyd also went out but was driven back by enemy artillery fire. G.C. 2, Reichsacker, occupied by men of Company E under Lieutenant A. B. Endicott, was subject to severe trench mortar and rifle grenade fire that night. When the barrage lifted the Germans attacked with three of them getting inside the trench. One was killed and the others driven back. Some of our men were wounded by shell fragments. Corporal Clarence E. Carroll, Company E, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his conduct during this engagement. Though badly wounded he continued to fight with great bravery and determination, killing one of the enemy in a personal encounter. After he became blinded by the explosion of a grenade, he passed his rifle to a sergeant near him saying, "I can't see. You give it to them."

At 4:30 on the morning of the 29th a raiding party consisting of Lieutenants Read and McIntosh and 102 men from the 2nd and 3rd Battalion Scouts of the 54th Infantry started with the intention of entering the enemy lines opposite C. R. de Galbert. Reconnaissance had been made for several nights previous. At the same moment that our box barrage started, an intense enemy counter barrage was laid down and the majority of the patrol was unable to reach the objective. However, Lieutenant McIntosh and three men did get through to the enemy second line trench, but found it unoccupied.

In the counterbarrage Lieutenant William T. Ingram and seven men were killed and twenty-four wounded. Lieutenant Ingram's men were at their posts in a neighboring trench. He had had most of them take cover during the bombardment but he himself was instantly killed by a 75 burst. His actions saved the lives of at least sixteen men. Most of the other casualties occurred when the patrol was returning to our trenches. All the bodies but one were recovered.

A statement by Brigadier General James B. Erwin on this action follows:

"Though the raid of this morning entailed losses, which are regrettable, I am firmly of the opinion that the final result will be beneficial. It has shown the Germans that there are American officers and soldiers who have the bravery and nerve to go up against the strongest portion of the line held by them in this sector. This was accomplished by Lieutenant McIntosh and three men. They accomplished the mission on which they were sent and made a complete tour of the German trench assigned to them without finding it occupied."

A patrol of eight men of Company I, 51st Infantry, in charge of Lieutenant James E. Stuart went out from C. R. Linge on the night of the 30th and proceeded to the ruins of the old house where an enemy patrol of sixteen men was encountered. None of our men were wounded, while one German was taken prisoner and others were wounded.

Early on the morning of October 4, the Germans laid down a heavy barrage boxing G.C. 7 in the Mattle sector, cutting off some 25 men of Company B of the 53rd. Major Enoch B. Garey was with them at the time. Three enemy parties of about 100 men each, with machine guns and flame throwers, then raided this sector. They succeeded in cutting the wire after killing the sentinels. Post No. 4 was destroyed by liquid fire; all of the men there being killed or wounded. Lieutenant John G. Duffy took a couple of men and manned that post. The enemy was finally driven off carrying most of their wounded with them, although five were captured. Our losses in killed and wounded were severe although we lost no prisoners. Lieutenant John W. Jewell was killed by the explosion of a shell. G.C. 8, 9 and 10 in this sector also suffered considerable damage during the barrage, two men being killed and five wounded.

Distinguished Service Crosses were given the following for their conduct during this engagement:

Lieutenant John G. Duffy. He took command of Post No. 4 after its occupants were killed or wounded, and held it with a small detachment. After the raid he removed some 20 grenades which had become dangerously hot due to the fire and which were about to explode.

Corporal Alexander Dodder, Company H. After being severely wounded he continued to operate his automatic rifle until the enemy retreated.

Private James Mosp, Company H. Before the barrage lifted he crossed open ground to his post and manned it alone throughout the engagement. During the latter part of the fight he was the sole protection for a group of soldiers near him who had been flanked by the enemy.

Corporal Ross McClusky, Company H. (Posthumous). Although fatally wounded enroute to his post he did not falter, and, despite a heavy bombardment, took his position and continued to fight until the enemy was repulsed. He imbued his men with such fighting spirit that, although greatly outnumbered, they fought until the enemy was decisively beaten.

Corporal Julius Nielson, Company H. Although wounded he maintained his position under heavy bombardment and refused to leave until the enemy had been repulsed.

Early on the morning of October 4, the enemy opened up with a heavy bombardment all along the front of the de Galbert sector, held by the 54th Infantry. Without waiting for orders, friendly artillery laid down a barrage on the enemy's trenches. The enemy also bombarded French artillery emplacements near Camp Boussat with various calibre shells, but was unable to put the artillery out of action. Almost 2000 shells, gas, shrapnel and H.E., were fired by the enemy and nearly as many by the French. Due to this counter barrage no enemy infantry attack was made on the sector, although the French infantry position on the right was raided.

On the 9th Camp Richards, the 51st Infantry P.C., was bombarded by enemy artillery, but fortunately only some horses, which were standing by the side of the road leading into the place, were killed.

While the infantry was engaged in the actual defense of the sector the other units of the division had not been idle. The 318th Engineers were engaged in various activities; among them the operation of the aerial cableway, the mining of roads, operating sawmills, constructing cantonments and dugouts, and the building of military roads. Much of the work was done under enemy shell fire.

The signal troops of the division were extremely busy during the entire occupation of the sector. In addition to the operation and maintenance of the existing lines, a heavy task under the conditions with much of the wire old and rotten, new lines were constructed to several points. Hundreds of miles of abandoned wire ran through the sector. The signal troops were employed in tracing out these old lines, utilizing them when profitable, and taking them out where they were of no further use. Hundreds of kilometers of wire were thus salvaged and the danger of the enemy listening-in materially reduced.

The units of the sanitary train were utilized in many places. Ambulance companies and field hospitals were located on routes from the line to the rear to handle the evacuation of the sick and wounded. In addition to the divisional sanitary troops, two French Alpine Ambulance companies were at the disposal of the division.

While the division was in the Vosges two companies of Military Police were at their disposal. Owing to the great extent of the division sector, and an assignment of police to an additional area around Cornimont, the entire force of 300 men was constantly employed. The two most important functions exercised by the police in this sector was the apprehension of stragglers and the patrol of the cities and towns. Traffic control posts were established on all important roads and trails leading out of the division area and all men were examined for travel authority.

At noon on the 1st of October, the division had passed from the jurisdiction of the 33rd French Army Corps to the 1st French Army Corps, still remaining however, in the 7th French Army, and in the 7th U. S. Army Corps for administrative purposes.

At 10 o'clock on October 13th, the Division passed out of the 1st French Army Corps and operated entirely under the 7th U. S. Army Corps.

The relief of the division began on the night of the 9th/10th of October. The 162nd Division (French) took over the six northern sub-sectors, and the 1st Division (French), which was then in the line south of the 6th Division, extended its front and took over the three southern battalion sectors.

The march from the trenches was long and fatiguing, up and down mountains ever broken trails and in the dead of night. The men, however, had been hardened by their six weeks in the trenches, and they came through in fine shape.

The division was billeted in the area occupied before entering the trenches, some units in the same towns and cities they formerly occupied, others in towns along the Moselle River in the vicinity of Bussang.

By the 15th of October all troops of the division were in billets in the rear, comfortably conscious that they could walk around a corner or look over a wall without preliminary reconnaissance. Division headquarters remained at Gerardmer.

After a day or two devoted to getting settled and cleaning up, training was resumed. Target ranges were improvised throughout the area and, in spite of the rain, much valuable work was done. Mimic warfare was waged and training with bombs and rifle grenades was conducted, and with it all, the men went back to the days of Squads Right, physical exercises and care of the rifle and equipment, matters which they had supposed were left safely behind in the Training Area.

THE MEUSE ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

AND THE PART WE PLAYED

"The Sight Seeing Sixth"

On the day the armistice was drawn up the 6th Division was hiking. On November 11th, the day the armistice went into effect, the 6th Division was hiking. It was nothing unusual. For fifteen days the division had been hiking, and if they could have looked into the future, twice as many days of hiking were yet to come. This was a hiking outfit, in fact as well as reputation.

The closing days of the great war found the 6th Division trying to keep in touch with the rapidly retreating Germans. It required a hiking outfit to do this, and a better division for this kind of warfare could not be found. The Boche retreat must have been carefully planned for when their front lines gave way and the American Army came pouring in, those Germans who were not killed disappeared quickly. Cavalry was needed for this emergency, but as none was available the 6th Division was used.

General Pershing saw fit to commend the work of the Division in the following letter:

"....The Commander - in - Chief has not failed to note with great pride the soldierly achievements of the 6th Division.

"The following remarks concerning the 6th Division are of record at those headquarters:

"The 6th Division detrained in the Clermont region in the latter part of October, 1918. On account of a very serious lack of animals and motor vehicles in the division there was a very great doubt on the part of the higher staff as to whether or not the division could be utilized during the coming offensive. Nevertheless, with less than 1000 animals and very little truck transportation, the division advanced into the reserve position for the 1st Army Corps. From November 2nd to November 6th, the 6th Division closely followed the rapid advance of the 1st Corps without complaint or ever remark. The infantry of the division made long marches on congested roads, pulling by hand their machine gun carts and carrying on their backs, or doing without, supplies for which transportation should normally be available.

"Upon the termination of the successful advance toward Sedan, the 6th Division immediately turned south and after a long march arrived east of Verdun, ready and willing to perform any task which might be assigned to it. That the division was not engaged east of Verdun was due to the fact that at the moment of its arrival the armistice became effective.

"Altogether the performance of the 6th Division during the first eleven days of November, 1918, stands out as one of the finest examples of the fortitude and soldierly spirit displayed by the American Soldier during the War. It is not unjust to say that the duties of the 6th Division during this period required more discipline and soldierly determination than many engagements with the enemy."

The story of those final days of the war may be told as follows:

At the time the big offensive began the military situation of the contending armies was this: The battle line from Verdun north was generally in a northwest direction. Along this line the Germans held a gigantic salient into the allied lines from a position just north of Verdun as far as Rheims. This salient was almost a right angle, the base of which ran practically east and west. This line ran through a little below the middle of the Argonne Forest. The point of the salient led on toward Paris.

The Allies campaign was to strike due north from the east and west line of this salient and thus outflank the entire German battle line to the north, even as far as the sea if the campaign could be carried that far. From the town of Stonne north the Meuse River was to be practically the line of the new battle front. It was, on its face, a gigantic task.

The success of the campaign depended largely upon the troops which occupied the pivotal position on which the movement turned. The 1st American Army was allotted this place, with the 4th French Army on its left. The Americans held a sector of approximately fifty kilometers from the Meuse River west to and including Grand Pre. The division on the right of the American Army sector had to change its battle line from an east and west position to a northwest southeast one.

The 29th Division held this key position on the extreme right during the last phase of the offensive in September. Later it was relieved by the 26th. The divisions on the left advanced due north until they uncovered the new position of the division on their right, and then turned to the northeast completing a continuous new battle front. The troops on the extreme left of the American sector had the farthest distance to go, and the 6th Division was to advance along the left of the entire American sector.

When the offensive began in September the 6th was still occupying the Gerardmer sector in the Vosges Mountains. After leaving the Gerardmer sector and arriving in the billeting area, an advance detail was sent to report to the headquarters of the Second Army at Toul. On arrival at Toul on October 13th it was learned that the Division was destined for the First Army instead of the Second. The detail moved on to Souilly where billeting arrangements were made. The division was to be assigned to the 3rd. Corps.

Orders were finally received for the movement of the division by rail. The destination, however, was not Souilly since the assignment was to the 1st Corps instead of the 3rd. Entrainment was at six different stations on October 26th and 27th. The trip was made speedily to St. Menehould and two stations south thereof. This trip, it turned out later, was the last time the Division was to ride before preparing for the return from overseas.

From St. Menehould the units of the Division marched east through the Argonne Forest to camps and bivouacs south of the St. Menehould Clermont road. The command echelon of division headquarters moved to Beauchamp Farm, with

the administrative echelon to Futeau. The 11th Brigade Headquarters were established at St. Rouin, and the 12th Brigade Headquarters at Camp Perrin.

The last phase of the offensive was just developing. The Division was on Army reserve attached to the 1st Corps and had relieved the 82nd Division. Officers from the infantry regiments and machine gun battalions were sent forward to the 42nd Division, then in the front line, as observers. They remained with the 42nd several days, rejoining the 6th after the division had moved.

On moving to Futeau the military police were reorganized into one company of 150 men. The job was to handle the traffic on the successive moves of the Division, an enormous task with the road congested with motors and foot troops.

The sound of guns was increasing daily and the night before, November 1st, it was tremendous in volume. Early in the morning the division started its march to the north, moving along sodden heavy roads through the Argonne. Very few animals were available and machine gun carts, in some units were dragged by hand. The division, on this day, was relieved as Army reserve and assigned to the 1st. Corps as Corps reserve.

By the afternoon of November 2nd, the 11th Brigade was in the vicinity of Point a L'Aune and the 12th Brigade at Camp de Bouzon, west of Varennes in the Argonne. The division P. C. was luxuriously settled in concrete dugouts kindly constructed by the Boche at Champ Mahaut, - an enemy strong point when the Argonne offensive began on September 26th.

The 2nd Battalion of the engineers and the Engineer train were attached to the 11th Brigade. The rest of the engineers, the 16th Machine Gun Battalion, and the 6th Field Signal Battalion moved to Champ Mahaut with division headquarters.

The Corps at this time was attacking with two divisions in the front lines and two in reserve. The 78th Division was assaulting on the left of the sector, and the 77th Division on the right. The 6th Division was to occupy the "Corps Position of Security". This position consisted of ridges south of the Aire River below Grand Pre and St. Juvin and near Chatel Chohery. One regiment of infantry and one battalion of engineers were to occupy the position at all times with the rest of the division hold in readiness for enemy counterattacks.

The 52nd and one battalion of the engineers were designated to occupy the position and proceeded to relieve the units of the 82nd Division. This mission, however, was not of long duration. The attack of the First Army, begun on November 1st, was so successful that the occupation of the Corps position of security was no longer necessary.

The 5th American Army Corps was on the right of the 1st Army Corps, with the Fourth French Army on the left. The eastern boundary of the 1st. Corps was a line running through Sivry-des-Buzancy, Buzancy, Vaux-en-Dieulot, and Beaumont; the western boundary was a line running through Briquenay, Gormont, Autho, Oches, Stonne, Flabab and Aturecourt. The right boundary of the 6th Division's zone of action was the Aire River, and the left was the same as the left boundary of the Corps. The 12th Brigade was to occupy the right of the division sector and the 11th Brigade the left. Each brigade was to have two regiments of infantry in line.

At the end of this march the troops bivouaced in the woods. The narrow roads through the forest were congested day and night and the continual rains and heavy traffic kept them in a miserable condition. Under these conditions the troops had to be supplied and fed.

At this place the division got a two-day march order, directing them to resume their northward march to the region of Briquenay. Headquarters

moved to the ruins of a shell shattered chateau in the old town of Grand Pre. Here the enemy had made a stubborn resistance a few days before and the ruins of the town stood as a silent tribute to the accuracy of the American gunners.

The 11th Brigade halted for the first night along the left of the road southeast of and leading into Grand Pre. The 12th Brigade was in the region of the town of Cheviers. The remaining units of the division moved to the vicinity of Grand Pre.

At Grand Pre the division had cleared the Argonne Forest and the country now was open and rolling. The woods to the northwest of the town had been enveloped by the American and French Armies and was supposed to be gassed, so a guard was placed there to keep everyone out. The Division wound its way in between the passing rows of vehicles on the muddy road and in the middle of the afternoon came to its camping ground a few kilometers northwest of Briquenay. The troops bivouaced in the open and fires were soon started. In the darkness it seemed a beautifully idealistic camp scene.

Ease and comfort, however, was short lived. A German air raiding party discovered the fires and our troops were subjected to a remarkable bombardment. Within half a minute after the explosion of the first bomb every fire was smothered.

Shortly after dark an enemy bombing plane flew over Grand Pre, dropping bombs. Major Gray, G-2 of the division, was killed and Major Van Fleet of the 17th Machine Gun Battalion, Captain Stettinius, Aide to Major General Gordon, and several men were wounded.

Before daybreak the next morning, November 5th, the Division received orders to move forward. The order read: "The enemy is retreating on Sedan. The 5th Army Corps is operating on our right, and the 9th French Corps on our left. The 1st Corps will continue its pursuit and prepare to extend its pursuit beyond the Meuse River. The enemy rear guard will be defeated, his troops and transports captured or destroyed before he effects a crossing."

The march was ordered to begin at 6:00 o'clock and the Division was to be prepared to pass through a front line division that night. Division headquarters were to be established at Authey; the 11th Brigade in the region of St. Pierremont; the 12th Brigade, 318th Engineers; 6th Field Signal Battalion and the 16th Machine Gun Battalion in the neighborhood of Authey.

The troops formed in the early morning sunlight, retraced their march toward Briquenay, and then struck off to the north. It was a long and weary hike. Wagon trains and M. P.'s, cut the columns to pieces. German dead lay along the roads. Dead horses were in abundance, many with pieces of meat cut from their flanks, visible evidence that the retreating enemy had been hard pressed for food.

The towns and villages still hung out their white flags. The villagers, just released from the four years of bondage in German hands, stood in amazed and appreciative groups, and tried to make themselves understood by the over ignorant Yankee. There were no middle aged people in the towns; those here were either very young, or very old.

During this campaign rationing had been very uncertain. The roads were jammed with the transportation of half a dozen divisions. The 77th, 42nd and 6th Divisions were using the same system of roads, while French units, ambulances, staff cars, carriers and artillery regiments were doing their bits to add to the confusion. A late and skimpy meal was had that night, and the men turned in for what they thought would be a well-earned rest. They had hiked all day but were still not in position to effect a relief of a front line division, - so rapid had been the army's advance.

The doughboy's dream, however, was again shattered. At nine o'clock the regiments were aroused and formed in columns along the sides of roads. Then to add to the misery of the night, the order to march was not given. The men stood there from nine thirty to three, four and five o'clock

the next morning. The continuous rains had made the place a sea of mud so that the men could not even lie down. Smoking, of course, was forbidden. The only relief possible was to brace oneself and sit on the end of a rifle.

The division finally received the following order:

"The enemy is retreating rapidly across the Meuse. Our troops have established bridge-heads at Brioulles-sur-Meuse and Dun-sur-Meuse. The French are in liaison with our left. The 1st Army Corps will pursue the enemy with all possible speed and prepare to extend the pursuit beyond the Meuse. The enemy rear guard will be defeated and his troops and transports destroyed before he effects the crossing over the river.

"The 77th Division (on the right) will continue the pursuit.

"The 42nd Division (on the left) will continue the pursuit, maintaining a strong left flank guard.

"The 6th Division will march to Artaise le Vivier, and Stonne. The division will be prepared to pass through a front line division, and extend the corps zone of action west to the Bar River, attacking in the direction of Chevenoes Frenols."

The movement was ordered to begin at 11 P.M. on November 5. Under this order the 11th Brigade was ordered to Artaise-le-Vivier and the 12th Brigade, the 16th Machine Gun Battalion, 6th Field Signal Battalion, Engineer, Headquarters Trains and Military Police all to Stonne along with Division Headquarters.

This same order attached to the division the 153rd Field Artillery Brigade, from the 78th Division.

The division moved into the zone of the enemy's artillery fire when it reached Stonne, and the 11th Brigade got even ahead of the assaulting waves of the 42nd Division of the division's right.

The division had one brigade in the line, the 11th, and this brigade had two regiments in the line side by side - the 51st on the left and the 52nd on the right. In this way the 6th Division actually became a front line division for the time being. The 1st Battalion, 307th Light Artillery, was attached to the 11th Brigade, and the 2nd Battalion, 308th Light Artillery, was attached to the 12th.

The orders were that foot troops should not march on roads used by transports and artillery. Yet the by-paths and cultivated fields made hiking heavy, hard and slow. The rains continued, of course, and the marching was monotonous. The long exposures to rain and weather had affected the men physically; the sleepless nights and days of drudgery and toil had left their marks; the one or two meagre meals they managed to get each day had left an unsatiable appetite and an aching void. But they were "rarin' to go".

It was when the 11th Brigade reached Stonne that the order got to the men that they were to go into the front lines. How did the news affect them? After all these long and weary days and nights of continuous hiking; after all these months of training; not for a moment were they dissatisfied with their lot. They sat down coolly, even smiling, got out their oil cans and gun rags and cleaned their rifles. They nursed their rifles as if they had been human.

But the expected never happened. The troops got as far as Artaise, when the order came to halt. The corps, at this time had two divisions in line from Wadelincourt to Mouzon along the Meuse River, the 77th and the 42nd from right to left. The 80th Division was in the region of Sommautho, the 6th Division in the region of Stonne and Artaise - both divisions in reserve. The 78th Division was in the woods west of Varrennes in Army Reserve with Post of Command at Champ Lahaut. By this time the enemy had been driven across the Meuse River, and a pause in the operations was necessary.

The reason for it was this: The pressure of the Allied armies — the British, Belgian and French to the north and the American and French to the south — had caused the enemy to retreat, considerably shortening the line. Thus in the converging attacks some of the Americans were squeezed out of a position on the new front line and the offensive, as far as the 6th Division was concerned, was over.

The Corps received orders from the 1st Army for the relief of the 42nd by an extension of the sector of the 77th Division, and for the movement of the 6th, 78th and 80th Divisions to the back area. The next day the 42nd Division was also ordered south and the 5th Army Corps took over the 77th Division the following day, thereby relieving the entire 1st Corps in this sector.

The Germans in their retreat from Stonne succeeded in blowing up the road at two strategic places, and it was impassable at these two spots for vehicles of any sort. The infantry splashed around them, through deep water and mud, but the kitchens and carts could not get through. Our engineers, with some infantry men, improvised bridges. It was not long after the men had turned in that the much-valued kitchens arrived — but with no rations.

The task of securing food was all important at this time. The men had marched all day with scarcely any food and reserve rations were long since gone. Details were sent out as far back as St. Pierrremont with instructions to take what they could from any ration trucks they could locate. Men scoured the country, but the Boche had left little behind. However, beets were located in nearby fields and these roasted, toasted and fried were eaten with relish. But no one died of starvation and the following day rations arrived.

It had been the policy of the Germans, just before retreating, to gather in all the peasant inhabitants of the towns and neighboring villages and confine them in large buildings, locking the doors and windows. There many families lived together in one or two large rooms, like cattle, for several days until the conquering Allied troops arrived and released them. In the village church at Stonne the Americans had forced the door and liberated some thirty families. The place naturally smelled like a stable. What few sous the soldier carried in his pocket he gave to those poor and emaciated people, and if he never knew before what America and the Allies were fighting for he learned this day in a vivid, living picture which he will never forget. The troops rested during the 7th and 8th of November and the following General Order (No. 31, Nov. 5th) from Lieut. General Liggott, commanding the First American Army, was received at this time.

"On November 1, after constant fighting for one month, the First American Army launched an attack against the German Army which had established itself for determined resistance. In five days it had penetrated 25 kilometers and had driven the enemy in retreat before it. Its brilliant success in connection with the advance of the 4th French Army on its left, forced the Germans to retreat on the broad front to the west.

"It has fought and marched and endured the rigors of campaign with the most superb indifference to everything except the determination to go forward and imprint upon the enemy the marks of its courage and resolution.

"All arms of the service, those in advance who smashed the way, those in the air who rendered aggressive and efficient service, and those in the rear who by their untiring industry made possible the continued advance, are worthy of the highest praise and the gratitude of their admiring country.

"The Army Commander is proud of such an army, thanks it for the splendid results already achieved, and looks with confidence to the still greater successes that lie before it."

A few days later General Order No. 17, November 11, from Major General Dickman, commanding the First Army Corps, was received:

"During this pause in the operations of these Headquarters the Corps Commander desires that the units which have contributed to the constant success of the 1st United States Corps be informed of his full appreciation of the services each had rendered to the common end.

"This appreciation must be extended to every element of Corps and Division units, for it goes without saying that the work of each man, no matter what his station, has contributed powerfully to the accomplishment of the common aim—the defeat of the enemy.

"It is the desire of the Corps Area Commander that his sincerest thanks, best wishes and assurances of his appreciation reach every member of the units which have contributed to the steady and unfailing success of the Corps."

THE HIKE DOWN VERDUN-WAY

On the 8th of November, when the troops were making up for lost rest, a secret warning order was sent out which read: "The Division moves south on the 9th of November, the movement beginning at seven hours. All organizations will hold themselves in readiness to move at the hours designated. Detailed orders will follow".

The detailed orders did come, and the 6th Division again took up its accustomed profession of hiking. It hiked its way back over the same roads and paths by which they had come. The indefinite and vague order read: "The Division will move to a new area".

The men were burdened with twice the weight of ordinary packs on their backs, the rains having soaked them through. The signal corps men carried their heavy spools of wire every inch of the way. The machine gunners pulled their horseless carts after them and passed out extra boxes of ammunition among the company. The medical men plodded along with their ever-needed Red Cross supplies and company records and typewriters were even brought along by the already over-loaded infantry men.

The horses given the division were not in first class condition, to say the least. Some had been gassed and were too weak for heavy pulling. Some were sick; others were lame. They lived exposed to wind, rain and cold, were underfed at best, and often worked eighteen hours a day. They pulled kitchens and wagons all day and took turns on the water wagons, as the officers tried to keep the men supplied. Many horses and mules died and it was not unusual for them to die in harness.

Division Headquarters opened the night of November 9, at Germont; the 11th Brigade at St. Pierremont, and the 12th Brigade, 318th Engineers and 6th Field Signal Battalion at Autho. The 153rd Field Artillery Brigade headquarters was with the division headquarters at Germont, and the troops at Briquenay, Thenorgue and Verpel. The 16th Machine Gun Battalion was at Brioulles.

The second night—the march was ordered completed before 6 o'clock that evening—division headquarters was established at Grand Pre; 11th Brigade Headquarters at Briquenay with the troops in and around Briquenay, Thenorgues, Sivry and Buzancy; the 12th at Boffu et le Morthomme, and the 153rd Field Artillery at Grand Pre. The 318th Engineers and Field Signal Battalion took up old quarters near Grand Pre, along with the 16th Machine Gun Battalion. The troops of the 153rd Field Artillery were in and around St. Jurvin, Chevrières and Marcq.

The division had no sooner put up for the night when news came to continue the march the next day. At sunrise they started. Division headquarters were established at their old quarters, at Champ Mahaut; the 11th Brigade put up in and around the town of Cornay; the 12th Brigade put up southwest of and in the vicinity of Chatel Chehery; the 318th Engineers, the 6th Field Signal Battalion and the 16th Machine Gun Battalion all bivouaced at Camp Pont a'Launo.

This day's march took the division over ground covered by an intricate system of trenches. These trenches covered the whole ground from the rear of the German old trench position to "no man's land"; barbed wire entanglements covered the landscape; "pill boxes" occupied their formidable positions — even then standing in good condition. The trenches and dugouts showed the workmanship of men skilled at the trade; and the officers' quarters displayed comfort and ease perfected which had never been intended for capture.

This was November 11, the day the armistice became effective. It was a day of rejoicing, but not the loud, boisterous kind. It ~~did~~ not seem true — the men did not recognize the day they had so long looked forward to. It was not for days that they fully appreciated the meaning of it all.

POST-ARMISTICE ACTIVITIES

(November 12, 1918 - May 19, 1919)

(From: "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War --- Divisions").

November 14, Division relieves the 26th Division and French 10th Colonial Division northeast of Verdun-sur-Meuse in the former Neptune Sector, which extended from Abaucourt, through Bezonvaux, to Ville-devant-Chaumont; 81st Division on right, 79th Division on left. November 19th, the front is reduced on the left and extended on the right, when the 79th Division relieves the 11th Infantry Brigade as far as Bezonvaux, and the 11th Infantry Brigade relieves the 81st Division from the crossroads two kilometers west of Pintheville to Abaucourt (incl); the enforcement of armistice terms follows.

November 20th, 79th Division relieves the 6th Division except the artillery; the Division (less artillery) moves to the 14th (Aignay-le-Duc) Training Area. December 6th, 6th Field Artillery Brigade reverts to the division. December 9th, training is resumed. April 9th, 6th TM Battery sails from St. Nazaire for the United States.

(From the 1919 Manuscript)

AFTER THE ARMISTICE

The night of November 11th a secret field order was received from First Army Headquarters, as follows:

"The 6th Division, with attached artillery and ammunition train, will be moved by marching into the zone of the 2nd Colonial Corps (French), commencing November 12th. Special orders will issue covering the details of the movement.

"Upon the arrival of the 6th Division into the zone of the 2nd Colonial Corps it will be relieved from duty in the 1st Corps, and attached to the 2nd Colonial Corps. It will be employed to relieve the 26th U. S. Division and the 10th D.I.C. (Division Infantry Colonial-French); relief to be completed at as early a date as practical."

It was in this keystone position of the whole drive that the most severe fighting on any recent battle front had taken place; a vital position that higher authorities had seen fit to entrust to the 6th Division. This plan had been adopted long before the armistice took place. Before the sun went down that evening the World War was over, and the planning of this grand campaign turned out to be superfluous.

General Order No. 17, Headquarters First Army, dated November 11th, read as follows:

"An armistice with Germany has been signed. All hostilities cease at 11 hours, 11 November.

"All communication with the enemy is forbidden pending definite instructions to the contrary. The fact must be emphasized in no uncertain manner that the present state of affairs is an armistice only and not a peace, and that there must be no relaxation of vigilance on the part of your command."

The news of the armistice did not change the orders regarding the 6th Division. A two day's march order was necessary to bring the division into the area of the 2nd French Colonial Corps, and effect a relief of the 26th. On the night of November 12th, division headquarters was located at Champ Lahaut; the brigades and other troops all bivouaced at or near Montfaucon.

At Montfaucon a new ration dump had been established for the army and the men were adequately fed that evening. Montfaucon had been the place from which the German Crown Prince had directed his army during the battle of Verdun in 1916. Like many other French towns and villages, it was a scene of destruction now.

The following night the P.C. moved to Verdun; the 11th Brigade to Germonville, Fromosville and Bois de Sartelles; the 12th Brigade to Moulin Brule and Daleyscourt; the 318th Engineers to La Citadelle in Verdun; the 16th Machine Gun Battalion to Jardin Fontaine in Verdun; 11th Brigade Headquarters were established at Moulin Brule.

The march that day had been long and circuitous, and the night's rest was short. Before sunrise the troops were on the march again. That afternoon the 11th Brigade Headquarters opened at Bras; the 12th at Mareau; the 153rd Field Artillery Headquarters at Marguerite in Verdun; and the divisional P.C. moved to Marguerite in Verdun.

The infantry pushed on, however, to effect its reliefs. The 51st Infantry, with the first and second battalions in the line, held the 11th Brigade's sub-sector, relieving the 26th U. S. Division in what was known as the Neptune Sector; and the 54th Infantry, relieving the 10th French Colonials, held the 12th Brigade sub-sector. The 79th U.S. Division was on the left and the 81st U.S. Division was on the right of this division's sector.

This was a battle front which evidenced every mark of the stubborn and deadly fighting that had recently taken place. When the 6th Division arrived the American dead had been carried in. It was left to the 6th Division to complete the interments, which were accorded to friend and foe alike.

The division's Machine Gun Battalions received replacements from the 302nd and 303rd Machine Gun Battalions on November 16th.

In their hasty departure the Germans did not bother to care for their prisoners, wounded prisoners or the civilian inhabitants of the towns they had occupied. Prisoners and civilians were merely turned loose to shift for themselves. These wandered into the 6th Division lines by the thousands. Each of the civilians carried all of his possessions on his back.

Wounded prisoners, both American and French, were abandoned by the Germans at Pierrepont and surrounding towns, and no one was notified that uncared-for patients were being left behind. Many were discovered in their filthy quarters by French civilians. They were without food, medical care, dressings, or sufficient bedding. The civilians did all in their power to care for them, sharing their limited food supplies with the wounded men. Hospitals had been improvised in factories and other buildings and were indescribably filthy.

One incident, illustrating the eagerness of the French civilians to be of help, is the heroic act of Mlle. Joanne Leonard of Pierrepont, who walked all the way to Verdun to notify the authorities there of these conditions. She started walking in the afternoon, slept over night in an uninhabited house, walked all the next day and arrived at Verdun in the evening. She had walked sixty kilometers through enemy country and across No Man's Land. The weather was cold and windy, the roads muddy. Mademoiselle Leonard was clad in a thin dress; her coat was small and of little protection against the raw wind; her shoes had thin soles and most of the buttons were gone. She had no gloves, and arrived with hands swollen and reddened. She carried what little food she had to eat.

This woman reported and told her story to Major D. C. McKenny, who dispatched ambulances and supplies to aid these abandoned wounded prisoners. Mademoiselle Leonard guided the ambulances back.

At Verdun the entire Military Police company of the 6th Division was used as guides and escorts for the repatriated prisoners of war which were assembled at the bridgeheads of the Meuse and on the roads in occupied territory as far north as Spincourt. They were then turned over to the French authorities at Verdun. An average of from 1,600 to 2,000 men a day were escorted into Verdun during the few days the division stayed in this area.

Major E. D. Milliken, G. S., was assigned to the division as G-2 on November 16th.

On November 17th the 81st Division was ordered to be relieved from their position on our right, and to proceed to another area. The 6th Division, therefore, extended their sector to the right by taking over the sector of the 81st, at the same time giving up the left half of their present sector to the 79th Division. The movement was ordered to take place on November 18th. The 153rd Field Artillery Brigade had been relieved from the division on November 17th.

The new front lines formation necessitated the 11th Brigade moving from its position on the left of the old division sector to the right of the new division sector. A two day's march order would accomplish this. Consequently on the first night the Brigade camped south of Bras and continued the following day to complete the relief. The 52nd infantry went into the forward positions and the 51st took up hospitable shelter in shacks in the woods not far from Belrupt.

On November 19th a battalion of the 6th U. S. Infantry, 5th Division, 5th Corps, with a machine gun company, relieved the 54th Infantry, then at Spincourt. In these positions the division rested from its long and arduous tasks.

Word came soon, however, that the division's hiking had not ended; instead a sixteen days' march was scheduled. The hike was ordered begun on November 21, and the destination of the division was the 11th Training Area in France, situated in the Department of Cote d'Or. The 79th Division relieved the 6th in its sector.

On November 20th, however, leaves of absence were granted to officers and men who might desire to take advantage of them. It was the division's first occasion to grant such privileges and many seized the opportunity. The enlisted men were taken to Aix-les-Bains, the recreation center of the American Army.

The division, however, started anew on its specialty --- hiking. The first two days took the division through battle-scarred ruins, but from that time on the march was through probably the most beautiful section of rural France. Chain after chain of wooded hills and open country crossed the division's path. The rainy weather had ended, to be replaced by the crisp coolness of November, with its splendors of foliage.

The division marched by regiments, i.e., each regiment assembled each morning and marched as a unit. It was not a hard march --- but a stiff one and long.

The division had been relieved from the 2nd French Colonial Corps and came under the jurisdiction of the 1st Army direct. It stayed under the 1st Army until the division arrived in the 14th Training Area on November 30th, when it came under the 8th Corps.

THE RED STAR

The shoulder insignia of the 6th Division was first worn on November 19, 1918, while the division was stationed immediately east of Verdun. The insignia was a red six-pointed star (constructed by superimposing two equilateral triangles) which measured 2 3/4 inches between opposite points. The six points of the star symbolize the 6th Division. The insignia was chosen by Major General Walter H. Gordon, then the commanding officer of the division.

ARMY LIFE IN SMALL FRENCH VILLAGES

QUIET AFTER ARMISTICE

By December 8th the division settled in Cote d'Or, France. Approximately sixty towns and villages were occupied by the troops of the division. The artillery brigade for the first time joined with the division. The regular routine army life was now resumed where it left off in the States.

On December 1st, Lieut. Col. William B. Graham, G.S., was relieved as G-1 of the division and transferred to the 8th Corps. Lieut. Col. Harry L. King, G.S., who had been acting Adjutant of the 12th Brigade, became G-1 in his place.

Brig. Gen. James B. Erwin was relieved from command of the 12th Brigade on December 12th and transferred to the 92nd Division. Col. Mathias Crowley assumed command of the brigade, and was himself relieved when Brigadier General Lucius Durfee reported for duty on December 26th.

The Christmas season was quiet for such an occasion, Drills were reduced to half a day, however, and athletic contests and games occupied the afternoons. Rifle ranges were built and competitive shoots arranged. Garrison schools were established by the battalion chaplains, Maneuvers and terrain exercises became the daily program, being held in all kinds of weather and under all conditions.

Lieut. Col. Vaughn W. Cooper, G.S., relieved Lieut. Col., R. P. Williams as G-3 of the division on January 9th, coming from the 77th Division.

The division held a Horse Show on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1919, on the historic Roman camping ground near the town of Meulson, Cote d'Or. The 3rd Field Artillery carried off the honors, while the 51st scored the most points of any infantry outfit.

Competitive maneuvers were arranged between all infantry battalions, reinforced by artillery batteries and other special units. The 3rd Battalion of the 51st Infantry, accompanied by Battery A of the 3rd Field Artillery, under the command of Major H. E. Dagon, won the division championship. This unit then won the 8th Corps championship and finally the 1st Army championship.

General Order No. 22 from Lieutenant General Liggett, dated April 14th, paid due compliment to the men who contributed to the winning of these high honors.

"The Army Commander desires to express his appreciation of the excellent results accomplished in the competitive maneuvers by the reinforced battalions, supported by the infantry batteries, recently conducted by the organizations of the First Army. The great interest shown in the work, the earnest and untiring efforts to perfect their training and the excellent results accomplished by the enlisted men and all officers concerned has been most satisfactory.

"The Army Commander desires to congratulate both the officers and men of the reinforced battalion 51st Infantry (3rd Battalion, Machine Gun Company and Section 37 - inf. gun and Light Mortar 51st Infantry, and Section Battery A, 3rd Field Artillery) and Battery A 3rd Field Artillery, and also the officers of the 51st Infantry, the 6th Division and the 8th Corps who took part in the training of the above units, upon winning first place in the competitions of the First Army. The performance of the above units at the Army Competition held on April 7, 1919, was most commendable.

"The intense interest in and the highly intelligent conception of their several duties as exhibited by the personnel of the competing units in the Army Competitions, supplied notable evidence of the excellence of the commands involved.

"Such spirits can characterize the activities of only the highest type of soldiers and it is the Army Commander's desire that copies of this order be made available for distribution to all men of the competing units in the Army Competition in order that they may carry home official evidence of their exceptional proficiency in military attainment. Each man has earned, and is entitled to, the individual distinction of membership in organizations awarded so high an honor as winners of competitions for battle exercise excellence in the First Army, American Expeditionary Forces."

Athletics flourished in the division under the management of 1st Lieut. M. William Jones, 51st Infantry. Boxing, wrestling, baseball, basketball, swimming, tennis, soccer and track and field sports were organized and many championships and individual honors were won by members of the 6th Division.

Among the most successful competitors were the following: Cpl. John Fundy, Company A. 52nd Infantry, who won the A. E. F. boxing championship in the 125 - pound class; Cook Petro Mitropouls, Headquarters Company, 52nd Infantry, who won the A.E.F. wrestling championship in the welterweight class; 1st Lieut. James W. Monihan of the 52nd, Cpl. Robert W. Bennett of the 54th, Pvt. Harry Boguhl of the 54th and Cpl. Benjamin E. Royce of the 51st, who won five out of six first places in the 3rd Army swimming meet held at Neuwied, Germany; and the division soccer team which won the 3rd Army championship by defeating the 3rd and 5th Divisions.

In compliance with G.H.Q. orders, post schools were started in the 6th Division on January 13th as a part of the general educational scheme of the A. E. F. The initial enrollment was a little less than 2,000 students, the majority of whom were men who could neither read nor write the English language. As textbooks became available this work was extended in scope until it embraced most of the high school courses and some technical and business courses.

1st. Lieut Aubrey C. Cooper of the 54th Infantry had been detailed in charge of the entire divisional educational system. By April 1 the enrollment had increased to nearly 5,000 students, at which time the 6th Division was leading the First Army in enrollment.

A letter from the Chief of Staff of the Eighth Army Corps dated Feb. 13, to the 6th Division School Officer, is an expression of appreciation of the efforts along educational lines:

"The Commanding General directs me to inform you that he has noted with pleasure the excellent educational work being accomplished by the 6th Division schools. The results attained reflect credit not only upon yourself, but also upon the school officers of the various units of your division."

Arrangements had been made during the latter part of March to combine with the 8th Army Corps in the establishment of a corps educational center for advanced instruction, but the disbanding of the 8th Corps and the 6th Division's later move to Germany caused a delay in the plans. The post schools were continued, however.

"ALL BUT THE CHANCE"

The Stars and Stripes, official weekly newspaper of the A.E.F. in its edition of March 7, 1918, offered the following unsolicited editorial comment concerning the 6th Division.

"American divisions differed from one another as night from day --- differed in methods, in character, in personality --- just as people do. But in noting their very marked differences in achievement it should be borne in mind that they differed also in opportunity. Perhaps history might have shown that they differed chiefly in opportunity.

"When the whistle blew on November 11th it stayed not only what would have been a history-making thrust toward and past Metz. It also stayed some divisional reputations that were only in the making. If that whistle had blown three months earlier many of our most famous divisions would have had no tales to tell at all. At least six of those whose records are most brilliant would now be unsung, and of these, one would have been just a rather amusing memory.

"Consider the 6th Division, which after a mild baptism in Alsace, rode and trucked and hiked all over the map of France, looking for a fight, just spoiling for a fight, till they got to calling it the 'Sight-Seeing Sixth.' It raced from Lormont to the fringe of Sedan only to find that less rather than more American troops were the need of the hour there. Then, as rumor had it that there was going to be a good chance for a scrap down Verdun-way, the 6th turned and hustled over into Lorraine, only to arrive breathless as the armistice was signed.

"The 6th had an engagement with the enemy, but the enemy didn't keep it. The armistice mussed up a lot of promising young careers. And so when the Medals of Honor are given out and the Distinguished Service Crosses pinned on, when some honor division marches in glory up a thronged Fifth Avenue, remember there were other divisions that had everything in the world a division ought to have, except a chance."

General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, reviewed the organizations of the 6th Division on the hillside near Duesme, Cote d'Or, France, on Thursday, April 10, 1919. The entire division was assembled in a grand review and inspection, being in a massed formation, and the bands of all units formed into one grand band under the direction of Lieut. Eto Innocenzy of the 54th Infantry.

General Gordon presented the division to the Commander-in-Chief, who personally inspected every unit. Afterward he addressed the division. General Pershing also decorated the following officers and men who had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross:

1st Lieut. Lynn Helm Jr., 11th Field Artillery.
 Sgt. Ray L. Ingalls, Battery E, 11th Field Artillery.
 Sgt. Thurman Lowe, Company A, 52nd Infantry.
 Cpl. Bonnie A. Atkins, Company A, 52nd Infantry.
 Cpl. Clarence E. Carroll, Company B, 52nd Infantry.
 Cpl. Lewis E. Lehman, Hdqrs. Company, 11th Field Artillery.
 Pvt. Samuel F. Gilliland, Med. Det., 11th Field Artillery.
 Pvt. Robert C. Buchanan, Company B, 54th Infantry.

The general decorated the flags of the four infantry regiments, the three machine gun battalions, the signal corps and engineers, with silver streamers in commemoration of their operations in the "Gerardmer Sector, Vosges, France, from Sept. 3rd to Oct. 12th, 1918," and in the Meuse -- Argonne offensive from Nov. 1st to 11th, 1918." The flag of the 11th Field Artillery was also decorated for the Meuse -- Argonne Offensive.

A few days later the following congratulatory letter was received:

American Expeditionary Forces,
Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
France, April 11, 1919.

Major General Walter H. Gordon,
Commanding 6th Division,
American E.F.

My dear General Gordon:

It gives me great pleasure to compliment you and through you, the officers and men of the 6th Division, on their excellent discipline and appearance at the inspection and review on April 10th. The high morale in your command is worthy of a division with your short but commendable fighting record, and is well up to the standard of the older combatant units of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Due to the circumstance, the 6th Division had but little opportunity to show its mettle in battle. Arriving in France towards the end of July it was at once sent to the area near Chateauvillain, where it trained for a period of approximately one month. It entered the Gerardmer Sector of the line on the Vosges front on the 3rd of September remaining there until it was withdrawn for the active battle toward the middle of October.

During this time it had a good experience in raids, and gave much promise of fighting ability. It joined the First Army in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, and was the reserve division in the First Corps from November 1st to the date of the enemy's artillery fire, and was used to fill the gap between the left of the First Army and the 4th French Army, which was operating to the west of the Argonne Massif.

You are about to join the Army of Occupation on the Rhine, where you will have for your companions the veteran division of the American Army. I have no doubt that all ranks will continue, as they have in the past, to live up to the high standards of conduct and discipline which marked their activities.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

JOHN J. PERSHING.

A composite regiment from the Third Army, consisting of two companies from each division in the Army of Occupation, was formed at Coblenz about May 10th. This was to be an exhibition regiment to tour Belgium and England, and the 6th Division was well represented by a selected group of officers and men -- one company from each infantry brigade.

Telegraphic instructions were received on April 7th ordering the division to prepare to go into the Army of Occupation, the movement to begin April 16th. The start was delayed, however, on account of the hastened movement of Polish troops through the American Army's area in Germany, but finally it did begin on April 28th. This was the second time the troops had been on German territory -- the first being when they occupied the Gerardmer sector in the Vosges.

The movement of the 6th Division troops into the Army of Occupation progressed slowly as only two trains a day were allowed. The division was to entrain at Chatillon, La Trecoy and Les Laumes, and the route was to be by way of Neufchateau, Commercy, St. Mihiel, Verdun, Conflans, Audun, Thionville and Trier.

Half the troops had entrained when a "stop" order was received from G.H.Q. forbidding all further movement of the 6th Division troops into the Army of Occupation.

(Note: The 1919 manuscript ends here with the final paragraphs.)

This order left the division widely separated, and this is where the division stands at the time this historical sketch is finished. There is much history still in the making. Present plans have been only halfway completed but it is not yet time to tell of their success.

Ours may be a mild history for a combat division but in years to come we can live in our own conscious approval that we have done each job as it has been given us, and this not in the glittering light of fascinating applause, but with only a sense of duty and determination to see the thing through. Others may have a more glorious record, others may bring more praise, but we can say to the best of them that we dared to do as much as they, and in what we did we were not found wanting.

(Note: The 1919 manuscript was financed for the officers and men of the 6th Division by the Y.M.C.A. as evidenced by the following letter.)

To the Commanding General, Officers and Men of the 6th Division:

It is a well known fact that the Commander-in-Chief desires that every American Soldier know, not only the larger aspects of the War, but the part his own individual organization has played therein, and also the points he has visited and the persons with whom he has been associated. The Y.M.C.A. is lending all its efforts in support of this movement.

In financing the publication of the history of our splendid Division we feel we are not only carrying out the wishes of General Pershing, but also helping the Division as a whole and each man in it individually. The history will serve in later years as a guide to failing memories, and also as a constant reminder of the appreciation and interest the Y.M.C.A. has always felt, although maybe not always apparent, in the efforts of "our boys" and "our Division". So it is with honest pride that we make this contribution.

Sixth Division Y.M.C.A.
(Signed) Edw. Proctor,
Divisional Secretary.

(From "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War --- Divisions")

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AND DEMOBILIZATION, May 20 - June 30, 1919.

May 20th, Division moves to Brest. May 25th, D.H.Q. leaves Coblenz. June 2nd, 17th M.G. Battalion, 318th Engineers and Train, 6th Ammunition Train, arrives, June 10th, at Hoboken, and moves to Camp Mills the same day. June 30th the last elements of Division, a detachment of 17th M.G. Battalion, arrived at New York. During June the emergency personnel is discharged and the Division proceeds to Camp Grant for station.

(The following is taken from information received from The Army War College, Washington, D. C.)

The Division moved to Camp Grant, Illinois, during June, 1919. Here the depleted units took up peace time duties and training. On July 23rd a detachment from the 3rd Field Artillery was sent to Fort Leavenworth to guard rebellious prisoners at the Disciplinary Barracks, returning on August 27th. On September 29th, 1919, the 6th Division Provisional Regiment, formed by men from the various units, was organized for strike duty at Omaha, Nebraska. This force returned to Camp Grant on October 15, 1919.

On September 30th, 1919, Major General George Bell, Jr., took command of the Division. Brigadier General Lucius Durfee, who had been in command of the Division from June 15th, 1919, to September 30th, retained command of the 12th Brigade

The 11th Field Artillery was the first of the regiments to leave the Division. War Department orders dated October 30th, 1920, instructed the Fifth Corps Area Commander to relieve the 11th from the 6th Division and order it to the Hawaiian Department. It left Camp Grant December 22, 1920 and arrived at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, January 13th, 1921, where it was assigned to the 11th Field Artillery Brigade.

During 1921 various units of the Division were inactivated. On September 1st, the 62nd became inactive and was absorbed by the 54th Infantry. On September 7th the 78th Field Artillery became inactive and became part of the 3rd Field Artillery. Next to go was the 51st Infantry which was inactivated on September 22nd.

The 54th Infantry was ordered to move to Fort Wayne, Michigan, on September 22nd, 1921. It marched to its new post, the 1st Battalion going by way of Camp Perry, Ohio, and the regiment by way of Fort Brady, Michigan, arriving at Fort Wayne on October 18, 1921. At Fort Brady, the regiment absorbed the 3rd Battalion, 37th Infantry and at Fort Wayne the post garrison. Detachments were stationed in Chicago from August to October of that year acting as escort for bodies of soldiers being returned from overseas. In 1922, the regiment moved from Fort Wayne to Camp Custer, Michigan, August 13th, but returned again to Fort Wayne on September 5th. At that post it was inactivated on October 24th, 1922.

The 53rd Infantry remained in Camp Grant until it was inactivated on September 23rd, 1922. Its personnel was absorbed by the 38th Infantry stationed at Camp Logan, Colorado.

The 3rd Field Artillery left Camp Grant September 26th, 1921, and arrived at Camp Knox, Kentucky. It was made inactive there on September 14th, 1922.

The 6th Division as a unit did not move from Camp Grant, but like the regiments it became inactive. On September 30th, 1921, the 6th passed from the list of active divisions and the first chapter of its history came to an end.

THE NEW SIXTH

With the increase in the size of the Army in 1939, the 6th Division was brought back into service. It was organized as a triangular division on October 12, 1939 at Fort Lewis, Washington. Its components were the 1st, 3rd and 20th Regiments of Infantry, the 1st and 80th Regiments of Field Artillery, the Headquarters and Military Police Company, the 4th Signal Company, the 8th Medical Battalion, the 7th Quartermaster Battalion and the 6th Engineer Battalion.

The 1st, 3rd and 20th Infantry regiments and the 1st Field Artillery regiment dated their histories back to 1784, 1783, 1812, and 1792 respectively. Each of these regiments had a long record of battle achievements. The 80th Field Artillery was organized in 1917 from the 22nd Cavalry, and was with the 8th Division during the World War. The 4th Signal Company traced its history back to the 8th Field Signal Battalion -- a unit of the 4th Division in 1917. It was reorganized as the 4th Signal Company in September, 1939. The 8th Medical Battalion was organized in October, 1939 with the men coming from the 1st Medical Regiment. The 7th Quartermaster Battalion came into being also in October, 1939 by the redesignation of units of the 7th Quartermaster Regiment. The 6th Engineer Battalion was organized November 1, 1939 from units of the 6th Engineer Regiment, while the Headquarters and Military Police Company was born the day the Division was reactivated, October 12, 1939. Men from the 3rd Division at Fort Lewis, from the 5th Infantry Brigade at Vancouver Barracks, and from the 4th Infantry Brigade at Cheyenne formed this unit.

Few of the units were at Fort Lewis at the time but all were soon gathered together as the new Sixth at Camp Jackson, S. C. Brigadier General Clement A. Trott was the division commander; Brigadier General W. E. Frosser was Chief of the Infantry Section, and Colonel R. C. Burleson, Chief of the Artillery Section. Colonel S. B. Buckner, Jr., was Chief of Staff.

The Division was at Camp Jackson from November, 1939 to April, 1940 when it moved to Fort Benning, Georgia. In May, 1940 it moved to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana where it joined other Regular Army divisions in the Sabine area maneuvers.

May 27, 1940 the 8th Medical Battalion was transferred to the 1st Division and the 7th Medical Battalion was transferred from the 5th to the 6th Division. This unit had been organized as the 7th Sanitary Train in 1917 and saw service in France with the First Army. After the war it was redesignated the 7th Medical Regiment and became inactive in 1921. It had been reactivated in October, 1939 as the 7th Medical Battalion.

Colonel Buckner, Chief of Staff, was transferred on May 28, 1940 and General Frosser, Chief of the Infantry Section, was transferred on June 13, 1940. Colonel Cuthbert P. Stearns, G.S.C. joined the Division on July 1, 1940, as Chief of Staff.

In June, the Division left Camp Beauregard for home stations with Division Headquarters moving to Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Shortly afterward the 4th Signal Company was redesignated the 6th Signal Company, while the 7th Medical Battalion became the 6th Medical Battalion and the 7th Quartermaster Battalion became the 6th Quartermaster Battalion.

The 6th Reconnaissance Troop, the youngest organization in the Division was organized at Fort Riley, Kansas, on August 1, 1940. After some weeks spent in building up its personnel and equipment, it became a full fledged member of the Division.

In August, the Division was again on maneuvers, this time with units of the Fourth Army at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

The 1st and 80th Field Artillery Regiments were reorganized on October 1st, the First becoming the 1st, 51st and 53rd Field Artillery Battalions (105-mm) and the Eightieth becoming the 80th Field Artillery Battalion (155-mm).

Brigadier General Ralph Talbot, Jr., joined the Division October 24, 1940 as the Division Field Artillery Commander. Brigadier General Frederick E. Uhl came the following day as the new Assistant Division Commander. Less than a week later, on October 31st, General Trott was transferred. General Talbot, as senior officer, became the Division Commander.

On January 26, 1941, Brigadier General Clarence S. Ridley came to the Division as the new Division Commander. He was promoted to Major General a few days later.

The Division today continues its training with the units widely separated. A new permanent home, however, is being constructed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and the officers and men of the command look forward to the time when the "Sight-Seeing Sixth" will again be concentrated. Meanwhile the Sixth goes on, -- moving forward to new chapters in its history.

COMPOSITION - WORLD WAR PERIOD

11th Infantry Brigade
51st Infantry
52nd Infantry
17th Machine Gun Bn.

12th Infantry Brigade
53rd Infantry
54th Infantry
18th Machine Gun Bn.

6th Field Art. Brig.
3rd Field Artillery (75)
11th Field Artillery (155)
6th Trench Mortar Battery

Divisional Troops
16th Machine Gun Battalion
318th Engineers
6th Field Signal Battalion
Headquarters Troop

Trains
6th Train Headquarters and Military Police
6th Ammunition Train
6th Supply Train
318th Engineer Train (Ambulance Companies
and Field Hospitals 20,37,38,40)

ATTACHED

153rd FA Brig and 303rd Amm Tr (78th Div) Meuse-Argonne Operation and in the
area of the former Neptune Sector
Nov 6-Dec 7, 1918.

DETACHED

6th FA Brig	Training in Le Valdahon Area, July 29-Oct 12, 1918.
6th FA Brig (less 11th FA)	Training at Liffol-le-Grand, Oct 13-Dec 4, 1918.
11th FA	Training at Le Valdahon, Oct 13-19, 1918; with 58th FA Brig (33rd Div) supporting 89th Div during Meuse-Argonne Operation, Oct 26-Nov 11, 1918; in Nov 12-Dec 10, 1918.

COMPOSITION - PRESENT

1st Infantry
3rd Infantry
20th Infantry

1st Field Artillery Battalion (105)
51st Field Artillery Battalion (105)
53rd Field Artillery Battalion (105)
80th Field Artillery Battalion (155)

Headquarters and Military Police Company, 6th Division

6th Reconnaissance Troop
6th Signal Company
6th Engineer Battalion
6th Quartermaster Battalion
6th Medical Battalion

SIXTH DIVISION COMMANDERS

DIVISION COMMANDERS

1917 - Nov. 26 Colonel Charles E. Tayman (ad interim)
Dec. 29 Brigadier General James B. Erwin
1918 - Aug. 28 Major General Walter H. Gordon
1919 - Mar. 27 Brigadier General William R. Dashiell (ad interim)
Mar. 29 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee (ad interim)
Apr. 10 Major General Walter H. Gordon
Apr. 18 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee (ad interim)
Apr. 21 Major General Walter H. Gordon
June 15 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee (ad interim)
Sept. 30 Major General George Bell, Jr.
through
1921 - Sept. 30

1939 - Sept. 18 Brigadier General Clement A. Trott
1940 - Nov. 1 Brigadier General Ralph Talbot, Jr.
Dec. 22 Brigadier General Frederick E. Uhl (ad interim)
1941 - Jan. 2 Brigadier General Ralph Talbot, Jr.
Jan. 26 Major General Clarence S. Ridley

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COMMANDERS 11th INFANTRY BRIGADE

1917 - Dec. 4 Major Walter Harvey
Dec. 29 Brigadier General Charles H. Barth
1918 - Jan. 1 Brigadier General Joseph A. Gaston
Mar. 30 Colonel Ernest V. Smith
May 12 Brigadier General William R. Dashiell
1919 - Mar. 8 Colonel Ernest V. Smith
Mar. 22 Brigadier General William R. Dashiell
Mar. 29 Colonel Thomas H. Slavens (ad interim)
Apr. 14 Colonel Ernest V. Smith (ad interim)
Apr. 17 Colonel Thomas H. Slavens (ad interim)
Apr. 22 Colonel Ernest V. Smith (ad interim)
Apr. 25 Colonel Thomas H. Slavens (ad interim)
Apr. 29 Colonel Ernest V. Smith (ad interim)
May 5 Brigadier General William R. Dashiell
June 13 Senior Regimental Officers
June 24 Brigadier General William K. Naylor
Aug. 3 Senior Regimental Officers
Oct. 5 Colonel Carl Reichmann
1921 - June 28 Colonel Frank B. Watson
through
Aug. 31

COMMANDERS 12th INFANTRY BRIGADE

1917 - Nov. 29 Colonel Charles E. Tayman (ad interim)
Dec. 29 Brigadier General James B. Erwin
1918 - June 21 Colonel Charles E. Tayman (ad interim)
June 24 Colonel Mathias Crowley (ad interim)
Aug. 28 Brigadier General James B. Erwin
Dec. 14 Colonel Mathias Crowley (ad interim)

1919 - Jan. 15 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee
 Mar. 3 Colonel Mathias Crowley (ad interim)
 Mar. 17 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee
 Apr. 25 Colonel Mathias Crowley (ad interim)
 Apr. 28 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee
 May 14 Colonel Mathias Crowley (ad interim)
 May 17 Brigadier General Lucius L. Durfee
 Nov. 10 Colonel E. S. Butts
 1920 - Oct. 12 Lieut. Colonel C. A. Trott
 Nov. 14 Colonel W. P. Jackson
 Dec. 20 Brigadier General William H. Sage
 through
 1921 - Sept.

COMMANDERS 6th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

1918 - Apr. 4 Brigadier General Edward A. Miller
 Oct. 27 Lieut. Colonel Ballard Lysterly (ad interim)
 Nov. 4 Colonel Willard D. Newbill (ad interim)
 Nov. 8 Brigadier General Edward A. Miller
 1919 - Mar. 24 Colonel Willard D. Newbill (ad interim)
 Mar. 30 Brigadier General Edward A. Miller
 Mar. 31 Colonel Willard D. Newbill (ad interim)
 May 7 Brigadier General Edward A. Miller
 June 23 Colonel Willard D. Newbill
 Aug. 14 Colonel Lucien G. Berry
 1920 - Sept. 11 Lieut. Colonel L. T. Boissard
 Nov. 7 Colonel Willard D. Newbill
 through
 1921 - Sept.

INFANTRY ADVISOR

1939 - Nov. 18 Brigadier General Walter E. Prosser
 to
 1940 - June 13

ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER

1940 - Oct. 15 Brigadier General Frederick E. Uhl

ARTILLERY ADVISOR

1939 - Nov. 21 Colonel Richard C. Burleson
 to
 1940 - Nov. 23

DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY COMMANDER

1940 - Nov. 24 Brigadier General Ralph Talbot, Jr.

CHIEF OF STAFF

1917 - Dec. 17 Colonel James N. Pickering
1918 - June 17 Lieut Colonel William B. Graham (Acting)
July 1 Colonel James N. Pickering
Aug. 21 Lieut. Colonel William B. Graham (Acting)
Aug. 22 Colonel Joseph W. Beachman, Jr.
1919 - May 30 Lieut. Colonel Vaughn W. Cooper (Acting)
June 15 Lieut. Colonel W. H. Simpson
1920 - Sept. 7 Lieut Colonel Lawrence Halstead
1921 - Jan. 28 Colonel Francis Le J. Parker
July 1 Major Charles Telford (Acting)
Aug. 26 Colonel Frank B. Watson (Acting)
through
Sept.

1939 - Nov. 21 Colonel Simon B. Buckner, Jr.
1940 - July 1 Colonel Cuthbert P. Stearns

STATIONS

1917 - Camp McClellan, Alabama
1918 - Mar. 10 Camp Forrest, Georgia
May 10 Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina
July 1 Camp Mills, New York
July 7 S. S. Desna
July 22 Le Havre, Seine-Inferieure, France
July 23 Chateaufvillain, Haute-Marn
Aug. 27 Renurimont, Vosges
Sept. 3 ~~Gorgardmor~~, Vosges
Sept. 23 Le Collet, Alsace
Oct. 26 Beauchamp Fmc, Meuse
Nov. 2 Champ - Mahaut, Meuse
Nov. 4 Grandpre, Ardennes
Nov. 5 Authie
Nov. 6 Stonne
Nov. 9 Germont
Nov. 10 Grandpre
Nov. 11 Champ - Mahaut, Meuse
Nov. 20 Ancerville
Nov. 30 Aignay-le-Due, Cote-d'Or
1919 - Apr. 30 Bad Bertrich, Germany
May 28 Brest, Finistere, France
June 3 SS Lt. Vernon
June 10 Camp Mills, New York
June 17 Camp Grant, Illinois
through
1921 - Sept.

1939 - Oct. Camp Lewis, Washington
Nov. Camp Jackson, South Carolina
1940 - Apr. Fort Benning, Georgia
May Camp Beauregard, Louisiana
June Fort Snelling, Minnesota
Aug. Camp Ripley, Minnesota
Sept. Fort Snelling, Minnesota