

the finish of the fight. During this offensive the Second Division was in support at Beauvais, but their co-operation was not needed.

The great force of the German Chateau Thierry offensive established the deep Marne salient, but the enemy was taking chances and the vulnerability of this pocket to attack might be turned to his disadvantage. General Pershing seized this opportunity to support his conviction and every division with any sort of training was made available for use in a counter offensive. The place of honor in a thrust towards Soissons on July 18 was given to the First and Second Divisions, the two veteran American Divisions, in company with chosen French divisions. Without the usual brief warning of a preliminary bombardment, the massed French and American artillery laid down its rolling barrage at dawn, firing by the map while the infantry began its charge. The tactical handling of our troops by General Mangin, of whose Tenth Army we were a part, was excellent throughout the action. The enemy brought up large numbers of reserves and made stubborn defense both with machine guns and artillery, but through five days fighting the First Division continued to advance until it had gained the heights above Soissons and captured the village of Berzy-le-sec. The Second Division took Beau Repaire farm and Vierzy in a very rapid advance and reached a position in front of Tigny at the end of its second day. These two divisions captured seven thousand prisoners and several hundred pieces of artillery, not to mention heavy casualties inflicted upon the enemy.

The First and Second Divisions each lost between seven and eight thousand casualties, mostly slightly wounded and very few prisoners; the First Division in five days fighting and the Second Division in two days.

French and American divisions took alternate positions along the Chateau Thierry salient from Soissons to Rheims. On the right of the First Division, between the First and Second Divisions was a French Algerian and Moroccan Division. They took no prisoners; however, they kept up with the rest of us.

On retiring from the Second Battle of the Marne we went to a sector near Pont-a-Mousson which was near the Toul sector which we had first visited. The ground at this place was comparatively familiar to the men. While here we received replacements and a good rest as the sector was very quiet. Preparations were then in order for the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, when I received orders to return to the United States.

Upon my return to the United States I spent a short time at Camp Humphreys, Va., and was ordered to the Chief of Engineer's office in Washington for duty as Liaison Officer from the training section to the General Staff at the Army War College. On December 9, 1918, I received my discharge from the service after a year's service overseas, having been in the military service since May 8, 1917.

Part of the record of the First Division is taken from General Pershing's narrative report to the Secretary of War.

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