

DAWN of the RED ARROW

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 32ND "RED ARROW" DIVISION AND THE WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR I

DAWN of the RED ARROW



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A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

This work is not a perfect historical document. While much time and effort has gone into research, — including visits to the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and the Wisconsin National Guard Museum — capturing every Soldier's story, showing images from every training event or battle, is a near-impossible task.

Rather, what we have tried to accomplish is present the overall timeline, and illustrate the journey from the Mexican Border Crisis to Armistice Day with images and observations from eye-witnesses — members of the 32nd Division.

We believe that the history of the 32nd Division is significant in that it reflects a major turning point for the National Guard as a military component. The National Guard provided 17 divisions toward the Army's manpower for World War I, and many National Guard divisions — including the 32nd Division from Wisconsin and Michigan — performed admirably on the battlefield. Of Gen. John "Blackjack" Pershing's seven favored divisions, four were National Guard — 26th, 28th, 32nd and 42nd.

The hard-won legacy from 100 years ago remains to this day. The National Guard is the state's first military responder, and America's primary combat reserve at the federal level. This is but a part of its proud history.

Maj. Brian J. Faltinson, project supervisor/historian
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PRELUDE TO WAR: The Mexican Border Crisis



Men from the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment stand in formation while serving on Mexican Border service near San Antonio, Texas in 1916. Photo courtesy Wisconsin Veterans Museum

The flames of war had been raging in Europe for more than a year and a half when the United States, trying to maintain its neutrality in the First World War, faced a national crisis on its own southern border.

Insurrectionist violence in post-revolutionary Mexico threatened communities on the United States' side of the Mexican border — a region long victimized by cross-border bandit raids, and recently threatened by a "Plan of San Diego" to launch ethnic cleansing as part of reclaiming former Mexican territory.

The United States' decision to formally recognize Venustiano Carranza as the legitimate leader of Mexico in 1915 prompted Francisco "Pancho" Villa — who along with Carranza and Emiliano Zapata fought to overthrow President Victoriano Hugo — to raid the U.S. border town of Columbus, New Mexico March 8-9, 1916 in an attempt to undermine Carranza's legitimacy.

Villa's attack killed 18 Americans and

generated demands for punitive measures. Some U.S. citizens, hoping to avoid war in Europe, were not eager to start a war with Mexico. President Woodrow Wilson, recognizing the difficulty of guarding an expansive, open border, decided on a quick punitive expedition into Mexico — led by Brig. Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing — despite the risk of aggravating relations with the Carranza government.

However, the expedition's supply and communication lines into Mexico proved a vulnerability, and also drew resources away from border security. Hostility from Mexican locals and Carranza supporters threatened to divert the expedition from its original mission to hunt down Pancho Villa. Wilson called up 4,500 National Guard troops from Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, and Carranza prepared for war, telling his military commanders in northern Mexico to engage any U.S. troops crossing the border.

Meanwhile, Plan of San Diego raiders attacked Glen Springs and Boquillas, Texas, on May 6, 1916. Some in Carranza's military were suspected of supporting these raids.

Wilson called up the entire National Guard in response to this volatile environment.

"The mobilization was the outcome of a national emergency demanding extra military service beyond that which could be furnished by the regular Army," Brig. Gen. William A. Mann, the Militia Bureau chief, wrote in a 1916 report on the mobilization effort. "The regular Army on the Mexican border could be [reinforced] no other way."

Wisconsin Gov. Emanuel Philip received a War Department telegram June 18, 1916 citing "the possibility of further aggression upon the territory of the United States from Mexico and the necessity for the proper protection of that frontier" in announcing the activation of three infantry regiments, one cavalry troop, one field artillery battery and one field hospital. The approximately 4,000 Wisconsin National Guard troops mustered at Camp Williams June 22, and took an oath of federal service June 30. The majority of Wisconsin troops departed for Camp Wilson, near San Antonio, Texas, the following day — the field hospital followed a few days later.

By the end of June, 60,000 National Guard troops were serving along the border, and by the end of July that number rose to about 112,000. They found themselves charged with guarding the border from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.

But the Guard mobilized with the expectation of hostilities, underscored by their subsequent training along the border. Upon arrival, National Guard troops spent nearly a month marching in full gear in the summer heat, often to and from firing ranges, where they would encamp for days. The First Illinois Regiment suffered extensive heat casualties during a 25-mile march in late July, which appeared to motivate other units to persevere.

"Longer and faster hikes were taken by all three Wisconsin regiments today," the



Francisco "Pancho" Villa in 1914. Photo courtesy Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Milwaukee Journal reported. "The poor showing of the Illinois troops in their first day's hike Monday, July 24th, has aroused the Wisconsin officers and enlisted men to greater effort." The marches continued and grew in length, and one Wisconsin officer declared his men "hard as rocks" after three months on border duty. By the end of September, Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers joined fellow Guardsmen from Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Texas on a 15-day, 166-mile march from San Antonio to New Braunfels, Texas — a journey that saw the weather change from extreme heat to hurricane conditions.

"The march also demonstrates how skillfully these civilians were transposed into an army of fighting men after a preparation of only two and a half months," Col. Moses Thisted of the Third Wisconsin wrote. "Another outstanding feature of this great march was the splendid manner in which the supply trains have been kept moving day and night."

The National Guard built camps along the border, guarded towns and infrastructure, improved fortifications and manned listening posts along the Rio Grande. They also engaged in mock battles to hone tactics. One such engagement had 14,000 troops march against New Braunfels with 4,000 troops in defense. When the exercise was over, troops had expended more than 80,000 rounds of blank ammunition in what the *Milwaukee Journal* described as a "magnificent spectacle."



Extended road marches were routine for the men of the Wisconsin 2nd Infantry Regiment during Mexican Border service in 1916. Photo courtesy Wisconsin Veterans Museum

The National Guard's presence and activity brought further Mexican raids to a stop, and appeared to influence Carranza as well.

"The National Guard was Wilson's last resort for averting war with Mexico," Maj. Brent Orr, of the North Carolina National Guard, wrote in a 2011 monograph for the Army War College. "Within days, Carranza changed his position and used his influence to impact cessation of the Plan of San Diego raids."

Carranza allowed the punitive expedition to continue, with some limitations, and his military began an aggressive campaign against Villa — finally defeating Villa's forces in January 1917 at Jimenez. The U.S. punitive expedition left Mexico by Feb. 5.

National Guard units had begun returning to their home states in the fall of 1916 — Wisconsin's Battery A, 1st Field Artillery and Troop A, 1st Cavalry returned to the state in October. The 3rd Infantry Regiment followed on Dec. 14. The Wisconsin National Guard's field hospital and 1st Infantry returned in January, the 2nd Infantry in February, and Troop B, 1st Cavalry — which replaced Troop A in October — returned to Wisconsin in early March.

The War Department recognized the National Guard's service in a Dec. 20, 1916 letter to the Wisconsin National Guard.

"When the National Guard was called into the service of the federal government, the lives of men, women and children along the frontier were in grave danger, owing to the formidable bandit raid from the Mexican side of the boundary," Secretary of War Newton Baker wrote. "It is not too much to say that had these raids continued, there was danger of international war. From the time of the arrival of the units of the National Guard on the border, the raids ceased and the tension between the two countries began to relax."

Months of border service not only provided vital training and mobilization experience to National Guard troops, it identified and addressed shortcomings in the federal supply system.

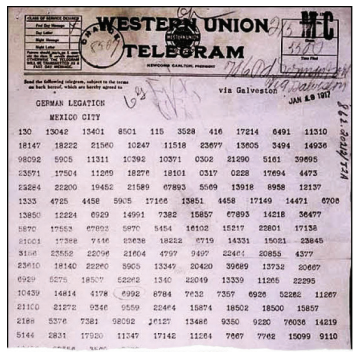
The lessons learned at the border would soon go into use. In January 1917 Germany sought an alliance with Mexico against the United States, and the discovery of the "Zimmerman telegram" led to the United States declaring war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

INVITATION TO WAR: The Zimmermann Telegram

As National Guard units from Wisconsin and across the country returned home from Mexican border duty, German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a coded telegram to Heinrich von Eckardt, Germany's ambassador to Mexico. The telegram instructed Eckardt to enlist Mexican assistance should the United States enter World War I in support of the Allies.

"We make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis," the Jan. 19, 1917 telegram stated. "Make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona."

Germany intended to resume submarine warfare in the Atlantic as part of its campaign to choke the supply train to England, and was concerned that doing so would draw the United States into the war at last. Germany had sought to



WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

via Galveston

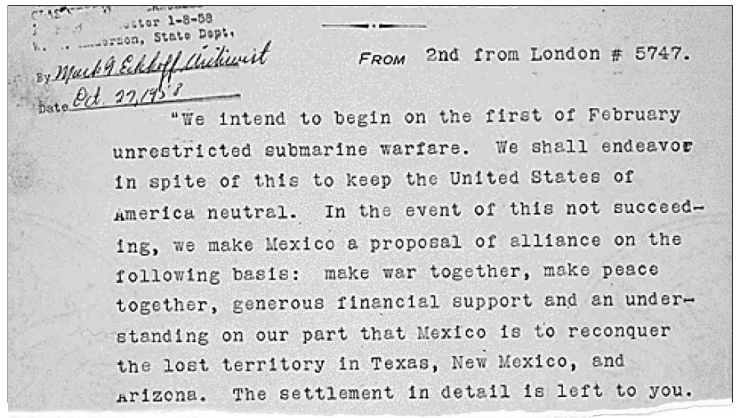
JAN 19 1917

GERMAN LEGATION

MEXICO CITY

130 13042 13401 8501 115 3528 416 17214 6491 11310
18147 18222 21560 10247 11518 23677 13605 3494 14936
98092 5905 11311 10392 10371 0302 21290 5161 39695
23571 17504 11269 18276 18101 0317 0228 17694 4473
22284 22200 19452 21589 67893 5569 13918 8958 12137
1333 4725 4458 5905 17166 13851 4458 17149 14471 6706
13850 12224 6929 14991 7382 15857 67893 14218 36477
5870 17553 67893 5870 5454 16102 15217 22801 17138
21001 17388 7446 23638 18222 6719 14331 15021 23845
3186 23552 22096 21604 4797 9497 22464 20855 4377
23610 18140 22260 5905 13347 20420 39689 13732 20667
6929 5275 18507 52262 1340 22049 13339 11265 22295
10439 14814 4178 6992 8784 7632 7357 6926 52262 11267
21100 21272 9346 9559 22464 15874 18502 18500 15857
2188 5376 7381 98092 16127 13486 9350 9220 76036 14219
5144 2831 17920 11347 17142 11264 7667 7762 15099 9110

The Zimmermann telegram, coded (above) and translated (right). National Archives



...ter 1-8-58
...erson, State Dept.
By Mark G. Eckhoff Archivist
Date Oct. 22, 1958

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you.

provoke war between Mexico and the United States since 1914, beginning with Mexican president Victoriano Huerta before he was ousted by a popular uprising. Diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico were strained since the Mexican-American war of the 19th century, and Mexico was a volatile country in the grip of civil war in the early 20th century.

British military intelligence intercepted and decoded the telegram, and recognized that the telegram might persuade the United States to end its neutrality and declare war on Germany. But publicizing the contents of the telegram risked revealing how British intelligence obtained the information. It took weeks to develop a suitable cover story, and on Feb. 19 British intelligence shared the telegram with the U.S. ambassador in Britain. U.S. officials verified the authenticity of the telegram and reported the information to President Woodrow Wilson, who shared the information with the media on Feb. 28.

Dr. Rebecca Matzke, associate history professor at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, said Wilson did not seriously believe Mexico would agree to attack the United States at Germany's request.

"However, he seems to have taken it as a sign that Germany would never accept a negotiated peace," Matzke said, "which is what he had been trying for up to the end of 1916."

Mexican President Venustiano Carranza assembled a military commission to determine if the Zimmermann telegram's proposals were possible. The commission determined that prevailing military and diplomatic factors, as well as unreliable financial promises from Germany, argued against accepting Germany's proposal.

The telegram also sought Mexican help to enlist Japan's aid on behalf of Germany.

The American public was initially skeptical the telegram was authentic. Irish and German pockets of the American population were biased against Britain. But Zimmermann himself confirmed the telegram was authentic to an American journalist on March 3, and again during a March 29 speech in Germany.

DECLARATION OF WAR: America decides to fight



The iconic U.S. Army recruiting posted by James Montgomery Flagg was created in 1917 to help grow the U.S. Army for its upcoming entry into World War I. Public domain

"We are now about to accept gauge of battle with this natural foe to liberty and shall, if necessary, spend the whole force of the nation to check and nullify its pretensions and its power … There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance."

President Woodrow Wilson spoke those words to Congress during an extraordinary session held April 2, 1917, wherein he made his case for declaring war against Germany. Having previously pursued a neutral position as the Great War raged on in Europe, the discovery of the Zimmermann telegram led Wilson to acknowledge that the United States could no longer avoid war. Congress agreed four days later.


GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

LAST EDITION

16 PAGES — GREEN BAY, WIS., FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1917. — 5 O'CLOCK — PRICE THREE CENTS

WAR IS DECLARED!!

PRESIDENT WILSON SIGNS DECLARATION AT 1:11P.M.

GERMAN SHIPS AND CREWS IN U. S. SEIZED; ENEMY U-BOATS IN GULF OF MEXICO

GERMAN SUBMARINES READY TO ATTACK UNITED STATES

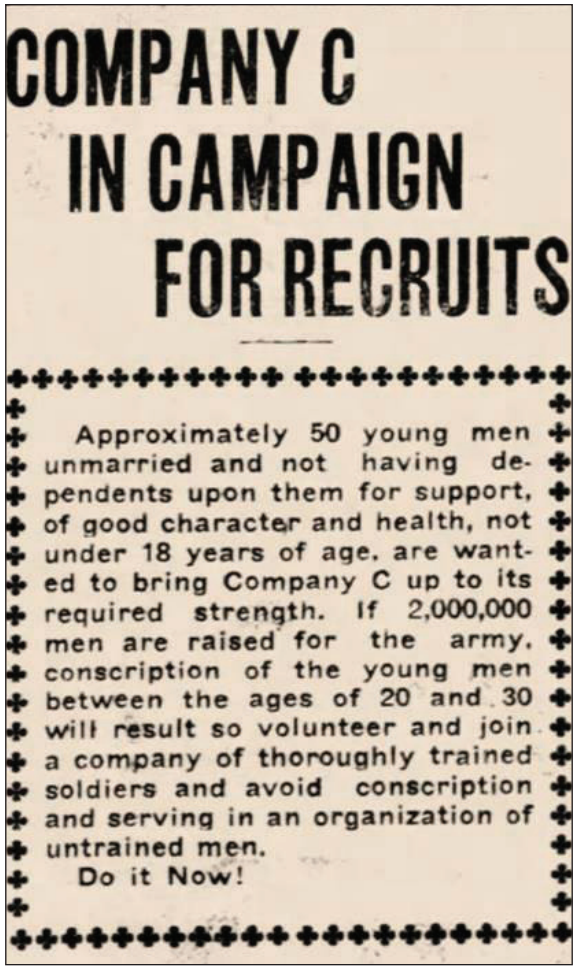
STATE OF WAR BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND GERMANY IN EFFECT WITH SIGNING OF PAPER

N. C. PICKARD

The Wisconsin National Guard had quite recently completed several months on federal orders along the Mexican border, and had been returning to Wisconsin from late 1916 to March 1917. Gov. Emanuel Phillip received a telegram from U.S. Secretary of War Newton Baker on March 25, 1917, ordering the Wisconsin National Guard's 3rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment — one of the first Wisconsin National Guard units to return from Mexican border service — to federal duty guarding railroad bridges and tunnels in western Wisconsin and iron ore docks along Lake Superior.

The demand for Wisconsin National Guard troops was much higher for war in Europe than that required for Mexican border service. Existing units began recruiting to swell their ranks, while other communities across the Dairy State began forming units from scratch. Adjutant General Orlando

In 1917 the United States Army had fewer than 120,000 Soldiers, and national defense policy required augmenting the Army with the National Guard before a national draft was started. This allowed Guard units to recruit members — and in some cases, start new companies — before the draft.



COMPANY C
IN CAMPAIGN
FOR RECRUITS

Approximately 50 young men unmarried and not having dependents upon them for support, of good character and health, not under 18 years of age, are wanted to bring Company C up to its required strength. If 2,000,000 men are raised for the army, conscription of the young men between the ages of 20 and 30 will result so volunteer and join a company of thoroughly trained soldiers and avoid conscription and serving in an organization of untrained men.

Do it Now!

Holway began organizing a fourth infantry regiment the day after war was declared, beginning with existing separate infantry companies in Janesville and Chippewa. According to a *Wausau Daily Herald* article dated April 7, 1917, Holway planned to organize a fifth infantry regiment once the fourth was completed, and then reallocate subordinate companies regionally.

Scott Cairy of Platteville, Wisconsin, who had previous experience in the Iowa National Guard, organized Company I, 4th Wisconsin Infantry shortly after April 6, 1917.

"I called the governor, and he directed me to the adjutant general," Cairy said in an audio interview on file with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. "The adjutant general informed me to get 150 men as rapidly as I could get 'em. We wound up with 202 men — we had enlisted about 300, but 202 passed the physical examination. I was commissioned first lieutenant."

Cairy's Company I was initially part of the fourth Wisconsin regiment.

The 2nd Wisconsin



Brig. Gen. Orlando Holway, Wisconsin's adjutant general from 1913-1923. Wisconsin National Guard photo

Regiment's Company C, based in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, had returned from Mexican border duty Feb. 28, and used that fact to recruit 50 more Soldiers by touting that they were a trained and experienced unit. An advertisement in the April 7, 1917 *Sheboygan Press* called for young, unmarried men without dependents at least 18 years of age, of good character and health.

"Avoid conscription and



BEGINS FORMATION OF NEW REGIMENT

Separate Infantry Companies At Chippewa and Janesville Furnish Nucleus

Madison, April 7. — Adjutant General Holway has started building the Fourth Wisconsin infantry regiment. Starting with separate infantry companies at Chippewa and Janesville, as a nucleus Holway has added three companies, one each at Platteville, Waukesha and Milwaukee. The completion of another company at Milwaukee was announced last night. It will be made up of Poles and commanded by Civil Judge M. F. Blensky, Milwaukee. It is certain that the following towns will contribute companies to the fourth regiment: Antigo, Menasha, Waupaca and Shawano. Each new company as it is formed will be placed in the fourth

serving in an organization of untrained men," the ad warned.

In another four months, 15,000 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers would be heading to Camp MacArthur in Waco, Texas, where they would join with 8,000 Soldiers from the Michigan National Guard to form the 32nd Division.

PREPARING FOR WAR: Mustering the troops

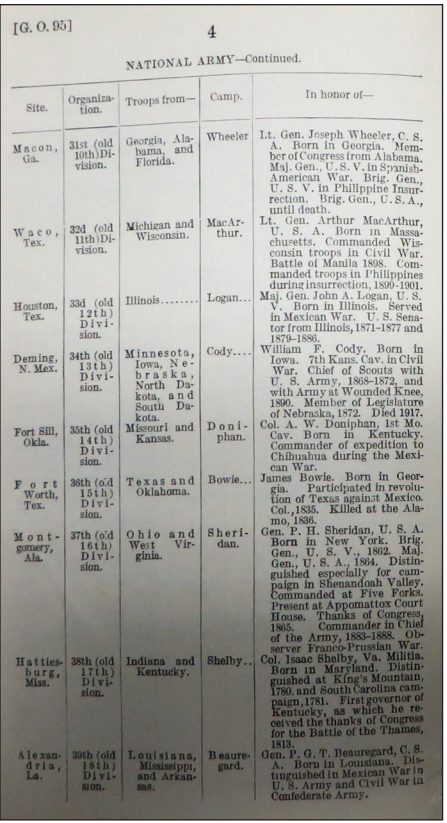


In communities across Wisconsin, National Guard Soldiers marched through downtown streets to train depots as they headed to the Wisconsin Military Reservation to begin preparing for their eventual entrance to World War I.

As the Third Infantry Regiment was guarding ore docks, bridges and tunnels, the rest of the Wisconsin National Guard was busy growing to wartime strength. A year earlier, about 4,000 Soldiers headed to Texas for Mexican Border service. By July 15, when federal service began, the Wisconsin National Guard had 15,266 men in its ranks.

General Order 95 was published July 18, 1917, creating 32 divisions — 16 Regular Army and 16 National Guard. The order also detailed which state National Guard organizations would comprise each division, and where those divisions would train.

The Wisconsin National Guard would supply 15,000 men and the Michigan National Guard another 8,000 to form the 32nd Division at Camp MacArthur in Waco, Texas. Camp MacArthur was named after Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, a Civl War Medal



[G. O. 95] 4

NATIONAL ARMY—Continued.

Site.	Organization.	Troops from—	Camp.	In honor of—
Macon, Ga.	31st (old 10th) Division.	Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.	Wheeler	Lt. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. A. Born in Georgia. Member of Congress from Alabama. Maj. Gen., U. S. V. in Spanish-American War. Brig. Gen., U. S. V. in Philippine Insurrection. Brig. Gen., U. S. A., until death.
Waco, Tex.	32d (old 11th) Division.	Michigan and Wisconsin.	MacArthur.	Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, U. S. A. Born in Massachusetts. Commanded Wisconsin troops in Civil War. Battle of Manila 1898. Commanded troops in Philippines during insurrection, 1899-1901.
Houston, Tex.	33d (old 12th) Division.	Illinois.....	Logan...	Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, U. S. V. Born in Illinois. Served in Mexican War. U. S. Senator from Illinois, 1871-1877 and 1879-1886.
Deming, N. Mex.	34th (old 13th) Division.	Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.	Cody....	William F. Cody. Born in Iowa. 7th Kans. Cav. in Civil War. Chief of Scouts with U. S. Army, 1868-1872, and with Army at Wounded Knee, 1890. Member of Legislature of Nebraska, 1872. Died 1917.
Fort Sill, Okla.	35th (old 14th) Division.	Missouri and Kansas.	Doniphan.	Col. A. W. Doniphan, 1st Mo. Cav. Born in Kentucky. Commander of expedition to Chihuahua during the Mexican War.
Fort Worth, Tex.	36th (old 15th) Division.	Texas and Oklahoma.	Bowie...	James Bowie. Born in Georgia. Participated in revolution of Texas against Mexico. Col., 1835. Killed at the Alamo, 1836.
Montgomery, Ala.	37th (old 16th) Division.	Ohio and West Virginia.	Sheridan.	Gen. P. H. Sheridan, U. S. A. Born in New York. Brig. Gen., U. S. V., 1862. Maj. Gen., U. S. A., 1864. Distinguished especially for campaign in Shenandoah Valley. Commanded at Five Forks. Present at Appomattox Court House. Thanks of Congress, 1865. Commander in Chief of the Army, 1883-1888. Observer Franco-Prussian War.
Hattiesburg, Miss.	38th (old 17th) Division.	Indiana and Kentucky.	Shelby..	Col. Isaac Shelby, Va. Militia. Born in Maryland. Distinguished at King's Mountain, 1780, and South Carolina campaign, 1781. First governor of Kentucky, as which he received the thanks of Congress for the Battle of the Thames, 1813.
Alexandria, La.	39th (old 18th) Division.	Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.	Beauregard.	Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, C. S. A. Born in Louisiana. Distinguished in Mexican War in U. S. Army and Civil War in Confederate Army.

General Order 95 created 16 National Army divisions and 16 National Guard divisions for World War I, and established their training sites.

of Honor recipient with the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment, who also commanded troops during the Spanish-American War as well as the Philippine Insurrection.

However, the 32nd Division existed only on paper as of July 18. Wisconsin National Guard troops were still assembling at their respective armories across the state to prepare for travel to the Wisconsin Military Reservation near Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. Sheboygan, Wisconsin's Company C, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment is one example.

Many of the men of Company C awoke at 4 a.m. to walk to Lake Michigan for a final sunrise and, as one Soldier said, "just to get a last look at the lake." At 6 a.m., Soldiers and their families gathered at the armory, where 1st Sgt. Leo Marks called the unit into formation. Each Soldier responded loudly when Marks called their name.

"Company, attention!" bellowed Capt. Paul Schmidt, Company C's commander and a unit member since 1898. Schmidt marched the



In communities across Wisconsin, families and friends turned out to bid farewell to their hometown Soldiers as they departed for the Wisconsin Military Reservation near Camp Douglas, Wis. Volk Field occupies much of the old Wisconsin Military Reservation today. Portage County Historical Society photo

company out of the armory, its veteran members in front carrying packs and rifles, followed by its new recruits. The Sheboygan city band and a contingent of Company C's Spanish-American War veterans marched ahead.

As many as 15,000 packed Sheboygan's downtown as the procession made its way to the train station. Once there, the men were given a final 15 minutes to say their goodbyes to family and friends. As the train departed, the city band played "On Wisconsin."

The first sentence of the front-page story in the Aug. 6, 1917 *Sheboygan Press* read: "Company C has gone to war." More accurately, Company C had begun the first leg of a journey that would ultimately wind through the battlefields of France, and then Germany.

In his 1939 *Historical Sketch of the Wisconsin National Guard*, Lt. Col. Bryon Beveridge wrote that the Wisconsin National Guard had grown to exceed 15,250 troops by July 15, but most lacked uniforms. The state of Wisconsin "contracted and purchased from commercial supply houses 10,000 uniforms and such other articles as were required to completely outfit the troops which have been mobilized. As a result of this policy, all Wisconsin National Guard organizations left for Southern and Eastern training camps fully uniformed and equipped for field service."

Unlike today, federal law at the time prohibited National Guard units from deploying overseas. Therefore the National Guard was to be drafted into the Regular Army Aug. 5, 1917. For Wisconsin Soldiers, this took place in the Officer's Club at the Wisconsin Military Reservation.

While General Order 95 called for creating 32 divisions,

enough National Guard units across the nation remained to form a 17th National Guard division — the 42nd, under the command of Militia Bureau chief Brig. Gen. William Mann. Maj. Douglas MacArthur, son of Arthur MacArthur and the division's chief of staff, had recommended creating the additional division, and said "the 42nd Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other." Thus, the nickname for the division.

The 42nd Division was created to settle the question of which state would send the first division to France. However, the 26th "Yankee" Division, comprised of units from six New England states, claimed that honor when it arrived in France in late September 1917.

Wisconsin's Second Infantry Regiment contributed three companies — Company E from Fond du Lac, Company F from Oshkosh and Company G from Appleton — along with Soldiers from Oconto's Company M to form the 150th Machine Gun Battalion that would become part of the 42nd Division. The 150th departed Camp Douglas by train Sept. 4, 1917 for Camp Mills, New York, and would arrive in France in November 1917.



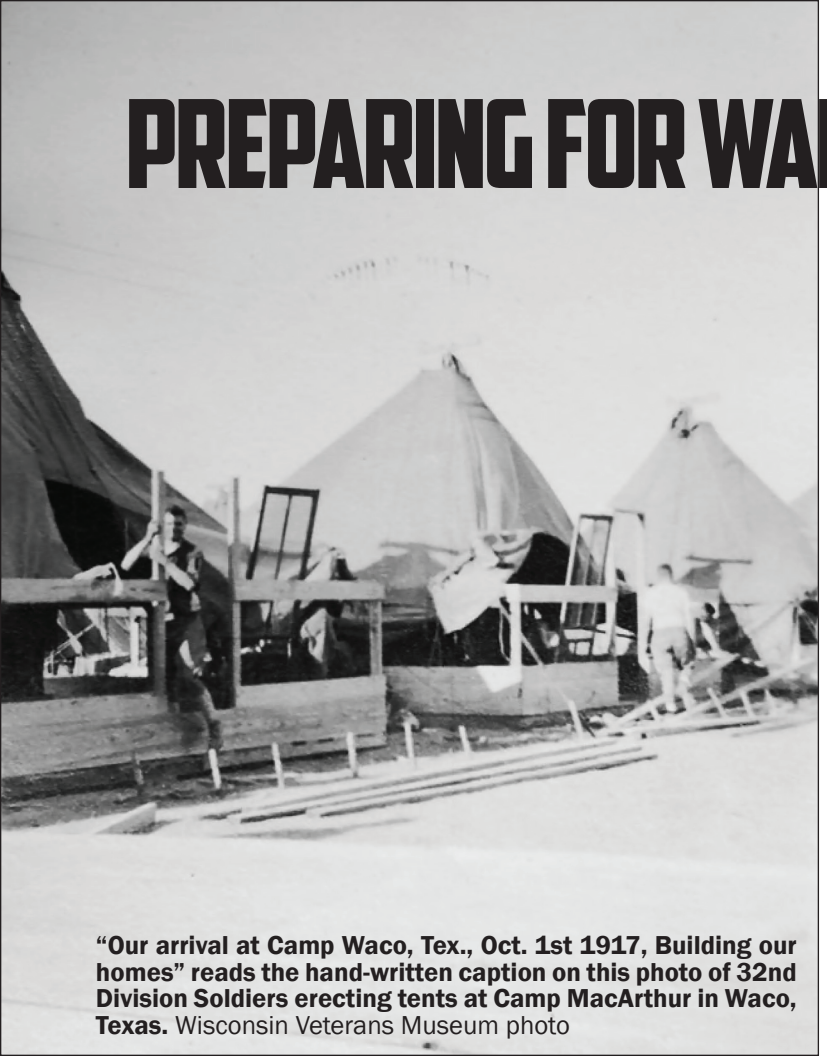


The Wisconsin Military Reservation, near Camp Douglas, Wis., in September 1917. Established in 1888, the training site today hosts Volk Field Air National Guard Base, but maintains its Army National Guard ties with the 32nd Brigade headquarters.

After the war, the units of the 150th Machine Gun Battalion rejoined the Wisconsin National Guard, becoming part of the 127th Infantry Regiment. In 1927 the 127th incorporated a rainbow into its unit insignia to recognize its service as part of the 42nd Division in World War I.

The Wisconsin National Guard's time at the Wisconsin Military Reservation consisted of receiving uniforms and equipment, completing medical tests and vaccinations, 10-mile hikes with full packs, lectures on military topics, laundry, chores and organized sports. In early September, led by the 150th Machine Gun Battalion, units began leaving for the temporary Army bases established to provide their combat training — upon arrival, units had to build their own quarters and mess hall. Sheboygan's Company C would be the last unit to depart the Wisconsin Military Reservation in the last week of September, boarding a train in Camp Douglas for a three-day trip to Camp MacArthur near Waco, Texas. ‡

PREPARING FOR WAR: Building the 32nd Division



“Our arrival at Camp Waco, Tex., Oct. 1st 1917, Building our homes” reads the hand-written caption on this photo of 32nd Division Soldiers erecting tents at Camp MacArthur in Waco, Texas. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

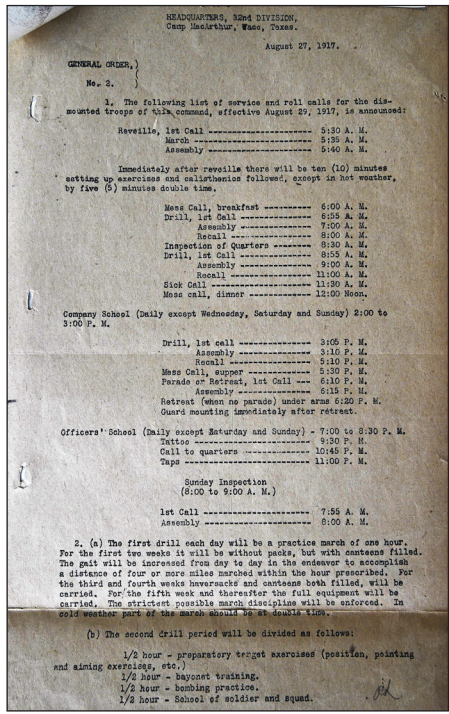
Putting men in uniforms and getting them from Wisconsin and Michigan to Camp MacArthur, Texas, was only the beginning. Despite the valuable experience many National Guard troops brought back from their service at the Mexican border, a majority of 32nd Division Soldiers were newly enlisted and had much to learn before they would be ready for the battlefields of Europe.

And they needed a place to train. When war was declared April 6, 1917, the U.S. Army had exactly one base capable of training a whole division.

Sixteen training areas were for National Army divisions and were intended to become permanent bases — these were built with wooden barracks and other permanent structures. The remaining training areas were for National Guard divisions, and therefore intended to be temporary — its Soldiers slept in tents rather than barracks. Camp MacArthur, near Waco, Texas, was among the first 10 training camps selected in June. Work commenced on the 10,000-acre collection of cotton fields July 20, and a small advance force of National Guard troops from Wisconsin and Michigan arrived in August to augment local contractors.

Maj. Gen. James Parker, a regular Army officer, was assigned as the 32nd Division’s commander in August 1917. Col. William Haan — at the time temporarily appointed to the rank of brigadier general — was assigned to command the division’s 57th Field Artillery Brigade. As the first troops arrived at Camp MacArthur from Wisconsin and Michigan, the War Department sent Parker to Europe to study the war situation. Parker entrusted the training of the newly formed 32nd Division with Haan, an 1889 West Point graduate and veteran of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

Haan embraced his new role preparing the division for war.



HEADQUARTERS, 32nd DIVISION,
Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas.

August 27, 1917.

GENERAL ORDER,
No. 2.

1. The following list of service and roll calls for the dismounted troops of this command, effective August 29, 1917, is announced:

Reveille, 1st Call ---------- 5:30 A. M.
March ---------- 5:35 A. M.
Assembly ---------- 5:40 A. M.

Immediately after reveille there will be ten (10) minutes setting up exercises and calisthenics followed, except in hot weather, by five (5) minutes double time.

Mess Call, breakfast ---------- 6:00 A. M.
Drill, 1st Call ---------- 6:55 A. M.
Assembly ---------- 7:00 A. M.
Recall ---------- 8:00 A. M.
Inspection of Quarters ---------- 8:30 A. M.
Drill, 1st Call ---------- 8:55 A. M.
Assembly ---------- 9:00 A. M.
Recall ---------- 11:00 A. M.
Sick Call ---------- 11:30 A. M.
Mess call, dinner ---------- 12:00 Noon.

Company School (Daily except Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) 2:00 to 3:00 P. M.

Drill, 1st call ---------- 3:05 P. M.
Assembly ---------- 3:10 P. M.
Recall ---------- 5:10 P. M.
Mess Call, supper ---------- 5:30 P. M.
Parade or Retreat, 1st Call --- 6:10 P. M.
Assembly ---------- 6:15 P. M.
Retreat (when no parade) under arms 6:20 P. M.
Guard mounting immediately after retreat.

Officers' School (Daily except Saturday and Sunday) - 7:00 to 8:30 P. M.
Tattoo ---------- 9:30 P. M.
Call to quarters ---------- 10:45 P. M.
Taps ---------- 11:00 P. M.

Sunday Inspection
(8:00 to 9:00 A. M.)

1st Call ---------- 7:55 A. M.
Assembly ---------- 8:00 A. M.

2. (a) The first drill each day will be a practice march of one hour. For the first two weeks it will be without packs, but with canteens filled. The gait will be increased from day to day in the endeavor to accomplish a distance of four or more miles marched within the hour prescribed. For the third and fourth weeks haversacks and canteens both filled, will be carried. For the fifth week and thereafter the full equipment will be carried. The strictest possible march discipline will be enforced. In cold weather part of the march should be at double time.

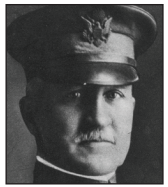
(b) The second drill period will be divided as follows:

1/2 hour - preparatory target exercises (position, pointing and aiming exercises, etc.)
1/2 hour - bayonet training.
1/2 hour - bombing practice.
1/2 hour - School of soldier and squad.

A detailed daily schedule awaited National Guard Soldiers from Wisconsin and Michigan at Camp MacArthur.



PARKER



HAAN

A no-nonsense Soldier with an engaging personality, he worked his troops hard and demanded excellence in everything the division did.

"I believe in thoroughly surrounding the men in fundamentals as the best Soldiers seek to obtain perfection," Haan said of his training philosophy. "The divisions that have paid strict attention to fundamentals are the ones making the best progress."

The 16 weeks of progressive training Soldiers received at Camp MacArthur was as much basic training as advanced unit training. Soldiers learned how to wear the uniform, field hygiene and basic squad maneuvers before tackling more advanced training such as responding to gas attacks, digging trenches and bayonet combat.

A typical day started at 5:30 a.m. followed by calisthenics and breakfast. Unit training lasted until around 4 p.m. Following dinner, Soldiers spent evenings studying French or a bit of letter writing. Those units with horses, like the 107th Ammunition Train, spent the evenings caring for the unit's several hundred animals.

Training also shifted into the evening hours because, as per the War Department, "Night work is of the utmost importance, and should include all phases of training, scouting, patrolling . . . trench raids, combat, etc."

The training day was longer for officers and sergeants. Although guided by a small cadre of U.S. Army officers and French and British advisors, a company's own leaders were responsible for training their troops and spent their evenings at special classes. An article in the *Sheboygan Press* mentioned that Capt. Paul Schmidt, commander of Sheboygan's Company C, 127th Infantry, spent a week instructing his



32nd Division Soldiers stand in formation during reveille at Camp MacArthur near Waco, Texas. Many would experience their first Thanksgiving and Christmas away from home during the 16 weeks of training. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo



32nd Division Soldiers stand in a training trench at Camp MacArthur in Waco, Texas. A proper trench in the European battlefields was about eight feet deep and zig-zagged to limit the damage caused by artillery or grenades. Wisconsin Veterans Museum

men on trench digging while another officer taught sessions on bayonet warfare.

An unsigned letter to the *Sheboygan Press* from a Company C Soldier, published Dec. 14, provided an insider's view of trench digging.

"We started digging and worked until three," the letter stated. "By that time the trench had assumed acceptable proportions, but had not yet attained proper depth. Undoubtedly we will get the chance to finish it at some point."

The 32nd Division's training progress had not gone unnoticed. Inspecting officers frequently praised the division, which had surpassed other units slated for earlier departures for Europe.

Soldiers also learned how to operate as a self-supporting division, which required reorganizing from traditional regiments into battalions and brigades. The 32nd Division was a "square division," meaning it had two infantry brigades each with two infantry regiments and one machine gun battalion. The purpose for this construction was so that

one brigade would be able to replace the other as needed on the battlefield. The Michigan National Guard provided the 63rd Brigade, consisting of the 125th and 126th Infantry regiments and the 120th Machine Gun battalion. The Wisconsin National Guard provided the 64th Brigade, made up of the 127th and 128th Infantry regiments and the 121st Machine Gun battalion. Each infantry regiment was made of three battalions of four rifle companies each.

The division learned that summer clothing was insufficient for Texas winters. Some troops fought the elements by piling all their clothing on their bunks while they slept, and waited until the last possible moment to crawl out for reveille. A hot breakfast and a morning hike helped beat back the cold, but those Soldiers not yet issued overcoats and gloves stayed in their tents to keep warm. Water pipes in the latrines and showers also froze, and troops installed a heating system that required 24-hour monitoring — a price worth paying for the first hot water since October.



Warm winter uniforms were not available for all 32nd Division Soldiers before winter weather hit Texas. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

When Parker returned to Camp MacArthur on Dec. 6, 1917, he found a motivated and disciplined unit. Soldiers were trained on their particular jobs, and its squads, platoons and companies were fully prepared to execute their particular missions.

"The general expectation of the camp is that the commanding officer will take up this training work again with personal, first-hand information regarding fighting conditions on the French front," reported the Dec. 7 issue of the *Camp MacArthur Bugle*.

However, Parker was immediately reassigned to command the 85th Division training at Camp Custer, Michigan — a unit not nearly as ready to deploy as the 32nd Division.

"I have just given up command of the 32nd Division of National Guardsmen at Waco, comprised of Michigan and Wisconsin troops, and

they are ready to go overseas," Parker declared as he departed Camp MacArthur. "By diligent study they have advanced themselves from near the bottom of the list, and replaced other divisions which were scheduled to precede them to the battleline."

With Parker's transfer, Haan signed Division General Order No. 119 on Dec. 8 and assumed permanent command of the division he had organized and trained throughout the fall. Later that day, Haan received a temporary appointment to major general.

While the 32nd Division had completed their training at Camp MacArthur, there were still critical lessons to learn in France before setting foot on the battlefield. And as the division waited, rumors sprouted.

"Had us right on our toes in expectancy of some sort of action right up to the last minute, and then left us — left us marking time — all dolled up and afraid the show would be over before we got there," said Sgt. Maj. John Acker in his book, *Through the War with Our Outfit: Being a Historical Narrative of the 107th Ammunition Train*.


CAMP MACARTHUR BUGLE

GEN. PARKER RETURNS

CONGRESS TO VOTE WAR ON AUSTRIA AS WILSON ASKS

GERMANS REOPEN SMASH AT ITALY AND HIT AT BYNG

HEALTH BETTER DEATHS HIGHER

Maj. Gen. James Parker, the 32nd Division's first commander, studied trench warfare in France while the division trained at Camp MacArthur under the guidance of Brig. Gen. William Haan. Upon his return, the Medal of Honor recipient was reassigned to command the 85th Division. Image from Dec. 7, 1917 Camp MacArthur Bugle

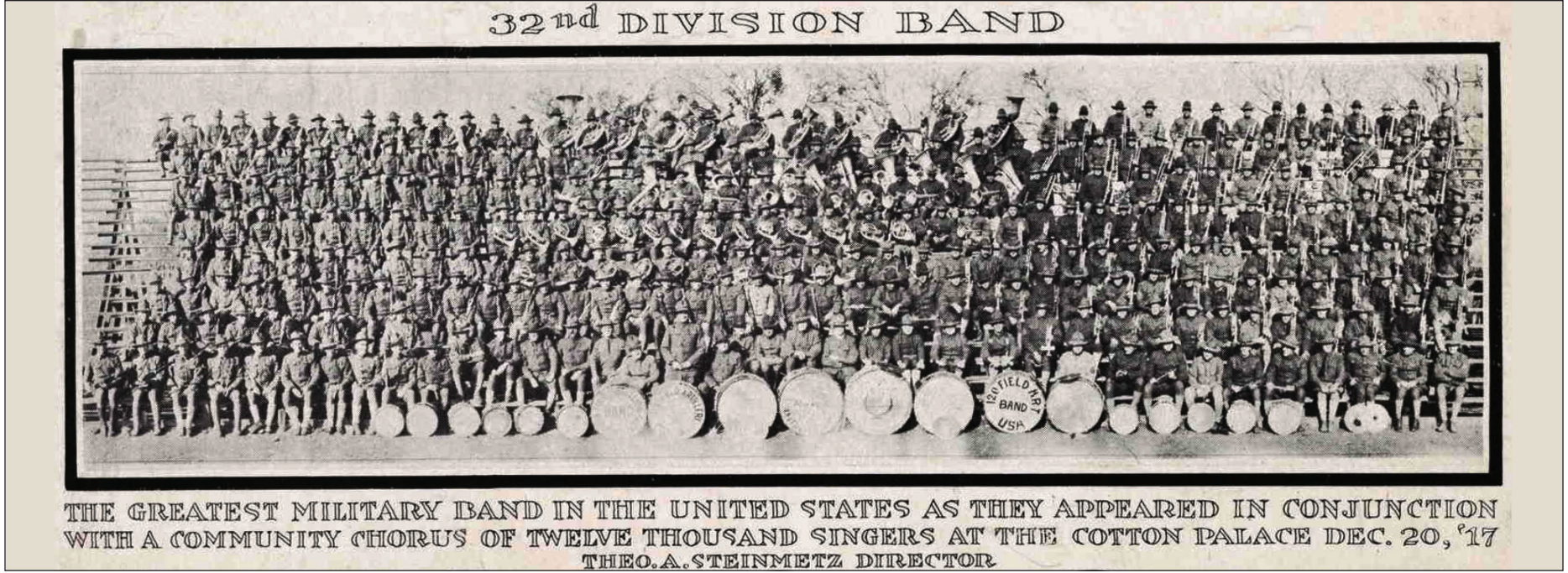
Elements of the division began leaving Camp MacArthur right after New Year's Day. Members of the division's support elements, including the 107th Ammunition Train, endured an unexpected weather delay as the worst Texas blizzard in 50 years rolled in Jan. 11, and temperatures dropped to zero.

"Everything froze up," Acker wrote. "Camp Mac froze up, our train froze up. When we awoke, we were covered with snow as we lay in our tents."

For the next two days the remaining Soldiers shivered in the cold without hot food, as the kitchen equipment was packed. By 4 a.m. Jan. 13, the weather had warmed enough for the train to depart.

"We left Camp MacArthur," Acker wrote. "Left it for good."

After the 32nd Division left, replacement troops from Texas, Oklahoma and surrounding states moved in to begin their training.



PREPARING FOR WAR: Music brings the division together

"The 10 military bands for Camp MacArthur which are composed of 400 musicians will be combined and play a varied concert under the leadership of Band Master Steinmetz," proclaimed a recitation of a Waco, Texas, newspaper article in the Dec. 20, 1917 edition of the *Marshfield News*.

Leading this gigantic band was Marshfield, Wisconsin's Theodore Steinmetz, who joined in 1898 the 2nd Regiment Band of the Wisconsin National Guard. Except for a one-year hiatus as a member of the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point, Steinmetz for 20 years was the Wisconsin National Guard's premier musician.

Steinmetz led the 2nd Wisconsin Regiment Band while it deployed in 1916 and early 1917 to Camp Wilson near San Antonio during Mexican Border Service. While there, the band earned an excellent local reputation and played frequently at events around the city.

As the 2nd Regiment band prepared for World War I it lost all but six of its members due to a War Department directive discharging all of its married personnel. Wisconsin Adjutant General Orlando Holway understood how bands positively affected troop morale, so he ordered Steinmetz to "Get together the best band in the United States Army. You will be allowed recruiting expenses."

Steinmetz's musical reputation eased his recruiting burden — talented musicians from 18 Wisconsin cities flocked to play with the 2nd Regiment. His brothers Eugene, Fritz and Emil also joined. The Army renamed the outfit the 127th Infantry Regiment Band upon its arrival at Camp MacArthur.

The 127th Band played frequent concerts in Waco for the entertainment of both the troops of Camp MacArthur, as well as the local population. The 40-piece ensemble also fielded an orchestra and a vocal quartet.

On Dec. 16, 1917, the 32nd Division football team faced the 89th Division team from Camp Funston, Kansas, for the Army championship of the West. Played at Waco's Cotton Palace Field, the game pitted two of the Army's finest teams with the winner emerging as arguably the Army's national champion.

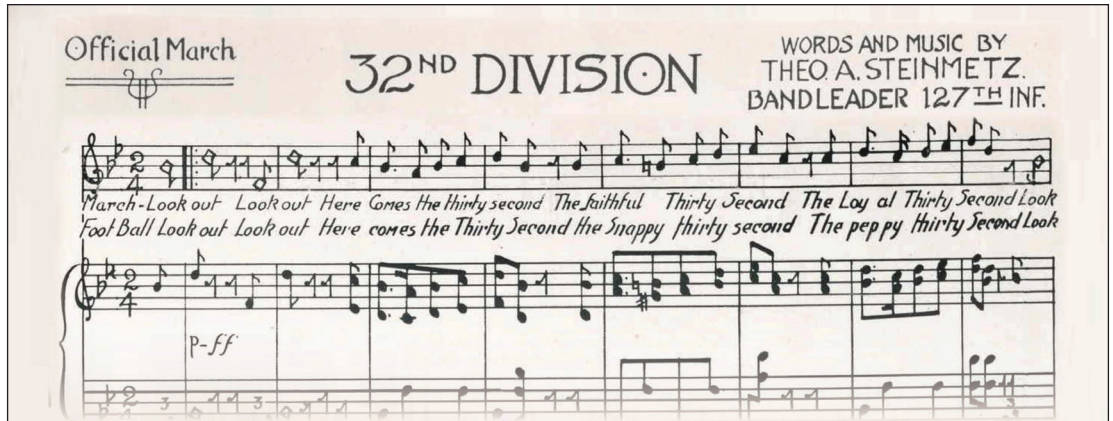
Brig. Gen. William Haan, commanding general of the 32nd Division, emphasized unity as he molded the unit into an effective fighting force — this championship game provided a valuable opportunity in that quest. In preparation for the big game, he appointed Steinmetz as the division band master and tasked him to fire up the troops attending the contest.

For the pregame concert, Steinmetz consolidated the division's 10 bands into one 400-piece group — thought to be the largest military band of the era. He also wrote the "32nd Division March" to rally the men of Michigan and Wisconsin.

The song blended the melodies of "On Wisconsin" and "Michigan, My Michigan" as a sign of unity between the Guardsmen from the two states. Also incorporated into the song were aspects of "God Save the King" and "La Marseilles" as a nod to two of America's primary war allies. The final line of the march was set to Theodore Metz's "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," which was a tune popular at the time with both military units and university sports teams.

The original march featured two sets of lyrics — one for the division as a whole and the second for rallying the football team. Marshfield's Melody Music Company immediately published Steinmetz's song and local bands started to play it throughout Wisconsin and Michigan in support of their troops deployed with the 32nd Division.

Steinmetz rewrote the song's lyrics after the 32nd Division earned its Red Arrow nickname on the battlefields of France.



Original March Version

Look out! Look out!
Here comes the thirty-second
The faithful thirty-second
The loyal thirty-second
Look out! Look out!
We're on our way to France
The Kaiser has no chance
We'll put him in a trance, Rah!
Forward men from old Wis-Cons with Mich-i-gan
We will defend
We fight for Liberty
and will wipe out autocracy
And put his madness to an end

Football Version

Look Out! Look Out!
Here comes the thirty-second
The snappy thirty-second
The peppy thirty-second
Look Out! Look Out!
We're going thro your line
Our men are working fine
Touch down sure this time, Rah!
On Wis-con-sin, On Wis-con-sin
Mich-i-gan, Our Mich-i-gan
We fight to win this game
and we'll wipe Camp Funston off the field
And add new laurels to our fame

Post-War Version

Look Out! Look Out!
Here comes the thirty-second
The mighty thirty-second
The fighting thirty-second
Look out! Look out!
They led the way in France
Red Arrows never glance
Through hell burn in advance, Yea!
On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin
Michigan, My Michigan
We fight for liberty
For justice and equality
We are the Badgers and Wolverines

Theo Steinmetz, who led the 32nd Division Band, composed the melody for the 32nd Division March and eventually wrote three sets of lyrics. Courtesy Library of Congress

PREPARING FOR WAR: Gridiron glories reveal 32nd's battlefield prowess

Two full years before Curly Lambeau founded the Green Bay Packers, and a dozen years before the team that became the Detroit Lions began playing in Portsmouth, Ohio, the 32nd Division fielded a football team that embodied its fighting spirit and indomitable will to win. And as the team racked up victories, it strengthened the bonds of Army brotherhood and emerged as arguably the nation's best Army football team in 1917.

Indeed, beyond the accolades earned by the 32nd Division football team, the division's commanding officer credited the team's success for uniting the many National Guard units from Wisconsin and Michigan — each with their own identity — into a unified National Guard division ready to deploy to the battlefields in France as an integral part of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Just as it does today, the National Guard had an important dual-mission to serve as the nation's first military responder in times of emergency and as the Army's primary combat reserve. Organized sports became a very important part of preparing Soldiers for World War I, and troops participated in a variety of activities. Every 32nd Division Soldier training at Camp MacArthur participated in organized sports each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon in order to promote fitness and the unit camaraderie built through spirited competition.

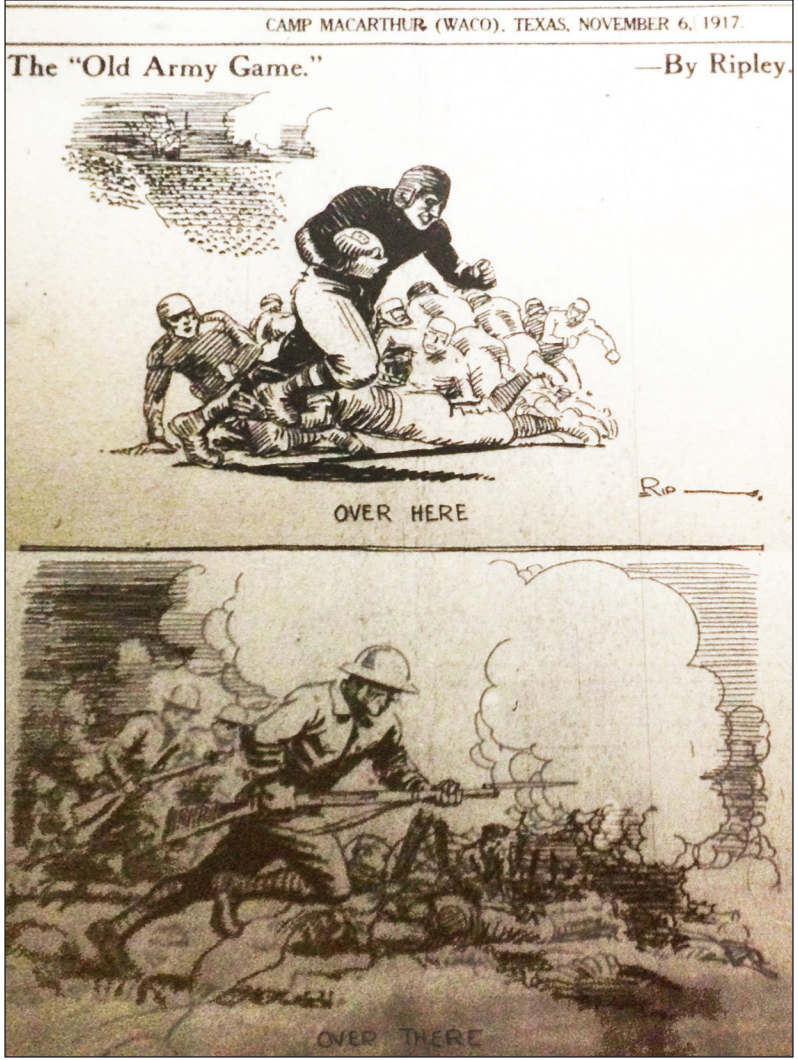


A member the 32nd Division football team runs the ball during one of its games between October and December, 1917. Image from "Camp MacArthur: Fields of Valor"

Although companies and regiments fielded teams in almost every sport, troops most desired a spot on the unit football team, and 27,000 Soldiers played on 750 regimental football teams spread across the nation's Army training camps. The best of these players earned places on their training camp's divisional team — these teams spent the fall of 1917 playing each other and provided a point of emerging unit pride within the Army's 32 new divisions.

The initial call for tryouts for Camp MacArthur's 32nd Divisional team attracted 150 men, which was soon whittled down to 45. Most of these players previously had played for Marquette, Michigan and Wisconsin or a dozen other university programs. These players conducted military training throughout the day and then reported to daily football practice at 4:30 p.m.

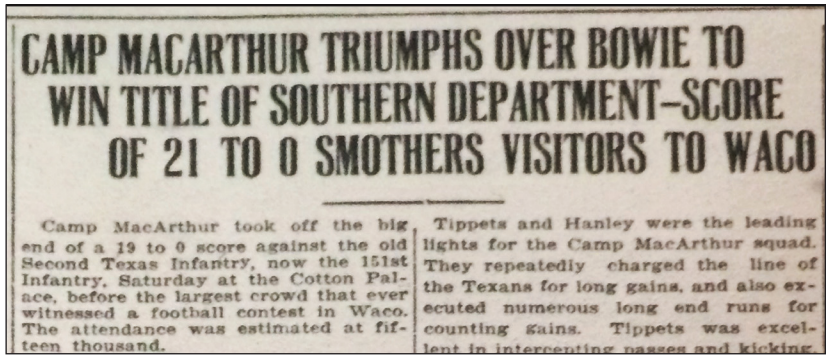
Coaching the team was Maj. Clarence J. Kenney of the 121st Field Artillery. Kenney was a star halfback while attending medical school at St. Louis



University, and later coached at Creighton and Marquette. The halfback duo of Con Hanley of Milwaukee and Walter Tippet of Stevens Point led the team's run-oriented offense. Conley had played on Marquette's team while Tippet was an all-star at Appleton's Lawrence College.

After the 32nd Divisional Team won two warm-up games within the division by a combined score of 57-0, it faced its first real test on Nov. 4 against Camp Logan's 33rd Division team consisting of troops from the Illinois National Guard. The game was one of the feature events of Waco's annual Cotton Palace Exposition, which was a two-week festival very similar to a state fair. Twelve thousand watched the men of Wisconsin and Michigan triumph over Illinois by a score of 18-0.

The next game on Nov. 11 was a battle with the 90th Division team from San Antonio's Camp Travis. Filled with many collegiate all-stars, many considered the combined Texas and Oklahoma contingent as one of the Army's top teams. More than 6,000 watched the Camp MacArthur men win



CAMP MACARTHUR TRIUMPHS OVER BOWIE TO WIN TITLE OF SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT—SCORE OF 21 TO 0 SMOTHERS VISITORS TO WACO

Camp MacArthur took off the big end of a 19 to 0 score against the old Second Texas Infantry, now the 151st Infantry, Saturday at the Cotton Palace, before the largest crowd that ever witnessed a football contest in Waco. The attendance was estimated at fifteen thousand.

Tippets and Hanley were the leading lights for the Camp MacArthur squad. They repeatedly charged the line of the Texans for long gains, and also executed numerous long end runs for counting gains. Tippets was excellent in intercepting passes and kicking.

Camp MacArthur's 32nd Divisional football team, comprised of men from the Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard, defeated the Camp Bowie team comprised of troops from the Texas National Guard on Nov. 18, 1917 in Waco, Texas. Image from Nov. 20, 1917 Camp MacArthur Bugle

9-7 in a hard-fought defensive struggle at Waco's Cotton Palace Field, hailed as "the best played game ever staged in Texas."

On the last day of the Cotton Palace Exposition, Nov. 18, the 32nd Division played Fort Worth's Camp Bowie team, made up of troops from the Texas National Guard. More than 14,000 watched the 32nd blank the Texas men 21-0 and win the Army's southern camp championship, as well as a handsome trophy awarded by Waco's Dr. Pepper Company.

Brig. Gen. William Haan, the division's acting commander, praised the team after the victory and spoke of the important work it was doing in building the division.

"The work you have done for the division is worthy of recognition," Haan said. "The games you have played and the spirit you have shown have brought the division together in a closer bond."

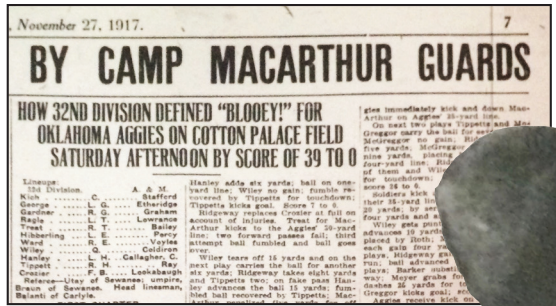
With the south championship under its belt, the division team set its sights beyond Texas. The team challenged numerous

Army camps and colleges across the nation. Some proposed games, such as a Christmas Day tilt in New Orleans with collegiate national champions Georgia Tech, did not make the schedule.

The first to take the challenge were the Aggies of Oklahoma A&M (present-day Oklahoma State University) who traveled to Waco for a Thanksgiving Day contest. Unable to stop halfbacks Conley and Tippet from making runs of 10 and 20 yards, the Aggies boarded the return train to Stillwater with stinging memories of a 39-0 defeat.

In early December, the Camp MacArthur gridders ventured to Michigan and suffered its first loss to the University of Detroit, one of the state's top teams. It rebounded from that 37-7 defeat with a 20-0 victory over Michigan Agricultural College (present-day Michigan State). Attended by thousands of local residents, the proceeds of each game went to the Christmas fund for Michigan National Guard troops stationed at Camp MacArthur.

At a victory banquet in Lansing, Michigan, Haan described the football team's path to success as a metaphor for his training plan for the 32nd Division.



November 27, 1917. 7

BY CAMP MACARTHUR GUARDS

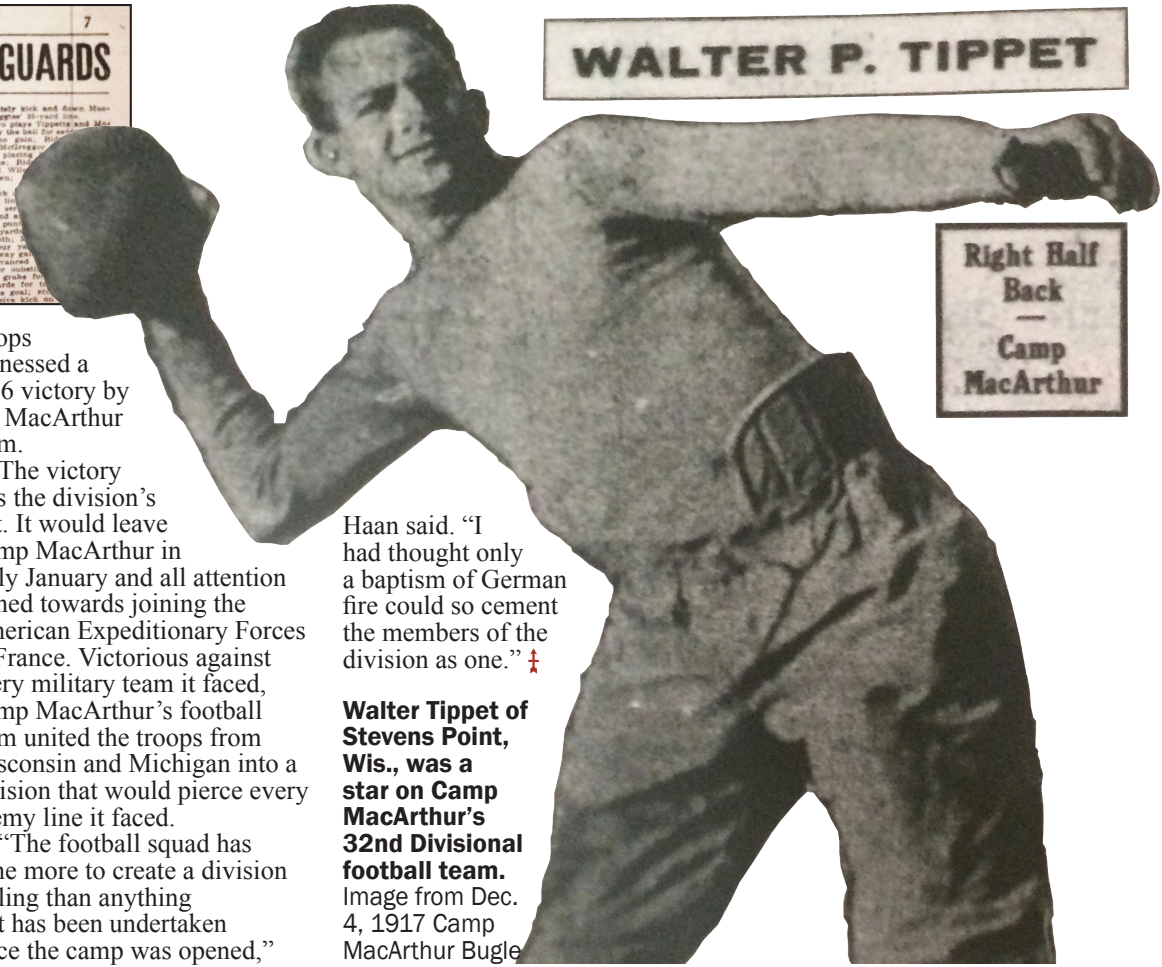
HOW 32ND DIVISION DEFINED "BLOOEY!" FOR OKLAHOMA AGGIES ON COTTON PALACE FIELD SATURDAY AFTERNOON BY SCORE OF 39 TO 0

"I believe in thoroughly surrounding the men in fundamentals as the best Soldiers seek to obtain perfection," Haan said. "The divisions that have paid strict attention to fundamentals are the ones making the best progress."

The team returned to Texas and on Dec. 16 faced the 89th Division team from Camp Funston, Kansas. A match between two of the Army's finest teams, the winner would become the Army champion of the West and arguably the Army's national champion. A hard-fought contest at Waco's Cotton Palace field, 15,000 troops witnessed a 12-6 victory by the MacArthur team.

The victory was the division's last. It would leave Camp MacArthur in early January and all attention turned towards joining the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Victorious against every military team it faced, Camp MacArthur's football team united the troops from Wisconsin and Michigan into a division that would pierce every enemy line it faced.

"The football squad has done more to create a division feeling than anything that has been undertaken since the camp was opened," Haan said. "I had thought only a baptism of German fire could so cement the members of the division as one."



Walter Tippet of Stevens Point, Wis., was a star on Camp MacArthur's 32nd Divisional football team. Image from Dec. 4, 1917 Camp MacArthur Bugle

PREPARING FOR WAR: Thanksgiving a thousand miles from home

The majority of the 15,000 Soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guard and the 8,000 more from Michigan training as the 32nd Division at Camp MacArthur near Waco, Texas, in 1917 for World War I, celebrated their first Thanksgiving away from home.

The division command understood the holiday's importance and limited duty to only essential personnel such as sentries, cooks and hospital staff — everyone else had the day off. The Army also ensured that every Soldier received the heartiest of Thanksgiving dinners by providing ample rations for unit mess halls to prepare.

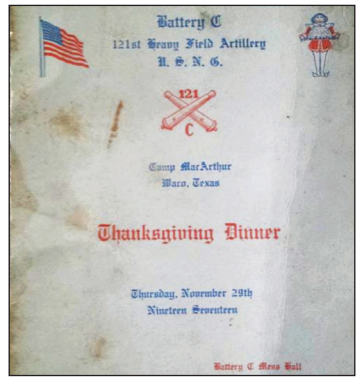
"There being expert cooks and mess sergeants throughout the camp, and all out-did themselves today in their pride in giving the men of their companies something to make the day joyful," said an article in the *Waco Morning News*.

Sgt. Tom Reynolds, a mess sergeant in the 119th Field Artillery, had worked for a dozen years at New York's finest hotels and served his unit a multi-course meal featuring red snapper, potatoes au gratin, roast turkey, oyster dressing, and baked candied yams. Also included were various relishes, salads, desserts, beverages, and cigars.

Sheboygan's Company C, 127th Infantry Regiment started Thanksgiving Day with the rare Army pleasure of sleeping in and enjoying free time all morning. Dinner at noon consisted of ample amounts of turkey, mashed potatoes, cabbage, and other sides. For dessert, homemade pies paired well with a supply of cigars sent by Sheboygan's Northern Furniture Company.

Remarked one Soldier about the day, "Life would be worth living in the Army if every day was the equal of today with nothing to do and all you want to eat."

After dinner, many Company C troops ventured to downtown Waco or one of Camp MacArthur's YMCA recreation buildings. Others watched the



32nd Division football team destroy 39-0 the Aggies of Oklahoma A&M (present-day Oklahoma State). Meanwhile, Cpl. Edgar Kallenberg married his girlfriend Helena Steinhardt, who had traveled to Texas earlier in the week.

Steinhardt was one of numerous family members from Wisconsin and Michigan who trekked to Waco to celebrate Thanksgiving and see their fathers, sons, husbands, and brothers one last time before they shipped out for France. Another was renowned painter Georgia O'Keeffe, who visited her brother Alexis (see story, page 24).

Some Soldiers bypassed their unit's Thanksgiving feast because they had an invitation to attend dinner with one of the many Waco families who opened their homes to the men of Wisconsin and Michigan.

Mary Kemendo Sendon, in a Texas History Collection oral interview, described how her father and other Waco residents invited Soldiers to their home for Thanksgiving dinner.

"I remember my father inviting them on Thanksgiving," Sendon said. "Those boys were so hungry; my mother just kept pushing the food at them and pushing food at them."

After dinner, the troops retired to the living room to look at pictures, read and talk. Naturally, some of them succumbed to the effects of the feast.

"Two of them sat there and went to sleep for about two hours sitting there on the couch with their head thrown back. I've always remembered the sight of those two boys," Sendon said. "They were so friendly, those boys from Michigan and Wisconsin."

Unfortunately, Thanksgiving Day was also a somber affair for two 32nd Division units. The men of Supply Company, 121st Field Artillery escorted Pvt. Carl Hanson's casket to the train station early that morning for the final journey to Waterford, Wisconsin. Hanson had died the night prior when hit by a streetcar in Waco.

Meanwhile, Company I, 126th Infantry gathered for a morning military funeral of Pvt. Fred M. Meyers, who had died earlier that week at the camp hospital. The unit escorted Meyers for an early train bound for Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, as the bugler blew Taps.

The next day, the entire division enjoyed a second day off from training. However, it did work off the previous day's dinner competing at a divisional field meet featuring various athletic and military skill events.

PREPARING FOR WAR: A call to art for an American icon

In the fall of 1917, Georgia O'Keeffe, a native of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, was in the early stages of a career that would make her one of America's leading 20th-century artists. At the time, she was in her second year teaching art at West Texas State Normal College near Amarillo and had lost her desire to create art.

"I don't even seem to regret not wanting to work," O'Keeffe said in Nov. 25 letter to her future husband. "Last spring when I didn't want to work it alarmed me. Nothing seems to alarm me now."

Although supportive of the U.S. position on the war, O'Keeffe was a pacifist who remained skeptical of the nation's immense mobilization for it. West Texas State was an Army training site for advanced technical skills, which created a perceptible military tone on campus. She also watched several of her most promising students stop their studies in order to enter the Army.

Undoubtedly her younger brother Alexis, who was now training at Camp MacArthur near Waco, also occupied her thoughts.



Earlier in the year, Alexis had completed officers' training at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and now was a master engineer with the 107th Engineer Train of the 32nd Division. Georgia had visited Alexis while at Fort Sheridan and, in a letter afterward, wrote that she found Alexis' willingness to go to war "appalling."

In November, O'Keeffe was slated to speak at the annual meeting of the Texas State Teachers' Association, which in 1917 was scheduled in Waco after Thanksgiving. O'Keeffe took the opportunity to spend the holiday with her brother, who brought one of his friends along to dinner. After dinner, the group walked and talked for hours. In a letter, O'Keeffe wrote about the impact of seeing those thousands of troops preparing for war at Camp MacArthur.

"I am so glad I'm here that I just can't tell about it," O'Keeffe wrote. "Soldiers and soldiers and soldiers, it's tremendous seeing and feeling what it's meaning to them. It makes you think and feel things you have never thought or felt before, makes you sure of some of the things I thought before."

Following the visit with her brother and the conference, O'Keeffe returned to West Texas State and during the train ride wrote how the trip stirred many emotions. Her brother, his friend, and the sight of thousands of troops had focused her thoughts and generated new ones.

"What it is all doing to them is astounding to me," O'Keeffe wrote. "I seemed to feel like adopting his friend as a brother on sight. I couldn't leave him alone, he looked so forlorn. He won't see his people or the girl again before they go over. I couldn't help slipping my hand through his arm."

O'Keeffe had talked to dozens of Soldiers while in Waco and enjoyed speaking with them. Her feelings for her brother and his impending departure for war stirred a need to paint once again.

"The soldier mind is a revelation to me," O'Keefe mused. "It seems as though I never felt a real honest need of Art before, it never seemed necessary before."

She continued, describing what would soon become a painting.

"I wanted to stay in Waco. I didn't want to come home, but I feel as though I have lots to do and one thing to paint. It's a flag as I see it floating. A dark red flag, trembling in the wind like my lips when I'm about to cry."

In early 1918, O'Keeffe finished "The Flag," a 12-inch by 8-inch watercolor that represented her overall anti-war sentiments, as well as her personal anxiety about her brother going off to a brutal and distant war.

The work received limited showing at the time due to concerns that it violated the Espionage Act of 1917, and the painting faded into obscurity until 1968, when it was exhibited at the Milwaukee Art Museum, where it resides today. ‡



Georgia O'Keeffe (American, 1887-1986)
The Flag, 1918
11 15/16 x 8 13/16 in. (30.32 x 22.38 cm) Milwaukee Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Harry Lynde Bradley, M1977.132
Photographer credit: Larry Sanders © Georgia O'Keefe Museum/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



Camp Merritt, New Jersey

OFF TO WAR: Division ready to go 'Over There'

While 15,000 Wisconsin National Guard troops and 8,000 more from Michigan trained for World War I at Camp MacArthur, Texas, as the 32nd Division, Army planners had to figure how to transport the 32nd and the rest of the American Expeditionary Forces to France.

The War Department selected Norfolk, Virginia, and New York as the primary ports of embarkation for U.S. Soldiers. Norfolk was one of the nation's largest naval bases and New York Harbor, with dozens of passenger lines sailing from its docks, was America's connection to Europe.

To house tens of thousands of troops converging on New York from distant training bases, the Army built several



PANORAMIC VIEW OF CAMP MERRITT NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES ARMY CANTONMENT

nearby embarkation camps, one of which was Camp Merritt on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. Construction commenced in September 1917 and 10,000 workmen over the course of two months built 1,300 buildings on the 770-acre site.

"In this new post men will be housed while they are waiting to embark for the front in France. By Nov. 1 the camp will consist of 1,000 wooden buildings and thousands of men of the new army will live in it at one time or another," said a front-page article in the Sep. 7, 1917 edition of the *New York Times*.

Camp Merritt was a far different place than the austere and dusty Camp MacArthur. Rather than tents, troops lived in heated two-story wooden barracks and walked on paved streets.

"Here we have what you call barracks built somewhat like a two-story frame house for two families, 33 men sleep down stairs, 33 up," said Pvt. Ellsworth Anderson of Headquarters Company, 120th Field Artillery. "We all have iron spring cots with a mattress which sure makes a fine soft bed."

Once settled into their comfortable barracks after a long trip from Texas, troops were allowed to visit New York City — something that most 32nd Division Soldiers from distant Michigan and Wisconsin had never thought they would ever do.

"Every one of us is given a 24-hour leave of absence to go to New York City if we wished to," wrote Cpl. William Nevell of Company D, 127th Infantry Regiment in a letter home. "It is needless to say that most of the boys took advantage of this."

After their New York City adventure, troops generally were confined to post, but because of its compact nature they spent little time training.

"Camp Merritt has no drill ground and, believe me, I miss the drilling," Pvt. Peter Schipper of Company C, 127th Infantry wrote in a letter home. "We get only short marches for exercise in the forenoon. There is no drilling here because it is a temporary camp for troops

going over."

Most 32nd Division troops were the first to enjoy the diversions of Merritt Hall, which was a YMCA recreation center dedicated on Jan. 30 by Theodore Roosevelt. Considered "the finest soldiers' club in America," Merritt Hall featured a well-stocked cafeteria, billiard parlor, music room, writing rooms and a massive library. Despite Merritt Hall and a 2,500-seat theater, 32nd Division troops grew restless during a particularly harsh stretch of winter at Camp Merritt.

"This has been a rather dull day in camp as it is too nasty for us to get out and go anywhere, so we are confined to our quarters all day," Nevell wrote.

Such close quarters filled with thousands of troops from across the country brought constant concern about disease. A sick soldier could infect an entire shipload of troops during the two-week voyage to Europe. Men who exhibited signs of illness were quarantined in the camp hospital, which consisted of 93 buildings and had a capacity of 1,800 patients.



A postcard showing the enlisted men's club at Camp Merritt. The 32nd Division began arriving here in January 1918. Image courtesy Bergen County Historical Society

Capt. Gustav Stearns, the 127th Infantry chaplain, spent considerable time at the hospital comforting the sick.

"In my first call at the base hospital I went to see a couple of boys who had scarlet fever," Stearns said. "In the ward I visited here, there were 36 scarlet fever cases in the first room and 40 in the second."

Quarantined troops were held two or three weeks, and left on separate vessels to catch up with their unit.

"We prepared to leave camp; but on the following day, two barracks were again placed under quarantine, confining several members of Company C, reducing our company until only four officers and 161 men (out of 238) were permitted to leave," Capt. Paul Schmidt, commander of Company C, 127th Infantry, said.

Troops deemed healthy spent around 10 days at Camp Merritt before boarding an early-morning ferry that would take them to troopships docked at Hoboken, New Jersey, in sight of the tall buildings of New York City and the Statue of Liberty.

"Up at 4:30 A.M. we journeyed from Camp Merritt to Hoboken. A ferry took us to the Cunard Line dock where our names were checked as we boarded the S.S. Tuscania," said Pfc. Edward Lauer, a medic with one of the division's sanitation squads.

Lauer was one of 586,000 troops who embarked for Europe through Camp Merritt, another 511,000 passed through the post after the war. The U.S. Government dismantled the base in 1920 and Gen. John Pershing dedicated in 1924 a granite monument that commemorated Camp Merritt and the service of the 573 soldiers, nurses and civilians who died there. ‡

OFF TO WAR: Bon voyage, U.S. — bon jour France

Moving an entire division of Soldiers takes time. A five-day train ride from Texas to New Jersey, followed by about three weeks at Camp Merritt for medical and equipment checks — that was how Company C, 127th Infantry Regiment spent the last half of January and first half of February 1918.

When it was finally time to sail to France, nearly 100 of Company C's Soldiers were quarantined due to an outbreak of scarlet fever, diphtheria and measles. Only 144 men from Company C boarded the S.S. George Washington — a converted German passenger liner seized the day the United States declared war on Germany — on Feb. 16, 1918. The remainder of the company would follow once they had cleared quarantine.

The George Washington weighed anchor two days later and Company C was on its way to France. A day later, the seven-ship convoy found some weather and many of the Army troops did not take it well.



The S.S. George Washington, a repurposed German passenger liner used to transport some 32nd Division Soldiers from the U.S. to France. Wisconsin National Guard Museum photo

"Quite a few of the boys were seasick, including myself," Sgt. Lester Schlieder wrote in a letter home. "It was a windy day and the ship rolled."

This was the only day of bad weather, however, and troops settled into a routine during the several-week voyage. Time was passed studying French, watching movies in the mess hall or catching some fresh air while doing light calisthenics on deck. Two meals a day were served.

"We had good meals on the boat, one at 7:30 a.m. and the other at 2:30 p.m. and we could buy candy, cigars and cigarettes on the boat," Cpl. Julius Leimetz wrote in a letter home, published in the *Sheboygan Press*.

George Washington's birthday was celebrated in grand style on the S.S. George Washington.

"The ship was in gala attire and a bounteous turkey dinner was served," said Capt. Paul Schmidt, Company C's commander. "An excellent concert was performed and boxing contests were conducted all day."

The convoy reached the submarine zone around Great Britain on Feb. 28 and, with the loss of 13 32nd Division Soldiers on the S.S. Tuscania only weeks before, troops were on edge.

"Every man was ordered to keep his clothes on, a life-belt attached, and canteens filled with drinking water for use in case of emergency," Schmidt said.

Late afternoon on March 1, the ships alarm bells rang and troops rushed towards their lifeboat stations. A submarine had been spotted, and the George Washington began evasive maneuvers.

"At that moment the ship's guns were fired causing a recoil as through the ship had been struck," Schmidt said. "The boat careened throwing the men in heaps upon the deck."

Another ship sank the submarine and order quickly returned to the George Washington.

Company C reached Brest, France, the morning of March 4, but it would be several days before it disembarked.

"We have arrived in France but are still on the boat in the harbor of a beautiful city," Schmidt said.

OFF TO WAR: Tuscania

The first 32nd Division Soldiers killed in World War I did not perish on a European battlefield.

In the winter of 1918, more than 20,000 32nd Division troops left the United States en route to France, aboard numerous ships. Early on a Jan. 24 morning, the 107th Engineer Train, 107th Supply Train, 107th Military Police, 32nd Mobile Laboratory, and Sanitary Squads #7 and #8 waited to board the S.S. Tuscania — a converted British passenger liner — at Hoboken, New Jersey.

Other Soldiers were also slated for that voyage: a battalion of the 20th Forestry Engineer Regiment, and the 100th, 158th and 213th Aero Squadrons. The late arrival of the 20th Engineers from California bumped the 107th Ammunition Train to another ship.

"We were to sail on the Tuscania, the whole regiment," said Capt. Scott Cairy of the 107th Ammunition Train. "I checked out a lot of things on



The S.S. Tuscania. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

the Tuscania. About 4 o'clock this major came to me and he said, 'You gotta transfer to the Orduna, which is at Pier 54 in New York.'"

As the 3-year-old Tuscania departed New York Harbor, Pfc. Edward Lauer — a medic with Sanitary Squad #8 — shared his concerns with a friend.

"I mentioned to my buddy Orvel Casper that I felt I had seen the Statue of Liberty for the last time," Lauer said. "Orvel felt different about it — he felt that when the war was over he was going to get married and have a family."

The Tuscania joined 13 other vessels at Halifax, Nova Scotia that made up Convoy HX 20. The group embarked across a frigid north Atlantic where German submarines also patrolled. Torpedo boat destroyers reassured some of Tuscania's passengers as they entered the dangerous waters around the British Isles.

The Scottish shores came into view late in the afternoon of Feb. 5, as the Tuscania made its way to the North Channel separating Scotland and Ireland. Meanwhile, Lt. Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, commander



One of the coastal burial sites for S.S. Tuscania passengers who were killed when the transport ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

of the German submarine U.B. 77, carefully avoided British destroyers and patrol boats, occasionally surfacing to recharge his submarine's batteries and gather his bearings.

"With surprise and trembling at 4:50 p.m., in the west I noticed heavy clouds of smoke," Meyer wrote. "Immediately, the U.B. 77 was ordered swung around. We hurried up towards these and soon made out a large convoy that was steering in a southeasterly direction toward the North Channel."

Meyer had found Convoy HX 20 and the Tuscania. He cruised back and forth, above water, in front of the transports to determine the speed and course of the Tuscania, and to devise an attack. As twilight set in, U.B. 77 pulled within 1,000 meters and spied an indistinct shadow in its periscope — the Tuscania.

It was dinner time on the Tuscania, and troops who were not eating were topside in lifebelts when U.B. 77 fired two torpedoes at 6:40 p.m.

"We dive to 30 meters, the crew and I listening in suspense," Meyer wrote. "One minute 10 seconds later a very violent explosion is felt and told us we had hit the target."

The torpedo struck the Tuscania's starboard side near the engine room, throwing the ship into darkness and damaging several lifeboats.

"I was just going to supper when an awful crash took place and I was almost knocked off my feet," Lauer said. "At the same time all lights went out and I grabbed my lifebelt."

As the rest of the convoy pulled away at top speed, passengers on the Tuscania tried to reach their assigned lifeboats in the dark on a capsizing ship. Lauer saw an empty seat in a lifeboat that had just reached the water, and made a bold decision.

"[I] jumped on the rail, slid down the rope as they were leaving the side of the ship," Lauer said. "I braced my foot against the steel and swung into the boat with one foot pulling me into the lifeboat."

Three British destroyers remained to assist the doomed Tuscania. Lauer's lifeboat was rescued by the HMS Grasshopper, which rescued about 300 Tuscania passengers. The other two destroyers moved to rescue those still on the Tuscania.

At 9:40 p.m., three hours after the torpedo attack, the Tuscania slipped below the waves. Meanwhile, U.B. 77 remained undetected and returned to finish the job at around 10 p.m.

"Nothing more of the Tuscania can be seen," Meyer wrote. "The ship has ceased sending out all wireless messages. I assume that she had foundered."

The destroyers, with as many survivors as they were able to rescue, headed to Ireland. The next day, Lauer wrote in his diary: "My buddy Orvel Casper is still among the missing."

Of the 266 who died in the attack on the S.S. Tuscania, 13 were from the 32nd Division. The dead were buried with military honors at several sites along the Scottish coast until their remains were returned to families in the United States after the war. The U.S. erected a monument on the Isle of Islay in 1920 to commemorate those lost.

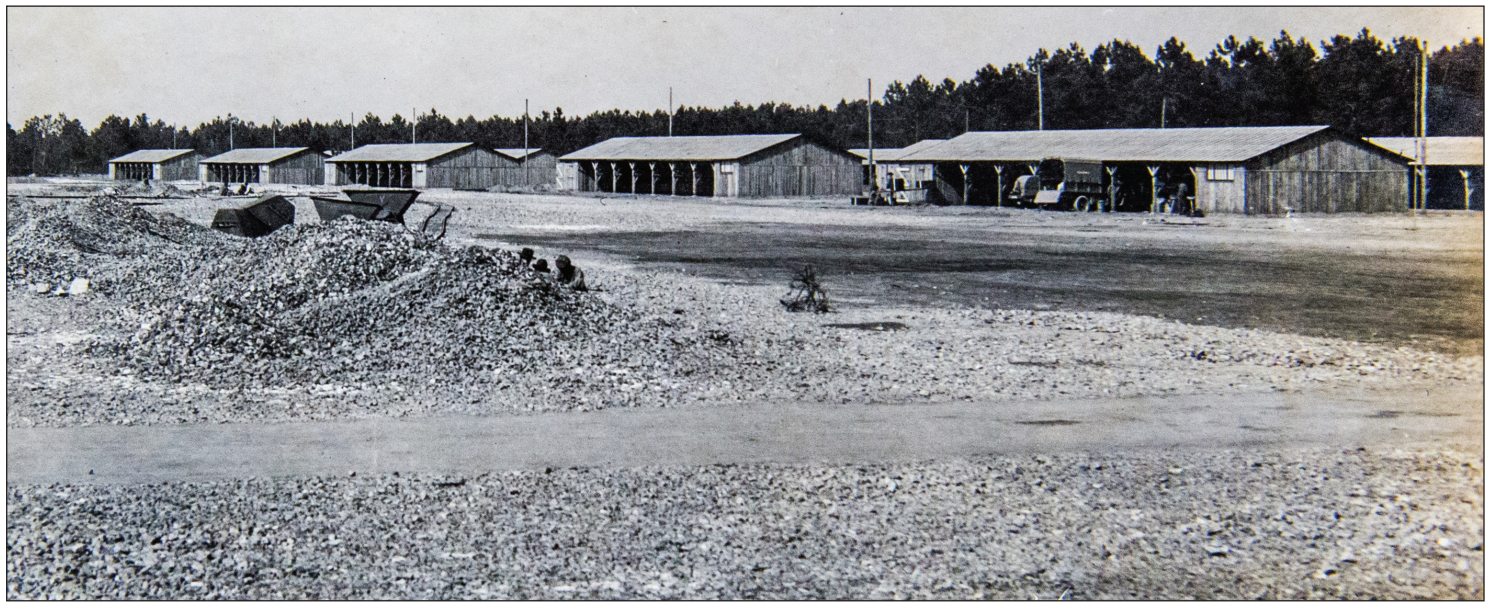
The remainder of the 32nd Division made it safely across the Atlantic, where a new challenge awaited.

OFF TO WAR: Supply demands initially derail march to combat

By the end of March 1918, most of the 32nd Division had crossed the Atlantic — however, its troops did not immediately enter the trenches. Instead, most of the division was put to work throughout France constructing vital supply lines for the 40 American divisions that would follow.

The Service of Supply, the logistical arm of the American Expeditionary Forces, had to build a supply line capable of sustaining up to two million Soldiers independent of French and British support. At the time, the 32nd Division was only the sixth American division in France and the first to arrive in 1918.

Gen. John Pershing's plan called for the sixth division to become a replacement pool for the First Army Corps. In the meantime, there were warehouses to build, railroad track to lay and supply lines to guard — physical work that toughened up Soldiers after two months of limited activity at Camp Merritt and aboard cramped troop transports.



Members of the 32nd Division helped build drill grounds and horse sheds at Camp de Souge, near Bordeaux, France in April 1918, along with other supply-related construction tasks. National Archives photo

The 125th, 126th and 127th Infantry regiments and the 107th Engineer Regiment were immediately put to work. The 126th unloaded supply ships at St. Nazaire while the 107th built railroad track. Meanwhile, the 127th Infantry was put to work building 57 warehouses, each measuring 500 feet in length. The groups that went immediately to training were the artillery regiments. They reported to Camp Coetquidan to receive training on the French artillery guns they would use.

Meanwhile, the 128th Infantry Regiment was not assigned to construction duty. Instead, it joined the 32nd Division headquarters at the AEF's Tenth Training Area at Prauthoy. Once there, the 128th sent nine captains and most of its privates to the 1st Division as replacements.

The regiment took the loss

hard. Company commanders had to leave the units they had recruited and trained over the past year. Sergeants asked for demotions so they could stay with their Soldiers. The requests were denied, and on March 21 hundreds departed the 32nd and joined the 1st Division in time for the division's attack at Cantigny — the first American attack of the war.

Work details and parceling out as replacements were not the duties 32nd Division troops envisioned when they trained together at Camp MacArthur, Texas. Division commander Maj. Gen. William Haan understood that angst. However, he called his officers together to remind them that "replacements were necessary; that we had trained one set of men to fight and could train another; that if it was our lot to do our part in the war by training men to fight instead of fighting ourselves, then it was up to us to put our whole heart and soul into the effort."

While Haan focused the division's officers and men on the mission at hand, he also pressured the AEF General Headquarters to make the 32nd



CAPT. PAUL SCHMIDT



MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM HAAN



GEN. JOHN PERSHING



The modern crest of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, which served with the 32nd Division in World War I.

a combat division. After a thorough study of the technical facts at hand, he challenged some of the logistical justifications used to assign the division to the replacement pool.

"What seems to be particularly damaging herein is the transfer of two regiments permanently from the 32nd Division to the 41st Division," Haan wrote in a memorandum to the AEF chief of staff. "The alleged reason is for the saving of transportation but by carefully reading the telegram, it will be seen that practically no transportation will be saved."

In the end, it was Germany's Spring 1918 Offensive, and pressure by the French and the British for the Americans to put more troops on the line, that persuaded Pershing to assign the 32nd Division to a combat role. Rather than the 32nd sending its troops to the 41st "Sunset" Division — a depot division providing important support activities for the entire AEF — the 41st now sent its units to restock the 32nd.

"April 28, Company C received a replacement of 44 men from Colorado and California and May 4, another replacement of 50 men from the 162nd Infantry," Capt. Paul Schmidt, commander of the 127th Infantry's Company C, wrote in his unit's published history. "Oregon troops, some of these men were originally from Idaho and North Dakota."

The South Dakota National Guard's 147th Field Artillery Regiment was transferred from the 41st Division to the 32nd on March 25, 1917, becoming the 57th Field Artillery Brigade's fourth artillery regiment. It remained with the 32nd for the duration of World War I, and today, the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery coat of arms reflects its service with the Red Arrow.

By the first week of April, all of the division — with the exception of the field artillery units — were relieved from work detail and ordered to join the division headquarters in the Tenth Training Area. There, these units would complete a final round of training, knowing that the men of Michigan and Wisconsin would fight together as the 32nd Division.

OFF TO WAR: Training for the trenches



Members of the 128th Infantry Regiment conducting their first gas mask drill. at Menil-la-Tour, France March 21, 1918.
National Archives photo

With work details complete and the 32nd Division reassigned as a combat division, a final round of realistic training was needed before it was deemed ready for service in the trenches.

The division headquarters had been located at the AEF's Tenth Training area near Prauthoy since February. Troops from the four infantry regiments arrived later and were billeted in the nearby villages.

"We were the first Americans billeted in this section of France and the local citizens gave us a very friendly and cordial welcome, and were exceptionally kind to us," Capt. Emil Gansser wrote in his unit history of the 126th Infantry Regiment.

It was here where the 32nd Division began its partnership with the French Army. The French assigned an experienced officer to each battalion to assist with training. Lt. Maurice V. Ritt was partnered with the 127th Infantry's 1st Battalion, which included Company C of Sheboygan.

"We began a season of very intensive training in target practice and formations in French tactics, under French instructors," said Capt. Paul Schmidt, Company C's commander.

While it was vital to train on all aspects of trench warfare, Gen. John Pershing's lengthy training plan began with the premise that the AEF would soon engage in offensive operations.

"All instructions must contemplate the assumption of a vigorous offensive," Pershing said. "This purpose will be emphasized in every phase of training until it becomes a settled habit of thought."

Also assisting with the training were officers from the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, a National Guard division that had been in France since November and had already served for several months on the front lines. Visiting Company C was 1st Lt. August Wolf, a former member of the unit who had transferred to Oshkosh in 1917 and was a Rainbow Badger with the 150th Machine Gun Battalion.

Also during this time, Company C was brought up to full strength with 50 men — a number of its troops had been detached to attend officer candidate school or fill up the 128th Infantry after many of its troops had reinforced the 1st Division. New troops arrived from the 162nd Infantry Regiment. Part of the 41st Division, the 162nd Regiment was created from the Oregon National Guard, but also included troops from Idaho and North Dakota.

While the men found the French people to be friendly and engaging, and the training from French Army officers invaluable, the country's cold and rainy spring weather left much to be desired.

"The weather in April was wretched; but the men were out, rain or shine, day in and day out, Sundays included, drilling, working out problems, conducting demonstrations with live grenades, shooting on the rifle ranges, perfecting themselves in the use of the gas mask, and, in general, finding out all there was to find out about war," noted the division's war official history.

Training was complete by mid-May, and companies and battalions started to leave Prauthoy. On May 14, it was Company C's turn to make the 26-kilometer foot march to the train station at Langres.

The train at Langres would take them to Alsace and the trenches of the Western Front.



AT WAR: 32nd Division joins the fight

AT WAR: Alsace, the 'bed of roses'

Four battalions of the 32nd Division relieved elements of the French Ninth and Tenth Divisions on May 18, 1918, becoming the first U.S. troops on German soil during World War I.

"We were the first American troops to set foot on German soil in this sector," Capt. Paul Schmidt, commander of Company C, 127th Infantry, wrote in *Co. C, 127th Infantry in the World War*. "And the flag of the 127th Infantry was the first American flag to be unfurled on German territory."

The original plan was to ease American troops gradually into the conflict.

"Arriving divisions would be sent to a training area — the artillery to one of the special camps — for a period of from one to two months," Brig. Gen. Fox Conner, Gen. John Pershing's operations officer, explained. "During this time period the division was to be equipped, receive special training and become acclimated in the atmosphere of war."

After this, the division's brigades were to be sent to quiet sectors for up to six weeks to gain experience in the trenches alongside Allies before reassembling for a final month of maneuvers training as a division. The division would then be ready for the battlefront, according to the original training plan.

However, the German offensive in March changed that plan, as American troops were desperately needed



Company A, 125th Infantry passes the border post as it marches into Germany at Sentheim, Alsace on May 29, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. A.C. Duff



Above, troops of the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry await orders prior to maneuvers at St. Germain, France on June 13, 1918. At left, members of Company A, 126th Infantry in a shell-proof dugout in the Hecken sector of Alsace, Germany June 14, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen H. Hanson

to augment Allied troops on the front.

Capt. Gustav Stearns, chaplain for the 127th Infantry, wrote in one of many letters back to his home congregation about receiving orders to move to the front on Mothers' Day, May 12.

"My plans and arrangements called for eight services," Stearns wrote. "It was impossible to have any public, open-air service for the Soldiers, because every Soldier was busy today."

Stearns instead conducted a five-minute service in the headquarters company mess hall while the cooks were still preparing the morning meal.

"All of you know what is going to take place today, and you know it will be impossible for us to have any public service in our regiment outdoors today," Stearns told the men. "Now, boys, no matter how busy we may be, we shall always have a few minutes each day to meditate upon things sacred and to offer our prayer unto our God. I want you to do this today."

Stearns also urged the troops to write a letter to their mothers that day, reminding them that his own mother passed away while they were at Camp MacArthur.

"Every one of you I am sure will find some time to write a few words to your mother before you close your eyes in sleep tonight," Stearns said.

Schmidt's battlefield account shows an effort to adhere to the original training plan as American companies were placed next to French companies on the front line to





Above, Soldiers from Company A, 126th Infantry, scan No Man's Land from a front-line trench June 14, 1918. At left, a front-line trench as seen from a parapet. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen H. Hanson



A Soldier from the 125th Infantry uses a periscope to scan No Man's Land June 25, 1918.

benefit from French battlefield experience.

"An interesting side-light showing the thoroughness of the German spy system was the surprise of our troops the following morning when they looked over the parapet of the trenches to observe a long banner over the German trenches, reading 'Welcome 32nd Division,'" Schmidt wrote. "Although every precaution had been exercised in our movements toward the front, marching only after dark, the enemy apparently was familiar with every move we made."

Schmidt described the terrain as low and swampy, with German trenches some 600 yards away from Allied trenches.

"This was a real military area," Schmidt wrote. "Observation balloons, one kilometer back of the lines, continually watched every activity. Every six hours we sent a message, 'All is well,' to battalion headquarters."



A Soldier from the 125th Infantry in a fighting position with a supply of grenades Guewenheim, Alsace, Germany June 25, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Sgt. A.C. Duff

Lt. Col. Byron Beveridge wrote in the 1939 *Historical Sketch of the Wisconsin National Guard* that 32nd Division Soldiers would later refer to Alsace as "the bed of roses" for its relatively light combat.

"The French would not permit the Americans to fire on a German in No Man's Land, saying he would fire back," Beveridge wrote. "It was truly a peaceful sector when the 32nd arrived there and both Germans and French would go into No Man's Land to harvest hay."





Above, Soldiers from the 128th Infantry drive posts on which to string barbed wire June 4, 1918 near Auterlitz in Alsace, Germany. At left, members of Company A, 128th Infantry, cleaning up St. Ultrich in Alsace, Germany June 4, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson

But not entirely without hostilities. Schmidt wrote of German snipers firing at his men when they climbed cherry trees to pick fruit, and German artillery shelling areas where Americans risked swimming in canals.

Maj. Gen. William Haan, in a May 25 letter to Maj. Gen. E. H. Crowder in Washington, D.C., acknowledged that a quieter sector was not without risk.

"I had a man killed yesterday and another one today by machine gun fire and the other one by artillery," Haan wrote. "Another one was slightly wounded today. Those are my first casualties in battle and I take it we will soon get some more."

Stearns wrote of the 127th Infantry's first casualty, Pvt. Kenneth Counter — though he did not offer much more information than his name, due to censorship rules in place.

"During no week since I left home have I realized that we are at war more than I do at the present time," Stearns wrote.

Due to concerns of German aircraft, Stearns conducted a full, but discreet, funeral under cover of trees at a military cemetery outside a nearby village. All in attendance wore helmets and gas masks in the alert position.

"I preached a sermon; it was one of the most difficult occasions at which I have ever preached," Stearns wrote, "but I do not think that anyone could detect it in my voice."

Counter was buried in a plain, unpainted wood casket made by French soldiers. Stearns had made a wooden cross bearing Counter's name, company and regiment, with the letters R.I.P.

As he wrote of artillery buffeting both sides of the front, Haan offered his assessment of German capabilities as well as those of American forces.

"My belief is that [the Germans] will not succeed in ever accomplishing the first phase in the battle," Haan wrote, referring to Germany's aim to separate the Allied forces on the battlefield, "and I believe the time is not so very far distant when the Allies will under a single leader be able to take the offensive.

"The American divisions are getting into condition now where they are about ready to take their places in line with other divisions as divisions," he continued, "but not yet as Army corps or Armies — nor should they in my opinion be put in as Army Corps any time this year."

He earlier shared these views in his diary on May 18, 1918: "Our great weakness is in lack of experienced staff officers as well as commanding generals — in fact we have neither real generals nor staff nor field officers. Our company officers and men could do well under experienced officers of higher grades."

Haan's critical view apparently stemmed not from the abilities of the Soldiers in the trenches — his four battalions on the front line were winning praise from the French, and the division had just completed a 100-mile march "in record time without a hitch" — but rather a frank assessment that American troops lacked critical combat experience.

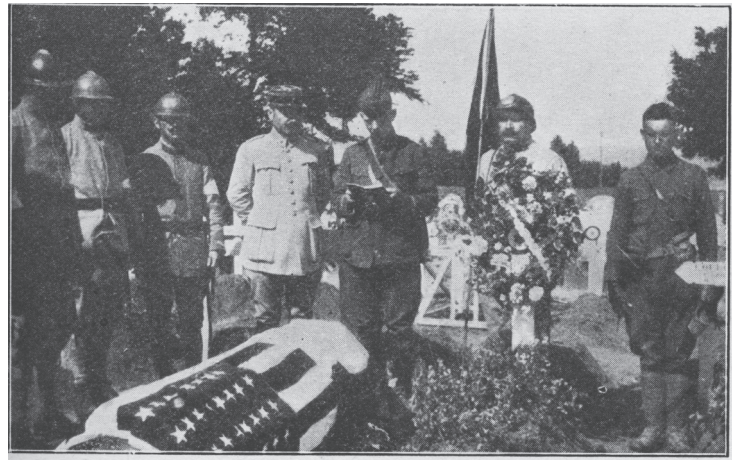
"[T]his final training under French supervision convinces me that our own system of training lacks much," Haan continued in his letter. "It is good for discipline but it is very deficient in learning the real



FUNERAL OF FIRST BOY IN MY REGIMENT, WHO WAS KILLED IN TRENCHES NEAR HAGENBACH, ALSACE.



PREACHING FUNERAL SERMON AT THE FRONT UNDER TREES IN ORDER NOT TO BE SEEN BY GERMAN AEROPLANES. AT HAGENBACH, ALSACE-LORRAINE.



FUNERAL OF SERGEANT ARNOLD J. PETERSON. JULY 2, 1918. MORVILLARS, FRANCE.

Images from Capt. Gustav Stearns' book, "From Army Camps and Battle-Fields," depicting a common task for the battalion chaplain — military funerals.



object of fighting."

Stearns wrote to his congregation that the 127th had not given an inch of territory since arriving at the front, but also had not gained much territory either.

"Our regiment has now been occupying the front line trenches for about a month," Stearns said. "Sometimes regiments are permitted to go back for a rest after occupying the front line, but we have not had any rest thus far."

"We have, of course, had a few killed and wounded, but not very many," Stearns continued. "Considering the length of time we have been here, we have been very fortunate."

Still, Haan's criticism was not pessimism, as evidenced by how he closed his letter to Crowder.

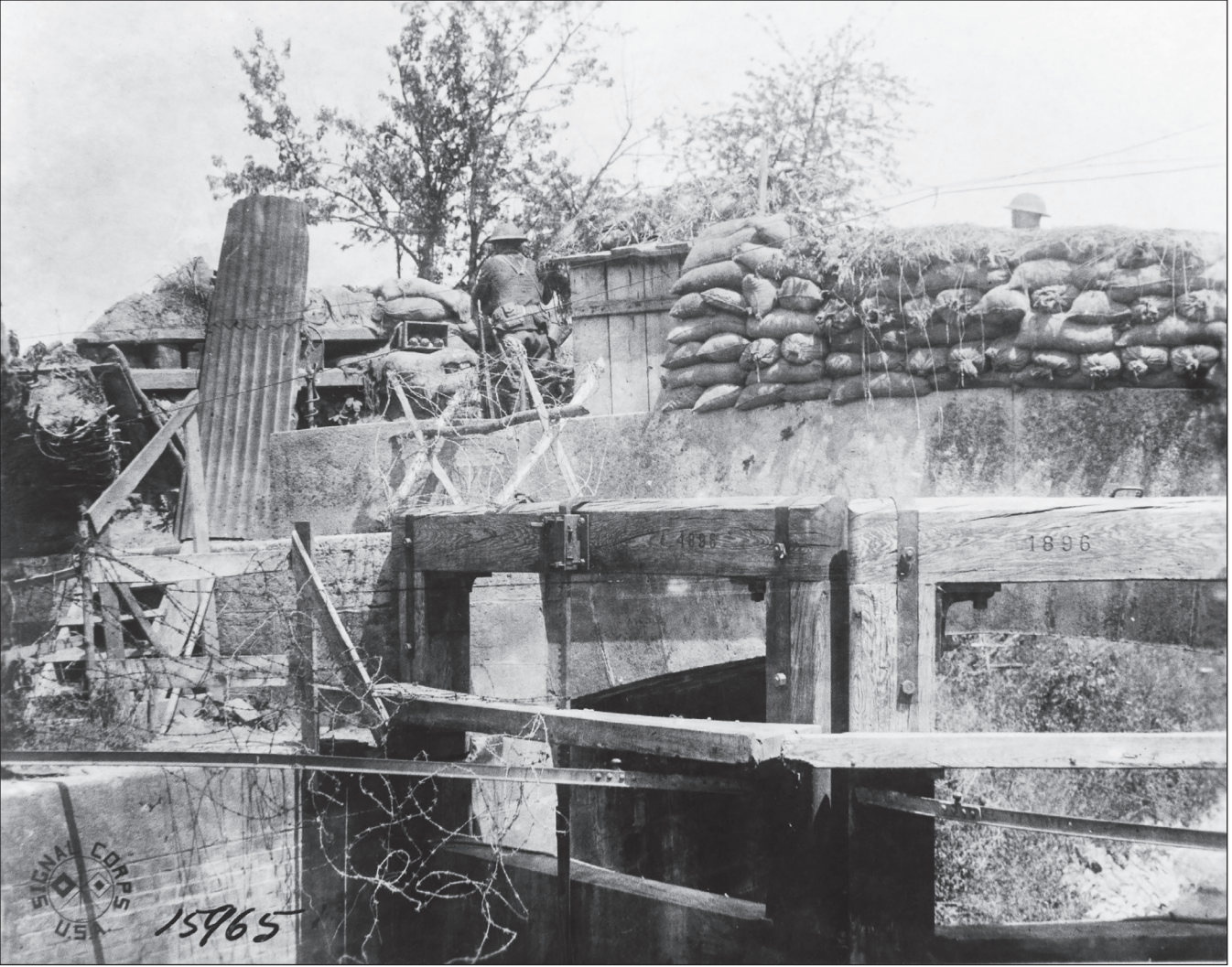
"In war time it is dangerous to make predictions, but the spirit of the troops here gives me confidence that we are going to get the Germans in the end."

That effort may have started sooner than Haan anticipated, as Beveridge wrote that American forces stepped up attacks against the Germans as they gained more authority for their troops in June.

"The second time we went in, it was all American infantry, supported by French artillery," Beveridge wrote. "From then on there was no harvesting of hay or wandering around No Man's Land."



Above, members of the 127th Infantry's machine gun company returning from trench duty June 4, 1918 near Manspach in Alsace, Germany. At left, Pvt. Ray Masters of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, listed as the first man in his company to silence an active German sniper in No Man's Land near Austerlitz in Alsace, Germany on June 4, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl, Allen Hanson





Above, Pvt. J.P. Borchers of Company B, 127th Infantry, on duty at an observation post in the line of resistance in the Garspach Woods near Altkirk in Alsace, Germany June 6, 1918.
At left, a strong point in the line of resistance at Lock 25 near Eglingen in Alsace, Germany. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson

AT WAR: The first Red Arrow slain on German soil



Pvt. Joseph Guyton

The 32nd Division's first battlefield casualty was also the first American Soldier killed on German soil during World War I.

Pvt. Joseph W. Guyton, a member of Company I, 126th Infantry, was killed in action in Alsace — formerly part of France, ceded to Germany in 1871 after the Franco-Prussian War — on May 24, 1918.

Born in 1889 in Evart, Michigan, Guyton was among the first draftees in Osceola County, and reported to Camp Custer, Michigan in September 1917, where the National Army's 85th "Custer" Division was organized. Toward the end of October, Guyton and thousands of other draftees were sent to Camp MacArthur to help the 32nd Division reach its authorized strength of more than 27,000 men. Guyton became part of the 126th Infantry, joining his fellow Michiganders.

Company I was the first element of the 126th Infantry to see frontline service, replacing a company of the French 329th Infantry near Gildwiller on May 20.



President Warren Harding speaks at a funeral ceremony for Pvt. Joseph Guyton. Submitted photo

Guyton was serving as a gunner in an advanced outpost known as Petty Post 9 when, around midnight on May 24, he was struck in the temple by a burst of German machine gun fire. He died instantly.

Brig. Gen. Maurice-Gustave Gamelin of the 9th French Infantry Division, to which the 126th Infantry was attached, conferred the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star upon Guyton, with the following citation:

"The soldier, Joseph W. Guyton, of the 126th American Infantry Regiment, on guard in the first line was killed by a machine gun bullet. He was the first soldier of the 32nd American Division to fall fighting for the cause of right and liberty, on Alsacian soil, beside his French comrades."

Guyton was buried with military honors at the Church of Notre Dame de Gildwilder. His remains were repatriated to the United States after the war. In May 1921, President Warren G. Harding placed a wreath on Guyton's flag-draped coffin at a funeral ceremony for more than 5,000 American war dead at the pier in Hoboken, New Jersey.

"In the name of the republic, I bestow this tribute on the casket of the first soldier who perished on the soil of the enemy," Harding said during the ceremony. "I chose it because I am offering the tribute to the one returned whose death on enemy soil marked the day when our civilization went face forward and the assault on our present day civilization knew it had failed."

Guyton's remains were laid to rest in Evart's Forest Hills Cemetery. Today, his name can be found on Evart's American Legion Post 236, a highway bridge over the Muskegon River and a park with a registered Michigan Historical Site Marker on Evart's Main Street.





Above, Pvt. George Rese of Company A, 120th Machine Gun Battalion, on duty at a machine gun emplacement June 22, 1918 in an advance front line post near Michelbach in Alsace, Germany. At right, 2nd Lt. Oscar Vickstrom of Company E, 125th Infantry, who had been cited by Maj. Gen. William Haan for his quick decision and prompt execution exercised during a German raid June 13-14, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson





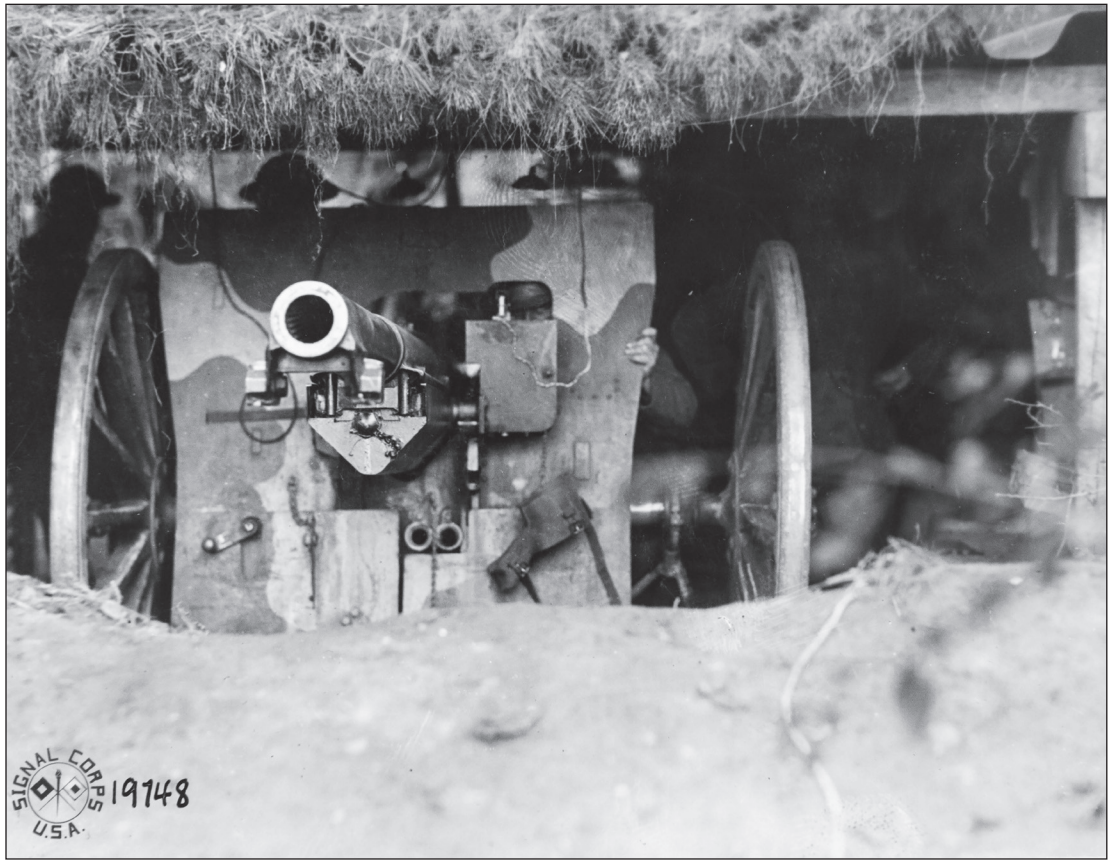
Above, men of Company B, 125th Infantry eat at an improvised table in the front line June 22, 1018 near Michelbach in Alsace, Germany. At left, Soldiers from Company B, 125th Infantry in front-line trenches near Michelbach in Alsace, Germany June 22, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson

At left, Sgt. Charles Quick, Cpl. Mark Young and Pvt. Albert Lull from Headquarters Company, 126th Infantry with a French #37, a one-pounder, in a firing position on a parapet in a second-line trench near Dieffmatton in Alsace, Germany June 25. This weapon had a maximum range of one and a half miles and could fire 28 rounds per minute. Below, Pvt. Robert Robinson of Company E, 125th Infantry, cleans his automatic rifle after being relieved of duty June 22, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson





Soldiers from Battery A, 120th Field Artillery inspect their gas masks June 25, 1918 near Bourbach le Bas in Alsace, Germany. These inspections were conducted daily due to the frequent use of gas warfare in World War I. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson





Above, member of the 120th Field Artillery with a French 75 mounted, June 25, 1918 in a dugout located in the woods near Bourbach le Bas in Germany. At left, a platoon from Company K, 127th Infantry staff an ambush point at a place along the line in the Benhols Sector of Alsace, Germany where German raiding parties commonly cross. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson



Left, Pvt. John Thiacos and Pvt. Guy Slaymen of Company E, 126th Infantry, on duty June 27, 1918 at the most advanced observation post near Gildwiller in Alsace, Germany. The position could be reached by hand grenades thrown from German lines.

Right, Pvt. Leo Hahn, a sniper with Company L, 127th Infantry, at his post near Benjols in Alsace, Germany June 27, 1918. A champion marksman with his unit, Hahn hit two German snipers in two days. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson







Left, Company L, 127th Infantry Soldiers by Entrance #1 to the largest dugout on the Alsatian front June 29, 1918. Built by the Germans and modified by the French, the dugout had multiple entrances and could hold up to 1,000 troops.

Above, Cpl. Elmer Black and Pvt. E.J. White from Company L, 127th Infantry, monitor an opening in the barbed wire barrier July 1, 1918 from their machine gun position in the Benhols sector of Alsace, Germany. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson

AT WAR: Making a name on the battlefield



The Second Battle of the Marne — Germany's last major offensive on the Western Front — began July 15, 1918. After absorbing some punishment and allowing the Germans to expend their energy, the Allied counteroffensive launched July 18, prompting a German retreat by July 20.

According to Lt. Col. Byron Beveridge's *Historical Sketch of the Wisconsin National Guard*, the 32nd Division — having finished six weeks in the Alsace campaign — was awash in rumors it might be sent to Italy or to the British front. The division boarded trains in Alsace and would complete their journey to Chateau-Thierry by truck. There the division reported to the 38th French Corps on July 26. Trench warfare had been exchanged for open-field fighting.

"Wisconsin troops received their baptism of fire in open warfare," Beveridge wrote, "when they took up the big push on the 'big front.'"

Division commander Maj. Gen. William Haan assumed command of the sector from the 3rd Division July 30, and determined that the 32nd needed to take Hill 230, a commanding high ground overlooking the Germans' last defensive line before the important town of Fismes.

The division's 64th Brigade — consisting of the 127th and 128th Infantry — moved to the front line July 29, on the Ourcq River near Roncheres, to relieve the 3rd Division. The next day, the 63rd Brigade — made up of the 125th and 126th Infantry —



relieved the 28th Division, and on the final day of July 1918, both brigades fought side-by-side in a push for Hill 230.

With the tide turning, the 6th French Army commander ordered his forces to advance on the Germans beginning Aug. 2. The 32nd Division gained six kilometers that day, and another seven kilometers on Aug. 3, where it met stronger German resistance.

"In those eight days some of the best German divisions put up a terrific fight to stem the advance," Beveridge wrote.

The following day, the 127th Infantry moved on the town of Fismes, while the 63rd Brigade advanced on the critical railroad yard on the banks of the Vesle River. The 127th suffered horrific losses but managed to capture Fismes that night, while the 63rd took the railroad yards and temporarily patrolled across the Vesle River. According to Beveridge, 777 men were killed or died of their wounds, 12 were missing in action, six died from other causes, 1,153 severely wounded or gassed, 2,009 suffered minor wounds or gas injuries, and eight taken prisoner.



Stretcher bearers bringing wounded to the 126th Infantry Regiment's first aid station Aug. 1, 1918 near Courmont, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson

"Captains were commanding battalions, non-commissioned officers commanding companies," Beveridge wrote, "but the companies carried on even though there were no officers."

Capt. Gustav Stearns, the 127th Infantry Regiment's chaplain, wrote to his home congregation in Milwaukee about the more active battlefield.

"Suddenly, from in front of us, over in the direction where we knew the Germans were located, we say skyrocket signals and flares go up and then the boom-boom-boom of artillery, and then the zip-zip-zip multiplied a thousandfold of the machine guns," Stearns wrote. "And then some shells came crashing over toward us and someone yelled 'gas!'"

Two men from the 127th Infantry earned Distinguished Service Crosses in the assault on Fismes. 1st Lt. Ray

Dickop of Beloit, Wisconsin was shot in the head, body and legs. Before dying of these wounds, he received orders for another assault, and led his unit — Company L — in the charge until he fell dead. One of his Soldiers, Pvt. Wilford Lloyd, lost his pistol when he was wounded in the same attack as Dickop. He crawled over and took a dead Soldier's rifle before joining a squad in attacking a fortified stone wall near the outskirts of Fismes.

Capt. Paul Schmidt, commander of Company C, 127th Infantry from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, recorded his unit's approach to Fismes.

"The Germans had spared no effort in making this city and surrounding country as impregnable as science could make it," Schmidt wrote. "Huge stores of ammunition and engines of destruction were located here and preparations made to withstand the most formidable attack."

Haan provided an account of his division's attack on German positions.

"The woods were covered with machine guns but our troops took it by storm and bayonetted the Germans in the woods," he wrote. "The bayonet fight took place at 11 at night and lasted for a half-hour. So far as I can ascertain, not a shot was fired and the Germans were completely routed.

"More than 30 of them were buried at this spot," Haan continued. "Here no prisoners were taken."



This photo, taken from Capt. Gustav Stearn's book *From Army Camps and Battle-Fields*, shows dead combatants in the Les Jomblettes woods in France. The photo appeared in the book with a letter dated Aug. 5, 1918, during the Aisne-Marne offensive.

During the bloody fighting on Aug. 4, General Pairron de Mondesir, 38th French Corps commander, was observing American troops in combat against the Germans. When he heard the 32nd had taken all the German strong positions to the north of the Ourcq and had dug in and were holding their ground, he exclaimed, *"Oui, oui, les soldats terrible, tres bien, tres bien!"* or, in English: "Yes, yes, terrible soldiers, very good, very good!"

The definition of "terrible" used here means "formidable" or "terrifying." Had Mondesir spoken in today's vernacular, he might have called the Soldiers "beasts."

Mondesir's appraisal of the 32nd Division led General Charles Mangin to specifically request the 32nd by name — "Les Terribles" — for his 10th French Army shock troops.

"It was the only time during the war that a French commander specified what American division he wanted to assist him," Beveridge noted.

The *non-de-guerre* was made official in a citation following the battle at Juvigny, and the 32nd Division was the only American division given a nickname by an allied nation during the war.



"The woods were covered with machine guns but our troops took it by storm and bayonetted the Germans in the woods" Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, said in his account of the battle which earned his division the non de guerre *"Les Terribles."* This image shows dead German soldiers near a mortar post at the edge of a woodline north of Cierges Aug. 3, 1918. Soldiers from the 125th Infantry Regiment killed their foes during a bayonet assault. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson



AT WAR: Nurses earn Silver Stars during Aisne-Marne offensive

Valor was not restricted to men, nor was courage under fire found only on the battlefield.

Army nurses Irene Robar and Linnie Leckrone treated wounded 32nd Division Soldiers while under artillery fire and became two of the first three women ever awarded the Silver Star Medal.

When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, the Army Nurse Corps consisted of 403 women. Although part of the Army, nurses at this time held no rank and were addressed as "Miss" or "Nurse." To provide proper medical care for the two million Soldiers expected to serve overseas, the Army recruited thousands of nurses from across the nation. Robar and Leckrone, recent graduates from Chicago's Northwestern University, were two of the 10,000 nurses who served in France with the American Expeditionary Forces.

The two roommates volunteered for the Army Nurse Corps in November 1917 and sailed a month later for France with American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 1, which set up in Neufchateau as Base Hospital No. 66. The hospital was modern for the era and living conditions comfortable.



IRENE ROBAR



LINNIE LECKRONE

Army doctrine in 1918 stationed female nurses at base hospitals and other facilities well away from the front lines. They were not assigned to mobile field hospitals that followed Army divisions from place to place and were frequently located within enemy artillery range. Medical necessity soon put women in those field hospitals.

"Despite every intention to keep hospitals and women out of harm's way, the circumstances of war and the practice of medicine brought nurses under the maelstrom of World War I artillery bombardments," wrote Lt. Col. Richard M. Prior and William S. Marble in a 2008 journal article in Military Medicine.

It soon became apparent that treating casualties as close to the front as possible increased chances of survival. With nurses vital to many medical tasks, the Army created special medical teams with nurses from base hospitals and assigned them to forward treatment stations on an as-needed basis. One type of team was a specially trained shock team of female nurses and male corpsmen that treated casualties experiencing severe blood loss. Many Army nurses coveted assignment on these forward-deployed teams, and there were more volunteers than duty positions.

Robar and Leckrone volunteered for Shock Team No. 134, which arrived July 28, 1918 at the 32nd Division's 127th Field Hospital near Chateau-Thierry. The 32nd Division had moved to the front line in preparation for a key attack during the Aisne-Marne Offensive. The 127th Field Hospital set up a 500-bed facility in a school building that suffered from heavy damage during a previous battle. It was well inside enemy artillery range.



Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock, acting Army surgeon general and chief of the Army Nurse Corps, presents the Silver Star to Mary Jane Bolles Reed, who accepts it on behalf of her deceased mother, Linnie Leckrone during a July 31, 2007 ceremony. Fred W. Baker III photo

The next day, Robar and Leckrone went to work as a steady stream of 32nd Division casualties arrived at the 127th. During that day, the hospital received artillery fire and the two nurses remained at their stations treating the wounded. They would remain with the 127th for the next 10 days, as the unit followed the 32nd Division during an attack that advanced 11 miles and seized the city of Fismes on the Vesle River.

Shortly after the battle, Maj. J.W. Vaughn, a 32nd Division medical officer, commended all six members of Shock Team 134 and individually lauded the actions of Robar and Leckrone at Chateau-Thierry. After the war, the two nurses received Citation Stars for "attending to the wounded during artillery bombardment."

Congress on July 9, 1918 authorized the Citation Star for gallentry under enemy fire. The award consisted of a small silver star that the recipient affixed to their World War I Victory Medal. Over the course of the war, 4,800 service members earned the award — of which 381 were part of the Army Medical Corps. In 1932, the Secretary of War authorized the full-sized Silver Star Medal in place of the Citation Star, and World War I recipients could request an exchange for the new medal.

Unfortunately, many Citation Star recipients remained unaware that they had earned the award, much less knew that they were eligible for the Silver Star Medal. Much of the award paperwork was done after many service members had already returned home. In the case of Robar and Leckrone, they served with the 32nd Division for only 10 days, and a division officer most likely submitted the award after the pair had returned to their unit. Historical accounts and Leckrone's family suggest that the two may not have known of the award's significance.

Robar and Leckrone returned from France in 1919 and discharged from the Army. Robar made a career of nursing and worked at veterans' hospitals in South Dakota, Massachusetts and Colorado. She remained unmarried and died in 1986. Leckrone settled in Colorado and worked at a tuberculosis hospital until she married Ralph Bolles in 1922. The couple raised four children, and she died in 1989.

The U.S. Army presented Leckrone's Silver Star to her family in 2007 at an event that recognized the service of the three World War I nurses who earned the medal. Unfortunately, none of Robar's relatives were located for the ceremony. The third recipient was Chief Nurse Jane Rignel, who earned the award while attached to the 42nd Division.

"If she were here, she would say, 'I don't need a medal. I just did what I had to do'," said Mary Jane Bolles Reed, Leckrone's daughter.





Above, Pfc. Charles Kennedy of Company A, 127th Infantry, Pfc. Behrered of Company L, 128th Infantry, and Pfc. William Quinn of the 113th Infantry (29th Division) recovering from combat wounds at a French hospital in the Alsace sector Aug. 11, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. Pelisson

Soldiers from the 107th Engineer Regiment rebuilding a bridge Aug. 3, 1918 at Coulanges, France that the Germans had destroyed the previous day. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. Pelisson





Above, Soldiers from Company B, 107th Engineer Regiment repair a road leading to Fere-en-Tandenois Aug. 3, 1918. The road was badly damaged after shelling and heavy traffic.

At left, troops from 1st Battalion, 127th Infantry pass through the village of Roncheres Aug. 2, 1918 on the way to the front. The battalion had been relieved after suffering losses storming German machine gun positions the day prior, but the Germans' rapid retreat resulted in their being moved to a more forward position. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson

AT WAR: Finding a fallen hero



While the 32nd Division was recovering from front-line duty in the Second Battle of the Marne, Soldiers discovered the battlefield grave of Lt. Quentin Roosevelt, son of former President Theodore Roosevelt. Wisconsin National Guard Museum photo

Quentin Roosevelt — the youngest son of President Theodore Roosevelt — spent his childhood in the White House. Like his father, he was rambunctious, friendly and a natural leader.

Quentin and his brothers attended a voluntary military camp in 1915 in Plattsburg, New York. Upon the April 6, 1917 declaration of war on Germany, the Army offered officer commissions to camp graduates. A month later, a newly engaged Lt. Quentin Roosevelt dropped out of college and joined the 1st Reserve Aero Squadron.

Roosevelt was soon sent to France, initially assigned as



Lt. QUENTIN ROOSEVELT

a supply officer at an air training base before becoming a fighter pilot in the 95th Aero Squadron. Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, America's top World War I fighter ace, described the young Roosevelt as "Gay, hearty and absolutely square in everything he said or did, Quentin Roosevelt was one of the most popular

fellows in the group. We loved him purely for his own natural self."

"He was reckless," Rickenbacker added. "His bravery was so notorious that we all knew he would achieve some great spectacular success or be killed in the attempt."

Roosevelt shot down his first and only German plane on July 10. Four days later, he and three other pilots were on patrol during the opening of the Second Battle of the Marne. During a dogfight with seven German aircraft, he was shot twice in the head and his plane crashed behind German lines near the small village of Chamery. The Germans found Roosevelt's body by his plane and buried him with full military honors. They marked his grave with a simple wooden cross, banded together with wire from the plane. A German photographer made a postcard of the event.

On July 30, the 32nd Division commenced an attack on Cierges and advanced against fierce resistance. Two days later, the division captured Chamery and the site of Roosevelt's grave. Their attack continued until they were relieved on Aug. 7 at the village of Fismes on the Vesle River. Once relieved, the division returned to Chamery to recover from its time on the line.



At left, the German cross from Roosevelt's grave, on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Above, a German photograph of Lt. Quentin Roosevelt's crash site near the French village of Chamery. Wisconsin National Guard Museum photo

While in Chamery, Maj. Gen. William Haan, the 32nd Division commander, wrote in an Aug. 17 letter to his wife, "We captured the town near which Quentin Roosevelt is buried and found his grave alongside the remains of his aeroplane. I wrote Teddy about it."

Haan had met President Roosevelt when a member of the Army General Staff — the President had entrusted Haan with a mission to Panama during the construction of the Panama Canal.

Roosevelt's reply reached Haan in September: "I am very much touched by the trouble that you have taken in the middle of your absorbing work. I appreciate your letter. I appreciate the sketch of Quentin's grave. It was dreadful to have Quentin killed, but I would not for anything in the world have had him not face death and take his chance."

Members of the 32nd Division's 107th Engineer Regiment built a fence around Roosevelt's grave and replaced the simple cross erected by the Germans with a more elaborate marker inscribed "Here rests on the field of honor, Quentin Roosevelt, Air Service U.S.A, Killed in Action, July 1918."

Thousands of American Soldiers visited Roosevelt's grave during the war and immediately after. The site became a shrine and inspiration for his fellow aviators. President Roosevelt took the loss of his son very hard and died six months later — some say that the heartache of Quentin's death contributed. In 1955, Lt. Roosevelt's remains were moved to the Normandy American Cemetery to rest beside his older brother, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt III, who had died in France on July 12, 1944 from a heart attack. The elder Roosevelt was the highest-ranking Army officer to land in the first wave on D-day.



Soldiers from the 32nd Division's 2nd Battalion, 126th Infantry, enjoying a ride to the front Aug. 23, 1918 near Souilly, Meuse, France. The drivers are listed in the original photo credit as Indo-Chinese, meaning they are likely from Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos — which, at the time, was the colony of French Indochina. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson



AT WAR: Juvigny

Soldiers from Company K, 128th Infantry on the Valpries farm Aug. 29, 1918 in support of the drive on Juvigny, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson



French tanks moving to support French troops operating to the left of the 32nd Division by the Valpries farm near Juvigny, France Aug. 29, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson

After a brief rest following the Second Battle of the Marne, the 32nd Division began preparations for the next battle. The division regrouped, integrated replacements, and trained on deficiencies identified during successful, but costly, attacks against the Germans.

The division's next battle would be as part of Gen. Charles Mangin's 10th French Army. He had personally requested the 32nd Division for his attack as part of the Oise-Aisne Offensive. The division's sudden movement north of Soissons took the troops by surprise.

"On the morning of Aug. 24, while we were preparing to go out on maneuvers an unexpected order came to get all companies in readiness for a march and await further instructions," wrote Capt. Paul Schmidt, Company C's commander, in his unit history.

The 32nd's objective was the village of Juvigny and its surrounding high ground. Taking it would force the Germans to retreat from its Vesle River defensive line, which had stymied the American 28th Division at Fismes.

The division's 63rd Brigade conducted the initial attack on Aug. 28 that carried the line through open wheat fields to a railroad track west of Juvigny. On Aug. 29, it was time for the 64th Brigade, which consisted of the 127th and 128th Infantry Regiments, to replace the 63rd. The 128th took the north half of the division's sector while the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 127th occupied the southern half — Sheboygan's Company C, 127th Infantry trailed in reserve along with the rest of 1st Battalion.

"1st battalion, in charge of Maj. Stevens, acting as reserve, 500 meters in the rear. The jumping off place was on the road south of Valpriez [Farm]," Schmidt wrote.

On Aug. 30, Company C moved up through open wheat fields to positions along a railroad track taken by the 63rd Brigade two days prior.

"We made two advances; the first to another highway and in the afternoon to a second position along a railroad track, about one and one-half kilometers west of the City of

Juvigny," Schmidt said.

At about 9 p.m., artillery fire pounded Company C's position along the railroad track.

"The last shell that came over landed near our line, exploded and mortally wounded Pvt. Theobald Hoffman, he was removed to the aid station and expired the following morning," Schmidt said.

Hoffman was a veteran of Company C's service during the Mexican Border Crisis and a very popular man within the unit. At Camp MacArthur, he was noted for writing the unit's marching songs.

Company C moved to Juvigny's western outskirts by noon of the 31st and occupied a reserve position while the 3rd Battalion, 127th Infantry assaulted the city from the south and the 1st Battalion, 128th enveloped from the north. The attack quickly overcame the Germans within the village.

With Juvigny taken, the 32nd Division's line resembled a chair with the 128th in the north as the back and the seat along the north side of Juvigny while the 127th Infantry in the south was the leg. It was a precarious



Soldiers from Company A, 121st Machine Gun Battalion, take shelter from enemy fire in an artillery crater Aug. 29, 1918. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson

situation that invited a German counterattack.

Schmidt then received the following order, "Move Co. C to N.E. side of town. Germans in this sector. Locate along road as shown in sketch and push out patrols to keep contact with enemy, Get in contact with 128th on the left."

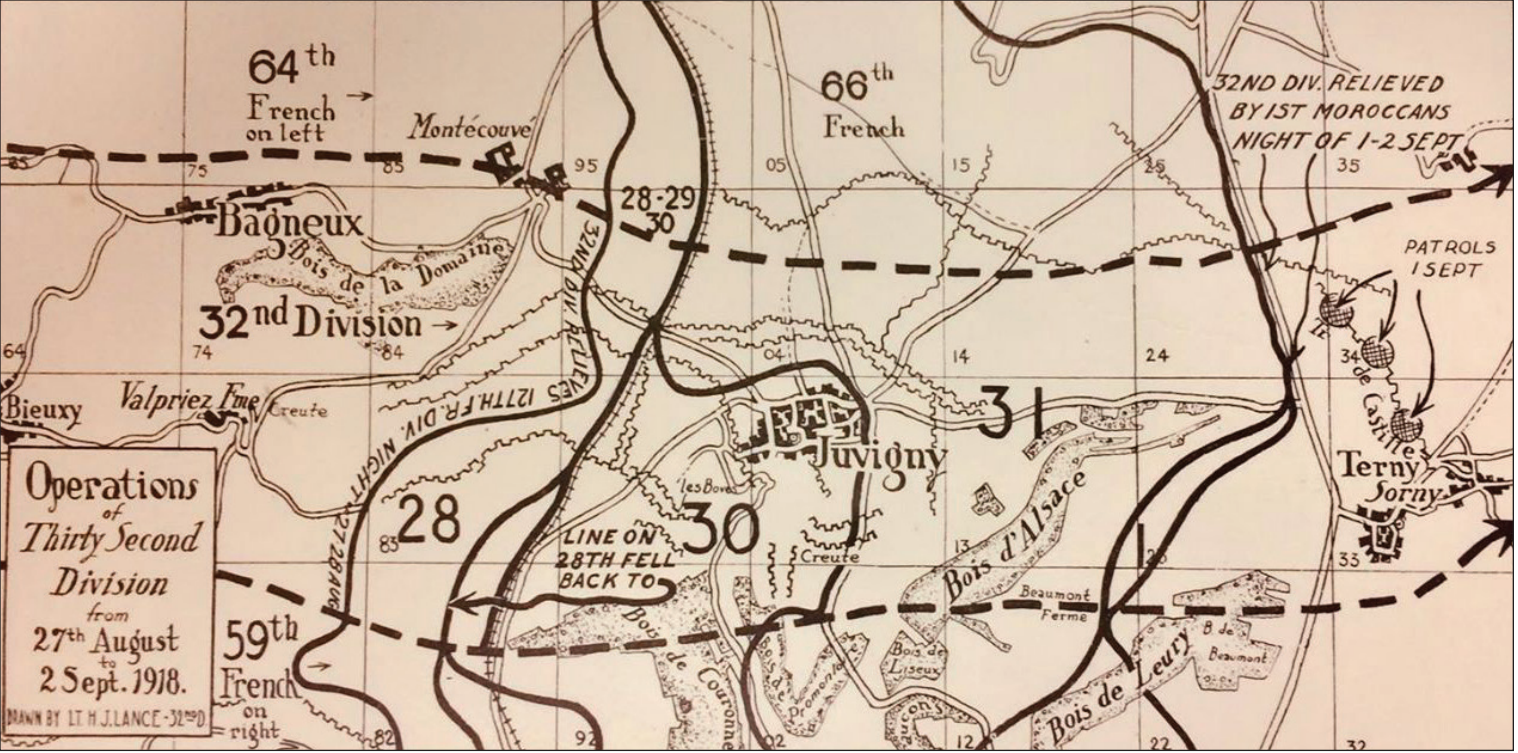
Schmidt skillfully moved his troops into position through heavy artillery and machine gun fire.

"I had the company file to the left one squad at a time, single file, and march to the railroad track, and thence through a defile about twelve feet deep," Schmidt wrote. "This cut furnished admirable protection for our men from the shell fire which had become fierce."

Company C now held a critical part of the entire 32nd Division line joining two regiments at a 90-degree bend in the line. Orders came for an attack that would straighten the line before the Germans could mount a counterattack.

The complex attack included French tanks and a triple rolling artillery barrage. While the division's advance was successful, Schmidt noted that the tank assault had been a failure.

"The French tanks seen advancing toward the city seemed to be a failure, they were later found along the roadway over-turned and





Above, a modern-day view of the location where Company C started the Battle of Juvigny south of Valpries farm. Wisconsin National Guard photo by Maj. Brian Faltinson

At left, a map of the 32nd Division's progress during the Battle of Juvigny, Aug. 28-Sept. 2, 1918.

badly battered and every man accompanying them killed," Schmidt wrote.

On Sept. 1, Company C and the rest of 1st Battalion was ordered to attack the German line east of Juvigny. By this time, officer casualties in the battalion were high and Schmidt directed other companies near him.

"At 3:00 P.M . . . . I brought up all companies in assault formation and we jumped off on scheduled time."

The advance moved forward a few hundred yards in the face of heavy machine gun fire. Unable to communicate the situation to his headquarters, he took command of the situation.

"The machine gun attack was so terrific and there were so many men falling that I blew the whistle to halt," Schmidt said. "Our major was in the rear and did not know what was going on and it being almost impossible to send word back, I used the initiative and to avoid needless slaughter, called the men to a halt."

The French Foreign Legion relieved the 32nd that evening. In five days of sharp fighting, the 32nd Division had captured Juvigny and the key terrain surrounding it at a heavy cost of nearly 500 killed and over 2,000 wounded. Company C lost seven killed and 18 wounded.

Gen. Mangin lauded the 32nd's actions at Juvigny and the French Army awarded the Croix de Guerre to the division's four infantry regiments, three machine gun battalions and its four field artillery regiments.

Meanwhile, the 32nd Division moved to the rear to rest and ready itself for the largest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army.

AT WAR: Praise the Lord and pass the ammo

Capt. Gustav Stearns was typical of many National Guard Soldiers in that he had a regular civilian job and civilian life, punctuated by periodic military obligations.

But his civilian job and his military responsibility were not typical — Stearns was the pastor at Church of the Ascension in Milwaukee — Ascension Lutheran Church today — and chaplain for the 127th Infantry. His church granted him a leave of absence so he could serve his nation during World War I.

In return, he sent weekly letters to his congregation, some of which appeared in local newspapers.

Stearns was with the 127th from the Wisconsin Military Reservation through Alsace, and was wounded by enemy shrapnel fire July 12, 1918 in Badricourt, France.

"I saw at once that it didn't amount to anything, so I just wiped off the blood and thought, 'Well, tomorrow I'll



Capt. Gustav Stearns, chaplain for the 127th Infantry, conducts a memorial service in the field in the Alsace sector.

The chaplain's flag at left was a treasured item for Stearns. Image capture from U.S. Signal Corps film



put on a clean pair of socks and let it go at that,'" he would write to his congregation a few days after the incident.

Following the battle of Juvigny, Stearns received a citation for gallentry in action, signed by Gen. John Pershing.

One letter to his church, dated June 3, 1918, effectively conveys life as a chaplain in combat.

"I am having quite a varied program," his letter began. "Every Sunday, of course, I conduct some kind of a church service. None of them are conducted in a church building, and about the only thing which has any religious significance is the chaplain's flag, which I always have with me at a service."

Stearns described that particular flag, which he received when he was chaplain for the 1st Wisconsin Infantry. That flag had been put to use at the Wisconsin Military Reservation; Fort Sheridan, Illinois; Camp MacArthur, Texas; Camp Merritt, New Jersey; in the hold of — and for a burial at sea aboard — the S.S. George Washington troop ship; and at numerous locations in France for worship and military funerals.

Stearns — who once preached a service for more than 4,000 wounded Soldiers, and on another



In a photo from his book "From Army Camps and Battle-Fields," Capt. Gustav Stearns, chaplain for the 127th Infantry, describes the "funeral of [the] first boy in my regiment, who was killed in [the] trenches near Hagenbach, Alsace."

occasion buried 51 fallen Soldiers in one day on a battlefield while under artillery fire — explained that large outdoor services were prohibited near the front lines due to German air patrols.

"I generally work it this way: When the boys are assembled for their meals on Sundays, I go to one company for breakfast, to another company for dinner, and to still another company for supper," Stearns wrote. "While the boys are eating I make an announcement something like this: 'Now boys, when you get thru eating, I am going to preach a little sermon. It will not be long enough to hurt any of you. All of you need it.'

"When I get thru with this

announcement, some of the boys will probably say, 'Sure, Chaplain,'" Stearns continued. "Others will say, 'You bet we will,' and still others, 'Don't you worry, Chaplain, we will all be right here any old time you come to this company; all of us stick with the big show.' Now, I do not want any of you people who listen to this letter to get the ideal that they are sacrilegious when they reply this way. I am sure that the recording angel will overlook any of this roughness of speech.

"Well, at any rate, when the meal is over, my Soldier congregation sits around wherever they happen to be," Stearns wrote, "on a supply wagon or near a manure pile, or back of a house, or near the bank of a trench, and I start in with my little sermon. After the sermon we all stand up and take off our helmets and I offer a prayer and pronounce the benediction. It may sound like a peculiar service, but I am positive that hundreds of mothers and sisters and sweethearts back home would thank God if they could but see the reverence and devoutness which these boys show in their eyes and by their every action during such a service.



Capt. Gustav Stearns, front row, second from left, at his assignment as chaplain for a convalescent camp in France. U.S. Signal Corps photo

"The boys in my regiment know that it is possible for a man to worship God devoutly and still be a good, courageous Soldier in the trenches and upon the battlefield."

In a June 17, 1918 letter, Stearns described conducting a funeral for a German noncommissioned officer, which included a short sermon. He explained to those present, military and civilian, that military regulations allowed burying any soldier killed in action — even the enemy. He also told those present that the German soldier's parents would likely want to know the location of their son's grave, and asked the civilians present to tell the parents their son was given a religious military funeral.

"I also mentioned in my sermon that every man has an immortal soul," Stearns wrote, "which is exceptionally precious in the sight of God."

In late September 1918, Stearns received new orders, to serve as the chaplain for a large convalescent camp for wounded Soldiers — a duty he maintained until March 1919, when he rejoined the 127th Infantry as it prepared to return to the United States.

Col. Russell Langdon, 127th Infantry commander, praised his chaplain in a letter.

"It was with great regret that I read the order from our Commander-in-Chief which detaches you from duty with my regiment, and sends you into another, and probably a larger sphere of usefulness," Langdon wrote. "The order came as a great surprise to me, as I had hoped to have you with us as long as this great struggle lasts.

"In my 22 years' service as an officer of the Regular Army, I have not met a chaplain who held both the respect and affection of the men of the regiment more than you have," Langdon continued, "and I have met but few whose real efficiency as chaplains was comparable with yours … In all of your relations you have always been a loyal and efficient officer, and your bearing has been invariably that of an exemplar of the Christian faith." ‡



Above, the village of Juvigny after the Germans evacuated, as seen Sept. 1, 1918. At left, an advanced dressing station near Juvigny — the most forward destination for ambulances. Soldiers are making final touches to a grave of a fallen comrade. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson





Above, Rufus Daniel Isaacs, the Lord Chief Justice of England — and ambassador to the United States at this time — waves farewell to Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, after a Sept. 4, 1918 visit at Tartiers, France.
At left, a German machine gun nest near Juvigny, France, captured by the 128th Infantry. The railroad bank marks where the Germans made their most determined stand before evacuating. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Cpl. Allen Hanson



The eastern entrance of a massive cave used by American troops during the drive to Juvigny. The entrance leading to this section of the cave was used as an ambulane dressing station. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Cpl. Allen Hanson

AT WAR: A break in the action



After 50 days on or near the front, the 32nd Division needed to rest and refit for the next battle. Successful drives during the Second Battle of the Marne and at Juvigny had earned the division high praise, but at the cost of 6,700 casualties — of which 1,162 were killed.

The 32nd retired to Pierrefonds, between Compiegne and Soissons, where a beautiful medieval castle dominated the entire area. While the men of the 32nd were indeed impressed with the castle and enjoyed wandering its passageways, the small things of an area untouched by war stood out the most.

"It seemed strange to get back to a place where we once more see roofs on houses and windows and doors which have not been smashed, and people in civilian clothes and happy little children playing in the streets," said Capt. Gustav Stearns, the 127th Infantry Regiment chaplain.

It was here that Stearns received new orders that would take him away for the 127th Infantry (see page 67).

Other 32nd Division troops enjoyed the brief break from the front lines and were able to visit with friends in other units. Soldiers from Sheboygan's two units — Company C, 127th Infantry and Headquarters Company, 120th Field Artillery — were able to locate each other and catch up.

"I enjoyed a splendid visit with Capt. Herbert Kohler," said Capt. Paul Schmidt, Company C's commander. "This unexpected meeting

with home boys did much to resuscitate the spirits of all the troops."

The 32nd Division's time at Pierrefonds was short. Orders came that put units on trains destined to a point unknown. In the interest of security, the final destination often was not shared with the men or even the French train crews.

"We were given instructions to prepare for another rail movement: destination unknown," said Schmidt. "I was ordered to take charge of 1st Battalion."

The destination was Chevillon in the AEF's Toul Sector, which was Gen. John Pershing's gathering place for the 1.2 million American Soldiers who would take part in the largest battle in American history.

En route to Chevillon, the train carrying the 32nd Division stopped for a rest at Joinville, an area 60 miles south of Verdun that had yet to be visited by American Soldiers.

"We were the first American troops to arrive in this section and our entrance into the town was greeted by a large crowd of women and children dressed in all their finery," Schmidt wrote.

Troops were billeted among the civilian population in the surrounding villages, and for a couple of weeks the division resumed a garrison routine of training and work details, separated by regular meals. Evenings were set aside for leisure and regimental band concerts.



Maj. Gen. William Haan meets with French officers in Joinville in September 1918. Image capture from U.S. Signal Corps film

"Coming from the war devastated region, where woods, trenches and wrecked buildings were our habitual abode, it was a day or two before we again became accustomed to living in billets and with the civil population," wrote Capt. Emil Gansser in his unit history, *The 126th Infantry in the War with Germany*.

New Soldiers arrived every day to fill the ranks and replace those Soldiers wounded or killed — 5,000 in all. Most of the replacements had been in uniform only since July, and many did not know which unit they were assigned to until they arrived.

"We found that our new command was none other than the fighting 32nd, which we were told was a shock division," said Pvt. Horace Baker, a replacement from Mississippi, assigned to Company M, 128th Infantry. "This phrase when explained to us gave us a shock, for it was said its duty was to go where other units failed and break the German line."

Still, the influx of new Soldiers did not entirely replace combat losses.

"We were still short three officers and about 50 men per rifle company," the division's official war history noted, "but the new men had caught the spirit of 'Les Terribles,' as all of our replacements readily did."

The rest in Joinville also allowed the division to issue new clothing and individual equipment, as well as repair worn equipment and vehicles.

Maj. Gen. William Haan — having received orders to move the division to the Meuse-Argonne front — reviewed his troops Sept. 20. Two days later, they headed out.

"Reluctantly we marched to the outskirts of the peaceful valley," Schmidt wrote, "where we were loaded on trucks and started for the far-famed Argonne forest."

The final battle of World War I lay ahead.



Winnebago Indians — today known as members of the Ho-Chunk Nation — in Company D, 128th Infantry Regiment include (front row, left to right): Andrew Furinimaker, Saunemey Little Soldier, Robert Decorah, William Decorah (looking left), Mike Standingwater, Archie White Eagle, Jon White Eagle. Back row, l-r: George Miner, Arthur Decorah, Foster Decorah, John Miner, Russias Thundercloud, Henry Thundercloud, William Miner, Allen Decorah, Jas Brown. Photo courtesy of the Miner family

AT WAR:
Citizen Soldiers, but not citizens

Some of the Wisconsin residents who joined the 32nd Division — and other military units — to help the United States fight in World War I were Native Americans.

In 1917, roughly half of all Native Americans were not U.S. citizens. There were also some concerns — quickly proved unfounded — as to Native American loyalty due to the friendly relations between some Native American tribes and Mexico. Germany had urged Mexico through the Zimmermann Telegram to wage war against the United States to reclaim territory lost half a century earlier. The telegram was a major catalyst for U.S. entry into the war.

However, Native Americans did not side with Germany or the Central Powers. The Menominee of Wisconsin, for example, passed a resolution

supporting the war and pledged men and tribal funds in support of the war effort. The Onondaga and Oneida Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy declared war on Germany.

As many as 6,000 non-citizen Native Americans voluntarily enlisted for military service in World War I, and up to 6,500 were drafted. For many Native Americans, volunteering to serve in World War I was an opportunity to continue in their tribes' warrior traditions and to receive war honors. Among the Native Americans who volunteered for military service were 26 members of the Ho-Chunk Nation — known then as the Winnebago Tribe of Wisconsin — who enlisted at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, and were assigned to Mauston's Company D, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

Quentin Thundercloud — a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and nephew of William Miner, one of the Winnebago World War I veterans — explained that combat veterans who had fought and killed the enemy are entitled to certain rights not available to other tribe members.

"In our tribe we hold that veteran as one of the highest esteemed persons," Thundercloud said at an annual pow-wow held to commemorate Ho-Chunk veterans of all wars. "Songs are made for them — we sing their song in honor of them. They have the ability to put eagle feathers on their female relatives — that's a right they have. Not everybody can wear a feather."

Company D, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, would become Company D, 128th Infantry Regiment of the 32nd Division. Among the Winnebago who enlisted were 15-year-old Arthur Decorah and his 17-year-old brother Henry, and their father Foster who was not about to let his sons go to war without him. Henry would see his father killed on the battlefield Aug. 1, 1918 as the division fought successfully to gain control of Fismes in a battle that earned the division its nom de guerre — *Les Terribles*. Foster Decorah is buried in France at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial — Plot D, Row 17, Grave 33.

Choctaw at first, and then Cherokee, Lakota Sioux and



The gravesite of Cpl. Foster Decorah at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial in France. Photo courtesy of World War I Native American Warriors Facebook page

other Native Americans, relayed critical troop movement information over military telephone lines in their native tongue, becoming the nation's first code-talkers.

Other traits attributed to the Native American warrior heritage led to Native American Soldiers receiving dangerous assignments such as scout or sniper. While this led to higher casualties among Native American Soldiers than others, it also resulted in battlefield commendations. Among them:

- Pvt. William Ashmun, a Chippewa serving with the 127th Infantry Regiment's Machine Gun Company, earned a Croix de Guerre with gilt star for capturing a German machine gun nest, killing a German soldier and capturing four more.
- Pvt. Joseph Isaac, a Chippewa serving the 125th Infantry Regiment's Company M, earned a Croix de Guerre with bronze star for his actions on July 31, 1918 when, while wounded, he crawled 150 yards to safety while carrying another wounded Soldier on his back.
- Sgt. James Gordon, a Chippewa from Bayfield, Wisconsin serving with the 86th Division, earned a Croix de Guerre when, as a motorcycle driver, he rescued a French lieutenant wounded in an inspection tour. Gordon reached safety while driving through enemy fire.
- Cpl. Walter Sevalier, a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, received a Distinguished Service Cross while assigned to Company F, 7th Engineer Regiment, 5th Division. Sevalier swam the Meuse River with a cable for a pontoon bridge under direct machine-gun fire Nov. 3, 1918. Later he would be wounded by machine gun fire carrying a cable for another bridge across the Est Canal. Gen. John Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, named Sevalier one of the 100 most heroic U.S. Soldiers in World War 1.
- Cpl. Angus Teeple, a Bay Mills Chippewa with the 125th Infantry Regiment's Company M, earned a Silver Star for his actions July 31, 1918. Teeple crawled forward under heavy enemy fire to rescue a wounded comrade.

But many others were recognized for their professionalism in uniform.

Pfc. Pontiac Williams, an Ottawa Indian assigned to Company K, 125th Infantry Regiment,



Pfc. Pontiac Williams
U.S. Army Signal Corps photo by Lt. Nat L. Dewell

participated in every battle the regiment was part of except for Soissons. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and was recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal, according to the caption for a Jan. 23, 1919 photo taken in Krunkel, Rhenish Prussia, Germany.

"[He] is an example in demeanor, conduct and Soldierly appearance, according to his officers," the caption read.

Sgt. Maj. John Chisolm, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin — whose father was Chippewa and mother was of Chippewa and French heritage — enlisted in the Machine Gun Company of the 3rd Wisconsin Regiment. Photographed in Rengsdorff, Rhenish Prussia, Germany on Jan. 24, 1919 when the 32nd Division was performing occupation duty, the caption reveals the 23-year-old's exceptional abilities.

"He has been promoted from the grade of private to battalion sergeant major on his merits and is exceptionally well-qualified for the work he is doing in the office of assistant chief of staff," the caption read. "[He is] an expert stenographer, quick and accurate, has a fine memory and takes excellent care of the records of this office."

Cpl. Edward Denomie, a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, served in 128th Regiment's Supply Company and recalled when the fighting came to an end.

"[The] 11th of November we were right up at the front line," he said in an oral history interview at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. "Right across 'No Man's Land' you could see the Germans up ahead. Then everything quieted down. An eerie quiet finally descended on the war-torn landscape."

Denomie survived gas attacks during World War I, which had a lasting effect on his health after the war.

Cpl. George Miner was among the Winnebago who served in Company D. According to his daughter Marian, Miner's Indian name was translated into "kills many" by a small group of Ho-Chunk Soldiers in France learned of his recent actions in combat.

"Somehow, the group put on a feast with what they had on hand," Marian said in a Feb. 8,



Sgt. Maj. John Chisolm
U.S. Army Signal Corps photo by Lt. Nat L. Dewell



Cpl. Edward Denomie Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

2018 interview posted on the *World War I Native American Warriors* Facebook page. "This was a great honor to him and his family."

Miner knew the high and low German dialects, and decoded messages as part of his wartime duties. He told his family of being so hungry in combat and finding himself in an onion field. Despite not liking onions, "he ate it like an apple," Marian said. "That was the story he told us when we didn't want to eat something we did not like."

The daughters of George, John and William Miner organized a pow-wow at Volk Field — located on the Camp Williams grounds — in 1978 to honor Ho-Chunk World War I veterans. They called themselves "Daughters of the Red Arrow," but that name would become "Descendants of the Red Arrow." The 40th annual pow-wow was celebrated in 2018.

Pershing made special note of the Native American contribution to the war effort.

"The North American Indian took his place beside every other American in offering his life in the great cause," Pershing said, "where as a splendid Soldier, he fought with the courage and valor of his ancestors."

President Calvin Coolidge praised the Winnebago Tribe in a July 4, 1924 proclamation.

"The thanks of the nation is extended through the President … to the people of the Winnebago Tribe of Wisconsin," Coolidge wrote, "for their unwavering loyalty and patriotism, the splendid service rendered, the willing sacrifices made, and the bravery of their men in the military and naval service of the United States when the nation was in peril during the World War of 1917-1918."



Members of the Thundercloud Singers perform a song in honor of Ho-Chunk Nation veterans of military conflicts during a 2015 Descendants of the Red Arrow Pow-Wow at Volk Field, Wis. Volk Field resides on the former Wisconsin Military Reservation. Wisconsin National Guard file photo

AT WAR: The Meuse-Argonne Offensive



A steel-reinforced German dugout in the Argonne woods near Montfaucon in Meuse, France, became the 32nd Division headquarters. Here, Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, is checking a map Oct. 2, 1918 after hearing that the German line in Belgium had been cut. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock

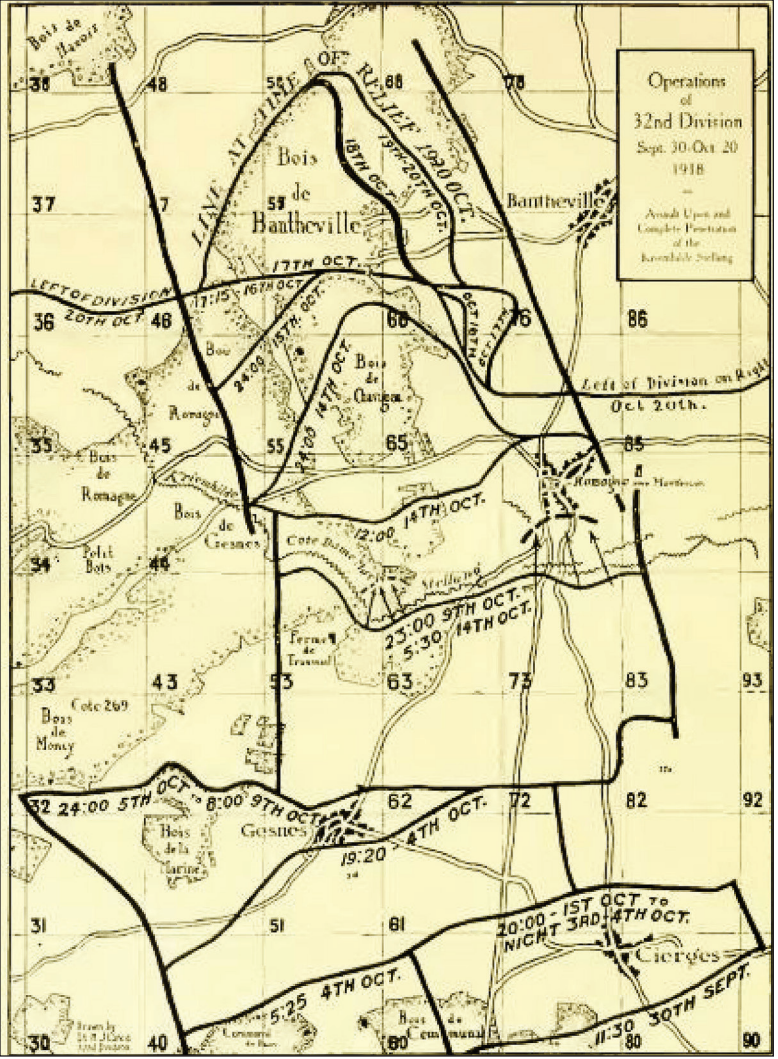
Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing's intent was always to organize and command, as soon as possible, an American army in World War I. But the realities on the battlefield — the German offensives in early and mid-1918 — required augmenting French and British forces with American units.

Now, after the successful Aisne-Marne Offensive against the Germans, Pershing could begin to organize American units under his command, which would take their place alongside French and British forces in the final battle of World War I.

All three Allied forces would launch offensives around the end of September, with the Americans assaulting the area from the Meuse River to the Argonne Forest — the Meuse-Argonne Offensive — in order to sever a key supply line to German units in northeast France.

Politically, the Germans had realized they could no longer hope to win the war, so their effort now was to not *lose* the war — to not be caught in a situation requiring them to make significant concessions as peace terms were hammered out. For the Allies, the goal was to deny the Germans the opportunity to negotiate from a position of strength.

"The Army was to break through the enemy's successive fortified zones, to include the Kriemhilde-Stellung, or Hindenburg Line," Gen. John Pershing wrote in his final report on the American



Expeditionary Forces's efforts in World War I. "A penetration of some 12 to 15 kilometers was required to reach the Hindenburg Line on our front, and the enemy's defenses were virtually continuous throughout that depth."

That was because, in Pershing's words, the Meuse-Argonne front had been practically stabilized in September 1914 with few fluctuations. This allowed the Germans four years to establish a defensive system "of unusual depth and strength and a wide zone of utter devastation, itself a serious obstacle to offensive operations." The natural terrain of the region — dominating heights east of the Meuse, the Argonne forest and dense woods north of Montfaucon, and ridges along the Meuse and Aire River valleys — also enhanced German forces' defensive posture.

"The Argonne was one of those places of woods, here and there open terrain, numerous steep hills, wire, the always present machine gun nests, rain and mud," Lt. Col. Byron Beveridge wrote in the 1939 *Historical Sketch of the Wisconsin National Guard*.

"We had listened to the great barrage which opened the Meuse-Argonne offensive on the night of Sept. 25-26," Capt. Carl Hanton recounted in *The Thirty-Second Division in the World War*. "Our doughboys, who had heard some sizeable barrages up Chateau-Thierry and Soissons way, sensed at once that this was something new in the way of battle. There was something American about it … this was an American punch. 'Let's go!'"

As the campaign began, the 32nd Division was in reserve. American forces had advanced 10 kilometers and reached the second of four German defensive positions in the sector before bogging down against a determined German defense. When the time came for the 32nd to relieve the 37th Division, it encountered its first obstacle — the terrain.

"There was only one road across No Man's Land, and that was by the way of Avoncourt," Hanton wrote. "This was only nominally a road. It was impracticable, for any but the lightest of vehicles."

And for five kilometers, that road was essentially a parking lot filled with two lines of vehicles, standing still. Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, had earlier scouted the area and led his brigade commanders on foot to the 37th Division headquarters in the woods. The division, meanwhile, marched throughout the night of Sept. 29, single-file alongside the road. Many trudged 18 kilometers carrying packs weighing nearly 80 pounds in the dark through mud, undergrowth and broken barbed wire. Haan apparently considered this march among the finest accomplishments the division accomplished in France.

"These men were hardened to their work," Hanton wrote, "and the division commander felt sure that although the task he was giving them was about the limit of human endurance, yet they would respond to his command — and they did."

Capt. Paul Schmidt, who now was in charge of the 127th Infantry's 1st Battalion, described the Sept. 29 march in his account of the war,

Co. C. 127th Infantry, in the World War.

"The night this march was made was so dark that it was impossible for the men to see anything," Schmidt wrote. "The roads were muddy, making walking extremely arduous. The troops were almost overcome with fatigue, but they marched on in single file formation."

Even with this precaution, however, the line broke and three companies separated in the dark, reorganizing at daybreak amid the fearsome destruction wrought by the German drive four years earlier. But Schmidt's troops also encountered well-designed and well-stocked German defensive positions, some including furniture and stoves.

A few short hours after completing the march, the 63rd Brigade moved forward to replace most of the 37th Division. Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 3 the division filled in on the front line and prepared for their next assault. Schmidt was back in charge of Company C when the division set out to capture Gesnes and the heights west of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon.



"This was only nominally a road." The only road through No Man's Land, near Avoncourt. Photo from "32nd Division in the World War."

"Company C was the first to arrive and following the guides, marched in single file, for the Germans were shelling this position with extreme violence," Schmidt wrote. The company they relieved had been sorely wounded by German artillery and machine gun fire, and was down to 65 men and one lieutenant. Company C took up their positions and awaited definitive orders.

Orders indeed came from division headquarters, down to brigade headquarters, and then to regimental headquarters, and then battalion, and finally to the companies. Schmidt received his orders at 6 a.m. Oct. 4, calling for the attack to begin in 90 minutes.

"I hope to God our infantry will get there in time to jump off at H-hour," Haan agonized in his diary. "I think they will, but it is a test that I hoped would not be placed upon even the 32nd Division.

Schmidt, however, found relief in the orders.

"Nothing palls more than uncertainty, and the feeling of absolute isolation was beginning to cause a feeling of unrest among the troops," Schmidt wrote. "Orders were immediately given to adjust packs and get into assault formation."

As they were ready to advance, a German artillery round struck nearby, sending shards of steel toward the men of Company C.

"I turned to see what the commotion was about, when at that instant a long sliver of the shell struck Pvt. Sorenson, of Illinois, directly in



A cache of minnenwerfers (mortars) and hand grenades Oct. 2, 1918, left behind by the Germans in their hasty retreat from the Argonne woods. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock



Soldiers from Company C, 107th Engineers, repairing a road Oct. 4, 1918 that had been sabotaged with traps and mines by Germans retreating from the Argonne woods. This trap spanned the width of the road. Such tactics delayed U.S. pursuit of the retreating Germans. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock

the chest," Schmidt recounted. "He threw up both arms and fell, apparently dead. An examination, however, showed that he had received no body wounds, but was merely stunned from the shock."

Because the map used to write the orders was a different scale than the maps available at the company level, considerable confusion resulted during the troop movement to their objectives. As they encountered terrain features not identified in their orders, division Soldiers came under withering German artillery and machine gun fire.

"It is useless to try and describe a fire such as this," Schmidt wrote. "After one hour of this shelling, I was the only company commander left standing in the 1st Battalion."

As Oct. 4 drew to a close, Schmidt sought a few hours sleep in a shelter hole.

"When I lay down that night to sleep, a dead soldier, lying close beside me, was my bedfellow," Schmidt recalled. "This is only an incident in the life of a soldier and does not materially affect the regular routine of the grim business of making war.



The 32nd Division's 107th Engineer Regiment builds a road over a former German trench and dugout Oct. 2, 1918 on Cheppy Road near Vauquois Mountain, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class J.T. Seabrook

"This was our first day in the Argonne drive," he continued. "Dante never pictured hell with greater horror than the circumstances under which we lived on this day and night."

That day began the second phase of the Meuse-Argonne campaign.

In the ensuing days the 32nd Division continued to advance and defend its position against a determined German foe, at great cost. When Schmidt and Company C relieved a battalion from the 91st Division's 361st Infantry, the commander informed Schmidt the 950-man battalion had held their position for 17 straight days, and now numbered 174.

"He expressed his joy and that of the troops that his battalion would be relieved," Schmidt wrote.

Soon Schmidt and other companies from the 127th Infantry's 1st Battalion took up positions around Hill 255, in the vicinity of the Hindenburg Line, or Kriemhilde Stellung.





Above, 2nd Lt. Edward French at a vital switchboard in the Argonne woods near Montfaucon, Meuse, France, Oct. 2, 1918. This switchboard connected regiments to 32nd Division headquarters, and division headquarters with corps headquarters. At left, a battlefield gravesite for French and German soldiers served as the orderly room for the 32nd Division's Company B, 107th Field Signal Battalion in the Argonne woods. The battalion field kitchen can be seen in the background. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock





Above, as the Germans retreated from the Argonne woods, they destroyed sources of water. V Corps engineers, including those from the 32nd Division, restored this water supply point, the only source of drinking water near Montfaucon, Meuse, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock

At right, a detachment of the 32nd Division's 107th Engineer Regiment clears wire entanglements from a field near Vaquois Mountain, France, Oct. 2, 1918 in order to build a road. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class J.T. Seabrook



Some of the nearly 1,000 German prisoners, captured by Soldiers from the 32nd Division's 63rd Infantry Brigade, the morning of Oct. 9, 1918 in the Argonne woods near Montfaucon, Meuse, France. Some prisoners were suffering from wounds and gas attacks and were taken to field hospitals. Some prisoners came from the Russian front to help bolster the German defense. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock



AT WAR: The Red Arrow pierces the Kriemhilde Stellung

"*Les Terribles* had now completed their bloody approach to the Kriemhilde Stellung, and were directly in front of what was known as the strongest position on the whole Hindenburg Line in the Argonne-Meuse sector," Capt. Carl Hanton wrote in *The Thirty-Second Division in the World War*. "The struggle to reach the ramparts of the bristling natural fortress which our men now faced had been over a dangerous terrain, and every outpost to the Kriemhilde had been desperately defended by an enemy fully aware of the deadly peril he would be in should the Americans continue their success."

The evening of Oct. 13, 1918, a conference of officers from the 127th Infantry planned their assault on the Hindenburg Line, to begin at 5:30 a.m. the following day.

"The plan of attack," Capt. Paul Schmidt, commander of the 127th Infantry's Company C, 1st Battalion, recalled, "called for a barrage which was scheduled to start 10 minutes before the zero hour and play until five minutes after, when it was to lift and travel forward at a rate

Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, questions a German lieutenant and feldwebel (noncommissioned officer) Oct. 9 in the Argonne Woods near Montfaucon in Meuse, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock



of 100 yards every four minutes." The 1st Battalion would lead the attack, with 3rd Battalion in support and 2nd Battalion in reserve.

The conference ended with a reading of the Order of the Day, issued by Brig. Gen. Edwin Winans, 64th Brigade commander:

"Soldiers of the front line, 32nd Division.

"A few hundred yards to the north of you the remnants of the decimated crack divisions of the German army are clinging desperately to the pivotal point of their bruised and broken line, on which hangs the fate of their Emperor and the Empire.

"The 32nd Division was sent to this sector to shatter that line. You are shock troops, '*Les Terrible'* the French call you. 'Fighting sons o'guns,' the Americans call you. You are the very flower of our army. You that remain up there on the front have been tried by fire. The skulkers have skulked — the quitters have quit. Only the man with guts remains.

"Shells? Shell casualties are only three percent of the total.

"Tired? You have been in the line two weeks. Your enemies have been in five weeks, prisoners say they have gone through hell.

"The 32nd Division is going ahead when the 1st American Army attacks. We're three regiments abreast, with one in support. Each is echeloned in depth. One battalion behind the other, except the one on the extreme right, that one mops up Romagne, the others go forward. This formation will give you driving power.

"The Americans must succeed. It is not enough to say 'I'll try.'

"Your resolve must be 'I will!'"

Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, wrote in his diary that the division was under constant artillery fire Oct. 12-14, and constant sector limits changes resulted in night movements.

"The order is ready for a new attack at 8 tomorrow, with the 42nd Division on our left and 5th Division on our right," Haan wrote. "Our troops are up against wire and will have a hard job, but I hope it goes OK … my division is getting thin and tired, it needs rest and reorganization."

The next day's entry in Haan's diary was more positive.

"The attack was launched today in accordance with Corps orders against the well-organized trench south of Romagne protected with wire. Artillery preparation had been had on our area for the previous 24 hours. The attack succeeded in breaking through the left center of the line and the right of the line at the jump-off, but the right center and the left held up our troops."

Haan wrote that those elements of the division found a way past their obstacles and advanced toward a series of objectives.

"I consider this the best day's work that the 32nd Division has yet done, and it has done many good day's work," Haan wrote.

"A German officer, who was captured today, stated that the attack of our division was the best planned and best executed of any divisions, British or French, that he had come in contact with except one Scottish division who wore kilts and they don't count."

Pershing's account was somewhat more academic.

"An attack along the whole front was made on Oct. 14," he wrote. "The resistance encountered was stubborn, but the stronghold on Cote Dame Marie was captured and the Hindenburg Line was broken."

Hanton wrote that the 126th and 128th Infantry regiments were able to break through the Krimhilde Stellung, but that the 127th encountered "the impregnable defenses"of the hills surrounding La Cote Dame Marie. Eventually the 127th maneuvered around the German right flank.

Schmidt described in great detail the travails of advancing against and beyond the Kriemhilde Stellung — artillery fire, machine-gun fire, gas attacks, wire entanglements, illness and the miserable weather. The 1st Battalion, normally around 1,000 men at full strength, had less than 100 when they assaulted the line. But the illusion of numbers proved in one instance to be quite effective, when Sgt. Christ Reinhardt, the acting first sergeant for headquarters company, was captured by German soldiers. Questioned by a German general, Reinhardt said the battalion numbered around 1,000 men.

"The German general was surprised and asked him whether their machine-gun fire did not kill any of the Americans," Schmidt recorded. "Reinhardt answered that every one of them secured shelter in pill-boxes and shelter holes before the firing commenced. This so alarmed the German officer that he ordered a retreat of his forces, when it would have been easy for him to have advanced beyond the position then held by our troops.

"This bluff of Reinhardt's doubtless saved the lives of many Americans," Schmidt continued, "or, at least, saved them from being taken prisoners."

Hanton wrote that the 32nd Division had vanquished 11



Lt. Col. Paul Clemens and 1st Lt. William Niederprune, 32nd Division intelligence officers, question German prisoners captured by the 63rd Brigade Oct. 9, 1918 in the Argonne woods.
U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock



A portion of the Kriemhilde Stellung. U.S. Signal Corps photo

German divisions — including the 28th Division, known as the "Kaiser's Own."

Sgt. Maj. John Acker of the 107th Ammunition Train, wrote in an Oct. 14 letter — later included in his 1920 book, *Thru the War with Our Outfit* — that there was considerable talk of Germany accepting terms for a peace agreement.

"If an armistice should be declared soon, and I think it will, we are due for a long stay over here after that," Acker wrote. "In the meantime, no one around this neck of the woods is even imagining there is such a thing as peace in sight, judging from the battle going on which appears to be growing more fierce with each passing day. There is no question of the seriousness of Germany's intention of evacuating France. The Hun's only thought of France now is based on his fear that he won't be able to get out of here fast enough."

Unsurprisingly, the continuous combat and climate began to wear on the 32nd Division Soldiers.

"The rain continued to come down in torrents and the shelter holes occupied by the men filled up with water, leaving us with only one alternative," Schmidt recounted. "Getting out of the water and exposing ourselves to the enemy shell fire and possible death, or to remain in the holes with our bodies submerged in the cold water. Between the two, we decided to remain in the shelter holes.

"The troops shivered as they laid in the water, but were buoyed with the prospects of relief," Schmidt continued. "But when it grew dark and the following message arrived at seven o'clock, it proved to be almost the last straw and the men were about as disheartened as mortals could be."

The message, from regimental headquarters, was short — send a ration detail to headquarters. No relief for the weary Company C was coming that night.

Lt. Col. Byron Beveridge, then a major, relieved the commander of the 127th Infantry's 2nd Battalion the afternoon of Oct. 16.

"The men were getting fed up on front line duty," he wrote. "When I rejoined at 9 p.m. and went down the line to see the disposition of the dug-in men the question was asked by man after man, 'When do we get relieved?'

"I replied, 'On my way up I was informed at the Regimental P.C. that Gen. Pershing has sent word the 32nd was holding the most important part of the line and he could not trust another division in its place.' Maybe it's a pleasant remark for those men to recall today, but the reply I received was, 'Yes, but when do we get relieved?'

"However, they kept on fighting with a will," Beveridge continued, "for it was several days before the relief order came. There is not a man today who is not proud of his Argonne experience."

Many in the division enjoyed a hot meal after piercing the Hindenburg Line, Haan wrote in his diary Oct. 15.

"Our 127th Infantry I think will push forward as far as the division on the left will go and maybe a little further," he wrote. "The spirit of our troops is still fine but they are getting very tired and I hope they will not have to stay in much longer. However, we will have to do the best we can with the orders that are received. It looks as if we had none too many troops so that there is not much rest until the boche [Germans] is fully licked."

Two days later, Haan recorded that he requested his division be relieved.

"It is exhausted," Haan wrote Oct. 17. "The division has suffered



heavily from wounds, sickness and exhaustion, and I am of the opinion that it is unable to operate any longer successfully."

Relief finally came Oct. 19, after 20 continuous days in battle. But relief was not necessarily respite. Schmidt's Company C was ready to depart their area when enemy artillery rained down on them.

"The troops were standing along the road expecting every minute to be relieved, and this shelling was not what we looked for," Schmidt wrote. Ordering his men to seek cover, another shell fell in the road they had been standing by, killing two Soldiers.

"I am more than pleased with the work that the division has done and the ground it has gained," Haan wrote, "but I am much more pleased in the way in which it was done. We have in these last 20 days gained eight kilometers and we never have receded an inch of ground once it was taken."

Soldiers from the 32nd Division's 125th Infantry Regiment going into the reserve Oct. 22, 1918, after 20 straight days of combat on the front line. Near Montfaucon, Meuse, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock



Above, a 32nd Division truck headed to the front lines encountered a mud-filled artillery crater in a road near Ivory, Meuse, France.
At left, 32nd Division Soldiers fashion field-expedient hammocks to sleep over water-filled shell craters Oct. 18, 1918 near Epinonville, Meuse, france. U.S. Signal Corps photos by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock





Above, Brig. Gen. LeRoy Irwin, commander of the 32nd Division's 57th Field Artillery Brigade, outside his post command Oct. 21, 1918 near Epinonville, Meuse, France. He is the namesake of Fort Irwin National Training Center in California.
At left, a portion of the 32nd Division's medical supply depot, with the 126th Field Hospital in the background, Oct. 22, 1918 near Montfaucon, Meuse, France U.S. Signal Corps photos by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock

AT WAR: Fighting right up to the very end



"The division had encountered everything that troops in modern battle might be called upon to face." — Capt. Carl Hanton, *The Thirty-Second Division in the World War.*

The Soldiers of the 32nd Division coalesced around division headquarters in the Montfaucon Woods, having just been relieved from 20 straight days of combat. They were cold and weary, their clothing wearing thin, their equipment depleted, and their rest area was waterlogged and infested with pests — but their spirits were seemingly unbreakable.

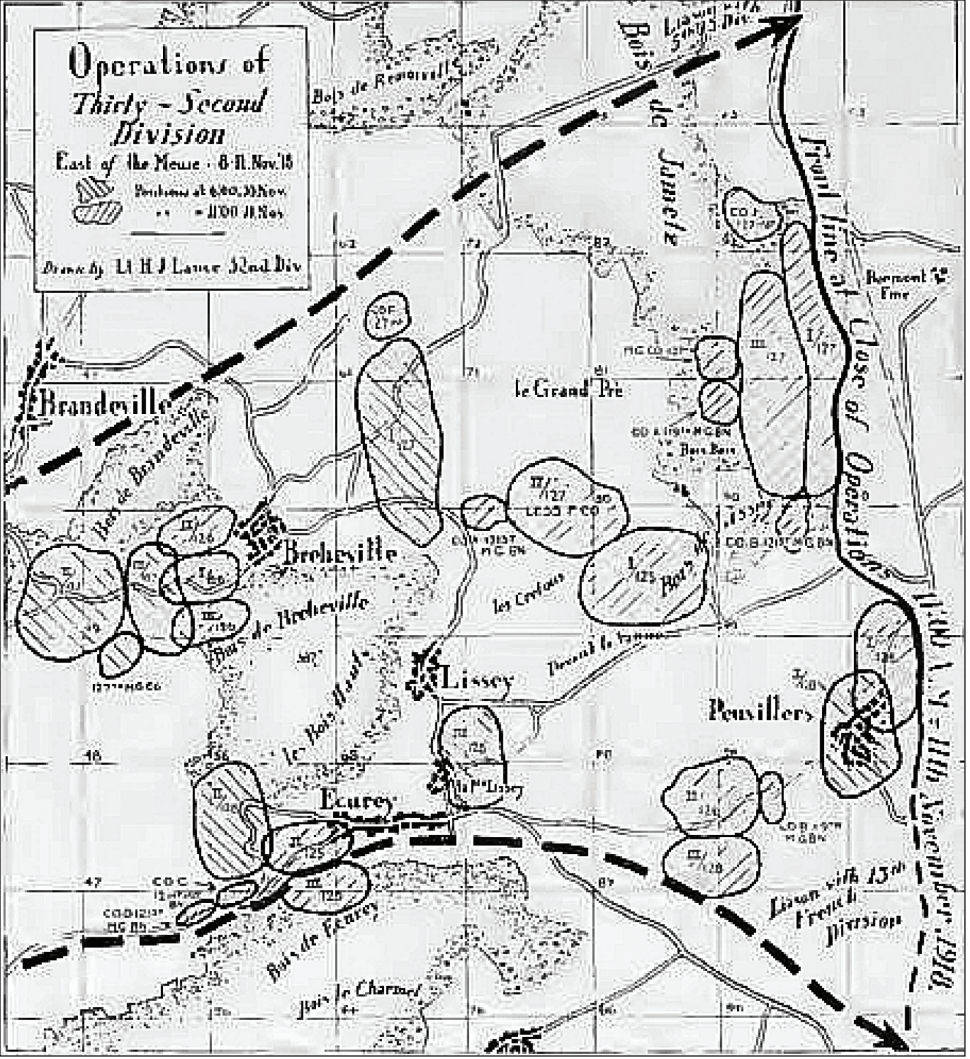
Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, commended his men.

"You are the first division that succeeded in getting through the great Kriemhilde Stellung," Haan is quoted as saying. "You have just been through perhaps the greatest battle that has ever been fought in the world, and you were in the very center of that, and every one of you is glad of it."

The Soldiers were issued new clothing and blankets, the weather improved, and soon it was time to move out again to take up a reserve position for V Corps. They were transferred to III Corps on Nov. 1, the night before the Meuse-Argonne Offensive renewed. The role for III Corps was to support V Corps, which was to be the main force in capturing the heights of Barricourt. Once that objective had been reached, both I and III corps were to pursue the retreating Germans toward Sedan.

The 32nd Division's 128th Infantry Regiment, supporting the 5th Division, entered the line east of the Meuse River on Nov. 6.

The 32nd Division was ordered to be ready to take up the pursuit any time after 8 a.m. Nov. 9, and such an order came at 12:45 p.m. The division moved into formation, and beginning Nov. 10 advanced rapidly, aided by a heavy fog. When the fog cleared the 128th Infantry's 1st Battalion found itself no longer pursuing the





Soldiers from the 32nd Division's 64th Infantry Regiment advancing while in support of the first line near Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Wallock

enemy but within a strong enemy position, from which they fought their way out en route to rejoining the rest of the division.

The Germans defended their positions ferociously and seemed to have halted their retreat. The 32nd Division developed a plan of attack — heavy artillery bombardment throughout the night of Nov. 10, becoming a barrage the morning of Nov. 11.

The 127th Infantry and 128th Infantry were to attack at 7 a.m. to capture the wooded areas at Grand Failly, Rupt, Marville and the wooded heights east of Delut.

"At 6:30 officers in command of the take-off line were issuing their last instructions," Haan wrote of the start of the final day of battle. "Fifteen minutes later they were looking at their wrist



Maj. Gen. William Haan, 32nd Division commander, and Brig. Gen. Edwin Winans, 64th Brigade commander, congratulate officers and noncommissioned officers from the 127th Infantry in Breheville, Meuse, France Nov. 12, 1918, and provide instructions on their next mission — occupying Germany. U.S. Signal Corps photo

watches, not with the tense excitement which characterized the approach of zero hour on the Vesle, not with the savage elation with which they waited for their turn in the tremendous smashes at the foe at Juvigny, not with the grim determination with which they entered each succeeding struggle in the Argonne, but with the calm deliberation of veterans who had a day's work ahead of them, a day's work the like of which they had done before and which they knew just how to, a disagreeable day's work; but well — it was all in a day's work — *c'est la Guerre* [this is war]!

"Five minutes to seven!" Haan wrote to his wife. "The men started to stir around, getting a toe-hold for the take-off, shaking their equipment into place, gripping their guns. Seven o'clock and some of them were off, over the top. Others had been stopped just in the nick of time, and after the advancing skirmish lines of those who had gotten away went panting runners from headquarters with the magic words: FINIS LA GUERRE! [The war is finished!]"

III Corps had informed the 32nd Division shortly before the hour of attack that an armistice was to take effect at 11 a.m. Nov. 11, and to hold troops at their current positions. It appears Haan was mostly successful in this, but now had to reel in those Red Arrows loosed in combat.

"That was some job, too," he wrote. "We got it stopped entirely at 10:45, just 15 minutes before the armistice went into effect. One of my chaplains was killed at 10:40. Hard luck!"

Sgt. Maj. John Acker, in his historical narrative of the 107th Ammunition Train *Thru the War With Our Outfit*, wrote about the end of combat.

"The place and the date mark the birth of a new era, and we were 'in at the death' of the old," he wrote. "It is '*fini la guerre*' and we were at the front when it ended."



Soldiers from the 32nd Division's 64th Brigade discuss the Armistice immediately after combat operations ceased Nov. 11, 1918 in the village of Ecurey, Meuse, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo



The village of Ecurey in Meuse, France moments after hostilities ceased Nov. 11, 1918. In the final half-hour of the war the village was subjected to heavy bombardment, causing numerous casualties. U.S. Signal Corps photo

One of the most significant changes to accompany the end of hostilities was lights at night, with "every shack, barrack and dugout lit up like an excursion steamer."

"It is good to be alive tonight," Acker wrote, "to know that one has been through it and it is all over. My celebration tonight will consist of a sleep like that of the just and the righteously safe. I am going to bed and simply wallow around among the blankets without a fear of whistling shell or of the drone of a Hun motor. It is great to feel perfectly safe."

News of the armistice spread at different speeds in different locations.

"You received the news undoubtedly long before we did," Capt. Gustav Stearns, the chaplain for the 127th Infantry now serving as chaplain for a convalescent hospital, wrote to his congregation back in Milwaukee on Nov. 12, 1918. He explained in his letter the distance of the military hospital from the nearest village, and the lack of any railroad lines.

"The armistice was signed early in the morning [although] the news did not reach us until afternoon," Stearns wrote. "One of the boys said to me, 'Listen, Chaplain, the village church bells are ringing.' At once there was great excitement in the camp."

Making his way to the closest village to confirm the suspicions, Stearns encountered smiling, jubilant peasants who greeted him with the phrase, "*Fin la Guerre*." The village postmaster — who also served as telegraph operator and telephone operator — confirmed the news.

The Great War had unofficially ended.



Above, a battlefield gravesite for four members of the 32nd Division's 128th Infantry Regiment, north of Epinonville, Meuse, France. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Sgt. Fineberg

At left, Maj. William Haan's last review of field artillery troops as the 32nd Division commander, Nov. 20, 1918 near Longwy, Meurthe et Moselle, France. Haan was about to take command of VII Corps, and Maj. Gen. William Lassiter was set to take command of the 32nd Division. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Lt. Dewell

AFTER THE WAR: Red Arrow crosses the Rhine

Military operations did not come to an end for the 32nd Division simply because the guns fell silent on Nov. 11 — its final mission as the vanguard of the American Expeditionary Forces' (AEF) March to the Rhine and subsequent occupation of the German Rhineland.

The Nov. 11 armistice was only a ceasefire, and concerns remained that the war could resume. Creating an Allied zone of occupation in Germany along the Rhine River would ensure that Germany would sign a peace treaty. This strategically important area would provide a security buffer for France and deny industrial production to the German war effort.

The AEF was assigned to occupy 2,500 square miles around the city of Coblenz, which was about 250 kilometers from the 32nd Division's location near Montfaucon, France.

The AEF's Third Corps would lead the way to the Rhine. Considered the most elite corps of the entire U.S. Army, the Third consisted of the 32nd, 1st, 2nd and 42nd Divisions — veteran units of most of the AEF's actions in France. If Germany was to resume the war, it would be against some of the AEF's most battle-hardened divisions.

There was little pause from the last days of combat to commencing the march. The 32nd's 20,000 Soldiers would begin only a few days after the Armistice.

During march preparations, Maj. Gen. William Haan, division commander, issued an order



Brig. Gen. W.R. Smedburg, accompanied by Lt. F.D. Sanford and W.R. Hargue, inspect the Soldiers of the 32nd Division's 63rd Infantry Brigade as they cross the international bridge connecting Echternach, Luxembourg to Echternach-Bruck, Germany Dec. 1, 1918.
U.S. Signal Corps photo by Lt. Rat. L. Dewell

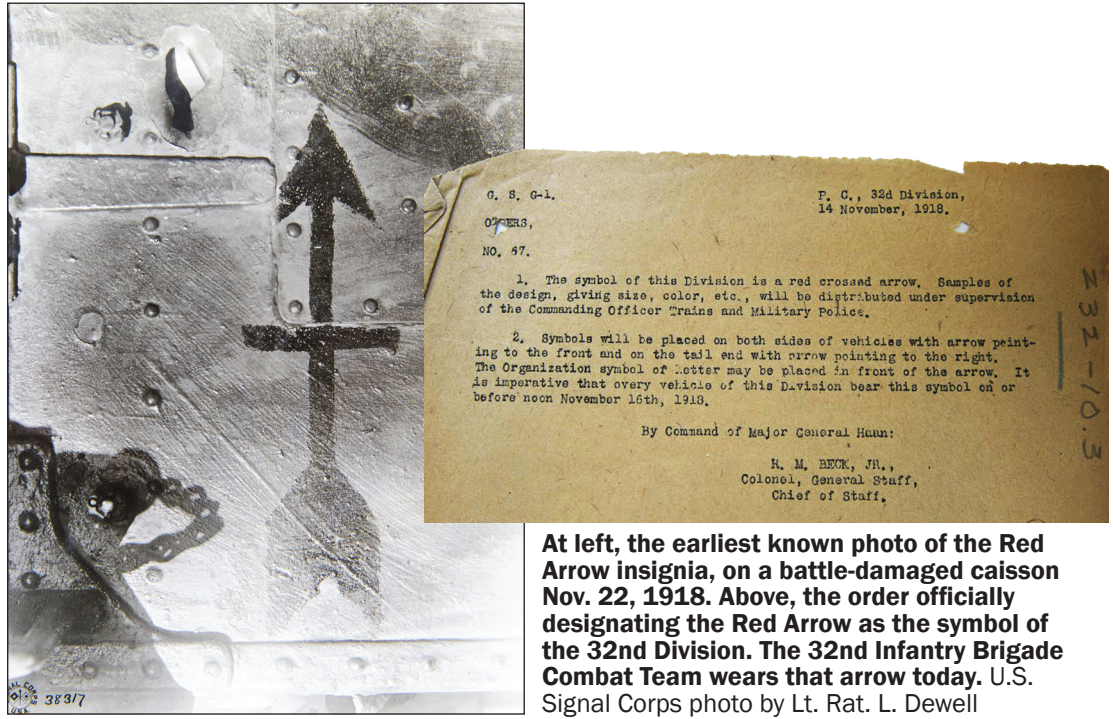
that would forever capture the legacy of the division's accomplishments and sacrifice over the course of the war.

"The symbol of this Division is a red crossed arrow," read the opening sentence of General Order No. 67. It concluded with "It is imperative that every vehicle of this Division bear this symbol on or before noon November 16, 1918."

Since its organization on July 18, 1917, the 32nd had struggled to find a symbol that truly captured its identity. Its initial insignia was a simple red circle with a 32 in it — although it made it easy to locate its equipment marked with the insignia, it did not inspire any deeper meaning.

The Red Arrow was different. Its simple design elegantly captured the 32nd Division's accomplishments in France. It had pierced every German line it faced and was described to have shot like an arrow through the Kriemhilde Stellung — Germany's toughest defensive line in the Meuse-Argonne.

With Red Arrows on its vehicles and on the shoulders of many of the troops, the 32nd started for Germany the morning of Nov. 17.



At left, the earliest known photo of the Red Arrow insignia, on a battle-damaged caisson Nov. 22, 1918. Above, the order officially designating the Red Arrow as the symbol of the 32nd Division. The 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team wears that arrow today. U.S. Signal Corps photo by Lt. Rat. L. Dewell

The march was not a victory parade, but a military movement conducted as if the division was in a combat zone. Advance patrols provided security and lines of resistance were emplaced around the division when it rested. The regimental bands playing the 32nd Division March and other songs were the only nod toward the post-war nature of the division's mission.

The division marched about 20 kilometers a day for two or three days, and then rested a day or two before resuming the march. The division's first rest stop was in the French village of Longwy, which had been under German occupation for four years. The entire village and about 2,000 recently released Italian, Russian and French prisoners of war greeted the division.

Longwy's mayor welcomed Haan with a formal ceremony. It was one of his last official acts as the division commander. That day he was assigned to lead the AEF's newly created Seventh Corps, and Maj. Gen. William Lassiter — formerly the First Army's chief of artillery — assumed command.

"I won't be far away from you," Haan told his staff. "Tell the men I'll keep an eye on them and see them often, no doubt, when we get up there and reach the goal of our desire."

The division crossed into Luxembourg on Nov. 20 and reached the German border at the Sauer River on Nov. 23. The terms of the Armistice stated that the division could not cross into Germany until Dec. 1. During the extended break, supplies and equipment to refit the division and its men were brought forward. The troops also celebrated Thanksgiving on Nov. 26 with a meal of steak, potatoes, peaches and cigars.

On Dec. 1, the 32nd Division resumed the march and entered Germany for a second time. The first was six months earlier (see page 34) when raw and eager troops entered the trenches in Alsace, where they learned their first lessons of war. This time, those battle-hardened troops — veterans of three major campaigns where they pierced every single German line encountered — entered Germany as the Red Arrow.

AFTER THE WAR: Keeping the recently won peace

For many of the Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard Soldiers in the 32nd Division, December 1918 marked their third straight Christmas away from home — Mexican Border Crisis duty in 1916, concluding their training at Camp MacArthur in 1917, and now in Germany as part of the American Expeditionary Forces' Army of Occupation.

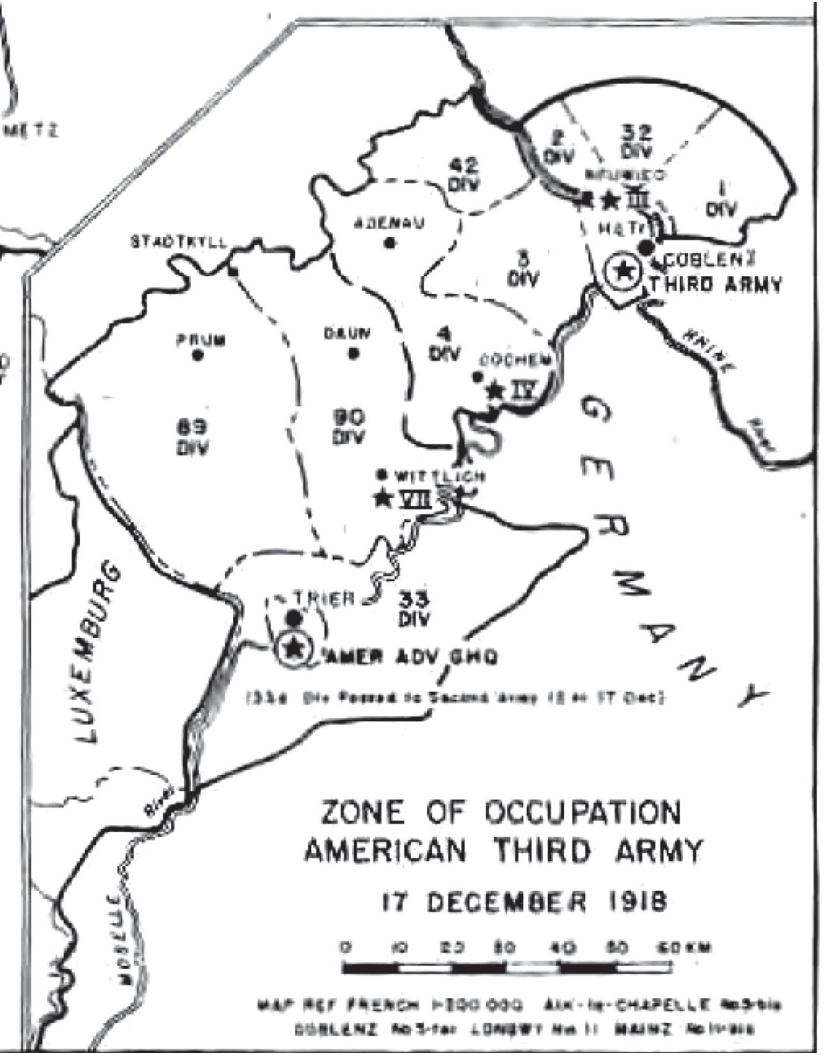
During its 250-kilometer march to Germany, the 32nd Division was received warmly by communities in France and Luxembourg. No welcome committee awaited the Red Arrow as it crossed the Sauer River Dec. 1.

"We received good treatment at the hands of the Germans, even though they were not tickled to death to see us," said Capt. Forest Himes, commander of the 127th Infantry's Company C.

Himes took command of Company C a few hours after the guns fell silent Nov. 11.



The relaxed posture and grounded rifles clearly signals the peaceful conditions the 32nd Division encountered as it entered Germany in December 1918 as part of the American Expeditionary Force Army of Occupation. Submitted photo



Capt. Paul Schmidt, who led Company C through all its battles during the war, had been transferred out of the unit Nov. 3, when it came off the front line after three grueling weeks of combat in the Meuse-Argonne.

"I was the only officer in the regiment who remained since we left the states and who went completely through all our battles from start to finish without getting killed or even getting wounded," Schmidt wrote in a Dec. 11 letter to his parents — underscoring how rare it was for front-line officers to remain in company command during the war.

"He would never leave the men go where he wouldn't go," Cpl. Arno Speckman wrote in a January 1919 letter. "He was like a father to us, and there isn't a Soldier in the company that will forget him."

Once the Germans understood that American troops planned nothing more

The 32nd Division was stationed at the furthest reach of the AEF's Army of Occupation. U.S. Army Center of Military History



"No new shoes in this stock." 32nd Division quartermasters try to fill the demand for footware from this shoe salvage depot. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo by Lt. Nat L. Dewell

sinister than marching and training, division officers found it easier to conduct transactions for billeting and other items with the locals.

The German terrain beyond the Sauer challenged the division. High ridges made for steep and curvy roads that turned into mud in the winter weather. A winding 20-mile march gained approximately a 10-mile advance on the map. Soldiers frequently marched 14 hours a day, helping the horses to pull wagons up steep hills.

These conditions took their toll on clothing and equipment already wearing out after the long Meuse-Argonne campaign. New gear was scarce, and quartermasters repaired and recycled shoes and clothing. Some Soldiers marched nearly barefoot in the frigid mud.

Conditions improved



At left, 32nd Division headquarters in Rengsdorf, Germany.

At right, Pvt. Elgie Fisher of the 121st Machine Gun Battalion headquarters company views Fort Ehrenbreitstein during a Jan. 7, 1919 excursion. U.S. Army Signal Corps photos by Lt. Nat L. Dewell



significantly Dec. 9 when the 32nd Division reached the Rhine River valley, where troops could march on improved roads in flat terrain. The division rested on the banks of the Rhine three days later, and crossed it Dec. 13.

The 32nd, 1st and 2nd divisions pushed past the Rhine as the most forward elements of the entire AEF. The Red Arrow fanned out over 400 square kilometers, with the division establishing its command post in the city of Rengsdorf while troops settled into 63 surrounding towns.

"I am across the Rhine about 40K from Lutzel-Koblenz in a little town the size of Coletown," D.R. Warvel, a Soldier from Ohio assigned to the 128th Infantry's Company M, wrote to his family in a Dec. 21 letter. "I guess we will be here for a couple more days yet. We are doing guard duty. It is uncertain when we are going to move.

"The boys are all the time wondering when we are going to go back to the states," Warvel continued. "I don't look to get back much before spring — maybe not then. My Xmas this year will be like all of my Sundays this past summer. I can't tell one day from the other."

Speckman also wondered when Red Arrow Soldiers would get to go home.

"We have been over here a year and done our bit to win this war," he wrote in his letter. "I think it would be our turn to start home soon."

But until that time came, the division spent its days guarding bridge crossings, town entrances and stores of weapons collected from the Germans. Soldiers alternated between guard duty and training, but now also had the opportunity for recreation. The YMCA brought in professional entertainers, and organized sports and competitions helped pass the time. Soldiers also took in the picturesque German countryside and historic castles, and enjoyed culinary delights unavailable in the trenches and

battlefields.

"We certainly received some eats and we even had ice cream," Speckman wrote. "I almost fell off my chair when I saw the long-desired ice cream, and certainly had the dish clean in no time."

Some competitions were to demonstrate proficiency in important military skills, and the 32nd Division Horse Show — held Feb. 18, 1919 — was no different. The division had thousands of horses and nearly as many wagon drivers, mounted couriers, horseshoers and veterinarians. The horse show — the culminating event of a series of contests in subordinate units — not only demonstrated skills in riding and driving, but the overall condition of the horses, particularly concerning mange.

Wisconsin's Gov. Emanuel Philipp asked Secretary of War Newton Baker, in a Nov. 25, 1918 letter, when the 32nd Division would return home.

"I do not now ask for the return of these troops nor will, until the emergency is declared to be ended or their place can be filled without harm by others [whose] service has been less strenuous," Philipp wrote.



Maj. Gen. William Lassiter, division commander, reviews the winners of the 32nd Division Horse Show Feb. 8, 1919 near Weis, Germany. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo by Lt. Nat L. Dewell

The expressed rationale for keeping the 32nd Division on occupation duty was that it was an experienced, battle-hardened division, and its reputation would provide incentive for the Germans to sign a peace treaty. But as less-experienced troops continued to return home ahead of the 32nd Division, numerous family members expressed their frustration to Philipp that the Red Arrow remained overseas.

In a Feb. 7, 1919 letter, Philipp relayed to Secretary Baker that returning Soldiers indicated the men of the 32nd Division were growing restless.

"It is evident that it is the policy of the government to reduce the American forces overseas," Philipp wrote, "and insomuch as part of the men are permitted to return it would seem only fair and just that those who have seen the longest service and the hardest service be given the first opportunity."

Maj. Gen. Henry Jervey, assistant Army chief of staff, responded to Philipp's letter.

"It is necessary that Gen. Pershing have at his disposal tried, trained and dependable troops, rather than



William Meinertz Wins First Place In 32nd's Exhibit

La Crosse Man Writes Sister of Big Horse Show at Sayen, Germany

"Mrs. Geo. Heike,
"326 Cass St.
"La Crosse, Wis.
"Dear Sister:
"Just a few lines to let you know that I am having a good time in Paris. I got the first prize with my horses at the division show at Sayen, Germany.





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A GLORIOUS WELCOME HOME

THOUSANDS SWARM STATION TO GREET CAPTAIN SCHMIDT

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

Shot Early This Morning

PREMIER CLEMENCEAU SHOT DOWN IN PARIS EARLY THIS MORNING

Far left, Cpl. George Miner, a Ho Chunk Native American from Tomah, Wis., and member of the 128th Infantry's Company D, on guard duty Jan. 2, 1919 just outside Coblenz, Germany. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo by Lt. Nat L. Dewell

new troops of unknown quality," Jervey explained. "It is realized that the duties in the army of occupation, lacking the incentive and the excitement of combat, are monotonous and trying, but it is hoped that the members of the 32nd Division will regard it as an honor to have been selected for this duty."

One veteran sergeant from the 127th Infantry signaled that Red Arrow troops did understand that, as one of the AEF's elite formations, their mission was not yet complete.

"Sure I want to go home," the official division history quoted the sergeant as saying. "But I'm so blamed well satisfied about getting here at all that I'm willing to be patient with Uncle Sam and wait until he says the job is finished."

A few days after Jervey sent his response to Philipp, Capt. Schmidt arrived in Sheboygan. Since his transfer out of the 32nd Division, he had helped process troops at Brest, France, returning to the United States. He was able to join the ranks of the home-bound on Feb. 9, and mustered out of the Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey, before boarding a train to Milwaukee.

Schmidt received a hero's welcome Feb. 18 in Sheboygan, and he was escorted by a detachment of the Wisconsin State Guard in a parade through Sheboygan's downtown. Once at a family member's home, the local Eagles Club fife and bugle corps playing "Home Sweet Home" as crowds of well-wishers cheered.

"I am glad to be on this side of the Statue of Liberty again," Schmidt told the enthusiastic crowd before reuniting with family and friends inside the family residence. "After I get into civilian clothes, tomorrow or so, I will be pleased to meet you all personally. I am just as much pleased to see you as you are to see me."

Schmidt and many other original members of Sheboygan's Company C were no longer with the unit. The Army regularly transferred promising Soldiers to officer candidate school or for technical training. Wounded Soldiers often returned to different units after they had recovered. Seventeen others were buried in France.

"This time the boys will come back different than at the time of the Spanish-American War and [Mexican Border Service]," Schmidt wrote to his parents. "Now the organizations are all mixed up, and they will drift into their home cities by ones and twos."

AFTER THE WAR: Farewell



"For the way in which all ranks have performed their duties in this capacity I have only the warmest praise and approval," Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing told 32nd Division troops in March 1919. "I want each man to know my appreciation of the work he has done and of the admiration in which he is held by the rest of his comrades in the American Expeditionary Forces." Screen capture from U.S. Army Signal Corps film/ National Archives

The 32nd Division's time in Germany was growing short. It was time for Gen. John J. Pershing, American Expeditionary Forces commander, to pay the Red Arrow a farewell visit.

Pershing was traveling throughout Europe visiting American troops and by mid-March had reached the three divisions stationed east of the Rhine River — the 1st, 2nd and 32nd divisions. Pershing's visit to the Red Arrow was scheduled for March 15 in Dierdorf, Germany.

"General Pershing will be here so we will pass in a review front and we are busy cleaning our equipment so that we will look like a slick bunch of soldiers," Frank Brostowitz of Company B, 120th Machine Gun Battalion wrote in a letter printed in the *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune*.

The troops took their preparations seriously, knowing that Pershing's visit placed

them a step closer to home.

"All the men are anxious to make a good showing as it will be the last review before leaving for the states," wrote 1st Sgt. Eitel Meyer of Company C, 127th Infantry, in a letter printed in the *Sheboygan Press*.

With the Red Arrow scattered across 63 towns and villages, gathering 20,000 Soldiers for the review was a tremendous logistical task. Convoys of trucks started ferrying troops early.

"My first reminder [of today's review] was the noisy, rattling, rumble of seemingly numberless trucks passing by the window," Sgt. Alan Davis of Supply Company, 127th Infantry, wrote in a letter home. "They were on their way to the several smaller towns around here to bring the boys to Dierdorf."

"We received strict orders about having our uniforms and equipment in first-class condition, and after we reached the field, we had to polish our shoes and brush the dust off our clothes," wrote Capt. Gustav Stearns, the 127th Infantry chaplain. He had just returned to the unit after an assignment to a convalescent hospital.



Gen. John Pershing inspects the 32nd Division. Screen capture from U.S. Army Signal Corps film/National Archives

By late morning 20,000 Red Arrow troops assembled in formation on a grassy field.

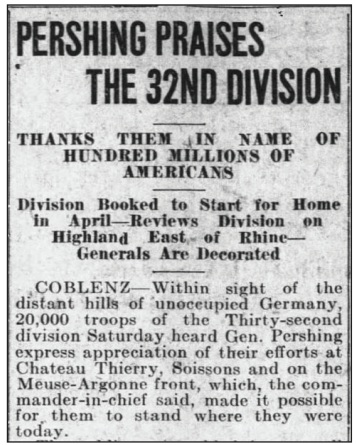
"At noon, Gen. Pershing and his staff came dashing up on horseback," Stearns said. "We all stood rigid and at 'Attention.' When he had made a circle about the division he dismounted."

Pershing briskly walked throughout the assembled regiments and inspected every Soldier.

"He passed directly in front of me and looked me 'square in the eye,' and I looked at him 'square in the eye,' and he gave my uniform the 'once over' in about one-millionth part of a second," Stearns said.

Pershing next moved to a reviewing stand. Sgt. Davis was nearby taking pictures.

"The entire division passed by, while various bands played continually," Davis wrote. "I never saw a prettier sight in my life, and nothing could have sent more thrills through an onlooker than the sight of the Doughboys. With bayonets fixed and helmets polished like mirrors, they marched by the reviewing stand, maintaining cadence."



PERSHING PRAISES THE 32ND DIVISION

THANKS THEM IN NAME OF HUNDRED MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

Division Booked to Start for Home in April—Reviews Division on Highland East of Rhine—Generals Are Decorated

COBLENZ—Within sight of the distant hills of unoccupied Germany, 20,000 troops of the Thirty-second division Saturday heard Gen. Pershing express appreciation of their efforts at Chateau Thierry, Soissons and on the Meuse-Argonne front, which, the commander-in-chief said, made it possible for them to stand where they were today.

Pershing next presented Distinguished Service Medals to Maj. Gen. William Lassiter, 32nd Division commander, Brig. Gen. Edwin Winans, 64th Infantry Brigade commander, and Col. Robert Beck, division chief of staff. He also awarded Distinguished Service Crosses to 18 officers and men from the division.

With the review complete, Pershing called all of the troops closer for a speech and praised the 32nd for its exceptional service during the war. He also thanked the troops for their work.

"Gen. Pershing said he realized how the relatives and friends of the soldiers were eagerly awaiting their return and how proud they would be of the part the soldiers had played in the Great War," read an article in the March 17, 1919 edition of the *Appleton Post-Crescent*.

"He complimented the work of our division during the war and stated that, inasmuch as we were soon going home, it would in all probability be the last opportunity he would have of speaking to the entire division," Stearns added.

Since it was impossible for everyone to hear his speech, Pershing followed up his remarks with a letter read to every unit.

"For the way in which all ranks have performed their duties in this capacity I have only the warmest praise and

approval," Pershing wrote. "I want each man to know my appreciation of the work he has done and of the admiration in which he is held by the rest of his comrades in the American Expeditionary Forces."

It was a long day for all involved, but Davis noticed a sense of cheeriness amongst the troops.

"[Pershing's visit] gave the boys sufficient reason to believe that in a very short time, the 'Red Arrow' division would be homeward bound," Davis remarked.

However, there was time for one more distinguished leader to bid the Red Arrow farewell and present the heartfelt gratitude of a nation. French Gen. Charles Mangin visited the division April 13, 1919 to present the Croix de Guerre to the 32nd Division for its exemplary service at the Battle of Juvigny.

Mangin personally requested the 32nd Division to augment his Tenth Army during the Oise-Aisne Offensive. In late August 1918, the division attacked and seized the strategically important village of Juvigny north of Soissons. The action forced the Germans to abandon miles of fortified defensive positions along the Vesle River that for weeks had stymied the American 28th Division at Fismes.

The Croix de Guerre — "War Cross" in English — was established by the French government in 1915 to mark gallantry in battle by both individual Soldiers and entire units. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the French awarded various levels of the Croix de Guerre to 156 American units during World War I. Levels of the award from highest to lowest were palm, gilt star, silver star and bronze star.

Red Arrow units were the only National Guard elements during the war who received the Croix de Guerre with Palm. When the division learned of the award, one Wisconsin National Guard officer remarked, "The tin soldiers we used to hear sneered about have come to their own!"

The term "tin soldier" was a pre-war pejorative directed toward the National Guard.

Mangin reviewed the assembled troops and affixed



GEN. CHARLES MANGIN

Croix de Guerre with Palm streamers to the colors of the 63rd and 64th Infantry brigades, the 125th, 126th, 127th and 128th Infantry regiments, and the 119th, 120th, and 121st Machine Gun battalions. He kissed the colors of each unit as he presented the award. Each Soldier in these units who participated in the battle received a medal. Every one of the division's infantry units now flew one of France's highest military awards.

Mangin then delivered a



brief speech.

"My dear American Comrades: I am very happy to be among you once more, and proud that this meeting of ours is taking place on the other side of the Rhine," Mangin began. "The occasion of our reunion is to bestow upon you a few decorations, meager tokens of the gratitude which the French Republic, the People of France, and the Soldiers feel towards you, for the brilliant conduct and the splendid courage you displayed in taking the town of Juvigny, the memory of which will remain forever intact with us, and which will place in history the glorious deeds of the 32nd Division and of its able and valiant Chief, General Haan. You are going back to your noble country, proud to have accomplished your task for its sake and for the sake of humanity. Take back with you the assurance of continued friendship and the eternal gratitude of France."

Accompanying Mangin were Maj. Gen. Joseph Dickman, Third Army commander, and Maj. Gen. William Haan, 7th Corp commander and the general who took the division through all of its battles. Dickman tied battle streamers to the colors of each divisional unit. Each streamer marked service in battle in the Alsace, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne and Meuse-Argonne. Meanwhile,

Haan awarded a number of Distinguished Service Crosses to Soldiers he had led in battle.

There were more awards for the 32nd Division. Its 57th Field Artillery Brigade had been detached to the 88th Division since the end of the war and was stationed in France. Earlier in the year, its artillery regiments had been recognized by the French. The 147th Field Artillery Regiment of the South Dakota National Guard received the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Start while the 119th, 120th and 121st Field Artillery regiments received the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. In all, 13 Red Arrow units earned the Croix de Guerre.

The descendants of these units today proudly display their World War I battle streamers and Croix de Guerre on their unit colors and remember the gratitude of the French people.

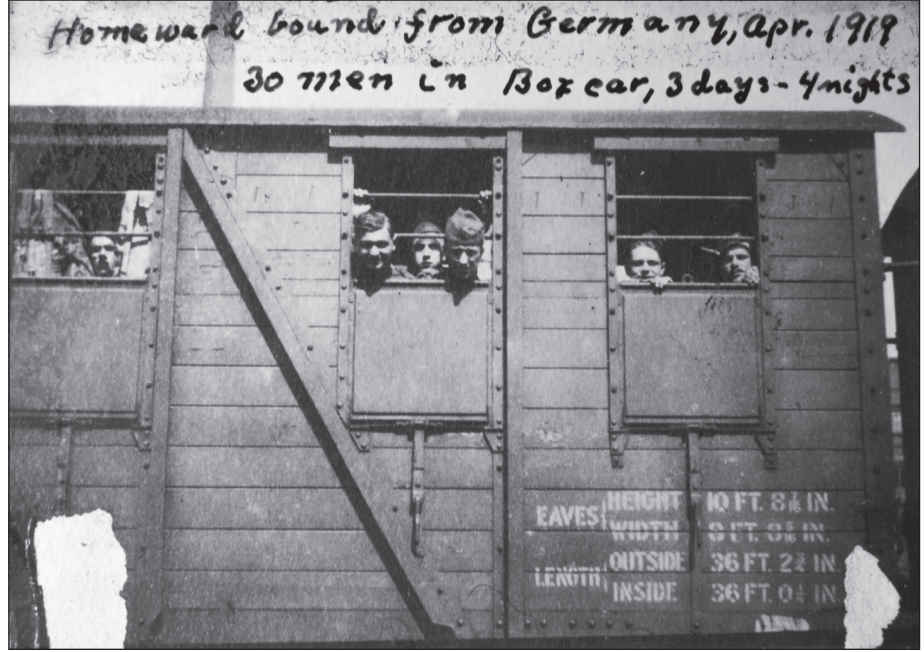
After five months of Army of Occupation duty in Germany, it was time for the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division to go home. The division had been in Europe for a bit over a year and away from home for nearly two years.

There was much to do to prepare to move more than 20,000 troops. There was equipment to turn in, paperwork to complete and baggage that needed to be packed. Everything needed to pass inspection before departure, and commanders ended military leaves to see the beautiful countryside.

"I spent two days this week sightseeing," Stearns said. "It was the last opportunity I had of being away from the regiment before we leave for home. After this date [April 12] no officer or enlisted man is allowed to be absent from the organization."

The Red Arrow would travel home as a complete unit — its 57th Field Artillery Brigade would reunite with the division at Brest for the journey home.

Also joining the division in Brest was Maj. Gen. William Haan — the leader who took the 32nd through its training in Texas and every battle the Red Arrow ever fought. Haan had ceded command of the 7th Corps and was conducting an automobile tour of the three battlefields where the 32nd fought — Second Battle of the Marne, Juvigny and Meuse-Argonne. Maj. Gen. Lassiter would remain in France, and Haan would resume command for the journey home.



Happy faces, if tight spaces, for Red Arrow Soldiers on the first leg of their homeward journey. Photo courtesy Wisconsin National Guard Museum

April 18 finally arrived. The division headquarters and the 127th Infantry were the first elements to leave. The 127th departed the evening prior on trucks for the train station. Three trains each filled with 1,000 Soldiers left the next day destined for the port of Brest. The journey took nearly four days.

With three daily trains each filled with 1,000 troops, it took the division seven days to depart Germany. Troops traveled in "40 Hommes or 8 Cheveaux" box cars — freight cars that carried either 40 men or 8 horses. The 127th spent Easter Sunday on trains traveling to Brest.

"I conducted 12 Easter services," Stearns wrote in a letter to his congregation in Milwaukee. "I preached Easter sermons on 12 different box cars to my boys while the train was running at regular speed."

Once in Brest, the 127th waited for the rest of the division to arrive.

"We do not know what date we leave Brest for the U.S., or what ship we embark on, or what port in the U.S. we are going to," Stearns wrote. "We do not think that we shall be kept waiting in Brest long."

AFTER THE WAR: Heading home



Chaplain Gustav Stearns was correct — within a few days, 32nd Division troops began boarding ships for the 11-day journey back to the United States. In a letter to his congregation, Stearns wrote that his vessel, the S.S. Cap Finisterre, sailed from Brest at 3 p.m. Friday, April 25 and arrived at New York at noon May 5.

"We were at sea two Sundays and I conducted services on deck on both of these days," Stearns wrote. "Our [127th Infantry] regimental band was with us and furnished music at the service."

The S.S. George Washington — which ferried thousands of 32nd Division troops to France the year before — was only a few hours behind

32nd Division troops on the return voyage to the U.S. Boston Globe photo

the Finisterre. Its passengers included Secretary of War Newton Baker and Maj. Gen. William Haan, who asked to be relieved of command of the 7th Corps to sail home with the Red Arrow. Both ships, carrying the bulk of the 127th and 128th Infantry regiments, docked in Hoboken, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from New York City.

Michigan Gov. Albert Sleeper, Wisconsin Gov. Emanuel Philipp and Margaret Haan, Maj. Gen. Haan's wife, boarded the tugboat Lexington to escort the S.S. Washington for the final few miles to Hoboken. A *Sheboygan Press* reporter was with the group.

"As the George Washington moved up on the Lexington, the 128th Infantry Band played 'On Wisconsin' and the Soldiers were singing," the May 6, 1919 edition of the *Sheboygan Press* reported. "The men were laughing, cheering and calling to us. They looked brown and happy, their boyish faces aglow with the joy of being back in God's country."

The ships drew close enough that passengers on each could recognize each other.



Gov. Emanuel Philipp and Wisconsin's Welcome Home Committee in New York, May 6, 1919.
Milwaukee Journal photo

"Gen. Haan waved his cap and Mrs. Haan unfurled a Wisconsin banner," the *Press* article stated. "[The] general saw it and threw a kiss."

Once ashore, Philipp greeted Haan and his staff. He traveled to Camp Merritt to meet with the returning troops.

"My pride in the Wisconsin men knows no bounds," Philipp said in the article. "It will be a great day for Wisconsin when we can welcome you home. We plan to have a great reunion of the veterans of the war in Milwaukee when we can show you all what we think of you."

Additional vessels carrying the division's other units arrived in New York and Boston over the next few days. The 32nd began as Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard Soldiers, but during the course of the war thousands of replacement troops from all across the nation reinforced the division. Camp Merritt would be their last time together.

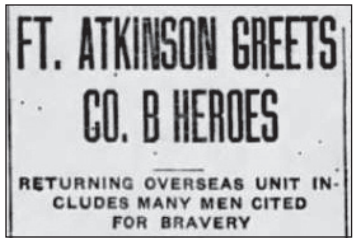
"The company is now all broken up and there are only 48 men left in Co. C," wrote 1st Sgt. Eitel Meyer of Sheboygan's Company C, 127th Infantry Regiment. "Of the old Co. C men, there are 27 coming back [to Sheboygan]."

Many of the 150 men originally in the unit — including Capt. Paul Schmidt, its original commander — had already been discharged. Seventeen others were buried in France.

Camp Grant, near Rockford, Illinois, was the final stop for all Wisconsin troops. They were discharged from the Army there, and boarded trains to their hometowns. Joining Company C at Camp Grant were 67 Soldiers from Sheboygan's other National Guard unit — the 120th Field Artillery Regiment's Headquarters Company, commanded by Capt. Herbert Kohler. Finally, on May 17, 1919 — 649 days since departing Sheboygan — Company C was heading home.

Sheboygan, meanwhile, prepared for their arrival.

"Let's show our heroes that Sheboygan is proud of them," Fred Morris, reception committee chairman, told the *Sheboygan Press*. "We should rejoice over the speedy



FT. ATKINSON GREETS CO. B HEROES

RETURNING OVERSEAS UNIT INCLUDES MANY MEN CITED FOR BRAVERY

termination of the war and the safe return to our firesides the men who made the big American victory possible."

Headquarters Company was scheduled to arrive on the mid-afternoon train, but the unit voted unanimously to wait in Milwaukee for Company C so they could all arrive in Sheboygan together.

Thousands of people were waiting as the 6:50 p.m. train pulled in. Capt. Schmidt, in uniform, stood on the station platform waiting for the last of his Soldiers. The arriving troops gave their commander — who led them through every battle in France — a mighty cheer.

After a few minutes of pandemonium, Schmidt and Kohler put their units in formation for a parade through downtown Sheboygan, marching behind the U.S. flag and a Gold Star banner to remember the fallen. Kohler led Headquarters Company, followed by Schmidt and Company C — joined by Soldiers previously discharged from both units. Thousands lined the parade route, cheering loudly and throwing hats into the air.



SHEBOYGAN PRESS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF SHEBOYGAN FOR ALL LEGAL PUBLICATIONS.

VOL. XI. NO. 135. SHEBOYGAN, WIS., MONDAY EVENING, MAY 19, 1919. PRICE 3 CENTS

THOUSANDS GREET SOLDIERS

C COMPANY AND HDQ'S. CO. 120TH F. A. ARRIVE HOME SATURDAY 6:50

CONGRESS CONVENED AT NOON

WELCOME HOME

These Red Arrow Men Returned Saturday

—Company C— —Headquarters Co.—

"The troops presented a soldierly appearance as they marched in line and showed no signs of the great hardships through which they had passed," the *Sheboygan Press* reported. "They were filled with exuberance of joy at their return to their homes."

The Red Arrow troops reached Sheboygan's Fountain Park, home of the city's Civil War memorial, and remained in formation as the crowd gave three rousing cheers.

"The playing of the Star Spangled Banner closed the demonstration, the men stood at attention and saluted while the strains of the national anthem rang through the park, and civilians uncovered and stood reverently," the *Press* stated.

Kohler and Schmidt then dismissed their troops, who melted into the crowd. The Red Arrow's mission was complete.

AFTER THE WAR: A hero's welcome



"Welcome the Thirty-second Division! Welcome, Les Terribles! Welcome our own! Make the city yours today; help us to show you the gladness your coming back has brought us."

Those words opened the *Milwaukee Journal's* front-page message to Wisconsin's 32nd "Red Arrow" Division Soldiers who marched through downtown Milwaukee June 6, 1919 to commemorate their role in helping the Allies win World War I. Thousands lined the streets, dressed in patriotic garb and many wearing red poppies, to cheer for their Soldiers. Approximately 10,000 attended the Red Arrow Ball at the downtown auditorium later that night.

Church bells tolled for five minutes before the parade began, to honor those members of the 32nd Division who died during the war. Then, promptly at 11 a.m., Maj. Gen. William Haan led the 4,000-man parade on horseback.

"A typical lot of Red Arrow boys in parade," the Milwaukee Journal caption reads from the June 6, 1919 issue. Milwaukee Journal photo

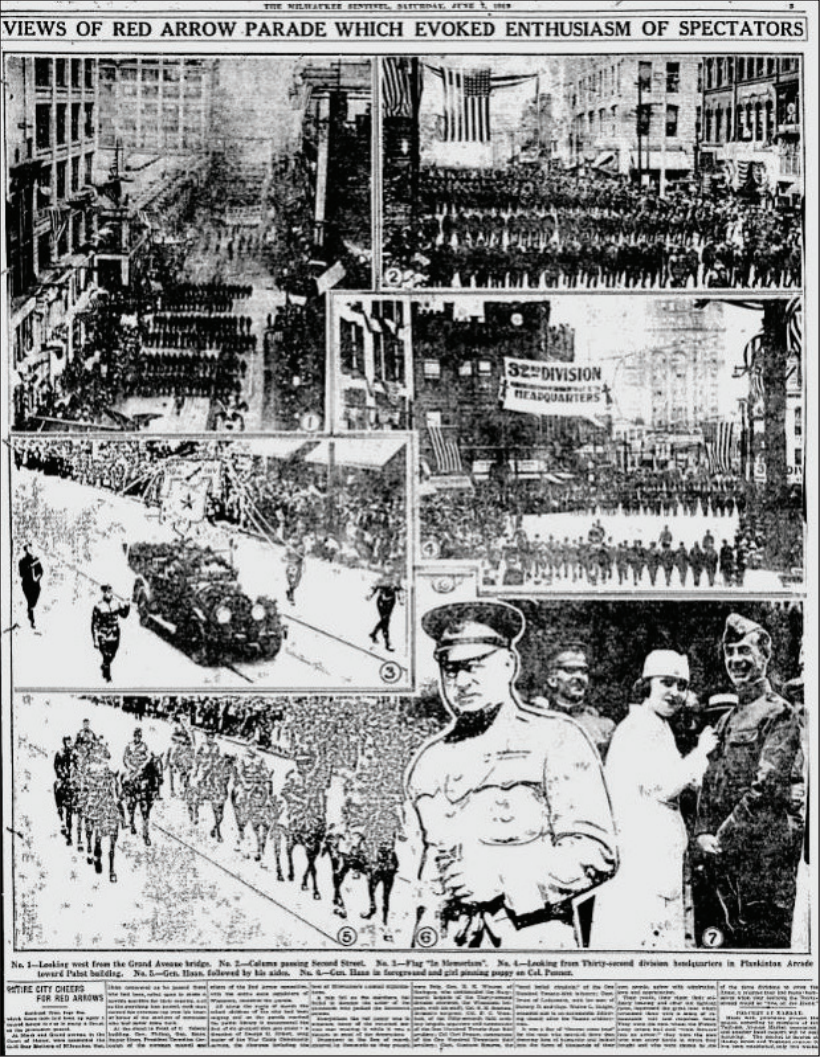
LATEST NEWS.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

LATEST NEWS.

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR | DAILY.....Two Cents SUNDAY.....Five Cents | FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1919 | CIRCULATION THURSDAY.....117,546 Average Circulation Last Week..111,100 | *MARKET EDITION

CROWDS CHEER RED ARROWS


THE MILWAUKEE SENTINEL, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1919

VIEWS OF RED ARROW PARADE WHICH EVOKED ENTHUSIASM OF SPECTATORS

No. 1—Looking west from the Grand Avenue bridge. No. 2—Column passing Second Street. No. 3—Flag "In Memoriam". No. 4—Looking from Thirty-second division headquarters in Plankinton Arcade toward Pabst building. No. 5—Gen. Haan, followed by his aides. No. 6—Gen. Haan in foreground and girl pinning poppy on Col. Pomeroy.

WHITE CITY CHEERS FOR RED ARROWS

A photo page from the June 7, 1919 issue of the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Haan gave journalists at the Milwaukee Press Club insight into the origin of the Red Arrow emblem.

"A cross of some kind found considerable favor," Haan said, "but when the French report became known, the arrow idea at once became popular."

That French report refers to the Battle of Juvigny, when a French general is reported to have said of the 32nd Division, "They went forward like an arrow."

"However, it was felt that the cross ought not be abandoned altogether," Haan continued. "So I said, 'Let's put a bar across the arrow to represent the boshe [German] line that was pierced, and then you have your cross at the same time.'"

Haan also explained the French general officer's compliment about his division.

"Here's the secret of the success of the division," Haan told the assembled press. "The 64th Brigade, which fought the first battle of the 32nd, established a pace for the rest of the division that they had to go like hell to keep up."



The Gold Star banner, displayed in honor of the 32nd Division Soldiers who died during World War I, in the June 5 parade. Milwaukee Journal photo

The 64th Brigade, composed of Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers in the 127th and 128th Infantry Regiments, breached the enemy position north of Chateau-Thierry that had confounded the U.S. Third Division.

"The 64th Brigade, therefore, was the pioneer of the division in real battle," Haan said, "and the Wisconsin boys showed themselves every inch fighters.

"The pace that was set by the division, these splendid Wisconsin boys, was kept up through all the many battles that the division took part in," Haan continued, "and in a large measure I lay the success of the division to the fact that the first battle was pulled off in clock-like regularity."

Brig. Gen. Edwin Winans, who commanded the 64th Brigade, told the press how he turned down an opportunity to leave the 64th and command a different unit. He said he never regretted that decision.

"They finished where they started," Winans said, "in the front line trenches."

"We shall remember how we feared for you and how we gloried in you," the *Milwaukee Journal* message to the troops continued. "We shall try to show you it was no passing love we felt for the men we knew you were, the men you proved yourselves." ‡

EPILOGUE: Tracing the Red Arrow's path after World War I

The National Guard essentially ceased to exist in 1917 as its units from every state were drafted into the Army. This left Wisconsin and every other state without a trained home defense force in the event of domestic emergencies, so a State Guard was raised consisting of men who had not been drafted into military service. As National Guard units began to be reactivated, State Guard units disbanded between 1920-21.

The 32nd Division was reorganized July 24, 1924, again consisting of National Guard Soldiers from Wisconsin and Michigan, with its headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. Each state retained its distinctive unit names. Michigan fielded the 63rd Infantry Brigade consisting of the 125th and 126th Infantry regiments while the 64th Infantry Brigade comprised of



A December 18, 1918 photo of Company C, 1st Battalion, Wisconsin State Guard.



the 127th and 128th Infantry Regiments was stationed in Wisconsin. Wisconsin also fielded the 57th Field Artillery Brigade and the 120th and 121st Field Artillery Regiments; the 119th Field Artillery resided in Michigan.

The division was not robustly resourced in the years between World War I and World War II — it lacked Soldiers, equipment and relevant training. However, many Red Arrow veterans of the Great War filled the senior ranks and they continued the division's spirit forged on the battlefields of France.

The National Guard was called back into federal service in August 1940, and the 32nd was one of 18 divisions activated Oct. 15, 1940. The Red Arrow began a year of training, including the infamous "Louisiana Maneuvers" — the Army's largest maneuver exercise involving approximately 100,000 Soldiers. Congress approved an indefinite extension of service for the National Guard, reserve officers and draftees in August 1941, and the 32nd was among the



A 32nd Division unit during an inspection formation at Camp Livingston, La., training for World War II. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

first divisions to be mobilized after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Army reconfigured the division from a square division with four infantry regiments into a triangular division with three — the 125th Infantry was reassigned.

The original plan called for the Red Arrow to sail for Europe, but Japan's rapid advance through the South Pacific posed a threat to Australia. The Army redirected the 32nd to Australia, greatly impacting its training. The division was 2,000 troops understrength when it boarded ships in San Francisco and at least that number were fresh out of basic training. Additionally, it was not completely equipped, and had little training on what little new equipment it had. Still, they were the first American division in World War II to move in a single convoy from the U.S. to a wartime theater, arriving at Port Adelaide, Australia, on May 14,



32nd Division troops cross a rudimentary log bridge during the 1942 Buna-Gona campaign in the South Pacific. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photo

1942 after a 23-day, 9,000-mile trek.

Once in Australia, the division built its camps from the ground up — tents, kitchens, wells and latrines — at the expense of valuable training time. After only two months of training in Australia, Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered parts of the 32nd Division to Papua, New Guinea, acting on the belief that Australia was best defended by attacking the Japanese in New Guinea. The 32nd was considered the most

combat-ready unit in Australia.

With incomplete jungle training, poor intelligence reports and inadequate fire support, the Red Arrow encountered an entrenched and determined enemy during the first U.S. ground offensive campaign against the Japanese. The 126th Infantry's 2nd Battalion marched 130 miles over 42 harrowing days to cross the Owen Stanley mountain range, an area believed haunted by locals. They endured the extreme jungle climate, insects and dysentery due to spoiled rations before arriving at Soputa. MacArthur sent no other troops over the Owen Stanley route.

The 32nd Division suffered during the Battle of Buna-Gona due to poor intelligence reports indicating the Japanese were few in number, sick, malnourished and occupying hasty field positions. In truth, the Japanese positions were among the most fortified in the South Pacific. The division also suffered from poor fire support. MacArthur relieved 32nd Division commander Maj. Gen. Edwin Harding Dec. 2, 1942, eventually replacing him with Maj. Gen. Robert Eichelberger. The Red Arrow's victory at Buna came at a heavy price — more than 2,500 battle casualties with 586 killed in action, more than 7,100 casualties due to illness — and taught important lessons about how to fight the Japanese in the South Pacific for the remainder of the war.



32nd Division troops during the 1942 Buna-Gona campaign in the South Pacific, above, and a beach landing in 1944. Wisconsin Veterans Museum photos



HARDING

The 32nd Division spent several months in Australia recovering and refitting from the Battle of Buna-Gona, and Maj. Gen. William Gill took command of the Red Arrow March 1, 1943. They would enter a span of nearly constant activity from January 1944 through August 1945, taking part in campaigns in Saidor, Aitape, Morotai, Leyte, and the



Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division



The 32nd Division was called to active duty and trained for a year during the Berlin Crisis of 1961. The division was named a STRAC unit, most likely meaning it was considered elite and ready to deploy, after 13 weeks of intensive training at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Villa Verde Trail.

The 32nd Division was among the first divisions to enter combat in World War II and the last to cease fighting, experiencing a total of 654 days in combat — the most of any U.S. Army division in the war. Eleven of its Soldiers received the Medal of Honor.

The 32nd Division was reorganized as an Army National Guard division in 1946 entirely within Wisconsin. In 1961, the 32nd Division was called to active duty for the Berlin Crisis. The division trained for a year at Fort Lewis, Washington, but did not deploy overseas. When asked why he mobilized the 32nd, President John F. Kennedy replied, "We called them to prevent a war, not fight a war." The division returned to Wisconsin in August 1962.

The 32nd Division was inactivated in 1967 as part of an Army-wide reorganization — 50 years after it was formed at Camp MacArthur — and reorganized as the non-divisional 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade. The Red Arrow converted to mechanized infantry in 1971, and in 1986 became the first brigade to deploy as an entire unit in support of Return of Forces to Germany, or REFORGER.



32nd Defeated (By Pentagon)

Name Goes But Strength Same

Realignment Eliminates 15 Divisions

MADISON (UPI)—Gov. Warren Knowles' office was informed by the National Guard Bureau Friday that the reorganization plan announced by the Defense Department would cut the National Guard structionably proven that it is necessary to phase it out," Schadeberg said.

He said it appeared to be a move by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara to get around the will of Congress

MADISON (UPI) — Wisconsin's 32nd National Guard Division, penetrator of every battle it ever faced, was defeated Friday by the paper forces of the Pentagon.



Brig. Gen. Charles F. Scharine, 32nd Brigade commander, confers with his staff officers in the tactical operations center near Tannesburg, Germany, Jan. 22, 1986 during REFORGER. Department of Defense file photo



A member of the 1st Battalion, 127th Infantry prepares for a convoy escort mission in the turret of an uparmored Humvee May 2, 2006. The battalion was based at Camp Navistar in northern Kuwait but escorted supply vehicles to all bases in Iraq, and also conducted route security patrols through Safwan, an Iraqi village just across the border from Camp Navistar. Wisconsin National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Streeter



Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of the U.S. Central Command theater of operations, meets with Col. Steven Bensend, commander of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during the brigade's 2009-10 deployment to Iraq. The brigade's missions included forward operating base maintenance, security, detainee operations, securing and administering the International Zone in Baghdad, and turning over U.S.-controlled properties to the government of Iraq. Wisconsin National Guard file photo

In 1997 the 32nd Brigade reorganized again as part of the 34th Division. In September 2001 the Red Arrow converted to an enhanced separate light infantry brigade, shedding its tanks, armored personnel carriers and self-propelled howitzers.

Elements of the 32nd Brigade have deployed numerous times in the 21st century. The 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry deployed to Iraq in 2004-05. The 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry deployed to Kuwait in 2005-06. The 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry also deployed to Kuwait in 2005-06. The 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2005-06. The 32nd Brigade Headquarters Company deployed as a Military Engagement Team and Base Defense Operations Center to Kuwait and Jordan in 2004-05.

In September 2007 the brigade reorganized again as the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and it deployed in its entirely to Iraq in 2009-10. In 2017, Michigan reunited with the Red Arrow when 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry rejoined the 32nd as its third infantry battalion.

The Red Arrow began its second century of service in 2018 when 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan.



32ND DIVISION HQ

63RD INFANTRY BRIGADE	64TH INFANTRY BRIGADE	57TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE	DIVISIONAL TROOPS
125TH INFANTRY REGIMENT	127TH INFANTRY REGIMENT	119TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (77MM)	107TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
126TH INFANTRY REGIMENT	128TH INFANTRY REGIMENT	120TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (77MM)	119TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION
120TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION	121ST MACHINE GUN BATTALION	121ST FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (155MM)	107TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION
		147TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (77MM)	HEADQUARTERS TROOP
		107TH TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY	TRAINS

ADDITIONAL INFANTRY AND FIELD ARTILLERY UNITS WERE ATTACHED TEMPORARILY TO THE 32ND DIVISION


THE NEW YORK HERALD

ARCHDUKE FRANCIS FERDINAND AND HIS CONSORT, THE DUCHESS OF HOHENBERG, ARE ASSASSINATED WHILE DRIVING THROUGH STREETS OF SARAJEVO, BOSNIA

June 18: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

July 28: Austria declares war on Serbia

1914



March 8: Pancho Villa raids Columbus, N.M., sparks U.S. Army punitive raid into Mexico

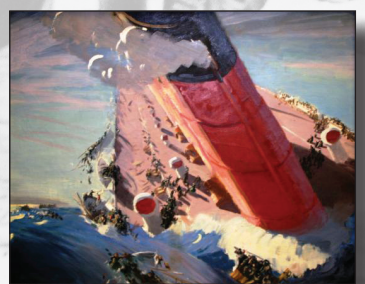
June 18: Gov. Emanuel Philipp receives War Department telegram ordering Wisconsin National Guard activation for border duty

June 22: 4,000 Wisconsin National Guardsmen muster at the Wisconsin Military Reservation at Camp Douglas

June 30: Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers take oath of federal service

1915

March 7: German U-boat sinks the RMS Lusitania, killing 128 Americans



1916

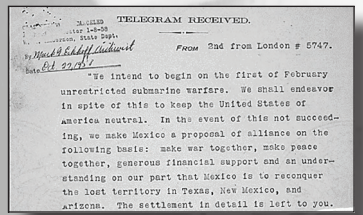
July 1: Wisconsin National Guard departs for Camp Wilson near San Antonio, Texas



December 14: 3rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment returns to Wisconsin. Other units follow until March 1917.

December 20: War Department sends letters thanking Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers for their service during the Mexican Border Crisis

1917



TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you.

January 19: Zimmermann Telegram sent by Germany to Mexico



The Daily Northwestern

GERMANY ADMITS PLOT--CONGRESS TO ADJOURN

ZIMMERMANN IN OFFICIAL BUT CONFIRMS BIG STORY ABOUT CONSPIRACY

Text of Berlin's Defense of Plot.

SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS TO BE CALLED ONLY TO DECLARE WAR.

WASHINGTON IS MECCA OF GUESTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

SENATOR STONE SEES FOREIGN AID VIEWS IN CODE BEFORE SENATE

Today's Leading Events.

CONGRESS IN LAST THROES OF HISTORIC LEGISLATION.



GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

LAST EDITION

16 PAGES — GREEN BAY, WIS., FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1917. — 5 O'CLOCK — PRICE THREE CENTS

WAR IS DECLARED!!

PRESIDENT WILSON SIGNS DECLARATION AT 1:11P.M.

GERMAN SHIPS AND CREWS IN U. S. SEIZED; ENEMY U-BOATS IN GULF OF MEXICO

GERMAN SUBMARINES READY TO ATTACK UNITED STATES

STATE OF WAR BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND GERMANY IN EFFECT WITH SIGNING OF PAPER

Dispatches from Europe Claimed to Confirm

CONGRESSWOMAN VOTES AGAINST WAR DECLARATION SOON AS SHE DOES SO N. C. PICKARD

1917

Action Sets in Motion Government's Newly

April 6: U.S. declares war on Germany



SHEBOYGAN PRESS

CIRCULATION OVER 4,500

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES THE SENATE TODAY

CO. C BOYS ORDERED HOME

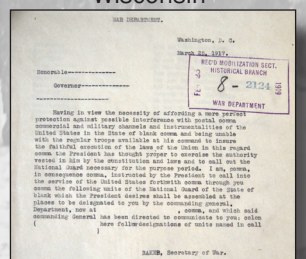
THE PRESENT PLANS PROVIDE FOR LEAVING BORDER NEXT WEEK

Ship Supposed To Be The German "Black Raider"

DISCUSSES QUESTION OF ALLIANCE TO TAKE PART IN WORLD PEACE

February 28: 2nd Wisconsin Infantry returns to Wisconsin

March 25: 3rd Wisconsin Infantry mobilized to guard vital war infrastructure in Wisconsin



WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, D. C.

March 25, 1917.

RECD MOBILIZATION SECT. HISTORICAL BRANCH

8 - 2134

WAR DEPARTMENT

Having in view the necessity of affording a more complete protection against possible interference with postal comm commercial and military channels and instrumentalities of the United States in the State of black comm and being unable with the regular troops available at his command to insure the faithful execution of the laws of the Union in this regard comm. the President has brought proper to exercise the authority vested in him by the Constitution and laws and to call out the National Guard necessary for the purpose period. I am, comm. In consequence comma, instructed by the President to call into the service of the United States forthwith comm through you comm the following units of the National Guard of the State of black which the President desires shall be assembled at the places to be designated to you by the commanding general.

comm, and with said commanding General has been directed to communicate to you; colon here follow designations of units named in call

BAKER, Secretary of War.

May 18: Congress authorizes a draft

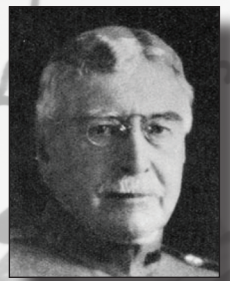
July 18: 32nd Division constituted with troops drawn from Wisconsin and Michigan National Guard



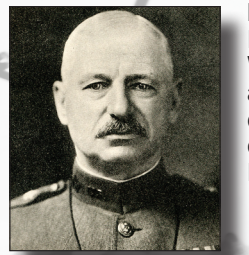
August 4: First troops arrive at Camp MacArthur near Waco, Texas

August 5: Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers separated from the National Guard and drafted into federal service — a requirement at the time for such Soldiers to serve overseas

1917

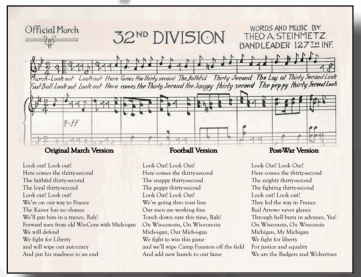


August 17: Maj. Gen. James Parker assigned command of 32nd Division



September 18: Brig. Gen. William Haan assumes temporary command of 32nd Division

December 8: Brig. Gen. William Haan assumes command of the 32nd Division



December 16: "32nd Division March" debuted at 32nd Division-89th Division football game

September 4: 2nd Battalion, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry departs for service with the 42nd "Rainbow" Division

September 22: 32nd Division orgnized into subordinate brigades and regiments

September 29: Organized training at Camp MacArthur begins

October 1: Last Wisconsin National Guard units arrive at Camp MacArthur





January 24: 32nd Division advance party arrives in Brest, France

January 2: 32nd Division begins movement from Camp MacArthur to Camp Merritt, NJ



April 10: 32nd Division replacement duty ends, becomes a combat division

April 28: 32nd Division receives replacements from 41st Division

May 14: 32nd Division assigned to French XL Corps in Alsace

1918

February 5: S.S. Tuscania is torpedoed, killing 13 Soldiers of the 32nd Division



February 16: 32nd Division headquarters arrives in Brest, France

February 24: 32nd Division command post established in Prauthoy

March 21: Germany begins first of its Spring 1918 offensives. Privates and captains sent from 128th Infantry to 1st Division as replacements



May 18: 32nd Division troops enter the trenches in Alsace



June 6-24: 119th Field Artillery Regiment detached to 26th Division in Toul Sector

June 9: 57th Field Artillery Brigade joins division after finishing artillery training

July 17: Final German offensive along Marne River fails



1918

May 24: Pvt. Joseph Guyton killed, the first 32nd Division Soldier to die in Alsace



May 25: French 9th Infantry Division commander decorates Pvt. Joseph Guyton with the Croix de Guerre with silver star

July 18: France and U.S. launch the Aisne-Marne Offensive

July 19: 32nd Division relieved from Alsace sector

July 26: 32nd Division arrives at Chateau-Thierry as part of the 38th French Corps, 6th French Army





July 29: Army nurses Lina Leckrone and Irene Robar, assigned to the division's 127th Field Hospital, earn Silver Star citations for heroism tending to the wounded during an artillery bombardment

July 30: 32nd Division relieves 3rd Division north of Roncheres and assists 28th Division in capturing Bois de Grimpettes

July 31: 32nd Division relieves 28th Division and captures Cierges

August 1: 32nd Division captures Bellevue Farm, Hill 230 and Bois de Jomblets, penetrating Germany's southern final defensive line in the Marne salient



1918

August 6: 32nd Division captures Fismes on the Vesle River

August 7: 32nd Division relieved by 28th Division

August 18: France begins the Oise-Aisne Offensive

August 23: 32nd Division transerred to French 10th Army

August 28: 32nd Division relieves French 127th Division west of Juvigny



August 29: 32nd Division commences attack on Juvigny

August 30: 32nd Division captures Juvigny

September 2: 32nd Division relieved by 1st Moriccan Division

September 12-16: American First Army conducts St. Mihiel Offensive. 32nd Division in rest area



1918



September 22: 32nd Division leaves rest area at Joinville for Meuse-Argonne front

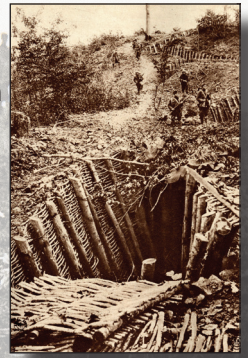
September 26: American First Army commences Meuse-Argonne Offensive. 32nd Division in V Corps reserve

September 30: 32nd Division relieves the 37th Division south of Cierges

October 4: 32nd Division captures Cierges



October 14: 32nd Division pierces the Kriemhilde Stellung





October 18: 32nd Division captures Bois du Bantheville

1918

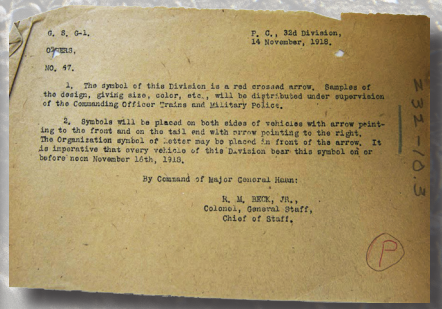
October 20: 32nd Division relieved by 89th Division

November 9: 32nd Division enters the line near Peuvillers as part of III Corps

November 10: 32nd Division advances three kilometers



November 11: Armistice signed at 11 a.m.



G. S. G-1.

F. C., 33d Division,
14 November, 1918.

ORDERS,
NO. 47.

1. The symbol of this Division is a red crossed arrow. Samples of the design, giving size, color, etc., will be distributed under supervision of the Commanding Officer Trains and Military Police.

2. Symbols will be placed on both sides of vehicles with arrow pointing to the front and on the tail end with arrow pointing to the right. The Organization symbol of letter may be placed in front of the arrow. It is imperative that every vehicle of this Division bear this symbol on or before noon November 16th, 1918.

By Command of Major General Haan:

H. M. BEUK, JR.,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

November 14: Maj. Gen. William Haan makes Red Arrow the division's official symbol

November 17: Commences march to the Rhine as part of Army of Occupation

November 20: Maj. Gen. William Lassiter assumes command of 32nd Division



April 8: 32nd Division relieved of occupation duty and prepares to redeploy to the U.S.

April 18: 32nd Division moves to Brest for return to the U.S.

April 20: First elements of 32nd Division sail for the U.S.

May 22: Last elements of 32nd Division arrive in New York



1918 1919

December 1: 32nd Division crosses the Sauer River into Germany



June 6: Red Arrow Day in Milwaukee for Wisconsin Soldiers. Troops given a formal welcome with parade and other festivities





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Consulting authors, Michigan National Guard: Maj. Thomas Mehl, Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton