WWI Soldier’s Journal

From Ashe Co., NC

To the Battlefields of the Western Front
Finding a small red journal – One day while cleaning out a trunk filled with old letters, I found a tattered small red book. Reading the first couple of pages, I realized my find was the handwritten journal of a WWI soldier. The journal was found within a collection of old letters that had been saved by a family whose mailing address was Grassy Creek, NC. I am very familiar with the remote mountain area of Ashe County, which is in the northwestern corner of NC bordering Virginia and Tennessee. This soldier had left this desolate mountain area of Ashe County, NC in 1918 and he documented his travels through France and Belgium during the Great War.

His brief journal entries provided me with a glimpse of this soldier’s war experience, but I was very curious to see if I could find any additional information that would clarify his recordings in this little journal. By searching deep on the internet and within a WWI book that I own, I found a detailed history of a North Carolina Infantry Division from WWI, and explanations of the battles fought, dates and locations that seemed to match the events, dates and experiences recorded by this Ashe County soldier.

NOTE: The upcoming three pages are a type written copy of the journal entries. The spelling and punctuation are just as written in the journal.
May 6, 1918 – The day of the Blues beginning.

Leaving old camp Sevier

Arrive at our second camp – Camp Merit Hoboker, New Jersey May 10

We leaving Old Hoboker on 11 of May

We borded the ship, at Boston Mass. May the 12th

Second Degree of the Blues

For sixteen days we never saw any soil at all.

But on the 28th day of May 1918 we arrived at Liverpool, England.

We caught the train at 10 a.m.

Beginning to firt with these war girls. We arrive at Fulk Stone England. This was a Germany town, this was our next camp. The morning of the 29th of May.

We border the ship the 30th of May across the English Channel. Into the land of France. The day we landed in France the days grew longer and the Blues grew stronger. From the Sound of the Big Gun's

We spent 2 days at this camp Calias France.

We left Calias on the Second day 2 of June, For camp Audacet There we spent 30 days in training of French war fare for the Front.
We left Audact for 2\textsuperscript{nd} of July. We cellierated the 4\textsuperscript{th} on the T.P.&W. reaching Hirzeles late in the p.m.

We left Herzelt on the 10\textsuperscript{th}. We arrived at Roade camp near Watto is in Belgin.

We left there on the 15 of July for the Front.

Cook’s and mess Sgt. Came back on the 16\textsuperscript{th}.

The co came back on the 25\textsuperscript{th} of July 1 man short 3 wounded. Out for rest.

Up again on the 3 of Aug.

Came back to Blue lines the 13 of Aug.

Away to the Front on the 18\textsuperscript{th} of Aug.

Came back on the 29\textsuperscript{th} of Aug. at the camp of St. John Debessin

Leaving Old Belgin into France again on the Six 6 Sept.
Reaching Camp St. Paul France on the 7 of Sept.

Left St. paul on the sixteenth 16 caught the train for camp.
Arrive the 17, Fessville

Left on the 23 border the truck for the Front.

Reaching the Front on the 28 of Sept.
Over the top with the big game of theh 29 of Sept.
27 men short 70 wounded
Came back on the 3 of Oct.

Up again on the eight 8
1 man short 18 gas & wounded
came back on the 20 Oct.

We left for a reenplacement camp the 21 Oct., reaching our camp the 23 twenty third Oct.

Pants
Sox
Short
Democracy.

Names listed at end of journal:
G.C. Buckne Siler City F.F.C #1 N.C
B.T. Lane Boone N.C.
Henry Hicks Frank N.C
Not the end of the story: Reading this journal and knowing where this soldier was from in North Carolina raised my curiosity to learn far more than the little journal could provide. Once this soldier left his remote mountain home in NC, where did he travel, and what were his experiences as he fought for his country?

Creating a Timeline – I quickly realized the most fascinating and challenging part of this story led me to hoping I could recreate what the journal did not document. I wanted to track the battles fought and the geographical movements that this soldier experienced while fighting. A timeline that traced his wartime experiences became my central focus.

First, I began searching for an Infantry where this soldier could have been assigned. Using his dates and matching those with dates and places recorded within the history of several WWI Infantries, I was able to narrow down an Infantry and Division that I felt this soldier was a part of.

From this, I was able to compile a side-by-side timeline that solidified my belief that this soldier was in fact a part of a NC Infantry that fought in both Belgium and France during 1918 and 1919.
Research Sources:

The first resource I used for creating this timeline was found on the internet. The link shown below is a digitized copy of the history for the 119th Infantry, 60th Brigade, 30th “Old Hickory” Division from NC, and the dates and places documented in the history did provide a match with the journal entries.

In creating the timeline, I used only Infantry history excerpts which provided a match to what the soldier had recorded in his journal.

A full recording of the Infantry history is found within the following:

http://docsouth.unc.edu/wwi/conway/conway.html

and

http://archive.org/details/history119thinfaconw

The second source I used for research was the 1938 edition of American Armies and Battlefields in Europe.

This book offered a detailed account of the battles fought by the 30th Division between May, 1918 and October, 1918.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 30th</td>
<td>Arrive Calais, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2 – July 2</td>
<td>30 days at Camp Audrique, France for training</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Left for Front</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>Co. came back – 1 man short 3 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>Up again</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>Came back to Blue Lines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>Away to Front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Came back on the 29th at the Camp St. Debessin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Leaving Belgium</td>
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<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Reaching St. Pol, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Leave St. Pol</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Arrive Fessville (Somme Dept)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Leave for Front</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>Reach the Front</td>
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<td>Sept. 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Came back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 24 – 30</td>
<td>Somme Offensive</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hindenburg Line / Battle of Bellicourt / North of St. Quentin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,018 Casualties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 19</td>
<td>Ypres-Lys Offensive</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Battle Voormezeele (Belgium)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>466 Casualties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Came back</td>
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<td>Oct. 6-12</td>
<td>Somme Offensive</td>
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<td>Battle Bancourt-le-Grand and St. Souplet</td>
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<td>2,480 Casualties</td>
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<td>Oct. 16-19</td>
<td>Somme Offensive</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Battle Mazinghein</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,491 Casualties</td>
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May 6  The day of the Blues Beginning
Leaving old camp sevier

May 10  Arrive at our second camp
Camp Merit
Hoboker, NJ

May 11  We leave Old Hoboker on 11 of May

May 12  We boarded the ship, at Boston, Mass
May the 12th

FROM HISTORY OF 119TH INFANTRY and/or INTERNET

Camp Sievier located near Taylors, Greenville County, SC

Camp Merritt located in Cresskill, Bergen Co., NJ. It was from this camp that tens of thousands of soldiers were deployed to Hoboken, NJ before being shipped off to Europe. Approximately 4 million troops were sent to the Western Front during WWI, and about one million of them passes through Camp Merritt.


3 British transports made direct sail for the coast of Canada. Ships were: Ascania, Haverford and Laomadon
May 15  3 ships saw each other in Harbor at Halifax, Nova Scotia
Convoy formed with these 3 Transports and nine others.

May 16  Convoy sailed for England

May 17th-21st  The ocean was rather rough at times caused by heavy wind but on morning of 22nd it was very calm, everyone was very calm, everyone was feeling better and in the best of spirits.

May 26th  About 11:30 pm a German submarine was sighted within very close range, but it immediately submerged and was not seen again. The crafty destroyers were on their job and dropped several “depth bombs” at the spot where the submarine had been seen.
May 28<sup>th</sup>  But on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1918 we arrived at Liverpool, England
We caught the train at 10 AM
Beginning to flirt with these war girls.
We arrive at Fulk Stone England
This is a Germany town, this was our next camp. The morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

*** Differences in dates between journal and history of 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry can not be explained.

INTERNET SHOWS: The English coastal port of Folkestone was the “artery” through which millions of men and women passed between 1914 and 1918, on their way to or from the Western Front. For them, Folkestone had a special meaning: it was “Blighty”.

May 28<sup>th</sup>  Beginning at 11 AM, the Regiment moved by small detachments from Dover, England, across the English Channel to Calais, France, and by the afternoon of May 29 the entire regiment was once more assembled camp, located about one and one half kilometers from Calais. The night of arrival in this camp the Regiment experienced their first attack by the enemy in the form of an “air raid”.

May 27-28 About 9:30 AM, the convoy filed through the Irish Sea and in a few minutes docked at Liverpool, England.

All troops remained on board until 5 PM that afternoon when the Regiment debarked and march a short distance to the train which left at 10 PM, for Dover, England’s chief Channel Port for the exportation of troops.

The train passed through London about midnight and arrived at Dover about 8 o’clock on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>.
May 30th  We border the ship the 30th of May across the English Channel. Into the land of France.

The day we landed in France the days grew longer and the Blues grew stronger. From the Sound of the Big Guns. We spent 2 days at this camp Calais France.

June 2nd  We left Calais on the Second day 2 of June, For camp Audacet There we spent thirty 30 days in training for French war fare for the Front.

The Regiment remained in this camp for three days being equipped with gas respirators and ammunition. Here the United States rifles were exchanged for British rifles, as the 30th Division had been designated to serve with the British.

May 31  The organization moved by rail to Audrique, France detrained there and march to the Racques Area where the Regiment was billeted ...

(See Training Period Over-Seas History of 119th Infantry)
July 2\textsuperscript{nd} Regiment with the other units of the Division, proceeded by marching to the RooZendall and Road Camp areas, near Watou, Belgium.

*** History of 119\textsuperscript{th} Infantry shows this Regiment was the first American unit to enter Belgium.

*** History of 119\textsuperscript{th} Infantry describes Watou, Belgium. The front line at its closest point was about 12 kilometers distance, consequently the firing of artillery could be heard at all times, and even the bursting of shells, for on several occasions the town of Watou where Division Headquarters was located was shelled. Here also the men of the Regiment became thoroughly accustomed to enemy air raids. Particularly every clear night there were numbers of German planes overhead bombing important cross-roads and camps.

July 3\textsuperscript{rd} Regiment marched on the morning of July 3 to Rubrouck
Bivouacked the night of July 3-4 in a Pasture

July 4-5 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion and 3\textsuperscript{rd} Battalion marched to Herzeele where it bivouacked for night of July 4-5, 1918. Here is was that the men first heard distinctly the firing of guns on the famous Flanders front.
July 15th We left there on the 15 of July for the Front.

July 16th Cook's and mess Sgt. Came back on 16th

July 25 The cook came back on the 25th of July
1 man short
3 wounded. Out for rest.

Aug 3rd Up again on the 3 of August
Came back to Blue lines on the 13th of Aug.

July 15 The 1st Battalion moved to the Blue Line (reserve position east of Poperinghe) on the night of July 15, 1918

*** Internet shows Poperinghe is in West Flanders, Belgium

July 16-17 The Battalion moved to the front Line position in the right subsector of the Canal Sector in the Ypres Salient.

July 23 – On the 23rd day of July, after the Battalion had been in line for a period of six days the British withdrew to the Yellow line and the 1st Battalion held the front line position along until relieved by the 2nd Battalion on the night of July 24-25, 1918

Aug. 1-2 The 1st Battalion held the reserve trench or Blue Line going in on the night of Aug. 1-2
Aug 13\textsuperscript{th} Came back to Blue lines on the 13\textsuperscript{th} of Aug.

Aug. 10-15 From the 10\textsuperscript{th} of August, 1918 until the 15\textsuperscript{th} day of August, 1918, the Regiment trained around Watou in a great way correcting errors which had been noted during the tour in line.

Aug. 18 Away to the Front on the 18\textsuperscript{th} of Aug.

Aug. 15 On the 15\textsuperscript{th} day of August, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment received orders that the Regiment should proceed that night and occupy Blue Line in the Canal Sector. Regimental Headquarters was on the eastern edge of Poperinghe.

Aug. 29 Came back on the 29\textsuperscript{th} of Aug at the camp St. John Debessin

*** SEE History of 119\textsuperscript{th} Infantry Occupation and Operations in Canal Sector up to, and including September 4\textsuperscript{th}, 1918)

Sept. 6 Leaving Old Belgin into France again on the Six 6 Sept.

Sept. 6 This Regiment with attached troops will entrain on the night of 6-7 September. Entraining Station Heidebeek duration of Journey about 12 hours.

Sept 7 Reaching Camp St. Paul France on the 7 of September

Internet shows location of Heidebeek to be in Belgium

Sept 7 The Regiment proceeded by rail to the St. Pol Area arriving there the morning of September 7, 1918
Sept 16  Left St. paul on the sixteenth 16
caught the train for camp

Sept 17  Arrive the 17, Fessville

Sept 17  On the 17\textsuperscript{th} day of September, 1918,
the Regiment moved by rail pursuant
of the following order to the
Puchevillere Area.

Internet shows: Puchevillers is located in the
Somme Department in Haut-de-France in
northern France

Here a most intensive training
schedule was carried out over selected
trenches and terrain preparatory to
the attack on the Hindenburg Line.
The importance of which was not
realized until about 10 days later.

Sept 23  Left on the 23 border the truck for
the Front.

Sept 23  The Regiment will move by bus on the
night of 23-24 September. Units
leaving night 23-24 of September will
carry Iron Rations only
Sept 24  This movement was carried out according to instructions and the Regiment arrived in the Tincourt Area about 6 AM September 24 and after a four mile hike was camped in the southern edge of a wood immediately N.W. of Tincourt.

Internet shows Tincourt is a commune in the Somme Department in Haut-de-France.

Sept 28  Reaching the Front on the 28 of Sept.

Sept 27-28 After taking over the line on the night of the 27-28 of September until the morning of the attack, great pains were taken to instruct each individual soldier in his particular duty.

Sept 29  Over the top with the big game of the 29 of Sept.

Sept 29 The Regiment completed its formation on the tape by 4:30 AM, Sunday, September 29, 1918 and waited quietly the zero hour. At exactly 5:50 AM ...

SEE History of the 119th Infantry - Attack on the Hindenburg Line.

Oct 3  27 men short 70 wounded
Came back on the 3 of Oct.

Oct. 8  Up again on the eight 8
1 man short 18 gas & wounded

Oct. 20  Came back on the 20 Oct.

Oct. 22  We left for reenplacement camp the
21 October, reaching our camp the
23 twenty third Oct. This is a
reenplacement camp.

Pants
Sox
Short
Democracy.

END OF SOLDIER’S JOURNAL ENTRIES
The following information was obtained from History of the 119th Infantry:

Oct 23  October 23, the entire Regiment moved by rail from Tincourt to Heilly and marched from there to Contay Area near Amiens.

Internet shows Amiens is the capital of the Somme Department in Hauts-de-France

SEE History of 119th Infantry – Rest and Training

Nov. 17  On or about Nov. 17th the 30th Division was relieved of further duty with the British Expeditionary Forces and transferred to the American Expeditionary Forces. With this transfer the Division was moved from its area near Amiens and sent further south with the Americans.

Nov 21  On Nov. 21st, 1918 this Regiment entrained at Corbie and moved by rail to LaMans Area detraining the following morning at Beaumont sur Sarthe. SEE History of 119th Infantry – Rest and Training.

Internet shows Beaumont sur Sarthe is also know as Beaumont-le-Vicomte. This commune is in the Sarthe Department in the region of Pays-de-la-Loire in northwestern France.
1919

Feb 11 Regiment proceeded by marching to the Forwarding Camps, five kilometers from Le Mans.

March 12-13 On the twelfth and thirteenth days of March, proceeded to the Embarkation Camp at St. Nazaire

Internet show St. Nazaire is in Loire-Atlantique Department in traditional Brittany. The town has a major harbor near the Atlantic Ocean.

March 16 On the 16th day of March, 1919 orders arrived stating the 119th Infantry would embark (for the United States) at 2:00 PM, March 17th on the U.S.S. Madawaslza.

The trip over the sea was very rough due to heavy wind and storms, thus causing the voyage to be several days longer than had been anticipated.

April 2 The entire Regiment landed at Charleston, SC on April 2nd, moving immediately by rail to Camp Jackson, SC. Here all the men in the Regiment from North Carolina were mustered out of the service between April 6th and 10th.
History of the 30th "Old Hickory" Division:

The 30th "old Hickory" Division initially comprised National Guard units from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. After a brief training period in the US, the 30th Division went overseas for combined training with the British. In August 1918, elements took over the canal sector southwest of Ypres, Belgium, holding there until an Allied offensive opened up late that month for the entire Ypres-Lys sector. During the Somme offensive in Sept. and Oct. 1918, the division helped break the Hindenburg Line near Bellicourt and later participated in the battle of the LaSelle River.

The division garnered several distinctions in the war: it was the first to break the German Hindenburg Line on the Cambrai-St. Quentin front, and its soldiers were awarded more Congressional Medals of Honor than those in any other American division.

Towns and Villages Captured by the 119th Infantry:

Belgium:
Voormezeele

France:
Busigny
Escaufourt
St. Benin
St. Souplet
Ribeauville
Ecaillon
Mazinghien
The personnel of the 119th Infantry, at the time it was ordered to France was as follows:

About 1,800 men from the State of North Carolina, 900 from Tennessee, and 700 from the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

TRAINING OF REGIMENT AT CAMP SEVIER, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Upon the completion of organization of the 119th Infantry, the Regiment underwent a most strenuous training preparatory to its final training received in France. A system of trenches was constructed by the 105th Engineers and these used extensively by the Regiment, in order that the men might become somewhat familiar with trench life, and their tactical use. A large target range was also constructed and on this the men were trained in the art of shooting accurately and rapidly, in order that they might protect their own lines in time to come. In the late fall of 1917, several British and French Instructors were attached to the 30th Division, and a few of these were sent to the 119th Infantry, who gave valuable instructions resulting from their own personal experience in France.

These instructors were specialists in their work, and this Regiment was fortunate in getting one for each branch of its training, namely: musketry and bayonet, gas defense, grenades, sniping and observation, stokes mortar, one pounder, and signal work. Beginning at about the 1st of January, 1918, detachments of officers from the 30th Division were sent each month to the School of Arms, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the training for the officers continued until the Regiment was ready to depart for Overseas service.

Between January 1st, 1918, and April 1st, 1918, the Regimental Commander was in attendance at a Brigade and Field Officers' School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. During his absence the Regiment was commanded by Col. F. LeJ. Parker, of the Regular Army, and his work for these three months greatly assisted in the building of the backbone of the Regiment. Many competitive drills and exercises were held during this time which assisted in establishing a keen spirit of competition, which the Regiment lived up to in later months.

Upon the return of Col. J. Van B. Metts from the School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, he resumed command of the Regiment and carried on the training until the 30th Division was ordered to France.
Early on the morning of May 11th, Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Machine Gun Company, Supply Company, and Companies A, B, and C, under general command of Col. J. Van B. Metts. Companies A, B, and C, of the 1st Battalion and Battalion Headquarters, under command of Captain Otho Robinson, left Camp Merritt and proceeded by rail to the docks at Hoboken, N. J., arriving there about 9:30 a.m.

The third detachment, consisting of the 3rd Battalion Headquarters, Companies D, I, K, L, and M, under command of Major William S. Privott, left Camp Merritt, May 10th, and proceeded by rail to Boston, Mass., arriving there about 10:00 a.m., the 11th, and embarked that afternoon on the British Steamship "Laomadon".

**VOYAGE.**

The three British Transports, "Ascania", "Haverford" and "Laomadon" on departure from their respective ports made a direct sail for the coast of Canada, and on Wednesday, May 15th, saw each other in the Harbor at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

While in this harbor the convoy was formed, consisting of these three Transports and nine others. On the afternoon of May 16th, the convoy sailed for England. The "Ascania" was the flag-ship, and carried the Commodore of the convoy—Lieut. Commander Underwood, of the British Navy. The convoy was escorted by the British Cruiser "Cornwall".

Between the 17th and 21st the ocean was rather rough at times caused by heavy wind, but on the morning of the 22nd it was very calm, everyone was feeling better and in the best of spirits.

Friday, May 24th, the convoy reached the "danger zone", and at this time numerous "abandon ship drills"
May 31st the organization moved by rail to Audrique, France, detrained there and marched to the Racques Area where the Regiment was billeted in the following towns:

were being held. At daylight of the 25th several United States Submarine Destroyers were seen chasing all around our convoy, and remained as our best friends until the convoy landed.

About 11:30 p.m., May 26th, a German submarine was sighted within very close range, but it immediately submerged and was not seen again. The crafty Destroyers were on their job and dropped several "depth bombs" at the spot where the submarine had been seen. No disorder or confusion among the troops was caused during these crucial moments.

About 9:30 a.m., May 27th, 1918, the convoy filed through the Irish Sea and in a few minutes docked at Liverpool, England. All troops remained on board until 5:00 o'clock that afternoon when the Regiment debarked, and marched a short distance to the train which left at 10:00 p.m., for Dover, England's chief Channel Port for the exportation of troops. The train passed through London about midnight and arrived at Dover about 8:00 o'clock on the morning of the 28th.

Beginning at 11:00 a.m., on the same date, the Regiment moved by small detachments from Dover, England, across the English Channel to Calais, France, and by the afternoon of May 29th the entire Regiment was once more assembled in camp, located about one and one-half kilometers from Calais.

The Regiment remained in this camp for three days being equipped with gas respirators and ammunition. Here the United States rifles were exchanged for British rifles, as the 30th Division had been designated to serve with the British.

The night of arrival in this camp the Regiment experienced their first attack by the enemy in the form of an "air raid". In spite of the heaviness and nearness of the explosions, and the whining of the bomb fragments, the behavior of the troops in their first actual contact with the enemy was most excellent.

May 31st the organization moved by rail to Audrique, France, detrained there and marched to the Racques Area where the Regiment was billeted in the following towns:
Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Company, detachments of Supply Company and the 1st Battalion at Louches; 2nd Battalion and detachment of Supply Company at Landrethun; 3rd Battalion and detachment of Supply Company at Yeuse; Machine Gun Company at Nordt Ludlingham and Supply Company at Lostrat.

**TRAINING PERIOD OVER-SEAS.**

In this area the Regiment underwent a most intensive training schedule. Since it was to be affiliated with the British, their methods, the development of four years of painstaking study, was adopted. The 39th British Division, which was associated with the 30th (American) Division arranged to give assistance in training in an advisory capacity, by the attachment of British officers and N. C. O.'s to American units, and by the maintenance of close personal touch, also by the interchange of Staff Officers between the Staffs of the British formation and the corresponding Staffs of the 30th Division. The 119th Infantry was very fortunate in receiving a cadre of instructors from the 9th Black Watch and the 9th and 10th Gordon Highlanders, under the command of Brig. Gen. N. S. Hubbard, 118th Infantry Brigade (British) and under the direct supervision of Col. Cruickshenk, Lt.-Col. Sworder, Lt.-Col. Lord Gordon and Lt.-Col. Anderson. The training was divided into two phases, i.e.: A and B. While in this area, phase A was mastered. This training consisted of 36 hours of instruction for the first week, 25 hours for the second week, 26 hours for the third week, and 20 hours for the fourth week. Realizing that every minute must be taken advantage of, the men worked most industriously, with a spirit at which our Allies marvelled. The training of specialists received the most careful attention, as did the training of the Infantry platoons. It was due, in a great way, to this thorough training that the later phenomenal success of the Regiment in actual battle is attributed. Time was also given to March Discipline and Trench Warfare.

As another means of taking advantage of the experience gained by the British, officers and non-commissioned officers were sent to various schools to acquire technical knowledge of Automatic Rifles, Bayonet Fighting, Grenades, Gas Defense, etc. It is well to know that the average standard set at these schools by the 119th Infantry officers and N. C. O.'s was exceptionally high. Also, officers and N. C.
O.'s were sent to the School Sector directly east of Ypres for practical experience under actual battle conditions before receiving the responsibility of leading their men under enemy fire. They were most courteously received by the units of the 49th British Division, occupying the line and were given valuable information and instruction while there. Some of these officers and N. C. O.'s were permitted to go on patrol, but chiefly they acquainted themselves with trench life and warfare.

The Machine Gun Company with the Machine Gun Companies of all the Regiments in the Division, were assembled at Nordt Ludlingham, where they were instructed in the latest methods of Machine Gun Warfare which the British had found so successful.

While in this area authority was received from G. H. Q., for the enlargement of the Regimental Staff by the allowance of an Operation and Intelligence Officer. To fill this very important office, Captain, now Major John Hall Manning, then the Regimental Adjutant, was appointed. Lieut. Jere Cooper was promoted to the rank of Captain and transferred to Regimental Headquarters as Adjutant. Captain Benjamin West on June 4th was also transferred to Regimental Headquarters as Personnel Adjutant. Upon the completion of the above changes, the Regimental Staff consisted of:

- COL. J. VAN B. METTS,
- LIEUT.-COL. CYRUS M. FAIRCLOTH,
- CAPT. JOHN HALL MANNING,
- CAPT. BENJAMIN WEST,
- CAPT. JERE COOPER,
- CAPT. ARMSTEAD K. TAYLOE,
- CHAPLAIN JOHN M. ROBESON.

The 119th Infantry Regiment was inspected almost immediately upon its arrival in this area by Major Gen. Herbert Plummer, Commander of the 2nd British Army. A week later Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, Commander of the British Armies in France, honored this Regiment by giving it a most rigid inspection. Both of these
officers expressed great delight in the progress of the training and the
wonderful physique of the men. On or about the 30th day of June,
Gen. John J. Pershing, Commander in Chief of the American Armies
in France, inspected the Regiment. He was pleased with the fitness
of the troops and especially the high standard of the personnel,
expressing himself that he had not seen a better body of men in the
American Expeditionary Forces.

About the 15th of June, information was received that an attack
by the Germans was anticipated in the sector immediately east of
Cassel. In anticipation of this plan of attack arrangements were
perfected whereby the 30th Division was to take up a position in
reserve, west of Cassel. The 119th Infantry was designated to be the
Divisional Reserve which, as expressed to the Commanding Officer
by Gen. Faison, was a very important position in the scheme of
defense. The Regiment was preparing for this move with great
enthusiasm. This position, however, was never occupied. The orders
were unexpectedly changed and this Regiment with the other units of
the Division, on the 2nd day of July, 1918, proceeded by marching to
the Roozendaal and Road Camp Areas, near Watou, Belgium.

The Regiment formed on the Zaufques-Louches-Yeuse Road
with the head of the column at the road intersection 3A, 39, British
Map Hazebrouk, at 9:45 a.m., in the following order: Headquarters
Company, Detachment Supply Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Battalion,
and 2nd Battalion. The Sanitary Detachments accompanied their
respective Battalions. The First and Second Line Transports followed
their respective Battalions in the following order: Rolling Kitchens, G.
S. Wagons (Ration), G. S. Wagons (Baggage), Water Carts, Limbers.
The following disposition of equipment was made: 120 rounds of
service S. A. A., one cooked meal and full field equipment, including
two blankets, less overcoats, which were carried on the wagons,
were carried by each man. With this equipment and in the above
order the 119th Infantry marched to the Forêt D’Eperlecques, a
distance of 12 kilometers, where they bivouacked the night of July 2-3,
1918. On the morning of July 3rd, the Regiment marched to
Rubrouck, forming at 6:15 a.m., on the Watten-Welverdinghe-
Voikermakhove-Herzeele Road in the following order: Headquarters
Company, Detachment Supply Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd
Battalion, 1st Battalion, Sanitary Troops with their respective
Battalions, where it bivouacked the night of July 3-4, 1918, in a pasture. The distance marched was about the same as on the day before. On July 4th, 1918, contrary to expectations, the Regiment again formed on the Bollezeele-Rubrouck Road in the following order: Headquarters Company, Detachment Supply Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion, with Sanitary Troops with their respective Battalions at 7:20 a. m., and marched to Herzeele, where it bivouacked for the night of July 4-5, 1918. Here it was that the men of this Regiment first heard distinctly the firing of guns on the famous Flanders front. It was the subject of much discussion especially since it was the birthday of the Independence of America. On the morning of July 5, 1918, at 6:00 a. m., the Regiment formed on the Herzeele-Watou Road, to march to the Roosendall and Road Camp Areas in the order of march as of the first day. It reached its destination shortly after noon and went into camp two kilometers southeast of Watou, Belgium. It is quite interesting to note that this Regiment was the first American unit to enter Belgium. Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company were located at Bayley Camp, 1st Battalion was located just across the road, 2nd Battalion at Gabb Camp, 3rd Battalion at Chase Camp, and the Machine Gun Company in a pasture only a short distance away. The Supply Company, less the detachments which were attached to the different Battalions formed the Sixtieth Brigade Dump and was located at Dragon Camp.

It must be understood that the Supply Company of this Regiment and the Supply Company of the 120th Infantry Regiment were consolidated forming the Sixtieth Brigade Dump, each Battalion was then allotted a detachment under the command of a Battalion Supply Officer. It was the duty of the Brigade Dump to issue rations and equipment for a Battalion directly to the respective Battalion Supply Officer, who in turn issued the same directly to the Company of their Battalion. Also in this detachment was included a Battalion Transport Officer who had direct charge of the Battalion Transport. The feeding of the men in the line was entirely in the hands of these two officers, for as soon as the Brigade Dump had turned over the food to the Battalion Supply Officer he was relieved of further responsibility. Then the Transport Officer after the rations had been prepared for consumption collected them and loaded them on the transports, carrying it forward to the men in the trenches. This
Regiment was fortunate in having conscientious and fearless officers to fill these important positions and they deserve the highest praise for the manner in which they performed their duties. This method of supply was continued throughout the operations of the Regiment.

After resting up from the four-day march, the Regiment resumed the training schedule with renewed energy. The front line at its closest point was about 12 kilometers distance, consequently the firing of artillery could be heard at all times, and even the bursting of shells, for on several occasions the town of Watou, where Division Headquarters was located was shelled. The shells passing directly over the Camp. Here also the men of the Regiment became thoroughly accustomed to enemy air raids. Practically every clear night there were numbers of German planes overhead bombing important cross-roads and camps. The transports carrying rations forward to the men in the line also presented a favorite target.

It was while stationed in this area that Major Gen. Pinny, of the British Army, addressed the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Regiment. He was very enthusiastic on the condition of the men, especially the standard of morale, which was extraordinarily high. There was one remark in his speech which clearly bespoke the conditions and thinking of our gallant allies before our arrival. Gen. Pinny said in substance: "An attack by the enemy is anticipated and in all probability his advance will be on this front. It is my sincere hope that he attacks while you are here." The attack never materialized.

To better understand the subsequent work of the Regiment it is here necessary to explain somewhat in detail the former training which was conducted under the heading of Phase B training. This consisted of one Battalion at a time going into the line and being associated with the British units then occupying the position and also to strengthen the line as it was very lightly held. The command and the responsibility for this sector was retained by the British while the Americans were given every opportunity to accustom themselves with trench life and conditions. This method of training was to continue until the entire outfit had been able to take advantage of the opportunity. Phase B training was commenced in the Regiment by the following order, July 16, 1918:
In compliance with the above order the 1st Battalion under command of Capt. Otho Robinson, moved to the Blue Line (reserve position east of Poperinghe) on the night of July 15th, 1918. Company "A" occupied the right front and right support with two (2) platoons in the front line position and two in support. Company "C" occupied exactly the same relative position on the left. Company "D" was held in reserve. On the night of July 16-17 the Battalion moved to the front line position in the right subsector of the Canal sector in the Ypres salient. The disposition of troops in the sector were as follows: "A" Company occupied the front line in conjunction with "C" and "B" Companies of the Argyle and Southern Highlanders with their right resting on Kruisstraathock-Voormezeeel Road. To the right of "A" Company and occupying the front line "D" Company was stationed with two platoons in the front line and two in close support with the Queens Royal Rifles. "C" Company occupied support positions. "B" Company received orders to return to Louches, France, by rail to complete its course on the target range.

For the first six days that this Battalion was in the line it held the position with the British, first by having one English soldier stationed with one American. After confidence was thus gained the separate units were grouped together and a British platoon was placed on either side of an American platoon. On the 23rd day of July, after the Battalion had been in line for a period of six days the British withdrew to the Yellow Line or the Regimental Reserve Line and the 1st Battalion held the front line position alone until relieved by the 2nd Battalion on the night of July 24-25, 1918.

This sector was known as a quiet one and especially suitable for the instruction of new troops but at this particular time it was quite the contrary. As has been stated, an attack was anticipated, so the British artillery was exceptionally active firing on all points where troop movements had been noticed and on important roads and crossings. The artillery's activity on our part consequently called for retaliation from the enemy which made the sector one of the hottest on the front. Due to this very heavy shelling the casualties numbered more than was expected.
The 1st Battalion held the reserve trench or Blue Line going in on the night of August 1-2, and remaining until it was withdrawn Sunday morning, August 10th, 1918.

With the withdrawal from the line of this Battalion Phase B of the scheme of instruction was completed for this Regiment and it was now deemed capable of taking over and occupying a place in the firing line alone.

From the 10th of August, 1918, until the 15th day of August, 1918, the Regiment trained around Watou in a great way correcting errors which had been noted during the tour in line. On the 15th day of August, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment received orders that the Regiment should proceed that night and occupy the Blue Line in the Canal sector, which it did. Regimental Headquarters was established at the Elizabeth Chateau on the eastern edge of the town of Poperinge.

The Canal sector was the general line extending from immediately southeast of Ypres, about two miles southwest to Elzenwalla, inclusive, on both sides of the Ypres-Commines Canal and the country on this immediate front was very low and wet, thus causing many hardships upon the troops occupying it. To the right of the Canal sector stood Mount Kemmel, from the top of which the Germans had a dominating view of the entire sector, thus causing camouflaged screens to be erected on all main roads leading towards the front, and making it very difficult to move about during the day. On the left of this sector was the remains of Ypres, after the great battle the British fought in July, 1916, when the Germans used gas for the first time.
Sept 6 -

This Division is being transferred to the Third (British) Army. The move will be made by rail.

2. (a) This Regiment with attached troops, will entrain on the night of 6-7 September in accordance with entraining table attached hereto

(b) Entraining Station Heidebeek (X 27. a. 2. 4.), duration of journey, about 12 hours.

Sept. 17 Upon the transfer from the 2nd British Army, the Regiment proceeded by rail to the St. Pol Area, arriving there the morning of September 7th, 1918.

This Area was located near St. Pol, France, a town of probably 30,000 inhabitants and was known as a rest and training sector. Here, for the first time in two months, the Regiment was out of the Enemy Artillery Range. The men enjoyed the experience. The time there was devoted to recreation, however, training for future work did not suffer. One of the points greatly stressed was the Infantry attack assisted by tanks. An opportunity was given to three companies to engage in assemilated attack with the Tanks while the other companies of the Regiment observed their tactical use. This training though not appreciated at the time, proved of inestimable value in the subsequent operations of the Regiment.

On the 17th day of September, 1918, the Regiment moved by rail pursuant to the following order to the Puchevillere Area.

Here a most intensive training schedule was carried out over selected trenches and terrain preparatory to the attack on the Hindenburg Line, the importance of which was not realized until about ten days later.

Sept. 23 -
This Regiment will move by bus on the night of 23-24 September, in accordance with attached movement table. All horse transport is moving by road on the night of 21-22 September, staging night of 22-23 September. Units leaving nights 23-24 of September will carry Iron Rations only.

This movement was carried out according to instructions and the Regiment arrived in the Tincourt Area about 6:00 a.m., September 24th, and after a four mile hike was camped in the southern edge of a wood immediately N. W. of Tincourt.

Here the Regiment had reached shell fire again as one could be heard whizzing overhead several times each day and everyone was beginning to realize that they were drawing close to the fighting line every hour on account of the rapidity and secrecy of order and movements.

That afternoon the Regiment moved up a little closer to the line and was distributed in sunken roads, chalk cliffs, etc., throughout the vicinity of Roisel.

Sept. 27 28 After taking over the line on the night of the 27-28 of September until the morning of the attack, great pains were taken to instruct each individual soldier in his particular duty.

**HINDENBURG LINE.**

To fully appreciate the importance of this operation it is here deemed necessary to explain somewhat in detail the magnitude of the undertaking. The Hindenburg Line so called because relied upon and established by the German General Von Hindenburg, was the last organized system of trenches to stop an Allied advance.
ATTACK ON HINDENBURG LINE.

The Regiment completed its formation on the tape by 4:30 a.m., Sunday, September 29th, 1918, and waited quietly the zero hour. At exactly 5:50 a.m., the most terrific barrage ever laid down on the Western Front opened and the Infantry following it as closely as possible, assisted by such a density of fog and smoke that a person could not be seen at a distance greater than five yards, succeeded in making its way through the strong fortifications assisting the 120th Infantry in the capture of the town of Bellicourt and the St. Quentin Canal, pushing forward towards its objective. The fog and smoke caused quite a bit of confusion. No one, except with the aid of a compass, could keep the proper direction, consequently the Companies became very much mixed and scattered, a situation which might have been more serious but for the work of the officers, the training of the men and the utter rout of the enemy.

Some units of the Regiment reached the final objective on the left but these were captured by the enemy as soon as they saw the gap in the line caused by the failure of the 27th Division to keep up with the advance. Because of this gap the Regimental left necessarily had to conform in order to prevent a retaking of the ground gained by a counter-attack. During the time that this left flank was exposed the Regiment suffered a loss by capture of three officers and several enlisted men and a great number killed and wounded.

A short time after the zero hour; prisoners were started to the rear and the road from Hargicourt to Bellicourt was practically filled with them during the entire day. These prisoners seemed overjoyed at the fact of their capture, especially by an American Unit. Quite a number of these were interviewed and readily gave any information desired.

Upon information gained from a German Battalion Commander interviewed at Regimental Headquarters, it was learned that when the enemy realized that the Americans had broken through their wire and first defenses, they withdrew the bulk of their reserves from the tunnel and reserve trenches, with the idea of making a stand at a position further to their rear. However, finding that the Division (27th American) on the left of the Regimental sector had failed to keep up with the advance and that the Regimental left flank was exposed,
pushed additional troops in on the left. This move on the part of the enemy developed for the 119th Infantry Regiment, as it may be termed, a second battle for the day, on the then exposed left flank, between our advance line and the right flank of the 27th Division.

The field over which this fight took place, on the 30th day of September, presented a miserable appearance, as dead soldiers were scattered broadcast over its area. Shell holes were so numerous that one could not walk three steps without falling into one. Huge masses of barbed wire had been partly cut by the bombardment and the Tanks. Not a telephone pole nor a tree had been left standing by the sweeping Artillery fire. The town of Bellicourt was a complete wreck.

"WITHDRAWAL."

On the night of October 1st and 2nd, the Regiment withdrew to the location previously occupied by it in the Tincourt Area, and in compliance with orders on the morning of October 2nd, marched to the Herbécourt Area by the route of Tincourt-Monrouge-Peronne-Biaches, and went into camp shortly after noon the same day at a place, formerly the village of Biaches, now completely destroyed. This camp was on the Marne River and only a short distance west of Peronne.

The time here was occupied principally by resting, and a general policing of the personnel in the Regiment. The men enjoyed these two days of rest.

On October 5th, the Regiment marched back to the Tincourt Area and camped that night in Tincourt Wood. The following day orders were received to move up to the Bellicourt-Hargécourt Area and the night of the 6th and 7th of October, was spent camped in the trenches of the Hindenburg Line, which eight days previous were occupied by the Germans.

On October 7th, the march was continued to the town of Estrees where the Regiment halted for the night.

The night or the portion of night spent here was marked by a most terrific bombardment from the air. No casualties in the
Regiment, however, resulted from this attack. Shortly after midnight verbal orders were received from the Commanding General, 60th Brigade, by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to proceed to the vicinity of Premont and follow the attack of the 117th Infantry which would begin at 6:00 a.m., October 8th, passing through or "leap-frogging" the 117th at the railroad fill immediately west of Busigny.

"ATTACK OF OCTOBER 8th, 9th, AND 10th."

Leaving Estrees at approximately 3:30 a.m., the Regiment proceeded by marching to Premont and to its position, arriving there just as the barrage opened.

The Regiment joined the 25th British Division on the left and the 120th Infantry Regiment on the right. Regimental Headquarters were established at Van le Prettre Farm. In this formation the line advanced approximately 1,500½ yards, on being held up here immediately west of the woods east of Premont, the 119th Infantry Regiment pushed through and continued the advance to its objective a short distance north-east of the town of Busigny, capturing the town and a large quantity of material, including a Battery of 5.9's and several field pieces, also liberating 1,800 French civilians who had been under control of the Germans for the four years of the war. Upon the entrance of the Americans into the village and before the Germans had been driven entirely out, the civilians were in the streets offering the soldiers hot coffee. They could not be too kind to their liberators. It seemed to surprise them greatly that the troops occupying their town then were friendly Americans. They thought that the British had freed them and it was sometime before they could believe the truth.

At about 4:30 the same afternoon the Regiment gained all of its objectives and immediately consolidated its position. Regimental Headquarters moved from Van le Prettre to Premont. This advancement was of 6 kilometers.

The attack order for the advance on the morning of October 9th, was received at Regimental Headquarters about 3:30 a.m., and
transmitted to the Battalion Commanders and front line troops by 4:30 a.m. A runner was the only means of communication at this time. In the attack order the barrage was timed to open at 5:00 o'clock, but later was changed to begin at 5:30, and, had it not been for the fact that the attack orders were late in arriving at the front line, this difference of 30 minutes might have caused disastrous results.

The Regiment in the same formation as the previous day resumed the attack at 5:30 a.m., October 9th, with objective the Heights 500 yards east of the LaSalle River. This objective was selected for its tactical advantage, as it gave the enemy a dominating view of the country west of the LaSalle River, and from information gained seemed to be very strongly fortified.

The advance continued without meeting very strong resistance until the town of St. Souplet on the west bank of the LaSalle River was reached; about 3:00 o'clock that afternoon.

Here the enemy apparently had time to make some preparation and to bring up a few reserves, as the Heights immediately east of the River were well protected. Heavy Machine Gun and Artillery fire was received from the entire ridge covering the Regimental front. It was practically impossible to advance up this open incline without the sacrifice of a great number of lives. Repeated efforts were made to cross the River, and at a few points were successful but due to the nature of the terrain and the terrific Machine Gun fire, it was deemed necessary to dig in and hold the line along the west bank of the River, as a counter-attack was anticipated, but never materialized. The left flank of the Regiment at this time was connected with the 25th British Division but the right flank was exposed as the 120th Infantry had not kept up, causing the line to bend back in front of several fortified Machine Gun posts.

Confronting these conditions, the line was ordered to halt and make good a general line along the west bank of the LaSalle River and gain contact with the 120th Infantry, which was done later that night. During the day's operation the Regiment advanced to a distance of 4,000 yards and captured the towns of Escaufort, St. Souplet and St. Benin, liberating 706 French civilians. A large number of Machine Guns and several field pieces were captured with a large supply of ammunition.
The night of the 9th-10th of October was spent in consolidating the captured position and to gain contact with the unit on the right which had been held up by Machine Gun fire. It was the plan that as soon as this connection had been made an Artillery Barrage was to be laid down on the whole front thus enabling the entire line to advance. The German position could not be taken without this preliminary preparation by the Artillery so strongly was it defended.

On the morning of October 10th, since the 120th Infantry had not come up on the line, the plan of the attack was not enforced but instead the Regiment merely exploited a short distance immediately forward of this position. After the hard fighting of the 8th and 9th, the men were completely worn out and ready for a rest. However, their high standard of morale had never waned. On the afternoon of the 10th, orders were received for the relief of the Regiment by the 108th Infantry Regiment of the 27th American Division. This relief, due to the fact that some of the units of the 108th Infantry became separated from the rest of the organization, was not completed until after daylight on the morning of the 11th of October. The troops moving from the front line positions could plainly be seen by the enemy who immediately fired on them with Artillery. The Regiment moved by marching back to Premont, where it remained until the same afternoon when it marched to the area around Van le Prettre Farm. Here it was billeted for the night of October 11th-12th. Due to a mistake, the allotment of billeting area by Corps Headquarters, the Regiment was compelled to move to the area surrounding Montbrohain, while Regimental Headquarters was established in the village.

In this area every advantage was taken to rest the men and to let them clean their clothing and equipment. A captured German bathhouse was utilized and every man in the Regiment was thus enabled to get a good hot shower bath. The Regiment remained here for five days.
"ATTACK OF OCTOBER 17th, 18th, AND 19th."

On the afternoon of the 16th of October, in accordance with instructions the Regiment moved to the woods immediately southwest of Busigny, where it bivouacked for the night of the 16-17th. Before daybreak the morning of the 17th, in accordance with battle instructions, Headquarters 30th Division, the troops of the Regiment marched to its forming up area along a general line, eastern outskirts of La Haie Mennerese and bore on Vaux Andigny, arriving there at 5:00 a.m., zero hour. From this point, the Regiment was to follow the advance of the 59th Brigade under an Artillery Barrage, passing through it at zero plus six hours. While following up the 59th Brigade, the Regiment passed through an extremely heavy counter barrage of the enemy.

At approximately 11:00 o'clock in the morning, the 119th Infantry Regiment took over the line from the 117th Infantry as it was held up by Machine Gun fire, and advanced to a railroad cut 2,000 yards west of the village of Ribeauville. Here the position was consolidated and the men dug in for the night. This position was very heavily shelled and quite a number of casualties resulted. Due to the fact that the British on the right and the 120th on the left had been unable to keep up with the advance and gain connection, the attack on the morning of the 18th inst., could not be made. During the entire morning harassing Machine Gun fire was distributed over the Regimental front. About 11:30 a.m., the British by aid of Artillery Barrage succeeded in advancing until connection had been established with the 119th Infantry. At the time connection was made with the British, the 119th Infantry attempted to advance on the town of Ribeauville, but this advance was met by such heavy Machine Gun fire that the right Battalion had to fall back to its original position. Practically no advance had been made by this Regiment up to 5:00 o'clock that afternoon, nor by the units on either flank.

About 7:30 o'clock information was received that the British on the right had moved up to the prolongation of our front line, and were continuing the advance. Information was also received that the 27th Division (American) had succeeded in pushing its line forward.

At 8:00 o'clock that evening orders were received from Commanding General, 60th Brigade, to the effect that the 119th
Infantry would advance immediately, keeping liaison with units on right and left. The attack formation consisted principally of Combat Groups and Patrols joined by connecting files, which pushed out and continued the advance over very rough country, assisted only by the dim moonlight and compass. Owing to these conditions, very slow progress was made, as it was very hard to maintain connections.

Very little Machine Gun and Artillery fire was encountered until the line reached the eastern edge of Ribeauville, where shelling became heavier, and a great number of Mustard Gas shells were falling in the area.

The line continued to advance to the village of Ecaillon, which was reached about 1:30 a.m., October 19th. Orders were received to halt and secure connection with units on right and left, which was done. That night the town of Ribeauville was captured liberating one French civilian, and at Ecaillon five horses were captured in a stable with saddle equipment and harness.

About 3:30 that morning orders were received that the attack would resume at 7:00 o'clock on the entire Corps front, and to continue the advance as far as possible, no objective being given. The Regiment in practically the same formation as the previous day formed up and advanced in the general direction of Catillon, maintaining connection on its flanks. At 8:30 the town of Mazingheim was captured by 119th which continued to advance, until it had reached the high ground east of Mazingheim overlooking the Sombre Canal. Here very stout Machine Gun opposition was met, and the line held up for awhile. Supporting Machine Guns, Stokes Mortars, and One Pounders were sent up to protect the front from any counter-attack and did good work in putting out several enemy Machine Gun posts. Practically no advance was made beyond this high ground that afternoon, due to the very open country and the deadly fire from the German Machine Guns.

Orders were received to halt and make good the line held. The men and officers were now, after a period of three days' continuous fighting, very, very tired, having advanced a distance of practically five miles.
That night the Regiment was relieved by the ______ British and the Regiment retired to the town of St. Souplet where it was billeted the night of October 19th-20th. The following morning the Regiment moved by marching to Busigny, and October 21st marched to Joncourt. The march continued October 22nd, and that afternoon the Regiment was camped in small huts immediately west of Tincourt. October 23rd, the entire Regiment moved by rail from Tincourt to Heilly and marched from there to Contay Area near Amiens.

-------- END OF JOURNAL

_____ The Rest of the Story

"REST AND TRAINING."

Upon the arrival of the Regiment in this area, every advantage was taken to give the men a thorough rest and also to equip them. The depleted ranks had to be filled by replacements, for the Regiment was in strength, a little larger than that of one Battalion. The Commanding Officer expressing the wish of all the officers and men of the Regiment, exerted every effort to have the old men of the Regiment who had been pronounced ready for duty from hospitals, returned to the organization. As a result of this effort quite a number of the old men were returned along with a few replacements to take the place of those killed and wounded. After the rest of a few days, a training schedule was inaugurated preparatory to fitting the organization for further fighting. Quite a number of maneuvers were included in the training schedule and the majority of them were carried out, assimilating open warfare.

Connected with the training a number of field meets were held, principally to relieve the men's minds from the battle front and to create a spirit of competition throughout the entire 2nd American Corps.

On or about November 17th, the 30th Division was relieved of further duty with the British Expeditionary Forces and transferred to
the American Expeditionary Forces. With this transfer the Division was moved from its area near Amiens and sent further south with the Americans. On November 21st, 1918, this Regiment entrained at Corbie and moved by rail to the LaMans Area, detraining the following morning at Beaumont sur Sarthe.

Training schedule was inaugurated here and the Regiment sustained its high standard by attaining a high degree of perfection in drill, ceremonies, training and equipment.

The citizens of Beaumont were most cordial to the Americans and exerted every effort towards their entertainment. The officers were extensively entertained in their homes. At a dinner given by the Mayor of the town, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment was presented with a "wreath of Laurel" in token of the splendid work of the Regiment during the fighting.

START FOR PORT

On February 11, 1919, pursuant to orders, the Regiment proceeded by marching to the Forwarding Camps, five kilometers from LeMans, where it completed preparation before sailing, and on the twelfth and thirteenth days of March, proceeded to the Embarkation Camp at St. Nazaire, arriving March 13th and 14th. The Regiment remained at this camp for a period of three days, making its final preparations for embarkation to the United States of America.

On the 16th day of March, 1919, orders were received from Headquarters Embarkation Camp, Base Sector No. 1, St. Nazaire, France, to the effect that following units of the 119th Infantry would embark at 2:00 p. m., March 17th, on the U. S. S. "Madawaska". The trip over sea was very rough due to heavy wind and storms, thus causing the voyage to be several days longer than had been anticipated.

The entire Regiment landed at Charleston, S. C., on April 2nd, moving immediately by rail to Camp Jackson, S. C. Here all the men in the Regiment from North Carolina, were mustered out of the service between the April 6th and 10th.