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ACTIVITIES AND CITATIONS
OF THE
53rd Field Artillery Brigade
TWENTY-EIGHTH DIVISION



UNITED STATES ARMY
—
WORLD WAR, 1914-1918
—

COMPLIMENTS OF
MAJOR-GENERAL WILLIAM G. PRICE, Jr.
CHRISTMAS, 1919

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FOREWORD

THE 53rd Field Artillery Brigade, 28th Division, Brigadier-General William G. Price, Jr., commanding, embarked from New York for Overseas Service on May 18th, 1918, arriving in Liverpool May 31st, 1918. After spending several days in Rest Camps in the vicinity of Southampton, England, the Brigade crossed the Channel and by June 9th, 1918, all the Units, including the 107th, 108th and 109th Field Artillery and the 103rd Ammunition Train and the 103rd Trench Mortar Battery were established in the new American Camp at Camp De Meucon, in the heart of quaint old Brittany.

Here the Brigade received its full complement of materiel and horses and underwent an eight weeks' course of training in the use of the French 75's and 155 mm. Howitzers. On August 6th, 1918, the entrainment for the front commenced and by the 8th of August, the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade had rejoined the 28th Division in the Chateau Thierry salient just east of Fismes. Here the Units of the Brigade remained in constant action under continual fire until September 5th, when the advance was ordered which culminated in the crossing of the Vesle River. The attack continued until September 8th, 1918, when orders were received relieving the Division.

An eleven-day hike from the Marne to the Argonne Forest then followed. The route of the Brigade from Treloupe sur Marne passed through Epernay, Vitry le Francois and Contression and finally ended in the heart of the Argonne Forest. The batteries went into position in the vicinity of Croix de Pierre on the evening of September 20th, 1918, the Brigade being augmented by two French regiments, the 64th and 238th, with 18 batteries of 75's. On the morning of the 26th of September, the Division attacked in the famous Argonne Offensive. The battle in the Argonne was marked by continual daily attacks until October 10th, when the Division was relieved. The last Units of the Ammunition Train left the Argonne Forest on October 17th, 1918.

The 53rd Field Artillery Brigade was then detached from the 28th Division, became for a day Army Artillery and was then attached to the 91st (Wild West) Division, composed of National Army Troops from Washington, Oregon and California. The mission of the Brigade involved participation in the combined drive of the French, English, Belgians and Americans in Belgium, under the direct command of King Albert. On October 18th, 19th and 20th, 1918, the Units of the Brigade entrained at St. Menenhould, Villers-Daucourt and Gibry. Travelling via Boulogne, Callais and Dunkirk, the Brigade detrained in the vicinity of historic Ypres, Belgium. A hard march of 25 kilometers over the famous No-Man's Land and Paschendal Ridge, brought the Brigade to billets at Slayhaege, near Roulers, where the organizations overhauled equipment and reorganized for the advance. On the evening of October 30th, the 91st Division was ordered to move up to the front through Ishgem and Inglemunster. On the morning of the 31st of October, the front line was taken over, the batteries having gone into position the evening before, and the attack commenced at 5.30 A. M., continuing with but brief respite until November 11th, when the Armistice was declared. At that time the Brigade was in position, ready to fire, east of the Scheldt River and in the vicinity of Audenarde. In this offensive the Brigade was augmented by the 59th Belgium Artillery, equipped with 220 mm. Howitzers, the 221st French equipped with 75's, and the 11th French Cav. Divisional Artillery.

From the Armistice until embarking for the United States, the routine life of billets became the lot of the Brigade, first in the vicinity of Ypres and then after January 3rd, 1919, near Laval, with Brigade headquarters established at Mesley du Mayenne. In April, the Brigade rejoined the 28th Division at Lemans and on May 1st, 1919, commenced embarkation to the United States.

The glorious reception given to the officers and men of the 28th Division on May 15th, when the Division paraded in Philadelphia before a sea of upturned faces, revealing the gratitude and affection of Pennsylvania,

will ever remain a vivid spot in the hearts of the men who participated in that drama.

The citations which follow trace the record of the Division through the great war and are published in order that every man, by whose efforts and unselfish devotion alone these citations were merited, may share in the satisfaction which the Commanding General feels for the work of his men.

The divisional citations included within the covers of this volume are those received when the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade was a part of the 28th Division. The remaining citations were awarded to the Brigade while it was a part of the 91st Division in Belgium.

The activities of the 28th Division in the recent great war have now passed into the realms of history. The men who carried the colors of the Old National Guard of Pennsylvania to the battlefields of France have again resumed their tasks in civilian paths. Time dims the most brilliant deeds. It is to those men of the 28th Division who were "faithful unto death" and whose bodies now rest on the altar of freedom that this volume is affectionately dedicated.

HEADQUARTERS 28th DIVISION

AMERICAN E. F.

France.

BULLETIN:

4th July, 1918.

1. On the afternoon of July 1st, two platoons of the 111th Infantry participated with the 153rd French Infantry Regiment in the attack on Hill 204. The following letter, written by Colonel Matter, commanding the 153rd French Infantry Regiment, to the Commanding Officer, 111th U. S. Infantry is published for the information of the command:

"I have the honor to inform you that the detachment of your Regiment which you have been so good as to put at my disposal for the attack of July 1st, has shown in its baptism of fire an admirable attitude.

The detachment was placed with the 2nd battalion of the 153rd, which had as its mission the taking of the woods on Hill 204.

The platoon from Co. A operated on the eastern edge of the woods; the platoon from Co. B on the western edge. At the hour "h", (6:00 p. m.) the assaulting troops left the trenches where they had been staying in order to allow artillery preparation on Hill 204.

From the beginning of the attack the American detachments were marked by their ardor, bravery, and enthusiasm.

In spite of the firing of the enemy's heavy and light machine guns, trench mortars, and riflemen placed in trees, these men bravely threw themselves on their adversaries.

A fierce hand-to-hand contest immediately took place in the thick and almost impregnable woods, where each man fought his man. The combat was violent, and your men never ceased during all the operation to arouse the enthusiasm and admiration of their French comrades by their magnificent behavior.

Lieutenant Schenkel, especially, distinguished himself during this combat, making a great impression on his own troops and our soldiers. Led on by his ardor, with seven men, the Lieutenant found himself surrounded on all sides. This detachment cut its way through by using the butts of their rifles and bayonets on the enemy's ranks, and succeeded in rejoining their comrades; Lieutenant Schenkel himself killing, with a pistol shot, a German officer.

The attitude of all American ranks, especially the non-commissioned officers, was also noticeable. Of six non-commissioned officers participating in the attack, five have fallen gloriously killed or wounded. All officers, N. C. O.'s and privates were superb in their enthusiasm and courage.

I would appreciate very much if you would bring to the knowledge of your regiment the splendid conduct of your men, who fought for the first time with us, and let everybody know that with such admirable soldiers as yours, and ours, the defeat of the Germans is certain in the near future.

(Signed) MATTER."

The Commanding General of the 39th French Division adds:

"I join with all my heart the sentiments of admiration which Colonel Matter expresses for the valiant troops which have just given to ours a splendid example of bravery. I join my salutations and respect to the brave men who have fallen on the field of honor, the number of which is, unhappily, great.

(Signed) POUGIN."

The Division Commander desires to congratulate the two platoons participating in the attack of July 1st, upon the receipt of such splendid commendations from the Regimental and Division Commanders under whom they served. He believes that the action of these men is but an example of what the whole 28th (Keystone) Division will show when opportunity offers.

By command of Major General Muir:

Edw. L. King,
Colonel, General Staff.
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Richard W. Watson,
Major—Adjutant.

VI Army
38th Army Corps.
No. 7628-P

Q. G. 23rd July, 1918.

General Order No. 348

General Degoutte, commanding the VI Army, asks the General commanding the 38th Army Corps to congratulate, on his behalf, the Franco-American Troops of the 38th Army Corps, on the result of the recent days of fighting.

The General commanding the VI Army at the same time conveys the great satisfaction of General Petain, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the North and of the North-East, of General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, and of Mr. Clemenceau, President of the Council, Minister of War.

D. Mondesir,
General Commanding 38th Army Corps.

VI ARMY,
Hq., 3rd Bureau.
No. 2.283-3.

P. C., the 26 July, 1918.

NOTE

The PRESIDENT of the REPUBLIC during a visit that he had made to the VI ARMY has expressed his satisfaction on the results obtained as well as for the qualities of bravery and endurance that have been shown by all the units of the ARMY.

The General commanding the VI ARMY is pleased to transmit to the troops of his army the felicitations of the PRESIDENT of the REPUBLIC.

(Signed): General DEGOUTTE

VI ARMY,
Hq., 3rd Bureau.
No. 2.284-3

P. C., the 26 July, 1918.

NOTE

The General commanding the VI ARMY desires to bring to the attention of the troops of the Army the following resolution passed by the Mayors of the arrondissement of Meaux at a meeting held 20th of July, 1918:

The Mayors of the arrondissement of Meaux at a meeting on July 20, 1918, are pleased to welcome the great victory of the VI Army that has saved their communes from the invasion that was menacing them at the time of the battle of the MARNE.

They desire to convey to the valiant troops of the VI army a sincere expression of their gratitude and their admiration.

le President du Congres des Maires

(Signed): G. HUGEL,
Maire de MEAUX, Depute de SEINE-&-MARNE

The General Commanding the VI Army is pleased to transmit these felicitations to the troops of his army.

(Signed): General DEGOUTTE

X ARMEE
ETAT-MAJOR
3rd Bureau
No. 862-S

Au Q. G. A., 30 July, 1918.

ORDRE GENERAL

No. 318

Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers of
the 28th Division

Shoulder to shoulder with your French comrades you were thrown into the counter-offensive battle which commenced on the 18th of July.

You rushed into the fight as though to a fete.

Your magnificent courage completely routed a surprised enemy and your indomitable tenacity checked the counter-attacks of his fresh divisions.

You have shown yourselves worthy sons of your Great Country and you were admired by your brothers in arms.

91 guns, 7,200 prisoners, immense booty, 10 kilometers of country reconquered; this is your portion of the spoil of this victory.

Furthermore, you have really felt your superiority over the barbarous enemy of the whole human race, against whom the children of Liberty are striving.

To attack him is to vanquish him.

American Comrades! I am grateful to you for the blood so generously spilled on the soil of my Country.

I am proud to have commanded you during such days and to have fought with you for the deliverance of the world.

(Signed): MANGIN.

VI Army (French)

P. C. 9th August, 1918.

GENERAL ORDER

Before the great offensive of the 18th July, the American troops which were brigaded with the French VI Army distinguished themselves by taking from the enemy the BOIS DE LA BRIGADE DE MARINE (BELLEAU WOODS) and the town of VAUX, and stopping his offensive on the MARNE and at FOSSOY.

Afterwards they took a most glorious part in the second battle of the MARNE, rivalling the French troops in attacking spirit and valor.

They have during twenty days of continuous fighting liberated numerous French villages, have made an advance of forty (40) kilometers over difficult terrain, and have succeeded in crossing the VESLE RIVER.

Their valorous deeds are marked by names which will in the future glorify the military history of the United States of America:

TORCY, BELLEAU, PLATEAU D'ETREPILLY, EPIEDS,
LE CHARMEL, L'OURCQ, SERINGES-ET-NESLES
SERGY, LA VESLE ET FISMES.

The young divisions which entered the battle for the first time showed their possession of a dignity in keeping with the war traditions of the Regular Army. They have the same ardent will to defeat the Boche and the same discipline which guarantees that an order given by the Chief will always be executed whatever difficulties be encountered and whatever sacrifices have to be made.

The splendid results have been obtained by the energy and ability of the Chiefs and by the bravery of the soldiers.

I am proud to have had the command of such troops.

The General Commanding the VI Army
Degoutte.

HEADQUARTERS 28th DIVISION AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

GENERAL ORDERS)

August 30th, 1918.

No. 13)

The Division Commander is authorized to inform all, from the lowest to the highest, that their efforts are known and appreciated. A new Division, by force of circumstances, took its place in the front line in one of the greatest battles of the greatest war of history. The Division has acquitted itself in a creditable manner. It has stormed and taken a point that was regarded proof against assault. It has taken numerous prisoners from a vaunted Guards Division of the enemy. It has inflicted on the enemy far more loss than it has suffered from him. In a single gas application it inflicted more damage than the enemy inflicted on it by gas since its entry into the battle.

It is desired these facts be brought to the attention of all, in order that the tendency of new troops to allow their minds to dwell on their own losses to the exclusion of what they have done to the enemy may be reduced to the minimum.

Let all be of good heart! We have inflicted more loss than we have suffered; we are better men individually than our enemies. A

little more grit, a little more effort, a little more determination to keep our enemies down and the Division will have the right to look upon itself as an organization of veterans.

(Signed): CHARLES H. MUIR,
Major General.

28th DIVISION
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

September 25th, 1918

General Orders.
No. 17

1. It gives me great pleasure to record in General Orders a tribute to the services and valorous conduct of Second Lieutenant de Mandat-Grancey, 39th French Artillery Regiment, who distinguished himself by extraordinary gallantry in action in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of France and of the United States under the following circumstances:

Being attached to 107th Field Artillery, U. S. A., he was specially sympathetic to all and admired for his courage and coolness.

He made dangerous reconnoissances by day and night, in the sector of Fismes.

On September 6th, 1918, during the course of an Infantry progression, he was killed by a machine gun bullet through the neck, while installing an artillery observation post on the first infantry line.

CHARLES H. MUIR,
Major General Commanding.

Official:

RICHARD W. WATSON,
Major, Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS 28th DIVISION
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

France, October 21, 1918.

General Orders)
No. 19)

1. The Division Commander desires to express his appreciation to all officers and soldiers of the 28th Division and of attached units, who, at all times during the advance in the Valley of the AIRE and in the ARGONNE FOREST, in spite of many hardships and constant personal danger, gave their best efforts to further the success of the Division.

2. As a result of this operation, which extended from 5:30 on the morning of September 26th until the night 8-9 October, with almost continuous fighting, the enemy's line was forced back more than ten kilometers. In spite of most stubborn and at times desperate resistance the enemy was driven out of GRAND BOUR-EUILLES, PETITE BOUREUILLES, VARENNES, MONTBLAINVILLE, APREMONT, PLEINCHAMP FARM, LA FORGE and CHATEL CHEHERY, and the strongholds on hills 223, 244 and LA

CHENE TONDU were captured in the face of strong machine gun and artillery fire.

3. The following letter regarding this achievement is of interest to all:

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS FIRST ARMY CORPS

October 8, 1918.

FROM: Commanding General, 1st Army Corps, U. S.

TO: Commanding General, 28th Division.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

I desire to express to the 28th Division and its commander my appreciation of the splendid work done by the Division on October 7, 1918.

The capture of Hill 244 and the combined advance of the right and left brigades bringing about the fall of the very strong positions of the enemy on the Chene Tonde and the Taille l'Abbe demonstrate excellent leadership and first-class fighting ability.

The advance in exploitation in front of your right brigade resulting from the foregoing actions was a very bold procedure which will undoubtedly lead to even greater results.

H. LIGGETT,

Major General, U. S. A.

4. As a "new" Division on the VESLE the Twenty-eighth was cited in Orders from General Headquarters for its excellent service, and the splendid work just completed assures it a place in the very front ranks of the fighting "Red" Divisions. With such a position to maintain it is expected that every man will devote his best effort to the work at hand—to hasten that final victory which is now so near.

By Command of Major General Muir:

W. C. SWEENEY,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

RICHARD W. WATSON,
Major-Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS 28th DIVISION
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

24 November, 1918.

Memorandum No. 19:

1. The following letter from the Governor of Pennsylvania is published for the information of all concerned:

"COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

Harrisburg

October 31, 1918.

Commanding Officer,
28th Division,
A. E. F.

My Dear Sir:

We have just learned of the second citation by General Head-

quarters of the Twenty-eighth Division, known as the "Keystone" Division of the armies of the Republic.

Since this division bears the name of the Commonwealth and is made up so largely of volunteer soldiers from Pennsylvania, properly and justly the people of this state hold them in the very highest affection and the most tender regard. We learn of their splendid military service and their loyalty to their republic in this war with great pride and pleasure, and I beg of you to convey to them and accept for yourself the gratitude of this Commonwealth and our sincere appreciation that out of the homes and hearts of our people have come such a splendid soldiery.

We pray that under God's guidance they may be blessed and kept and given additional renown.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN G. BRUMBAUGH."

By command of Major General Hay:

W. C. SWEENEY,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

RICHARD W. WATSON,
Lt. Col., Adjutant.

HQ. 91st DIV.

A. E. F.

November 7, 1918.

General Orders:

No. 38

1. The following expression of appreciation by the Commanding General, Seventh Army Corps (French) of the services of troops of this command during the advances to the SCHELDT RIVER, is published for information of all concerned:

"7th French Corps.
Staff.

Special Order

Transported from the ARGONNE to FLANDERS, the 91st American Division has again been thrown into the battle, a few hours after its arrival.

Under the energetic influence of its Commander, Major General Johnston, the 91st American Division reached all its objectives on the 31st October and 1st November, with remarkable dash and energy.

In spite of the determined resistance of the enemy, in spite of the artillery and machine gun fire which opposed them, the troops of the 91st American Division captured SPITAALS BOSSCHEN by a clever flanking movement, reached the SCHELDT (and penetrated into the town of AUDENARDE, from now onwards delivered from the yoke of the invader.

The General Officer commanding the 7th FRENCH Corps heartily congratulates General JOHNSTON, and the officers and men of his division, on the excellent results obtained.

When, in a few days' time, the battle for the passage of the

SCHELDT takes place, the 91st American Division will be called upon to furnish a further effort.

The brilliant way in which this division has just fought is a sure guarantee that it will gather fresh laurels during the next operations.

Hqrs. 4th November, 1918.
Commanding General, 7th Corps,
(Signed) MASSENET.

2. The Division Commander adds his appreciation of the efforts of officers and men of his command to comply with orders received. He warns them, however, that such efforts must continue until the last armed enemy of the United States has surrendered.

3. He especially thanks officers and men of the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade for the assistance rendered during this offensive. Infantry units have never been supported more skillfully, nor with more willing and intelligent co-operation, than were those of the 91st Division by the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade and organizations of the French Artillery attached thereto.

4. This order will be read to all organizations on the earliest appropriate occasion.

By command of Major General Johnston:

HENRY C. JEWETT,
Colonel, Engineers,
Chief of Staff.

W. H. J. 9: 50-10:10.

Official:

D. J. COMAN,
Major, A. G.
Acting Adjutant.

General Distribution Hq. 7th Corps, Hq. 30th Corps, Hq. French Army in Belgium, A. G. A. E. F., and No. 72 Aviation Unit attached, No. 73 Balloon Unit attached.

Recd. Hq. 53rd F. A. Brig. Nov. 7, 1918.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMY

American E. F.
France, 5 November, 1918.

FROM: Commanding General, Second Army.

TO: Commanding General, 28th Division, A. E. F.

SUBJECT: Recent Activity of 28th Division.

I desire to inform you of my gratification at the vigorous and successful activities of your division since its entry into line on the front of the Second Army. The recent patrols and raids have resulted in making No Man's Land our land in lowering the morale of the hostile units on your front, as well as inflicting losses on them, and capturing a considerable number of prisoners. Such conduct exemplifies the American spirit and cannot fail to create a feeling of confidence on the part of our own troops and of corresponding depression on the part of the enemy. The 28th Division

has shown its ability to execute promptly the tasks which have been given it to perform, and its officers and men have exhibited an efficiency and dash which are highly commendable.

(Signed): R. L. BULLARD,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.

(FOR OFFICIAL CIRCULATION ONLY.) (G. O. 203.)

G. H. Q.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,
France, Nov. 12, 1918.

General Orders

No. 203

The enemy has capitulated. It is fitting that I address myself in thanks directly to the officers and soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces who, by their heroic efforts, have made possible this glorious result. Our armies, hurriedly raised and hastily trained, met a veteran enemy, and by courage, discipline and skill always defeated him. Without complaint you have endured incessant toil, privation and danger. You have seen many of your comrades make the supreme sacrifice that freedom may live. I thank you for the patience and courage with which you have endured. I congratulate you upon the splendid fruits of victory which your heroism and the blood of our gallant dead are now presenting to our nation. Your deeds will live forever on the most glorious pages of America's history.

Those things you have done. There remains now a harder task which will test your soldierly qualities to the utmost. Succeed in this and little note will be taken and few praises will be sung; fail, and the light of your glorious achievements of the past will sadly be dimmed. But you will not fail. Every natural tendency may urge towards relaxation in discipline, in conduct, in appearance, in everything that marks the soldier. Yet you will remember that each officer and each soldier is the representative in Europe of his people and that his brilliant deeds of yesterday permit no action of today to pass unnoticed by friend or by foe. You will meet this test as gallantly as you have met the tests of the battlefield. Sustained by your high ideals and inspired by the heroic part you have played, you will carry back to our people the proud consciousness of a new Americanism born of sacrifice. Whether you stand on hostile territory or on the friendly soil of France, you will so bear yourself in discipline, appearance and respect for all civil rights that you will confirm for all time the pride and love which every American feels for your uniform and for you.

JOHN J. PERSHING,
General, Commander in Chief.

OFFICIAL:
ROBERT C. DAVIS,
Adjutant General.

A. G. Printing Dept., G. H. Q., A. E. F., 1918.

G. H. Q.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
GENERAL ORDERS) France, November 13, 1918.
No. 204)

The following communications from the Commander in Chief of the Allied Armies is published to the command:

GRAND GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMIES

November 12, 1918.

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, SOLDIERS
OF THE ALLIED ARMIES:

After having stopped the advance of the enemy, you have, for months, with confidence and unrelenting energy, attacked him unceasingly.

You have won the greatest battle of history and saved the most sacred cause, the Freedom of the World.

Be proud!

You have decorated your standards with immortal glory.

Posterity will forever thank you.

Marshal of France
Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies.
F. FOCH.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL PERSHING:

James W. McAndrew,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

ROBERT C. DAVIS,
Adjutant General.

Printed by G-2-C, Second Army.

Form 11-268

HQ. 91ST DIV. A. E. F.

November 26, 1918.

General Orders:
No. 49.

1. The following letter from the Commanding General, 30th Army Corps (French) is published for the information of officers and men of this division and of the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade, attached thereto:

30th Army Corps
General Staff
3rd Bureau,
No. 377-3

H. Q. No. 24, 1918.

FROM: The General of Division PENET, commanding the 30th Army Corps.

TO: The Commanding General of the 91st Infantry Division, U. S.

The General commanding the 30th Army Corps does not want to part with the 91st Inf. Div. without expressing to its Chief, its

Officers, its splendid units, all his appreciation of the fine military qualities they have shown during the length of their attachment to the Corps.

By abandoning the line of the Escaut, the enemy did not allow the putting in execution of the plan of attack which was so cleverly promoted. The intelligent operation preparations by all the General Staffs, the efforts made by the officers and troops in order to have all necessary materials at their disposal when and where needed, the strict discipline which presided over all preliminary movements and which were a certain presage of success, are nevertheless deserving of the greatest praise.

The Commanding General of the 30th Army Corps takes great pleasure in sending this letter as a proof of his appreciation to the General Commanding the 91st Division and thanks him for his intelligent and faithful co-operation.

(Signed) H. PENET.

2. This is the third Corps Commander under whom this division has served, who has considerably expressed appreciation of the services of its officers and men during the past two months. Hostilities have ceased, but the efforts of all officers and men to improve their ability to fight, must never cease. They must be always ready for any call to active service.

3. This order will be read to each organization on the first appropriate occasion after its receipt.

WHJ. 10: 25-10:40.

By command of Major General Johnston:

HENRY C. JEWETT,
Colonel, Engineers,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

D. J. Coman
Major, A. G.
Acting Adjutant.
General distribution.

HQ. 91st DIV., A. E. F.

December 19, 1918.

Memorandum:

On Tuesday, 17 December, 1918, Lieutenant General Bernheim, representing His Majesty, the King of Belgium, presented the Belgian Croix de Guerre to a number of officers and enlisted men of this division. In doing this, he made the following appropriate remarks:

"His Majesty, the King of the Belgians, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, has done me a great honour by delegating me to pin the Cross of Bravery upon the chests of the heroic soldiers of your Division.

I am happy and proud of this honour:

Happy, because it is granted to me to express to very distinguished representatives of free America, the deepest gratitude of our soldiers and our Belgian families to the big Sister, the United

States of America, so helpful and generous when the Huns attacked us and drove us out of our homes in defiance of justice.

Proud, because I am amongst brave soldiers, who, touched and shocked by the atrocities of an unjust enemy, picked up arms spontaneously and crossed the ocean to give their lives gallantly for the defense of Right, without considering their own interests.

Before this tremendous effort of the United States, the foe hesitated, drew back and finally collapsed.

At the moment the President of the United States arrives on the soil of France to settle the consequences of the greatest victory there has ever been heard of, thanks to our combined efforts, I extend all honour to the American Nation and to the 91st Division."

By command of Major General Johnston:

HENRY C. JEWETT,
Colonel, Engineers,
Chief of Staff.

H. C. J.—8:00-8:44.

Official:

R. M. DORTON,
Captain, A. G.
Assistant Adjutant.
General Distribution.

(FOR OFFICIAL CIRCULATION ONLY.)

(G. O. 232.)

G. H. Q.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,

General Orders)
No. 232)

France, Dec. 19, 1918.

It is with a sense of gratitude for its splendid accomplishment, which will live through all history, that I record in General Orders a tribute to the victory of the First Army in the Meuse-Argonne battle.

Tested and strengthened by the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, for more than six weeks you battered against the pivot of the enemy line on the western front. It was a position of imposing natural strength, stretching on both sides of the Meuse River from the bitterly contested hills of Verdun to the almost impenetrable forest of the Argonne; a position, moreover, fortified by four years of labor designed to render it impregnable; a position held with the fullest resources of the enemy. That position you broke utterly, and thereby hastened the collapse of the enemy's military power.

Soldiers of all the divisions engaged under the First, Third and Fifth Corps—the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82nd, 89th, 90th and 91st—you will be long remembered for the stubborn persistence of your progress, your storming of obstinately defended machine gun nests, your penetration, yard by yard, of woods and ravines, your heroic resistance in the face of counter-attacks supported by powerful artillery fire. For more than a month, from the initial attack of September 26th, you fought your way slowly

through the Argonne, through the woods and over hills west of the Meuse; you slowly enlarged your hold on the Cotes de Meuse to the east; and then, on the first of November, your attack forced the enemy into flight. Pressing his retreat, you cleared the entire left bank of the Meuse south of Sedan, and then stormed the heights on the right bank and drove him into the plain beyond.

Your achievement, which is scarcely to be equalled in American history, must remain a source of proud satisfaction to the troops who participated in the last campaign of the war. The American people will remember it as the realization of the hitherto potential strength of the American contribution toward the cause to which they had sworn allegiance. There can be no greater reward for a soldier or for a soldier's memory.

This order will be read to all organizations at the first assembly formation after its receipt.

JOHN J. PERSHING,
General, Commander in Chief,
American Expeditionary Forces.

Official:

ROBERT C. DAVIS,
Adjutant General.

A. G. Printing Dept., G. H. Q. A. E. F., 1918.

AMERICAN E. F.

A. P. O. 776.

February 1, 1919.

FROM: The Commanding General.

TO: The Commanding General, 53rd Field Artillery Brigade.

SUBJECT: Service of the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade with the 91st Division.

1. Orders recently received have terminated this date, the service of the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade, with the 91st Division.

2. When, almost as soon as the 91st Division was withdrawn from the line during the MEUSE-ARGONNE offensive, and received orders to entrain for service in BELGIUM, it was with a peculiar satisfaction that information was received from Hq. First American Army, that the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade would be sent to BELGIUM for service with this division. The reputation established by the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade, in its action with the 28th Division between the MARNE and the VESLE, and in the MEUSE-ARGONNE was assurance that the 91st Division would be ably supported during the offensive action to be anticipated in its new field of duty.

3. From the time of arrival in BELGIUM, near the battlefield of YPRES, where there was no shelter from the elements, and the inclement weather made service in camp or on the march a test of soldierly endurance, to the time when the Armistice halted the advance of the French Army in Belgium, between the SCHELDT and BRUSSELS, the Infantry of this Division received intelligent and effective support from the units of the 53rd Field

Artillery Brigade. The action of the Division, including its Field Artillery, attached, was officially commended by the commanding generals of the Seventh and Thirtieth French Corps, and subsequently by Major General Degoutte, commanding the Sixth French Army, who had during the campaign acted as Chief of Staff of the King of Belgium, and the Group of Armies in Flanders. Such commendations were published in General Orders of this Division, the Artillery of which deserved its proportionate share of the complimentary language employed by the French Army commanders referred to.

4. Not only during the advance, but during the subsequent marches to the vicinity of DUNKIRK, officers and men of the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade responded loyally and intelligently to orders received. The personnel, commissioned and enlisted, observed good behavior which has characterized troops of the American Expeditionary Forces. The State of Pennsylvania may well be proud of the Artillery Brigade selected from its National Guard as a part of the 28th Division.

5. The officers and men of the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade leave this division with the best wishes of the Division Commander, and other members of the Division, for their speedy return to their State, and a prosperous career in whatever walk of life, civil or military, they may select.

WHJd
WILLIAM H. JOHNSTON,
Major General, U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS 53RD F. A. BRIGADE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,
FRANCE

General Orders
No. 3

February 27th, 1919

1. The Brigade Commander is in receipt of the following from the Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces:

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

February 13, 1919

Brig. General Wm. G. Price, Jr.,
Commanding 53rd Artillery Brigade,
Meslay, (Mayenne)

My Dear General Price:

I desire to compliment you and your officers and men on the fine appearance that you made at the inspection and review which I held on January 30th at Meslay.

It is gratifying to see your troops in such good physical shape, but still more so to know that the moral tone of all ranks is so high. I am sure that this almost ideal condition will continue to the end of their service and beyond, as an exemplification of their high character and their soldierly qualities.

I again wish to send through you my congratulations to your brigade on its splendid battle record in the Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne and the Ypres-Lys offensive. The officers and men may proudly carry home with them the gratitude of the Allies with whom they fought and the pride of their fellows throughout our forces.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN J. PERSHING."

To which he replied as follows:

G. O. No. 3 Feb. 27, 1919. Page No. 2.

HEADQUARTERS 53RD F. A. BRIGADE
28TH DIVISION

Meslay, (Mayenne) France,

Feb. 26th, 1919.

General John J. Pershing,
Commander-in-Chief,
American Expeditionary Forces.

My dear General Pershing:

I am today in receipt of your letter of February 13, 1919, in which you so kindly speak of the activities of this Brigade, and of its work in the operations in which it was engaged.

Whatever standard of efficiency the Brigade may have reached was in an effort to attain that standard set by you, Sir, for the American Expeditionary Forces, whose work is now history.

The Brigade Commander, loyally supported by the officers and men, has at all times endeavored to maintain a spirit in keeping with the high ideals which it was desired should be reached by the American forces in France.

I shall have your letter read at the next formation in order that all may know that their patriotism, sacrifices, and efforts have been so generously recognized by their Commander-in-Chief.

We will always treasure the thought which prompted this recognition from you, and I, personally, and for the officers and men of the Brigade, thank you.

Faithfully,

WILLIAM G. PRICE, Jr.

2. The Brigade Commander knows that the officers and the men of the Brigade are together with him, not insensible to this additional recognition of the work of the Brigade, and that they appreciate the high standard of conduct and efficiency, which is expected of them at all times.

3. This order will be read to all organizations of the Brigade at the next formation following its receipt.

By command of Brigadier General Price:

W. W. HESS, JR.,
Major F. A.
Actg. Brig. Adj.

HQ. 91ST DIV., A. E. F.

December 17, 1918

General Orders
No. 59

1. During the recent campaign in Belgium, the 91st Division, with the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade attached, fought with the French Army of Belgium in the Group of Armies of Flanders, under the command of the King of Belgium. Major General Degoutte, then Chief of Staff and actual commander of the Group of Armies of Flanders, now commanding the 6th French Army, has honored this division by citation in general orders from Hq. 6th French Army, a translation of which order appears below:

"VI FRENCH ARMY
General Order No. 31

"Hq. 11th December, 1918.

In addressing the Divisions of the United States of America, who covered themselves with glory in the CHATEAU-THIERRY offensive, I said that orders given by a commander were always complied with whatever might be the difficulties encountered or the sacrifices made.

I have found in the 37th and 91st Divisions the same spirit of duty and discipline freely given, which makes valiant soldiers and victorious armies.

The enemy intended to hold "to the death" the heights between the LYS and the SCHELDT. The American troops of these Divisions, acting with the French Divisions of the Group of Armies of Flanders, forced him back on October 31, 1918, and after hard fighting threw him over the SCHELDT.

Then, in a maneuver of unheard of audacity, the American units crossed the flooded SCHELDT under the fire of the enemy and maintained themselves on the opposite bank, notwithstanding counter attacks.

Glory to such troops and their commanders! They have valiantly contributed to the liberation of a portion of Belgium territory and to the decisive victory.

Their great nation may be proud of them.

The General Commanding the Army,

(Signed) DEGOUTTE."

2. Officers and men of this division should earnestly strive to maintain their training and discipline that in any future operation they may merit equal praise from any future commander.

3. This order will be read to each organization of the division on the first appropriate occasion after its receipt
By command of Major General Johnston.

HENRY C. JEWETT,
Colonel, Engineers,
Chief of Staff.

W H J. 20:00—20:26.

Official:

D. J. COMAN,
Major A. G.
Acting Adjutant.

A true copy,
WILLIAM J. POTTER,
Major 361st Inf.
To Brig. Gen. Wm. Gray Price, Jr.

In sending this book to the officers and men of the 53rd F. A. Brigade, the 103rd Ammunition Train, and 103rd Trench Mortar Battery, the Brigade Commander cannot find words in which to adequately express his appreciation of the individual devotion of each member of the Brigade, to the cause for which we fought; for the unselfish devotion to organization, and the tireless support of his efforts to offer whenever called upon, a Brigade ready and capable to properly and successfully function under any and all circumstances. He is confident that each one is justly proud, as is he, of the record of the Brigade, made possible only through the unfailing cooperation of those composing it.

No honor can ever be received by your Brigade Commander which can equal that entrusted to him, in being permitted to command throughout its service in France and Belgium, the 53rd F. A. Brigade and the attached organizations, and he sends, to each officer and soldier serving under him there, this book, as but a slight token of his deep regard, love and affection for those composing his command.

May the years to come hold for each of you all that is good and deserving, and throughout those years may memories of our service together in the war for humanity, constantly recur bringing with it enriching thoughts, to the twilight of our lives, of work well done, and the pride of sacrifices made in the service of our beloved country.

Faithfully,

William G. Rice Jr.



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