

91ST ENDS FIGHTING IN ARGONNE REGION

Western Division Moves Back From Front Line.

GAPS ARE MADE IN RANKS

Shells and Machine-Gun Bullets Sweep Into Men Burrowing for Protection.

BY COLIN V. DYMENT, American Red Cross Searcher with the 91st Division.

Forty-second article. The Hun fled from hill 255 and hill 259 about the same time on the night of October 9. The causes were the same in each case, American machine gun, thermite fire and shell fire, and combined straight-on and flanking infantry tactics.

With 255 and 269 out of the way, 258 lay ahead, its summit about two miles distance by trail from either of the two other summits. The 151st brigade was now in the roughest country in which it had fought. Hill 288 was a long, northwest to southeast ridge in the Bois de Genes. The woods on its slopes were exceedingly thick; the long approaches to it from the other two hills was winding, covered with thickets and hills. The front, the narrow sector between the first and the 22d, was scarcely a mile in width. When a certain point in the slopes of 288 was attained, the brigade's job was done.

Infantry Pushes North. So early on October 10 the infantry began to push north. The woods provided good cover and the men had learned how to avoid the worst of the dangers; but it cost men to get the next mile.

Private Frank C. Danner, who was drafted from route 1 out of Everett, but whose mother now lives at Wenatchee, Wash., was in an advance party of 14 scouts with two corporals and a sergeant that on the morning of October 10 went forth toward 288 with instructions to get into contact with the front German line. Danner was to bring back the news, and in about two hours he returned with news and with a package of German hardware, from which he gave some to Sergeant Alfred C. Graebner of Gifford, Idaho. He said his party had run into a lot of German equipment and that the Hun seemed to have come in a hurry. He borrowed a drink from Graebner's canteen and set out again to rejoin the scouts.

When Danner was killed the scouting party of 17 was up on the 288 horse-shoe with machine guns on three sides of it, those in front not more than 200 feet away. The men were almost in the barbed wire at the bottom of 288. Sergeant Raymond Best of Denmore, Wash., had shot a German sniper, and Corporal Peter Colter of Reno, Nev., could hear the Germans jabbering about it. They were telling one another to keep the machine guns still, except one or two as a blind, until the Americans got into the barbed wire, so that all could be killed there.

Americans Lying Down. The Americans lying down. It was about 3 P. M. that the sergeant in charge of the party—William M. Kouts of Canas, Wash.—was resting his head on his elbow and hand. A machine gun from each side opened. A bullet went down in his chest. He said, "My God, I'm hit," and died instantly. The party was then only 200 yards from the southern crest of 288. The tangle of brush saved the party from annihilation.

Not long before the Wenatchee boy died, a St. Johns, Or., soldier was killed by machine gun fire from the horse-shoe at the foot of 288. He was Private William W. Hayes of 916 Lombard street. Hayes was half lying, half sitting in the brush. German machine guns were 300 feet off at that time. Corporal Victor A. Carley of Cincinnati, who was lying beside him, heard a thud, asked him where he was hit, saw him roll his eyes and die. Fifteen feet away, crawling up, was Private G. K. Burwell of Mountain Grove, Va., bringing Hayes' canteen. Private Clarence Hall of 923 East John street, Seattle, was another of the several Pacific northwest men in the party of scouts in that perilous job.

Shell Lights in Hole.

On the 11th on the way to 288, two Washington men and a Montana man were killed by one shell in the machine gun company of the 91st. They were Budd C. Larson of Friday Harbor, Wash., Private Emil E. Neuman of Wolf Point, Mont., and Sergeant Richard Nelson of 4016 Linden avenue, Seattle. Nelson was another of the many wonderful sergeants in the 91st. He would do anything or go anywhere. An officer who knew him when he saw it because he was cool and gritty himself, Lieutenant Vitz Ramsdell of Portland, an old G. O. P. boy and one of the late Horace D. Ramsdell of Lipman, Wolfe & Co., had recommended Nelson only that morning for an officers' training camp. Nelson was the kind of quiet sergeant before whom the men stood at attention when they talked. He and Larson and Neuman were in one shell hole, into which a shell came, killing all instantly. Larson and Neuman were also good men. Most of the men killed in France from the 91st machine gun company were state of Washington men.

A shell that hit in a shell hole with a trio of men killed three more machine gunners instantly early that morning. Acting Corporal Robert Bracken of Weston, Or.; Private Clarence Chevoya of Fresno, Cal., and Private Freeman E. Rose of Washtucna, Wash. They were in a hole just forward of the crest of 259 instead of behind it, and had chosen that hole because it was deep, although they had previously started to dig one of their own on the reverse slope. Next day the company—A of the 347th machine gun battalion—was to open fire on the approaches to 288. In the morning three warm bodies were found in the shell hole. Chevoya's head was off. Bracken's arms were shattered. Rose was badly cut up.

Montana Sergeant Is Brave. A game and dandy Montana sergeant, Andrew C. Modle of company A, 262d, from Ophir, Mont., who had been knocked senseless and shell shocked in the battle of Genesee by a shell, but who had refused to go to a hospital, was killed by a machine gun bullet in the attack on 288 on the 10th. Modle on the night of September 25 had gone out and cut wire alone, so company A might have a lane in the morning. He was typical of the fine type of Montana that helped win the war. Private Fritz Nyquist of the same company was killed on the same day by a machine gun. Men often used to make one exclamation, sometimes even utter a sentence, before death overwhelmed them; thus Nyquist called to a corporal, "Dave, come and help me." The corporal was there in 30 seconds, but Nyquist was dead. Private Thomas Hughes of route 7, box 170, out of Seattle, was fatally wounded on the same day by machine gun fire.

The foregoing deaths illustrate how men were killed by the Germans after 255 and 269 were taken, in the assault on 288. The foot of 288 was reached by the scouts on the 10th, and several parties of westerners prowled around the base on the 11th, but that night found the crest still untraced. The 1st division and the 22d division had been in eight days apiece; the 151st brigade of the 91st had been in 16 days, including its four days of rest in the Bois de Vers. It was time for relief. The job of taking the summit of 288 was left for the next division.

The next was the famous Rainbow division, which relieved in the sector fronting 288, and, after a heavy artillery preparation, stormed the crest. Fritz was now within a month of the end of him. His line had been pushed back, not foot by foot as was the case on a day of the offensive from '14 to '18, but mile by mile by the Americans. When the 91st went in on the 26th the front German line ran through Regneville, Bethincourt, Malancourt, Avocourt, Vauquois, Bourlennes, between the Meuse and the Argonne forest.

When the 91st went out on the 12th the line ran through Bruilles-sur-Meuse, Romagne and a point just south of St. Juvin, between the Meuse and the Argonne forest.

Gain In Ten Miles. The gain on the Meuse-Argonne front, except for a few salients that soon were to be reduced, had been an even ten miles by air line, or more than a half mile a day on the average.

The second phase of the Argonne was over. As early as the 11th men had begun to move back. In one case tragedy followed them. Lieutenant Maniere B. Ware of headquarters company, 262d, had taken a detail back to the kitchens on October 11 and returned to 288 with battalion mess. After the supper he returned with the detail, reaching the kitchens at Epinetteville at 8 A. M. of the 12th. He stood at the kitchen while the cooks mixed batter for hot cakes, for the trip back from 288, past 255 and over the old Genesee field, then past the Clerges and Epinettes woods, had been long and hard. He was telling the cooks how lucky he had been to go through both drives without even a scratch.

In a nearby shack a soldier was cleaning his gun. He was a headquarters man from the 261st infantry. He let his rifle go off.

The bullet hit Ware in the head, and after falling he did not move. It went on through his head and struck another man in the shoulder.

There was a long, long trail ahead of the 91st brigade. A wonderful brigade it had been! This serial sets out to mention few but the dead, yet the living should have their honor if there were space and even justice were possible.

The 152d brigade had been moved from the Bois de Vers to the woods near the Verdun road, five miles southeast of the original jumpoff line. The 216th sanitary train had gone with it. The field hospitals had been broken up on the 6th. There were three or four days of rest, then a 25-mile hike south to the Revigny area. The hike was made in three days. Revigny is near Bar-le-Duc.

Hike Made Without Rest.

The 151st brigade had to hike without rest, so from 288 to the Revigny country, which was 45 miles by road, it hurried straight on. When it arrived hundreds of men who had hung out until the last that they might see the feet away. The men were almost in the barbed wire in the Argonne went into the hospital.

The 152d brigade arrived about October 11; the 151st about October 16. There was water in the regular hours again. There was water in the tubs to wash mess kits. There were blankets, civilians to look at, buildings that were not knocked down, fields that were raking crops, real cattle, and, above all, an absence of shells and machine guns.

So the resilient westerners quickly picked up. Ribs began to go back into soldiers; hunched backs disappeared from eyes. Rumors of moving began to spread. Men kept close to the outfit, but they left behind. The commanding general one day on the road met a small group of officers marching in bedroom slippers. Under their uniforms were pajamas. They were 91st men who had fled from the hospital and the division move on without them.

There was not much time for rumor and guesswork. One day—it was October 18—officers whispered the news: "We're going to Belgium."

The entry of the 91st into Belgium and its preparations to go on the Scheldt river fight for its last five days of fighting will next be described.

Pendleton Plans for Memorial.

PENDLETON, Or., May 19.—(Special.) Pendleton, under the leadership of the city council and the commercial association, is laying extensive plans for the celebration of Memorial day this year. The various fraternal orders will take a large part and Umattila county men returned from the service are expected to be in the line of march for the parade several hundred strong.

Assault on Indian Charged.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., May 19.—(Special.)—Willard Lotches has been bound over to the federal grand jury on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. He is said to have shot at Delford Lang, a neighboring Indian on the Klamath reservation, following an altercation.

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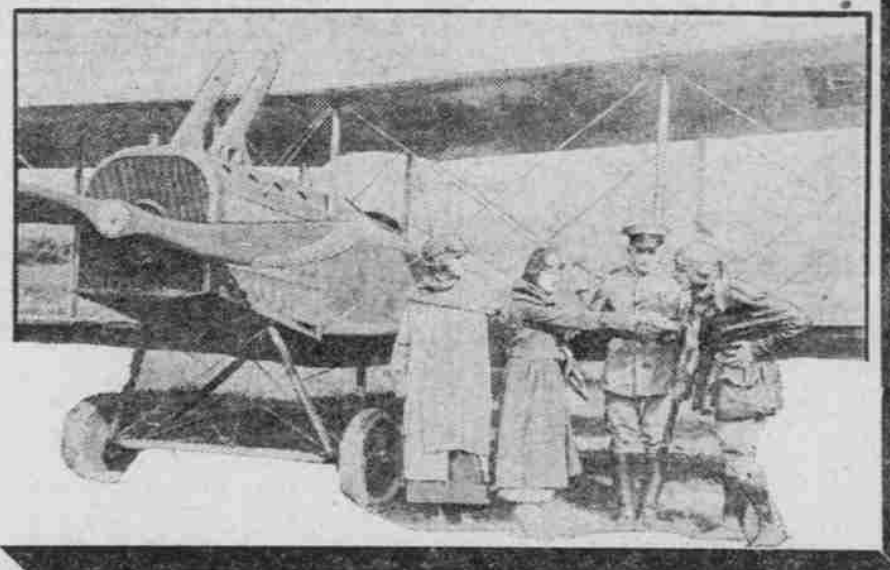
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OREGON'S INTEREST LARGE MUCH IS EXPECTED OF CONGRESS NOW IN SESSION.

Many Government Activities in State Must Suspend if Funds Are Not Provided.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 19.—Oregon has a sizable material interest in the congress which convened in extra session today, because many of the government's activities in the state will have to suspend if appropriations for their maintenance for the fiscal year 1920 are not forthcoming by July 1.

The sundry civil bill, which failed of passage in the house last week, will be one of the first measures taken up, carries an appropriation of \$113,000 for the Umattila irrigation project; \$357,000 for the Klamath irrigation project; a blanket sum for the maintenance of the quarantine stations at the Columbia river, Florence, Newport, Coos Bay and Gardner; \$6500 for the fish hatchery at Clackamas and subsidiary stations; \$25,225 for Crater Lake national park; \$25,000 for the protection of the Oregon and California and Coos Bay wagon road land grant lands, and \$111,480 for caring for the insane of Alaska, a large part of which goes to the Santarum company of Portland, of which Dr. H. W. Coe is the head.

The Indian appropriation bill, another measure which failed, provides \$6000 for the Klamath Indian agency; \$4000 for the Warm Springs agency; \$2000 for the Umattila agency; \$150,000 for the Salem Indian school; \$3000 for the Siletz agencies, and \$5000 for the maintenance of the Modoc Point irrigation system within the Klamath reservation. This bill also provides for an investigation of a claim by Charles S. Hood, a Modoc Indian, for services in securing the restoration and enrollment of Modoc Indians of Oklahoma as members of the Klamath tribe of Indians in Oregon.

Oregon's national forests are allowed the following amounts in the agricultural appropriation bill: Cascade forest, \$7350; Deschutes, \$10,175; Fremont, \$5427; Klamath, \$20,249; Malheur, \$6091; Minam, \$4476; Ochoco, \$4451; Oregon national forest, \$20,405; Santiam, \$7852; Siskiyou, \$12,660; Simulaw, \$6042; Umattila, \$6582; Umpqua, \$12,509; Wallawa, \$9617, and Whitman, \$18,725. Besides these items Oregon will receive much from blanket appropriations which go to maintain agricultural agents in the field and for the suppression of infectious animal diseases and the destruction of crop pests.

LOST RIVER DAM PLANNED Project for Irrigating Lands of Tule Lake Considered.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., May 19.—(Special.)—That plans are being worked out for construction of a dam across Lost River bed below Merrill by which later it is proposed to irrigate the reclaimed lands of Tule lake, is announced by Project Manager H. D. Newell. Mr. Newell says there is no certainty as to when work will be undertaken but that the plans will be ready when the funds are available.

The main canal of the project, while large enough for present needs, will not be sufficient when the Tule lake bed is irrigated, according to Mr. Newell, and it is planned to use the old bed of Lost River for a portion of the distance to carry the extra supply.

PENDLETON GRADUATES 29 Scholarships in Higher Institutions Are Granted to Two.

PENDLETON, Or., May 19.—(Special.) Twenty-nine students of Pendleton high school last night were graduated from the institution. E. F. Irvine of Portland delivered the graduating address, suggesting under the topic "After the War," the part young America has to play in the reconstruction period.

Awards of the several scholarships were made at the graduation exercises. Alfred Koepfen may have his choice between two scholarships, one at Whitman and the other at Willamette. Miss Laura Kearney won the opportunity to attend any one of the conference colleges which she chooses.

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IN "A LADY'S NAME" TO-DAY-TILL FRIDAY ONLY-

All round student, goes this year to Ned Strahorn. For two years it has been won by a girl.

The members of the graduation class are:

James Russell Akey, Dan P. Bell, Marjorie Ball, Dean Best, Nina Ruth Clark, Georganna Fletcher, Jessie Forshaw, Blanche Furnish, Wilma Evelyn Gardner, Wendolyn Verle Roseman, Evelyn Lowens Hurd, Alice Marjorie Kellum, Laura Kestney, Marie Irene King, Alfred Lyman Koepfen, Lloyd B. Montgomery, Bethel Virginia Neuton, Willis Oules, Fred W. Parker, Gwendolyn Rogers, Hubert L. Smith, Irene Speckhaug, Lorena Southwell, Edward Eldred Strahorn, Cora Francis Straghan, Helen Mildred Thompson, Kenneth D. Talach, Gertrude Winn.

Pendleton Dairymen Organize.

PENDLETON, Or., May 19.—(Special.)—Pendleton dairymen are preparing to organize for the betterment of the industry in this section. At a meeting Saturday with E. L. Westover and C. F. Hoyt, visiting dairy experts, a temporary organization was formed with J. DeWilde as president, F. H. Mytinger and J. E. Troxel as temporary directors. Dr. W. H. Lytle, state veterinarian, has been asked to come here and make a test of all dairy herds in the county. Tests made by the visiting experts showed the milk now being supplied to the city to be unusually clean and heavy in butterfat.

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