

A Brief History of the Fourth Brigade of Marines

Originally published December 1919

by Maj Edwin N. McClellan, U.S. Marine Corps Officer-in-Charge,
Historical Division, Marine Corps

THE Historical Division has been asked to describe the World War operations and other activities of the Fourth Brigade of Marines in a series of articles to appear in the MARINE CORPS GAZETTE. It is yet too early for any Historical Division to place its stamp of approval on a composition purporting to be a close analysis of an event occurring during the war, a criticism from a professional viewpoint of any particular major or local operation, or one that asserts opinions or draws conclusions of an important nature.

It is quite proper and also desirable that books and articles be written that will give the public information about what its military representatives have accomplished, but the expression of opinions, the drawing of conclusions, and the assertion of criticisms, should be left to the individual writers until all available information upon the subjects have not only been gathered together by the Historical Division, but carefully studied without prejudice in favor of one's own organization or any particular individual.

These proposed articles by the Historical Division will be limited to the statement of facts secured in a mechanical fashion from official operation reports, field orders, general orders, orders, war diaries, etc., and will be a mere recital of the movements and positions of troops, and the occurrence of events, while in none of the published articles under its name will opinions,

conclusions, or criticisms be expressed, except in a very few instances, where it would appear beyond cavil that such are warranted. It is obvious that even this is but the presenting of an *ex parte* statement which is inconclusive if there exists a conflicting report of another organization.

It is yet too early for any Historical Division to place its stamp of approval on a composition purporting to be a close analysis

This first article will give a general outline of the activities of the Fourth Brigade, with some statistics, and while it may be dry reading, it is believed that it is necessary in order that the articles following, which will describe the operations in detail, will be more readily appreciated.

In order to save repetition it should be understood that the Marine Brigade, except where otherwise stated, operated as a unit of the Second Division, and while it may not always be expressed, the other elements of that Division were present in every operation doing their share of fighting and the work.

The Fourth Brigade of United States Marines was composed of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments of Marines, and the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion of Marines. From June 27, 1917, to the middle of September, 1917, the Fifth Regiment was a unit of the First Division of Regulars. Although the Fifth Regiment was the only organization of Marines in France at the time, the Fourth Brigade of Marines was formed on October 23, 1917, when Colonel Charles A. Doyen cabled acceptance of his appointment as Brigadier General. From October 26, 1917, to August 8, 1919, the Fourth Brigade was a part of the Second Division of Regulars, except from October 20–23, 1918, when the Brigade was provisionally at the disposal of the IX French Army Corps, in the vicinity of Leffincourt. On August 8, 1919, the Brigade was transferred back to the naval service.

On May 29, 1917, in accordance with directions issued by the President, the Secretary of the Navy directed the Major General Commandant "to organize a force of Marines to be known as the Fifth Regiment of Marines for service with the Army as a part of the first expedition to proceed to France in the near future." The Fifth Regiment was accordingly organized at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., on June 7, 1917, with Colonel Charles A. Doyen in command, and Major Harry R. Lay, as adjutant.

General Pershing and his staff, accompanied by two Marine Officers, preceded the first expedition to France,

sailing late in May, 1917, from the United States.

On June 14, 1917, the first expedition of American troops left the United States for France and the Fifth Regiment of Marines embarked on the naval transports *Henderson* and *Hancock*, and the auxiliary cruiser *De Kalb* (ex-*Prinz Eitel Friedrich*), formed approximately one-fifth of it. The Fourth Group, including the *Hancock*, did not sail until June 17, 1917.

The orders received by the convoy Commander on the day prior to sailing read in part: "A military expedition is to be embarked on the above-named transports, augmented by a Regiment of Marines embarked in naval vessels, for transportation to a destination already communicated."

The *De Kalb* was in Group 1, the *Henderson* in Group 2, and the *Hancock* in Group 4; all were part of the escort and not the convoy.

Rear Admiral Albert Gleaves, the Convoy Commander, flying his flag on the *Seattle*, personally commanded the first group, while Major General W. L. Sibert on the *Tenedores* was the Senior Army Officer embarked.

The passage of the four groups across the Atlantic was successfully accomplished without a single disaster, or the loss of a life due to enemy causes.

At 10.15 P.M., June 22, 1917, the first group, including the *De Kalb* was attacked by enemy submarines. The wake of a submarine was sighted crossing 50 yards ahead of the *Seattle's* bow from starboard to port. A few seconds later the *De Kalb* and *Havana* sighted torpedoes and opened fire. Two torpedoes passed close to the *Havana*, and one passed ahead and one astern of the *De Kalb*. The second group encountered two submarines, the first at 11.50 A.M., June 26, 1918, about 100 miles off the French coast, and the second two hours later.

The *De Kalb* arrived at St. Nazaire, France, on June 26, 1917, the *Henderson* on June 27, 1917, and the *Hancock* on July 2, 1917. On June 27, 1917, the Commanding Officer of the Fifth Regiment reported to the Commanding General, First Division, American E. F., and from that date the Fifth Regi-

ment was considered as being detached for service with the Army by direction of the President.

Five hundred negro stevedores had been brought from the United States by the Army to discharge ships, but they were found inadequate for the large number of ships concerned. The Marines relieved the situation somewhat by turning to and discharging their own vessels.

On June 27, 1917, the First Battalion, less the Fifteenth Company which joined the battalion the following day, disembarked from the *De Kalb* and occupied quarters ashore. On this date Lieutenant Colonel Logan Feland joined the Fifth Regiment. On June 28, 1917, the Second and Third Battalions went ashore from the *Henderson* for a practice march, and the following day the First Battalion erected tents on a camp site a short distance outside of St. Nazaire. By 8.00 P.M., July 3, 1917, the entire Fifth Regiment was ashore under canvas.

On July 15, 1917, the Fifth Regiment, less the Third Battalion, which remained behind to perform guard duty, and other detached units and officers, proceeded to the Gondrecourt Training Area, and was stationed in Menaucourt and Naix.

On August 1, 1917, General Pershing inspected the battalions at the two towns where they were billeted.

On August 15, 1917, the First Division, including the Fifth Regiment of Marines, was reviewed by its Commanding General on a plateau twelve miles distant from the training area.

On August 19, 1917, General Pershing and General Petain, Commander-in-Chief of all the French forces, inspected the Marines, as a unit of the First Division. General Petain congratulated the Colonel of the Regiment on the splendid appearance of its officers and men, as well as the cleanliness of the towns.

Every opportunity was taken advantage of to perfect the Regiment for combat duty, but this work was handicapped by the fact that many units of the Regiment were scattered along the Line of Communications performing duty of a necessary but of a non-training nature. One company and one Battalion

Commander left the Regiment on September 22, 1917, for duty in England, and did not rejoin the Regiment until March 11, 1918. Many other officers and men were placed on detached duty.

On September 24, 25, 1917, that part of the Fifth Regiment available for training arrived in the Bourmont Training Area and was stationed at Damblain and Breuvannes.

The following letter dated November 10, 1917, addressed by General Pershing to the Major General Commandant is both complimentary and explains why the Marines were used along the Line of Communications:

Your Marines having been under my command for nearly six months, I feel that I can give you a discriminating report as to their excellent standing with their brothers of the Army and their general good conduct. I take this opportunity, also, of giving you the reasons for distributing them along our Line of Communications which, besides being a compliment to their high state of discipline and excellent soldierly appearance, was the natural thing to do as the Marine Regiment was an additional one in the Division and not provided for in the way of transportation and fighting equipment in case the Division should be pushed to the front. When, therefore, service of the rear troops and military and provost guards were needed at our base ports and in Paris it was the Marine Regiment that had to be scattered, in an endeavor to keep the rest of the organized division intact.

I have been obliged to detach a number of your officers as Assistant Provost Marshals in France and in England, all of which I take it you will agree with me was highly complimentary to both officers and men, and was so intended. I can assure you that as soon as our service of the rear troops arrive, including a large number of officers and men for the specific duties now being performed by your men, the Marines will be brought back once more under your brigade commander and assigned to the duties which they so much desire in the Second Regular Division, under General Bundy.

It is a great pleasure to report on your fine representatives here in France.

Colonel Charles A. Doyen was in command of the Fifth Regiment from the date of its organization on June 7, 1917, to October 29, 1917; and Lieutenant Colonel Hiram I. Bearss from October 30, 1917, to December 31, 1917. Colonel Wendell C. Neville having arrived on board the *De Kalb* at St. Nazaire, France, on December 28, 1917, reported to the Fourth Brigade for duty on January 1, 1918, and on that date assumed command of the Fifth Regiment, continuing in command until July, 1918.

The Sixth Machine Gun Battalion of Marines was organized at the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va., by order of the Major-General Commandant on August 17, 1917. The battalion was designated the First Machine Gun Battalion, but on January 20, 1918, after arrival in France, was renamed the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion. On December 14, 1917, the battalion sailed from New York on the *De Kalb*, arriving at St. Nazaire, France, December 28, 1917. On January 3, 1918, the battalion arrived at Damblain in the Bourmont Training Area and began training with headquarters at Germainvilliers.

Major Edward B. Cole was in command of the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion of Marines from the date of its organization until June 10, 1918, when he received a mortal wound.

On August 4, 1917, in accordance with directions issued by the President, the Secretary of the Navy directed the Major General Commandant "to Organize a force of Marines, to be known as the Sixth Regiment of Marines, for service with the Army in France," and the regiment was organized as directed.

On September 23, 1917, the First Battalion of the Sixth Regiment sailed on the *Henderson* from New York and landed at St. Nazaire, France, on October 5, 1917. On October 17, 1917, the 73d Machine Gun Company, Headquarters, and Supply Companies, and Colonel Albertus W. Catlin, Commanding Officer of the Sixth Regiment, with his Staff, sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., on the *De Kalb*, and from New York on October 18, 1917, arriving at St. Nazaire, France, on November 1, 1917. On October 31, 1917, the Third

Battalion of the Sixth Regiment sailed from New York on board the *Von Steuben* and anchored at Brest, France, on November 12, 1917. On January 20, 1918, the Second Battalion of the Sixth Regiment sailed on the *Henderson* from New York and arrived at St. Nazaire, France, February 5, 1918, and with the arrival of this last battalion, the entire Sixth Regiment of Marines was in France.

On October 23, 1917, the Fourth Brigade of Marines was organized, with Brigadier General Charles A. Doyen in

Bourmont Training Area. The Third Battalion arrived in this area on January 12, 1918, the Headquarters units the same date, the First Battalion during January, 1918, and the Third Battalion on February 10, 1918.

Therefore, on February 10, 1918, the Fourth Brigade of Marines was in the Bourmont Training Area intact, with the exception of one company on duty in England, training industriously as an infantry brigade of the Second Division. While the Brigade had been organized on October 23, 1917, and had actually

Therefore, on February 10, 1918, the Fourth Brigade of Marines was in the Bourmont Training Area intact, with the exception of one company on duty in England, training industriously as an infantry brigade of the Second Division.

command. Brigade Headquarters was at Damblain. Brigadier General Doyen continued in command until May 7, 1918, when he published in General Orders No. 5, that he had relinquished command. Major Harry R. Lay was the first Brigade Adjutant, and performed the duties of that office from October 24, 1917, to August 9, 1918, except during the period February 7, to May 8, 1918, when Major Holland M. Smith was Brigade Adjutant.

On October 26, 1917, Brigadier General Charles A. Doyen, U. S. Marine Corps, assumed command of the Second Division as its first commanding General, and announced his staff in General Orders No. 1, with station at Bourmont, Haute-Marne, serving as such until relieved by Major General Omar Bundy, U. S. Army, who announced that he assumed command in General Orders No. 4, November 8, 1917.

Like the Fifth Regiment, the Sixth Regiment spent several months performing the necessary but undesired duties along the Line of Communications. On January 12, 1918, Colonel Albertus W. Catlin established headquarters for the Sixth Regiment at Blevaincourt in the

functioned as a brigade with elements of all three of its units present from January 12, 1918, it was not until February 10, 1918, that the Brigade was perfected.

Neither the Marine Brigade nor any other elements of the Second Division was the first American unit to enter the front lines since the First Division enjoyed that honor on October 21, 1917, when it entered the line in the quiet Toul Sector.

The Fourth Brigade remained in the Bourmont Training Area with Headquarters at Damblain, until March 14, 1918, when it commenced movement into sub-sectors of the Verdun front, the first units of the Brigade entering the front line during the night of March 16-17, 1918, with headquarters at Toulon. On April 1, 1918, Brigade headquarters was changed to Moscou. The Brigade remained on the Verdun front until May 14, 1918, when it proceeded to an area around Vitry-le-Francois for open warfare training, with headquarters at Venault-les-Dames. In the meantime, on May 6, 1918, Brigadier General James G. Harbord assumed command of the Brigade, relieving Brigadier General Doyen who had been ordered to the United States on account of his physi-

cal condition. Brigadier General Doyen relinquished command of the Brigade most unwillingly, and the reasons for his relief are best set forth in the citation of a Navy Distinguished Service Medal, which will be posthumously awarded to him, reading as follows:

By reason of his abilities and personal efforts, he brought this brigade to the very high state of efficiency which enabled it to successfully resist the German Army in the Chateau-Thierry Sector and Belleau Woods. The strong efforts on his part for nearly a year, undermined his health, and necessitated his being invalided to the United States before having the opportunity to command the brigade in action, but his work was shown by the excellent service rendered by the brigade, not only at Belleau Woods, but during the entire campaign when they fought many battles.

General Pershing, in a letter to Brigadier General Doyen, stated in part:

Your service has been satisfactory and your command is considered as one of the best in France. I have nothing but praise for the service which you have rendered in this command.

On May 14, 1918, the Brigade left the area around Vitry-le-Francois, as it was unsuitable, and proceeded to an area around Gisors-Chaumont-en-Vixen, with headquarters at Bou-des-Bois. The Brigade was in this area when sudden orders came to move to the Chateau-Thierry Sector.

On May 27, 1918, Brigadier General John A. Lejeune and Major Earl H. Ellis sailed from New York on board the *Henderson* and arrived at Brest, France, on June 8, 1918.

In order to understandingly appreciate the importance of the early operations participated in by the Marine Brigade as a unit of the Second Division, it is necessary to remember that in 1918, prior to the middle of July, the offensive was in the hands of the Imperial German Staff, and that between March 21, 1918, and July 15, 1918, the Germans directed no less than five major offensives against the Allied lines in efforts to bring the war to a successful conclusion for the Central Powers. American



Wire entanglements at edge of Belleau Wood.

troops assisted in breaking up every one of these drives, but the Second Division, including the Marines, participated in only one, that in the Chateau-Thierry Sector.

The first offensive (Somme) of the Germans was stopped within a few miles of Amiens, and the second (Lys) overran Armentieres. In this second German offensive which lasted from April 9 to 27, 1918, and which has been designated by the Americans as a major operation, there were approximately 500 American troops engaged.

Then late in May, 1918, with startling success, which brought a corresponding depression to the morale of the Allies, the Germans launched their

third offensive west of Rheims, crossed the Chemin des Dames, captured Soissons, and the last day of May found them marching in the direction of Paris down the Marne Valley. It was at this critical time that the Second Division, including the Marine Brigade, together with elements of the Third and Twenty-eighth Divisions were thrown into the line and in blocking the German advance in the Chateau-Thierry Sector rendered great assistance in stopping the most dangerous of the German drives.

Without minimizing in any way the splendid actions of the Twenty-sixth Division at Seicheprey and Xivray, in April, 1918, or the brilliant exploit of the First Division at Cantigny in May,



Bois De La Brigade de Marine (Belleau Wood).

1918, the fact remains that the Second Division, including the Marine Brigade, was the first American Division to get a chance to play an important part on the Western Front, and how well it repelled this dangerous thrust of the Germans along the Paris-Metz highway is too well known to be dwelt upon at length in this preliminary article.

The fighting of the Second Division in the Chateau-Thierry Sector was divided into two parts, one a magnificently stubborn defensive lasting a week, and the other a vicious offensive. The defensive fighting of the Second Division between May 31 and June 5, 1918, was part of the major operation called by the Americans the Aisne Defensive. Without discussing at this time the tactical or strategical significance of the work of the Second Division in the Aisne Defensive, suffice to say that its psychological effect upon the morale of the Allies, was tremendous and has been recognized in practically every writing worthy of consideration up to the present date.

The close of the Aisne Defensive on June 5, 1918, found the line of the Second Division well established but not including Hill 142, Bois de Belleau, Bouresches, or Vaux, and the Germans were in possession of Chateau-Thierry on the right of the Second Division, and continued to hold that town until about July 17, 1918.

On June 6, 1918, the Second Division snatched the initiative from the Germans and started an offensive on its front which did not end until July 1, 1918. The Marine Brigade captured Hill 142 and Bouresches on June 6, 1918, and completely cleared Bois de Belleau of the enemy on June 26, 1918, a Major of Marines sending in his famous message: "Woods now U. S. Marine Corps entirely." On July 1, 1918, the Third Brigade captured Vaux. The Artillery, Engineers, and the other elements of the Second Division assisted materially in these successes, while a Regiment of the Third Division was in Belleau Wood for a few days about the middle of June.

During these 26 days of constant fighting which has been defined by General Headquarters of the American E. F. as a "local engagement," the Second



Belleau Wood.

Division suffered 1811 battle deaths (of which approximately 1062 were Marines), and suffered additional casualties amounting to 7252 (of which approximately 3615 were Marines). It was that fighting and those 9063 casualties that made the name Chateau-Thierry famous.

The achievements of the Fourth Brigade of Marines in the Chateau-Thierry Sector were twice recognized by the French. The first, which changed the name of the Bois de Belleau, was a beautiful tribute, spontaneously made, to the successes and to the losses of the Fourth Brigade of Marines, and shows the tremendous effect that the retak-

ing of Belleau Woods and other nearby positions from the Germans had, on the feelings of the French and the morale of the Allies. Official maps were immediately modified to conform with the provisions of the order, the plan directeur used in later operations bearing the name *Bois de la BRIGADE de MARINE*. The French also used this new name in their orders as illustrated by an *Ordre Général* dated August 9, 1918, signed by the Commanding General of the VI French Army, reading in part as follows:

Avant la grande offensive du 18 Juillet, les troupes américaines faisant partie



White boulders where the Marines met the hun in Belleau Wood.



The "Hunting Lodge" at the Northern Tip of the Bois de Belleau.

de la VI^e Armée française se sont distinguées en enlevant à l'ennemi le Bois de la BRIGADE DE MARINE et le village de VAUX, en arrêtant son offensive sur la MARNE et à FOSSOY.

The order changing the name of Bois de Belleau reads as follows:

VI^e ARMÉE

au Q. G. A., le 30 Juin 1918.

Etat-Major

6930/2

ORDRE

En raison de la brillante conduite de la 4^{ème} Brigade de la 2^{ème} D. U. S. qui a enlevé de haute lutte BOURESCHES et le point d'appui important du BOIS de BELLEAU, défendu avec acharnement par un adversaire nombreux, le Général Commandant la VI^e ARMÉE décide que dorénavant, dans toutes les pièces officielles, le BOIS de BELLEAU portera le nom de "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."

Le Général de Division
DEGOUTTE

Commandant la VI^e ARMÉE
(Signed) DEGOUTTE.

à M. le Général Cdt la 4^{ème} Brigade
de Marine.

s/c. de M. le Général Cdt la 2^{ème} D.
U. S.

The second recognition by the French of the Marines' work in the Chateau-Thierry Sector were citations of the Fourth Brigade, Fifth and Sixth

Regiments, and the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion of Marines, in French Army Orders, that of the Brigade, the others being identical, reading as follows:

Après approbation du Général Commandant en Chef les Forces expéditionnaires Américaines en France, le Général Commandant en Chef les Armées Françaises du Nord et du Nord-Est, cite à l'Ordre de l'ARMÉE:

4th BRIGADE AMÉRICAINE

sous les Ordres du Général de Brigade James G. HARBORD, comprenant: le 5^e régiment de marine, sous les Ordres du Colonel Wendell C. NEVILLE, le 6^e régiment de marine, sous les ordres du Colonel Albertus W. CATLIN, le 6^e bataillon de mitrailleuses, sous les ordres du Commandant Edward B. COLE:

"A été jetée en pleine bataille, sur un front violemment attaqué par l'ennemi. C'est affirmée aussitôt comme une unité de tout premier ordre. Dès son entrée en ligne, a brisé, en liaison avec les troupes françaises, une violente attaque ennemie sur un point important de la position et entrepris ensuite à son compte une série d'opérations offensives. Au cours de ces opérations, grâce au courage brillant, à la vigueur, à l'allant, à la ténacité de ses hommes qui ne se sont laissés rebuter ni par les fatigues, ni par les pertes; grâce à l'activité et à l'énergie de ses Officiers; grâce enfin à l'action personnelle de

son Chef, le Général J. HARBORD, la 4^e brigade a vu ses efforts couronnés de succès. En intime liaison l'un avec l'autre, ses deux régiments et son bataillon de mitrailleuses ont réalisé, après douze jours de lutte incessante (du 2 au 13 Juin 1918) dans un terrain très difficile, une progression variant entre 1500 à 2000 mètres, sur un front de 4 kilomètres, capturant un nombreux matériel, faisant plus de 500 prisonniers, infligeant à l'ennemi des pertes considérables et lui enlevant deux points d'appui de première importance: le village de BOURESCHES et le bois organisé de BELLEAU."

Au Grand Quartier Général, le 22 Octobre 1918, Le Général Commandant en Chef,
Signé: PÉTAIN.

During the first attack on Belleau Wood on June 6, 1918, Colonel Albertus W. Catlin was severely wounded and was relieved in command of the Sixth Regiment by Lieutenant Colonel Harry Lee, who continued in command until the regiment was demobilized in August, 1919.

When Major Edward B. Cole was mortally wounded on June 10, 1918, he was relieved in command of the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion by Captain H. E. Major, who on June 11 was relieved by Captain George H. Osterhout, who retained command until relieved by Major Littleton W. T. Waller, Jr., on June 20, 1918.

During the fighting in the Chateau-Thierry sector the headquarters of the Fourth Brigade was successively at Montreuil-aux-Lions (in an automobile for half an hour on the way to the front lines), Issonge Farmhouse, and La Loge Farmhouse. After being relieved by elements of the Twenty-sixth Division during the night of July 5-6, 1918, the Brigade moved to an area in rear of the lines and occupied what was known as the Line of Defense or Army Line, with Headquarters at Nanteuil-sur-Marne. The Brigade remained there until July 16, 1918.

During the time the above described fighting was going on the Germans were frustrated in their fourth 1918 drive (Noyon-Montdidier Defensive)

between June 9 and 15, 1918, and, of course, being busy in the vicinity of Bois de Belleau, the Marines had no opportunity of engaging in it.

On July 15, 1918, the Germans attacked for the fifth time in 1918, and as events turned out it was the last, for from the time of its failure they were on the defensive. The Allied troops, including many Americans, held this attack, called by the Americans the Champagne-Marne Defensive, which was on a large scale and the grand initiative passed from the Germans to the Allies on July 18, 1918, when Marshal Foch launched what is termed by the Americans the Aisne-Marne Offensive. In this magnificent and gigantic offensive the Marine Brigade and other elements of the Second Division played leading parts in the vicinity of Soissons.

General Headquarters, American E. F., on May 28, 1919, credited the Second Division units with participation in the major operation of Champagne-Marne Defensive, but on June 2, 1919, rescinded this credit.

On July 11, 1918, Brigadier General James G. Harbord, Commanding General of the Marine Brigade, received notification of his appointment as a Major General, and two days later left on a five days leave of absence. As Colonel Neville had been evacuated to a base hospital after leaving the Chateau-Thierry Sector, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Lee assumed temporary command of the Brigade. Major General Harbord and Colonel Neville both returned in time to enter the Aisne-Marne Offensive, the former in command of the Second Division and the latter in command of the Fourth Brigade.

Of the six Allied Offensives taking place in 1918 dignified by the Americans as major operations, the Brigade of Marines, with the other units of the Second Division participated in three, the first being the Aisne-Marne in which the Marine Brigade entered the line near Soissons.

On July 17, 1918, the First Moroccan Division, and the First and Second Divisions of American Regulars were hurriedly and secretly concentrated, by forced night marches through rain and

mud, in the Bois de Retz, near Soissons, the Headquarters of the Fourth Brigade being established at Vivieres.

The getting to the "jump-off" on time for this operation will always share in Marine Corps history with the glorious victory that followed.

Early on the morning of July 18, 1918, Marshal Foch threw these three picked divisions at the unsuspecting Germans with overwhelming success, and again on the following day. Major General James G. Harbord, commanding the Second Division in this operation, describes the two days' fighting of his division in these words:

It is with keen pride that the Division Commander transmits to the command the congratulations and affectionate personal greetings of General Pershing, who visited the Division Headquarters last night. His praise of the gallant work of the Division on the 18th and 19th is echoed by the French High Command, the III Corps Commander, American Expeditionary Forces, and in a telegram from the former Division Commander. In spite of two sleepless nights, long marches through rain and mud, and the discomforts of hunger and thirst, the Division attacked side by side with the gallant 1st Moroccan Division and maintained itself with credit. You advanced over six miles, captured over three thousand prisoners, eleven batteries of artillery, over a hundred machine guns, minenwerfers, and supplies. The second Division has sustained the best traditions of the Regular Army and the Marine Corps. The story of your achievements will be told in millions of homes in all Allied lands to-night.

This was one of the greatest strategical successes of Marshal Foch and that the part played by the Marines was appreciated by the French is illustrated by the Fifth and Sixth Regiments and the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion being cited in French Army orders. The citations of the Sixth Regiment (that of the Fifth Regiment being similar) and that of the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion are quoted below:

Après approbation du Général Commandant en Chef les Forces expédi-

tionnaires Américaines en France, le Général Commandant en Chef les Armées Française du Nord et du Nord-Est, cite à l'Ordre de l'ARMÉE:

LE 6e REGIMENT de MARINE AMÉRICAINNE,

sous les ordres du Lt.-Colonel LEE,

"Engagés à l'improviste dans l'offensive du 18 Juillet 1918, en pleine nuit, dans un terrain inconnu et très difficile, ont déployé pendant deux jours, sans se laisser arrêter par les fatigues et les difficultés du ravitaillement en vivres et en eau, une ardeur et une ténacité remarquables, refoulant l'ennemi sur 11 kilomètres de profondeur, capturant 2700 prisonniers, 12 canons et plusieurs centaines de mitrailleuses."

Au Grand Quartier Général, le 25 OCTOBRE, 1918.

Le Général Commandant en Chef, Signé: PÉTAIN.

Après approbation du Général Commandant en Chef les Forces expéditionnaires Américaines en France, le Maréchal de France, Commandant en Chef les Armées Française de l'Est, cite à l'Ordre de l'ARMÉE:

Le 6e Bataillon de Mitrailleuses U. S. Marine, sous les ordres du Commandant L. W. T. WALLER.

"Quoique très fatigué par un long trajet en camion et une marche de nuit sur des routes difficiles, ce bataillon c'est précipité à l'attaque le 18 Juillet 1918, près de VIERZY et a puissamment contribué à consolider et à maintenir la position atteinte ce jour-là.

"Dans le matinée du 19 Juillet, il c'est vaillamment porté en avant, en terrain découvert, sous un violent feu d'artillerie et de mitrailleuses, soutenant résolument l'attaque lancée contre les positions renforcées de l'ennemi.

"Ayant à faire face à une forte résistance ennemie et à des contre-attaques continuelles, a fait preuve du plus beau courage en consolidant rapidement et en tenant résolument l'importante position conquise par l'infanterie ce jour-là."

Au Grand Quartier Général, le 4 Mars 1919.

Le Maréchal, Commandant en Chef les Armées Française de l'Est. PÉTAIN.

During the action Brigade Headquarters was moved to a cave in Vierzy.

Colonel Logan Feland was in command of the Fifth Regiment during the Aisne-Marne Offensive, near Soissons, and continued in command of it with the exception of two days in July, 1918 (when Brigadier General Lejeune commanded the Fourth Brigade and Colonel Neville the Fifth Regiment), until March 21, 1919, when he was relieved by Colonel Harold C. Snyder, who retained command until the date of demobilization.

The Fourth Brigade was relieved about midnight July 19, 1918, and after remaining in a reserve position until July 22, 1918, marched to an area further in the rear, but still in a reserve position, Brigade Headquarters being established at Taillefontaine. After final relief from this active sector the brigade was billeted July 24–25, 1918, in an area around Nanteuil-le-Haudouin, Brigade Headquarters being established at Nanteuil. The Brigade remained in this area cleaning and resting up until July 31, 1918.

On July 25, 1918, Brigadier General John A. Lejeune arrived and assumed command of the Fourth Brigade on July 26, 1918, General Orders No. 16 reading as follows:

I have this day assumed command of the Fourth Brigade, U. S. Marines.

To command this Brigade is the highest honor that could come to any man. Its renown is imperishable and the skill, endurance and valor of the officers and men have immortalized its name and that of the Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Lejeune retained command until July 29, 1918, when he became Commanding General of the Second Division, relieving Major General Harbord who left to assume command of the Service of Supplies. Colonel Neville, on this latter date, resumed command of the Fourth Brigade.

On the last two days of July, 1918, the units of the Brigade entrained for a twenty-four hour railroad journey which took them to an area around Nancy, with Headquarters at Villers-lès-Nancy, where they remained resting and refitting until August 9, 1918.

On August 7, 1918, information was received of the promotion of Brigadier General Lejeune to the grade of Major General, and of Colonel Neville to the grade of Brigadier General, both to date from July 1, 1918.

On August 5, 1918, movement of units of the Brigade was started for the occupation of the Marbache Sub-Sector, near Pont-a-Mousson, on the Moselle River. By August 8, 1918, the movement was completed, with Headquarters established at Scarponne just across the Moselle River from Dieulouard. The sector was quiet and occupation uneventful except for an enemy raid which was successfully repulsed and prisoners captured.

On August 8, 1918, Lieutenant Colonel Earl H. Ellis was appointed Adjutant of the Fourth Brigade, relieving Lieutenant Colonel Harry R. Lay who had been detailed as Inspector General of the Second Division.

The relief from the Marbache Sector was completed on August 18, 1918, and the Brigade moved to an area about 20 kilometres southeast of Toul, Headquarters being established at Favieres. Intensive training for the impending St. Mihiel Offensive was indulged in here.

The Brigade started to move from this area on the night of September 2, 1918, and after a series of night marches, during which time Headquarters were established at Pont St. Vincent, Velaine-en-Haye, and Bouvron, the Brigade arrived just outside of Manonville, Headquarters being established in Manonville. From September 12 to 16, 1918, the Brigade was engaged in the St. Mihiel Offensive in the vicinity of Thiaucourt, Xammes, and Jaulny. Headquarters during these operations were successively at one kilometre north of Lironville, Thiaucourt, and finally at Manonville, on September 16, 1918.

On September 20, 1918, the Brigade moved to an area south of Toul, with Headquarters at Chaudenay. The Brigade remained in this area until September 25, 1918, when it moved by rail to an area south of Chalons-sur-Marne, with Headquarters at Sarry.

From October 1 to 10, 1918, the Second Division was placed temporarily

at the disposal of the IV French Army under General Gouraud.

On September 28, 1918, the Brigade moved by bus and marching to the Souain-Suippes area, with Headquarters at Suippes. On October 1, 1918, the Brigade, with the rest of the Second Division, marched to the front line near Somme-Py on the night of October 1–2, 1918, and relieved elements of a French Division. The Brigade Headquarters was located in the trenches about 2¹/₂ kilometres south of Somme-Py. The relief was effected before daylight without incident.

The Battle of Blanc Mont, fought by the Second Division as a unit of the IV French Army, between October 3 and 9, 1918, was one of the most powerful and effective blows struck under the direction of Marshal Foch against the retreating Germans, and its brilliantly successful conclusion was due in a great degree to the military genius of Major General John A. Lejeune, of the Marines.

On September 27, 1918, Major General Lejeune was summoned to the Headquarters of the Fourth French Army where General Gouraud, placing his hand upon the range of hills on the map representing Blanc Mont Ridge and turning to General Lejeune said: "General, this position is the key of all the German defenses of this sector, including the whole Rheims Massif. If this ridge can be taken the Germans will be obliged to retreat along the whole front thirty kilometres to the river Aisne. Do you think your Division could effect its capture?" General Lejeune responded that he felt certain the Second Division could take the stronghold pointed out, whereupon he was informed that he would be ordered to make the attack within a few days and was directed to prepare a plan for the assault.

The results of this operation are described in an order of the Second Division, dated November 11, 1918, reading in part as follows:

In the Champagne District, October 2nd to 10th, it fought beside the Fourth French Army. On October 3rd, it seized BLANC MONT RIDGE, the keystone of the arch of the main German position, advanced beyond

the Ridge and, although both flanks were unsupported, it held all its gains with the utmost tenacity, inflicting tremendous losses on the enemy. This victory freed RHEIMS and forced the entire German Army between that city and the ARGONNE Forest to retreat to the AISNE, a distance of 30 kilometres.

The amazing success of the attack and the vital effect of the capture of Blanc Mont Ridge and St. Étienne is described in the words of General Gouraud himself in a letter to Marshal Foch, reading in part as follows:

Because of the brilliant part played by this "Grand Unit" in the offensive of the IV Army, during the autumn of 1918, I propose the 2nd American Division for a citation in "The Order of the Army," upon the following specific grounds:

The 2nd Infantry Division, U. S., brilliantly commanded by General Lejeune, **** played a glorious part in the operations of the IV Army in the Champagne in October, 1918. On the 3rd of October, this division drove forward and seized, in a single assault, the strongly entrenched German positions between BLANC MONT and MEDEAH FERME, and again pressing forward to the outskirts of SAINT ÉTIENNE-a-ARNES, it made, in the course of the day, an advance of about six kilometres.

It captured several thousand prisoners, many cannon and machine guns, and a large quantity of other military matériel. This attack, combined with that of the French divisions on its left and right, resulted in the evacuation by the enemy of his positions on both sides of the River Suippe, and his withdrawal from the Massif de Notre-Dame-des-Champs.

The further opinion of the French as to the results and effect of the Second Division's operations in Champagne is set forth in the following quoted extract from Information Bulletin No. 12 of the IV French Army dated October 7, 1918:

Up to October 4th, at which date the present bulletin is written, the IV Army has pushed its advance up to objectives of the very highest impor-

tance. A splendid American Division, full of dash and ardor, the 2nd Division, U. S., placed at the disposition of the 21st Corps on October 3rd made itself master of MASSIF DU BLANC MONT, which dominates the valley of the ARNES and gives us excellent outlook on the valley of the SUIPPE, in rear of the region of MONTs; this conquest rapidly brought about the downfall of NOTRE-DAME-des-CHAMPS and the GRAND BOIS de SAINTS-OUPLET.

During this operation the Headquarters of the Brigade was advanced from the trenches 2¹/₂ kilometres south of Somme-Py to a point ¹/₂ kilometre south of that town.

The Fifth and Sixth Regiments were cited in French Army Orders for their splendid accomplishments in the Champagne. The citation of the Fifth Regiment, that of the Sixth Regiment being similar, reads as follows:

Après approbation du Général Commandant en Chef les Forces expéditionnaires Américaines en France, le Maréchal de France, Commandant en Chef les Armées Françaises de l'Est, cite à l'Ordre de l'ARMÉE:

Le 5eme Regiment de Marine Américain, sous les Ordres du Colonel Logan FELAND:

"A pris une part glorieuse aux opérations engagées par la 4eme Armée en CHAMPAGNE, en Octobre 1918. Le 3 Octobre 1918, à participé à l'attaque des positions allemandes fortement retranchées entre le BLANC MONT et la Ferme MEDEAH, et, poussant de l'avant jusqu'aux abords de SAINT-ÉTIENNE-à-ARNES, a réalisé une avance de 6 kilomètres. A fait plusieurs milliers de prisonniers, capturé des canons des mitrailleuses et un important matériel de guerre. Cette attaque combinée avec celle des Divisions Françaises, a eu pour conséquence l'évacuation des deux rives de la SUIPPE et du Massif de NOTRE-DAME-des-CHAMPS."

Au Grand Quartier Général, le 21 Mars 1919.

Le Maréchal
Commandant en Chef Les Armées
Françaises de l'Est.
Signé: PÉTAIN.

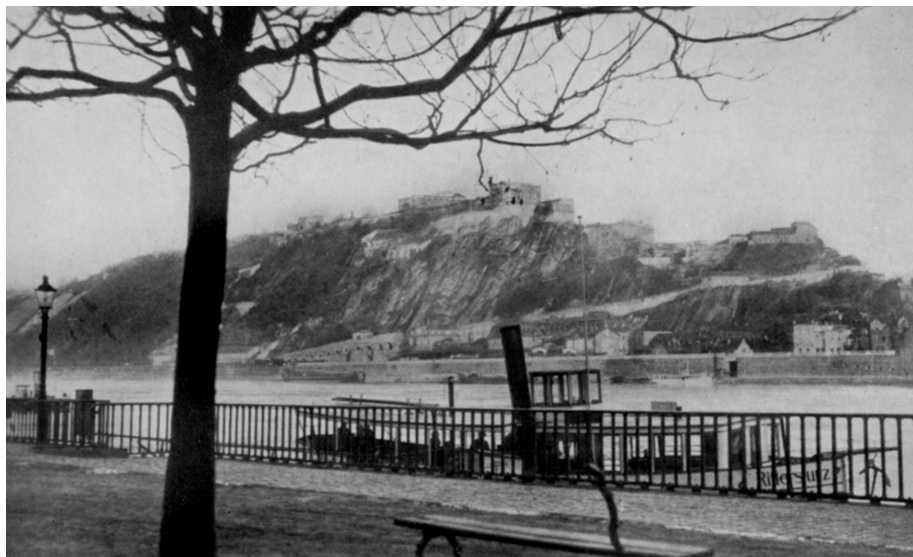
On October 10, 1918, having been relieved from the line in the Blanc Mont Sector, the Brigade took station in the Suippes-Somme Suippes-Nantivet area and the adjacent camps with Headquarters at Suippes, being assigned as IV French Army reserve. The Brigade remained in this area resting and refitting until October 14, 1918, when, in accordance with orders, it marched to the Vadenay-Bouy-la-Veuve-Dampierre area, north of Chalonsur-Marne, with Headquarters at Bouy. While here orders were received placing the Fourth Brigade provisionally at the disposal of the IX French Army Corps to hold a sector in the region Attigny-Vancq-Aisne River.

Accordingly, on October 20, 1918, the Brigade was temporarily detached from the Second Division and marched to the area Suippes-Nantivet-Somme Suippes, with Headquarters at Suippes. On October 21, 1918, in obedience to orders, the Marines hiked to the vicinity of Leffincourt, where Brigade Headquarters was established. While about to take over the assigned sector the Fourth Brigade received orders to rejoin the Second Division which was preparing to enter the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. After a hard march these orders were obeyed and Brigade Headquarters established at Mont Pelier on October 23, 1918.

On October 24, 1918, Major Matthew W. Kingman relieved Major Littleton W. T. Waller, in command of the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion of Marines, Major Waller joining the Second Division Staff as Division Machine Gun Officer.

On October 25, 1918, the Brigade moved to the Les Islettes area with Brigade Headquarters at Camp Cabaud. On the evening of October 26, 1918, the Brigade moved to the area south of Exermont and bivouaced in the woods there that night with Brigade Headquarters at Exermont. The Brigade remained in bivouac in this area until the night of October 30-31, 1918, when it moved forward into line to participate in the immense Meuse-Argonne Offensive which had started on September 26, 1918.

Relieving elements of the Forty-Second Division, just south of Landres-et-



Marine patrol boat doing "The watch on the Rhine."

St. Georges, the Marine Brigade early on the morning of November 1, 1918, jumped off, following a terrific barrage, for its final operation of the war, the conclusion of which at eleven o'clock on the morning of November 11, 1918, found the Marines firmly established on the heights of the far bank of the Meuse River, after an advance of thirty kilometres.

The operations of the Second Division, including the Marines, are described in the following official reports:

In recommending that the Second Division be cited in G. H. Q. Orders for its excellent work in the attack of November 1–11, 1918, the Commanding General, First Army, states on January 16, 1919, in part as follows:

4. In the 1st Army attack on November 1, 1918, the 2nd Division was selected and so placed in the battle line that its known ability might be used to overcome the critical part of the enemy's defense. The salient feature of the plan of attack was to drive a wedge through Landres-et-St. Georges to the vicinity of Fosse. It was realized that if the foregoing could be accomplished the backbone of the hostile resistance west of the Meuse would be broken and the enemy would have to retreat to the east of the Meuse. Success in this plan would immediately loosen the flanks of the 1st Army. The 2nd Division was selected to carry out this main blow.

5. The 2nd Division accomplished the results desired in every particular on the first day of the attack, not only clearing the hostile defenses of Landres-et-St. Georges and the Bois de Hazois but continuing its advance to the vicinity of Fosse, *i.e.*, about 9 kilometres. This decisive blow broke the enemy's defense and opened the way for the rapid advance of the Army.

With reference to the first day's attack the Commanding General, Fifth Army Corps, wrote officially on November 2, 1918, in part as follows:

The Division's brilliant advance of more than nine kilometres, destroying the last stronghold on the Hindenburg Line, capturing the Freya Stellung, and going more than nine kilometres against not only the permanent, but the relieving forces in their front, may justly be regarded as one of the most remarkable achievements made by any troops in this war. For the first time, perhaps, in our experience the losses inflicted by your Division upon the enemy in the offensive greatly exceeded the casualties of the Division. The reports indicate, moreover, that in a single day the Division has captured more artillery and machine guns than usually falls to the lot of a command during several days of hard fighting. These results must be attributed to the great dash and speed of the troops, and to the

irresistible force with which they struck and overcame the enemy.

The following citation in Fifth Army Corps General Orders No. 26, dated November 20, 1918, gives a further description of these operations:

The 2nd Division, in line at the launching of the attack, broke through the strong enemy resistance, and leading the advance, drove forward in a fast and determined pursuit of the enemy, who, despite new divisions hastily thrown in, was driven back everywhere on its front. This division drove the enemy across the MEUSE, and under heavy fire and against stubborn resistance, built bridges and established itself on the heights. The cessation of hostilities found this Division holding strong positions across the MEUSE and ready for a continuation of the advance.

An Order of the Second Division, dated November 5, 1918, reading in part as follows, tells what occurred subsequent to the first day's attack:

During the night of November 2–3 the 2nd Division moved forward overcoming the resistance of the enemy's advanced elements, and at 6.00 A.M., it attacked and seized the enemy's line of defense on the ridge southeast of VAUX-en-DIEULET.

Late in the afternoon the enemy, having reorganized his line on the border of BELVAL FOREST, was again attacked and defeated. After nightfall and in a heavy rain, the advanced elements of the Division pressed forward through the Forest, and occupied a position on the heights south of BEAUMONT, eight kilometres in advance of the divisions on our right and left.

During the night of November 4–5, the Division again pressed forward, occupied BEAUMONT and LETANNE and threw the enemy on its front across the MEUSE.

An Order of the Second Division, dated November 12, 1918, describing the historic crossing of the Meuse River on the night before the Armistice became operative, reads as follows:

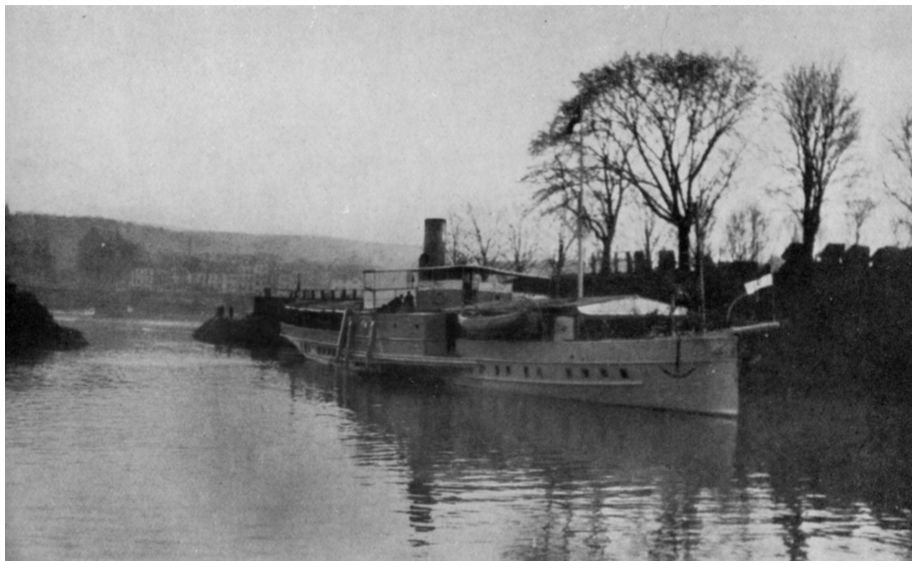
1. On the night of November 10th heroic deeds were done by heroic men. In the face of a heavy artillery and

withering machine gun fire, the 2nd Engineers threw two foot bridges across the Meuse, and the first and second battalions of the 5th Marines crossed resolutely and unflinchingly to the east bank and carried out their mission.

2. In the last battle of the war, as in all others in which this division has participated, it enforced its will on the enemy.

The Commanding General of the Fifth Army Corps has this to say about the crossing of the Meuse by the Marines, who were assisted by the Artillery, Engineers and other troops of the Second Division:

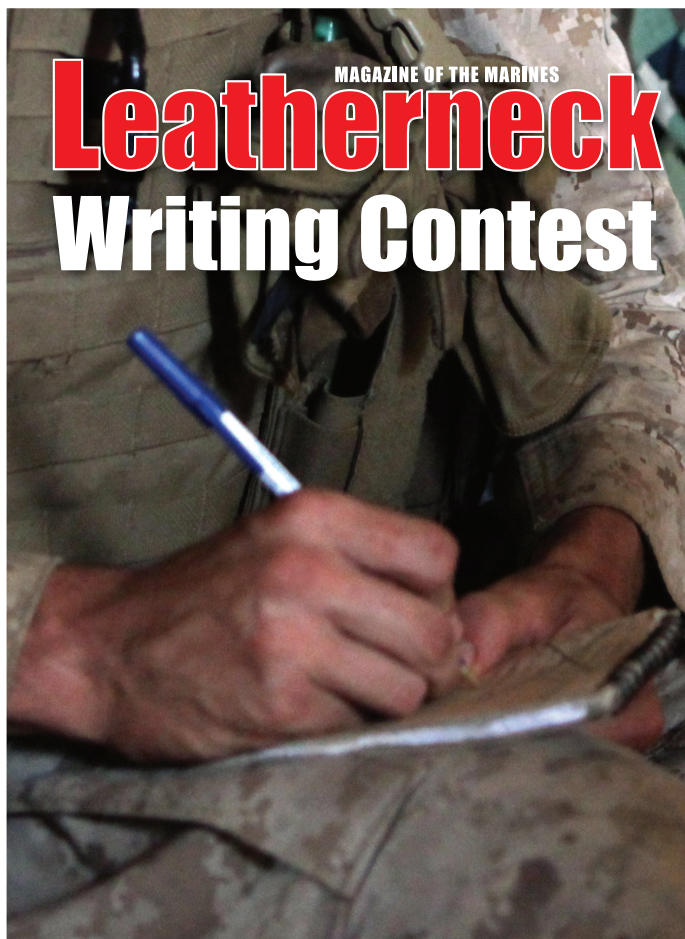
Especially I desire to commend the Division for the crowning feat of its advance in crossing the Meuse River in face of heavy concentrated enemy machine gun fire, and in driving the enemy's troops before it, and in firmly establishing itself upon the heights



Former German gunboat Pruessen, part of Marine Rhine patrol.

covering the desired bridgehead. This feat will stand among the most memorable of the campaign.

The general success achieved by the Second Division in the Argonne-Meuse Offensive is well described by the words



Open to all enlisted Marines on active duty and in the Marine Corps Reserve

Prizes:

First place: \$1000 and an engraved plaque

Second place: \$500 and an engraved plaque

Third place: \$250 and an engraved plaque

Subjects:

Current Events in the Corps

Marine Corps History

Essays:

No more 3000 words

Must include contact information: Grade, name, unit, email, & phone number

Submit electronically to leatherneck@mca-marines.org in Microsoft word format

All entries eligible for publication in *Leatherneck* Magazine of the Marines

Deadline 31 March

of the order citing Major General John A. Lejeune, of the Marines, for a Distinguished Service Medal reading in part as follows:

In the Argonne-Meuse offensive his division was directed with such sound military judgment and ability that it broke and held, by the vigor and rapidity of execution of its attack, enemy lines which had hitherto been considered impregnable.

During this fighting the Headquarters of the Fourth Brigade was successively established at: Exermont, ¹/₂ kilometre north of Exermont, Sommerance, Bayonville-et-Chennery, Fosse, Belval-Bois-des-Dames, and Beaumont.

On "the eleventh hour, the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, of the year 1918," Brigadier General Wendell C. Neville, Commanding General of the Fourth Brigade of Marines, published the following tribute to the officers and men of the Fourth Brigade:

Upon this, the most momentous hour in the history of the world war, the undersigned wishes to express to his command his sincere appreciation of their unflinching devotion to duty and their heroic and courageous action during the recent operations.

The time, when the results of our efforts during the past year are shown, is here. The hour has arrived when the convulsion which has shaken the foundations of the civilized world has ceased. The enemy is defeated and the principles of freedom and democracy have triumphed over barbarism and autocracy. We may all feel justly proud of the extent of our participation which has forced the enemy to a cessation of hostilities. It is fitting, at this time, to think of those of our comrades who have fallen on the field of honor and rejoice in the fact that they did not give their lives in vain.

Your display of fortitude, determination, courage and your ability to fight has upon more than one occasion been a determining factor in making history, and your work has had a direct bearing upon the remarkable chain of events which have this day culminated in such a satisfactory manner. Along the fronts of Verdun, the Marne, the Aisne, Lorraine, Champagne and the Argonne, the units of the Fourth Brigade Marines have fought valiantly,

bravely and decisively. They have nobly sustained the sacred traditions and have added glorious pages to the already illustrious history of the United States Marine Corps. It is a record of which you may all be proud.

On November 17, 1918, the Second Division commenced its march to the Rhine, passing through Belgium and Luxembourg. The German frontier was reached November 25, 1918, crossed on December 1, 1918, the Rhine reached December 10, 1918, and crossed on December 13, 1918. During this march and up to the time the Fourth Brigade settled down to its occupation duty in Germany, Brigade Headquarters were successively established at Margut, Bellefontaine, Arlon, Usseldange, Berg, Eppeldorf, Neuerburgh, Waxweiler, Prum, Budenheim, Wiesbaum, Ahrweiler, Neuenahr, Burgbrohl, Rheinbrohl (2 kilometres northeast of), and Henningen (1 kilometre northeast of).

The duties of the Fourth Brigade with the Army of Occupation in Germany were uneventful, the outstanding features being the establishment of a Rhine River Patrol, manned and commanded by Marines; an extended visit, inspection and review by the Secretary of the Navy; and the operation of the Second Division, including the Marines, made about the middle of June, 1919, in which an advanced position was taken as a part of the concentration of the Third Army immediately preceding the signing of the treaty of peace by the Germans.

Headquarters of the Fourth Brigade during the greater part of the occupation of Germany was at Nieder Bieber, while during the last operation when the advanced position was taken, just prior to Germany signing the peace treaty, it was at Herschbach. On the date the treaty was signed the Fifth Regiment, with Headquarters at Hartenfels, occupied the most advanced position ever occupied by Marines.

Just before departing from Germany Headquarters was at Nieder Bieber, and with the exception of Brest, France, this was the last Headquarters the Brigade had in Europe.

Major Charles D. Barrett relieved Lieutenant Colonel Earl H. Ellis as Bri-

gade Adjutant in April, 1919, and held that position until the Brigade was demobilized. Lieutenant Colonel Ellis was assigned to duty as second in command of the Fifth Regiment. On March 12, 1919, Colonel Logan Feland was temporarily appointed Brigadier General to rank from March 9, 1919, and accepted appointment and executed oath on March 17, 1919. On March 21, 1919, Colonel Harold C. Snyder assumed command of the Fifth Regiment, relieving Brigadier General Logan Feland, who after acting as Aide for the Secretary of the Navy, arrived in the United States on the *Von Steuben* on May 13, 1919.

A great many Marines were returned from Europe gradually and in small detachments from the date the Armistice became operative.

The Commanding General of the Second Division and his Staff, Headquarters of the Fourth Brigade, the Fifth Regiment and the Second Battalion of the Sixth Regiment, arrived in the United States on board the *George Washington*, on August 3, 1919; the remainder of the Sixth Regiment arrived in the United States early in August, 1919, on board the *Rinjdam* and the *Wilhelmina*; the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion arrived in the United States on board the *Santa Paula* on August 5, 1919.

The Company of Marines and Battalion Commander (Major) and Staff, forming a part of the Composite Regiment, Third Army, returned to the United States on board the *Leviathan*, on September 8, 1919, and were returned to the naval service in September, 1919.

The Colonel commanding the Composite Regiment in a letter dated September 21, 1919, commended the Battalion Commander and Staff, the Commanding Officer of the Company, and "the Lieutenants for their loyalty and attention to details and the Non-commissioned officers and men for their soldierly appearance, high standards of morale and discipline.

"The Composite Regiment paraded as escort to the General of the Army in London, Paris, New York, and Washington, D.C. The Regiment has been favorably commended. This is entirely due to the loyalty, energy, and attention

to duty of the officers and individual soldiers in the Regiment; and in this the Marine Corps representatives deserve a large share.”

On August 8, 1919, the Fourth Brigade, as a part of the Second Division, paraded in New York City. Major General John A. Lejeune, with many Marine Officers on his staff, was in command.

On August 8, 1919, the Fourth Brigade of Marines was transferred to the naval service upon its arrival at Quantico, Va.

On August 12, 1919, the Fourth Brigade under Brigadier General Neville, then a part of the naval service, was reviewed by the President of the United States in a parade at Washington, D. C.

A company of Marines and a Battalion Commander, as a part of the Third Army Composite Regiment, paraded in New York and in Washington, D. C., as escort to General Pershing. The First Division also formed a part of these parades.

The demobilization of the Fourth and Fifth Brigades of Marines was effected at Quantico, Va., and the Naval Operating Base, Hampton Roads, Va., respectively. This undertaking was by far the largest and most important of its kind that had ever confronted the Marine Corps, but due to the coördination of the various departments interested, and the far-reaching and clearly defined instructions issued in advance, the demobilization of these units was effected in a remarkably short time, being completed on August 13, 1919, and in a manner bringing satisfaction to the men discharged, and reflecting to the credit of the Corps. The success of these efforts is evidenced by the following statement of demobilization:

Discharged or transferred to inactive status:

Fourth Brigade 6,677 enlisted men.

Fifth Brigade 6,671 enlisted men.

In addition to the enlisted men released, there were also about 200 officers of the two brigades who were either discharged or transferred to an inactive status.

To summarize the operations and certain statistics of the Fourth Brigade the following are set forth:

The Fourth Brigade of Marines as a unit of the Second Division participated in actual battle in France in the following sectors between the inclusive dates set down:

Toulon Sector, Verdun: From March 15 to May 13, 1918.

Aisne Defensive, in the Chateau-Thierry Sector: From May 31 to June 5, 1918.

Chateau-Thierry Sector (capture of Hill 142, Bouresches, Belleau Wood): From June 6 to July 9, 1918.

Aisne-Marne (Soissons) Offensive: From July 18 to July 19, 1918.

Marbache Sector, near Pont-a-Mousson on the Moselle River: From August 9 to August 16, 1918.

St. Mihiel Offensive, in the vicinity of Thiaucourt, Xammes, and Jaulny: From September 12 to September 16, 1918.

Meuse-Argonne (Champagne) (capture of Blanc Mont Ridge and St. Etienne): From October 1 to October 10, 1918.

Meuse-Argonne (including crossing of the Meuse River): From November 1 to November 11, 1918.

Under the rulings of General Headquarters, American E. F., the Marine Corps units serving with the Second

31 to June 5, 1918); the Aisne-Marne Offensive (July 18 and 19, 1918); the St. Mihiel Offensive (September 12 to 16, 1918); and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (October 1 to 10, 1918, and November 1 to 11, 1918. The operations which resulted in the capture of Blanc Mont and St. Etienne were construed to be included in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive despite the fact that the operations were a part of the operations of the IV French Army, far to the west of the western limit of the American Argonne-Meuse Sector and further that the work of the Second Division was continued by another American Division. The operation which resulted in the capture of Hill 142, Bouresches, *Bois de la Brigade de Marine* by the Marine Brigade, assisted by artillery, engineers, etc., of the Second Division, and the capture of Vaux by the Third Brigade, Engineers and Artillery of the Second Division, were held to be local engagements rather than a major operation. The Second Division suffered about 9000 casualties in this operation.

Marine Corps deaths in France, as obtained from Marine Corps records on December 10, 1919, are divided as follows:

Character.	Officers.	Enlisted Men.	Total.
Killed in action	47	1420	1467
Died of wounds received in action	31	960	991
Died of accident	4	24	28
Died of disease	15	271	286
Other causes	2	11	13
Totals	99	2686	2785

Division are entitled to silver bands on the staffs of their colors for battle participation in the above mentioned engagements.

General Headquarters, American E. F., ruled that the Second Division, including the Fourth Brigade of Marines, participated in only four major operations, the Aisne Defensive (May

The records of the Second Division show that 252 officers and 8277 enlisted men were wounded, and 24 officers and 962 enlisted men were gassed between March 15 and November 11, 1918.

The French Army recognized the splendid work of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments of Marines by citing them no less than three times in Army Orders for

achievements in the Chateau-Thierry Sector, in the Aisne-Marne (Soissons) Offensive, and in the Meuse-Argonne (Champagne). The Sixth Machine Gun Battalion was similarly cited for its work in the Chateau-Thierry Sector and Aisne-Marne (Soissons) Offensive. The Fourth Brigade received a similar citation for its work in the Chateau-Thierry Sector. Since only two French Army citations are sufficient to make an organization eligible for the award of the French fourragère, the high standard of the Marine units is evident. The only American organizations which have received permission to accept or wear the French fourragere are three sections of the ambulance service and one aero squadron, all of which were temporary organizations and have been now demobilized.

A Marine Corps unit arrived in France with the first expedition of American troops. Between June 26, 1917, and November 11, 1918, Marines

were in Europe with the American E. F a total of 504 days, of which 66 days were in active sectors and 71 in quiet sectors.

The following number of decorations were awarded Marines:

Medals of Honor (American)	5
Distinguished Service Medals (American)	4
Distinguished Service Crosses (American)	363
Distinguished Service Order (British).....	1
Croix-de-Guerre (French).....	1,237
Legion of Honor (French)	15
Medaille Militaire (French).....	9
Belgian Decorations.....	4
Italian Decorations.....	6
Montenegrin Decorations	4
Total.....	1,648

The second Division captured 343 pieces of heavy and light artillery, 58

trench mortars, 1350 machine guns, and 8 anti-tank guns; it captured 12,026 prisoners; and advanced 61 kilometres against the enemy.



**Where there's a will,
there's a way.**

Take care of Marines for generations to come.

Join our Semper Fidelis Society by writing MCAF in your will and make a difference in the lives of future Marines by visiting bit.ly/MarineLegacy



PHOTO BY LCPL VICTOR A. MANCILLA, USMC