

1917

Adv.-Journal Oct 2, 1917

CAPT MEAD WRITES ABOUT SPARTANBURG

Lots of Mud, Clouds Hide Hot Southern Sun—Expects Long Stay in Camp.

A vivid glimpse of camp conditions at Spartanburg, South Carolina, where the old Third Regiment and all the Auburn boys are in camp having the finishing touches put upon their training for the trenches in France, is given in a letter which Mrs. B. C. Mead received today from her husband, Capt. B. C. Mead of Company M.

The soldiers were forced to slog through deep mud the moment they arrived near the camp, for it has been raining hard in the South according to the captain. He describes the lay out of the big camp and writes of the long rows of buildings, mess halls and so on.

The captain drops the hint that he expects new men for the regiment to Buffalo. Fifteen officers of the command he writes, one man being assigned to each company. To Company M has been assigned Second Lieut. Henry J. Warth, a graduate of Plattsburg, and formerly of the Twelfth National Guard Regiment, New York.

As for the climate the weather seems to be no warmer than it was in New York State the captain writes, but owing to the fact that it has rained so much he has not had a real slant on the climate. He has not found two blankets uncomfortable at night.

He ventures no prediction as to how long the regiment may be kept at Spartanburg, but does not believe that the order to move will come in several months.

The captain's letter in part is as follows:

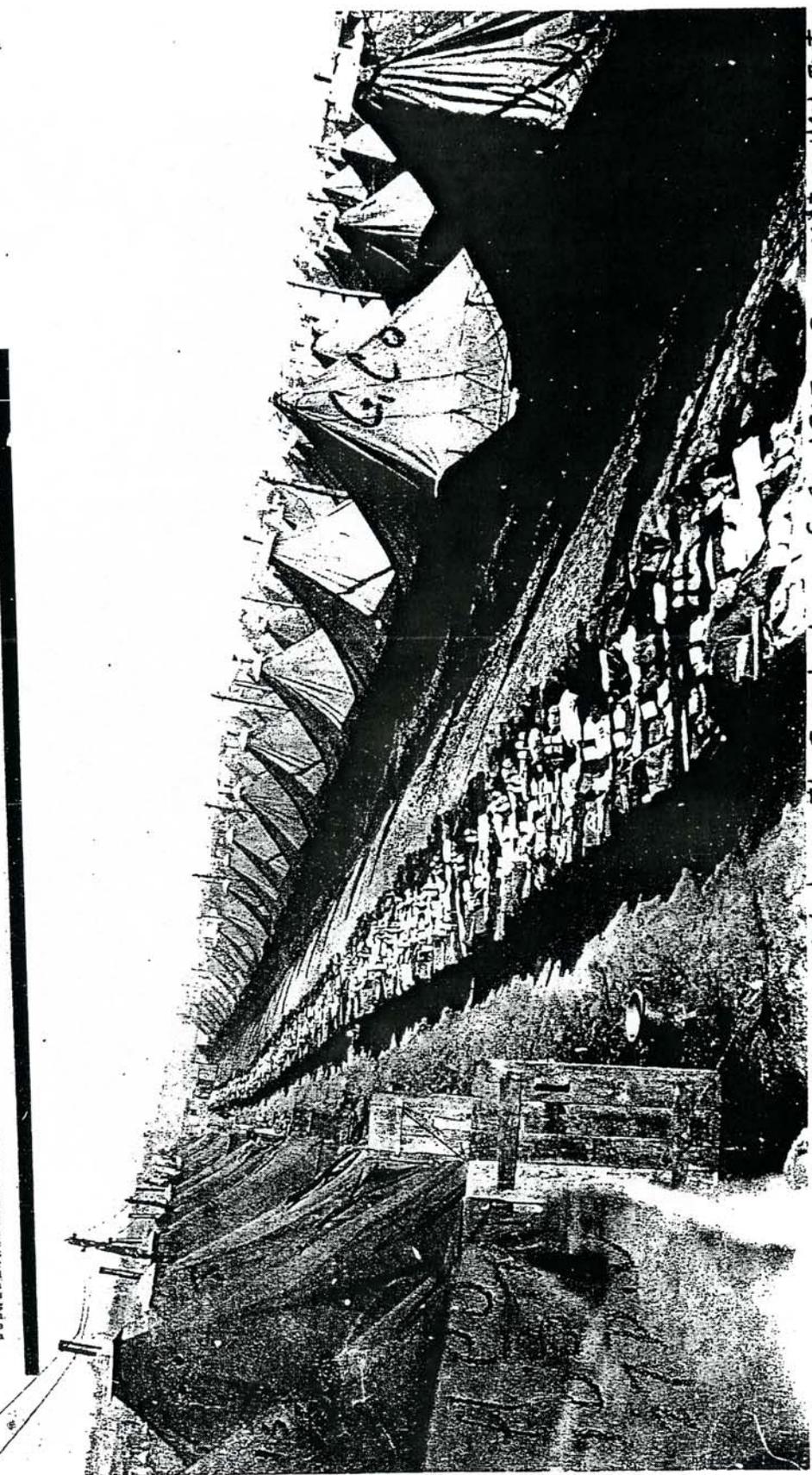
Slogging Around in Mud.

"Well, here we are, slogging around in soft red mud, sprinkled by the dews of heaven and soaked by the endless showers. We reached here sometime in the late evening, Wednesday night, but as there was no chance to do anything toward camp-making they left us in the train and said to sleep there but hurry breakfast in the morning, get all ready to move and then sit in the cars till toward ten o'clock before they were ready to move us down toward the camp. After detouring we had only a little over a mile to go before reaching camp. On the way down we saw several camps, till the appearance was somewhat familiar. All the land here is rolling. Not very much of it is cultivated, that is, not much in proportion to what is lying loose here. There will be a field or so and then a lot of young growth pine and a lot of land so washed that it cannot be cultivated. Apparently our camp was located in quite a pine thicket. As we turned off the main camp road, we saw so far as eye could reach, just one succession of messhalls all in line and ended up toward the street. There must be upward of fifty of them on this road, and they contain, besides a roomy kitchen, a long double row of tables sufficient to accommodate 250 men. Then out back of these messhalls runs a long row of medium sized electric light poles which sometime or other will carry lights to each of the tents. In between these poles stands the line of tents, two between each

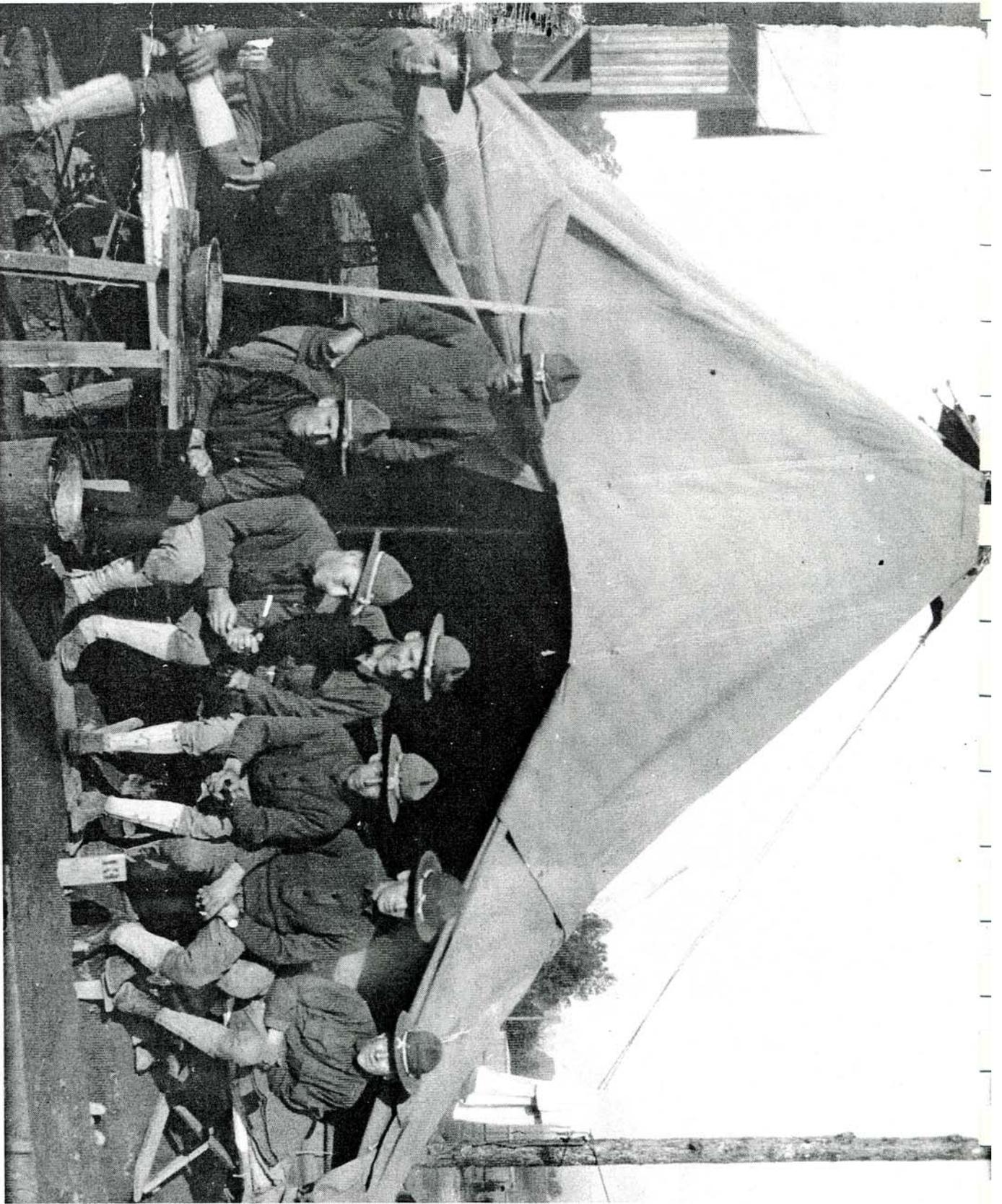
pair of poles. At the end of the street is a shed, floored, containing a dozen showers for each company, while in rear of this is the latrine. All this is laid out on land recently partly cleared. As a matter of fact, our land was so much better cleared than we anticipated that we all heaved a sigh of relief.

"Before we had much more than reached the site it began to rain and has done little else since. While waiting for the loads of tents the men scratched up the ground some and got it partly levelled where the tents were to be. Then, when tentage came, down came the rain and all had to pelt along, soaked to the skin but cheerful nevertheless, thank you. There was nothing comfortable about it but the men all seemed to take it as a huge joke. When finally night fell, the tents were up, the cots installed and a tired and sticky lot inhabited each one. One squad, being without cots, wisely slept in the mess-hall and another for a store room. In this hall the electric lights are already installed, making it very bright and cheerful for the men as well as a good place in which to work.

"I fancy that, during the winter nights, the men will want to use it as a club room. In the end is a good sized room for the cooks to sleep and another for a store room. The greatest glory of the kitchen is a monstrous cooler, very much like the one we had at Fort Niagara except, perhaps, a little better finished. The rain would not give up but began again in the evening and roared away during the night. Today not a bit of sun and much more rain. The regiment started in at 8 o'clock clear down by the latrines and dug and hacked away most of the day at roots and stumps and cotton plants and weeds and grass. By four o'clock they had reached the ground back of headquarters and the streets looked fairly good. Down at this end M. dug in with a good will and we were a trifle ahead of our neighbors in getting our street grubbed out. The lower end of our street is a slight, with the oozy mud everywhere. We have started some ditches which we hope will help some. It would have interested you to see what I called Rowney's dentists get rid of stumps. They would have some men loosen the dirt around the roots and then attach a long rope. When about sixty men heaved on this rope into the open. When the tug of war men got into action, they had a crowd of interested observers. There is a great lot of work yet to do. If, as they suggest, they set us to drilling on Monday, there will not be much breathing time. The present schedule of drills calls for eight hours of it a day."

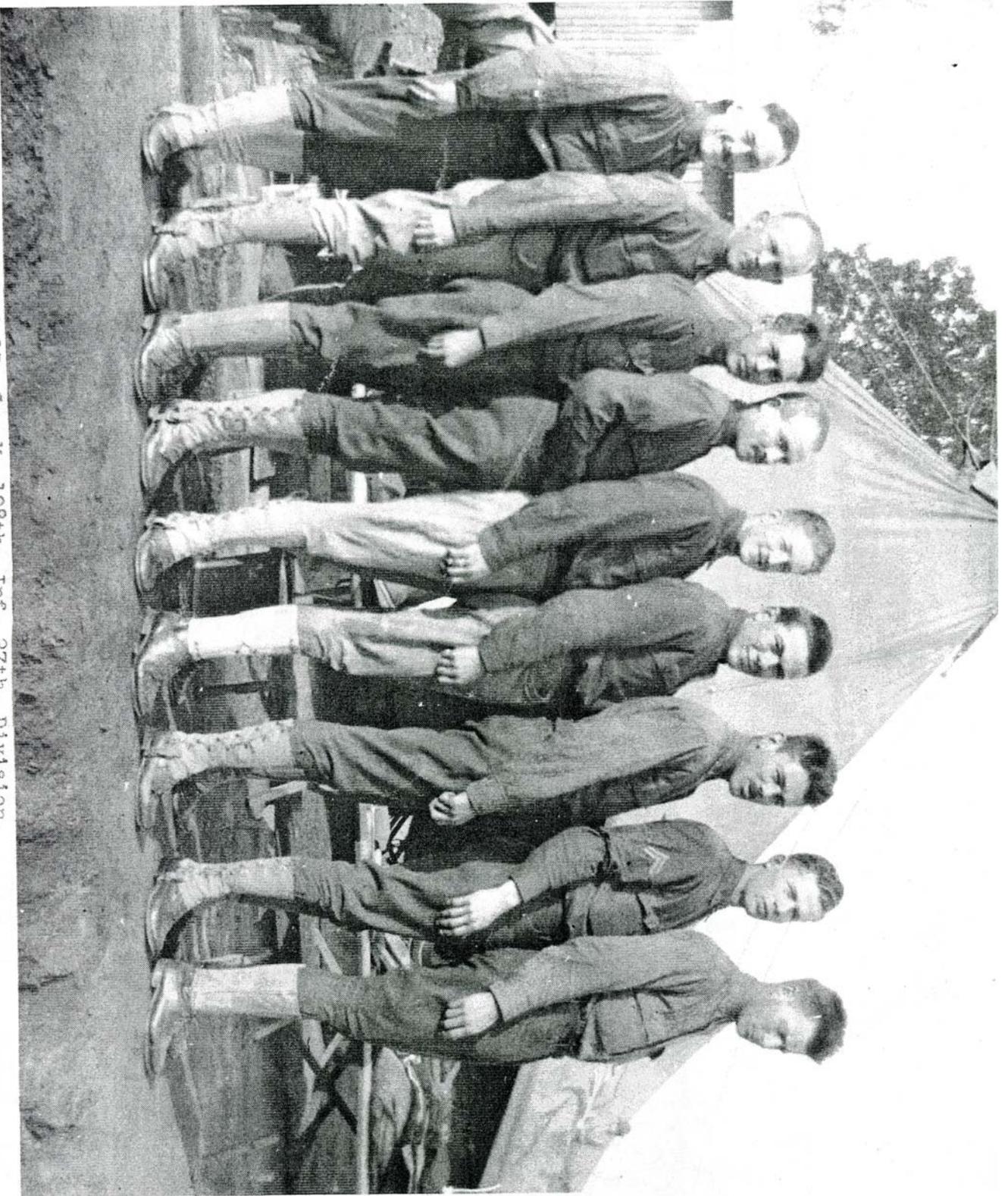


From Military Hist. Soc. 1917 Camp Wadsworth Spartanburg, S.C.



SPARTANSBURG, S.C.

Charles A. Rancler, Charles Slous, Unknown, Wm. Moses, Edward J. Jacobt,
Norman D. Stone, Raymond E. Keefe, Charles W. Hudson.



Squad 13, Co. K, 108th. Inf. 27th. Division.
Spartansburg, South Carolina.

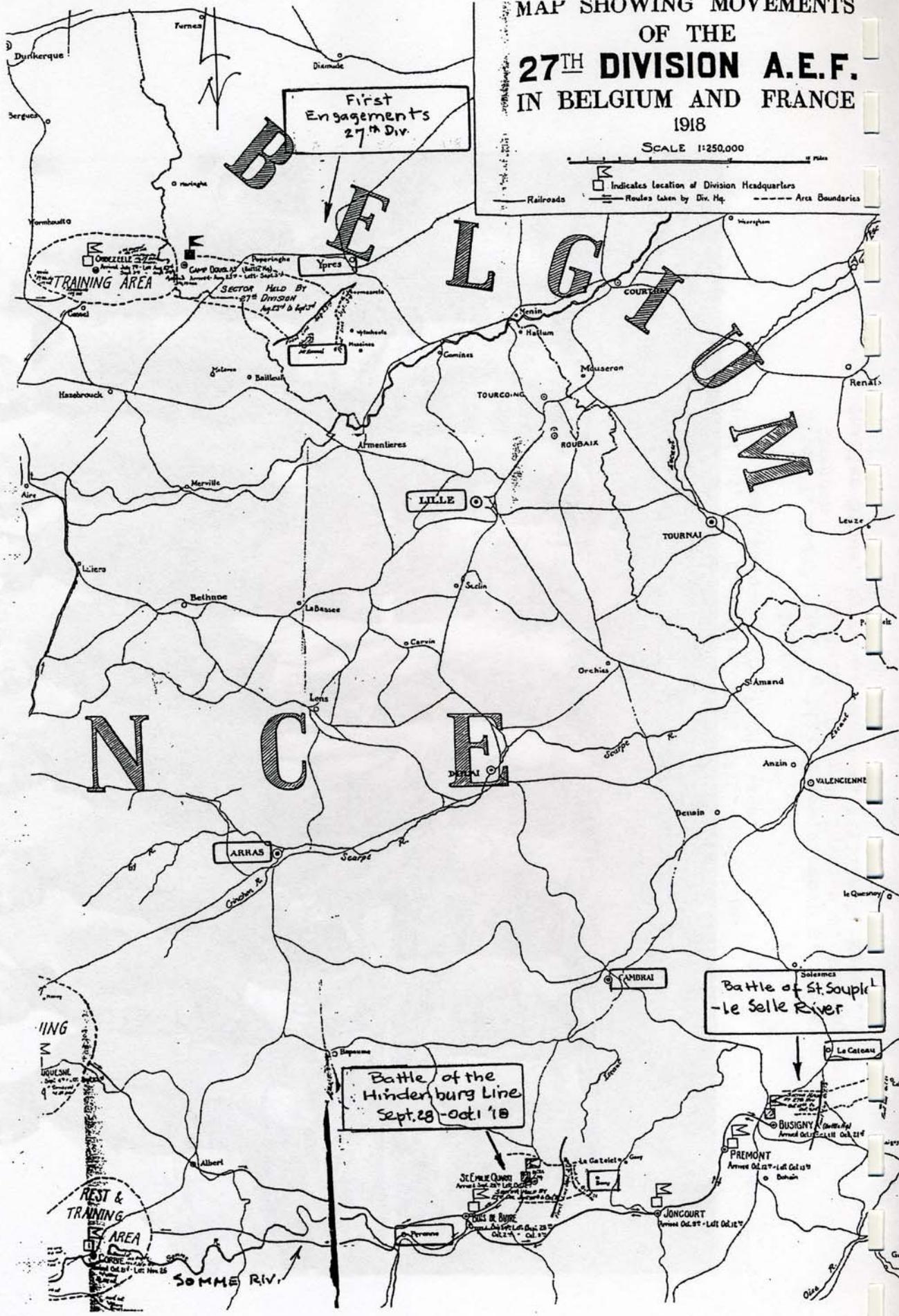
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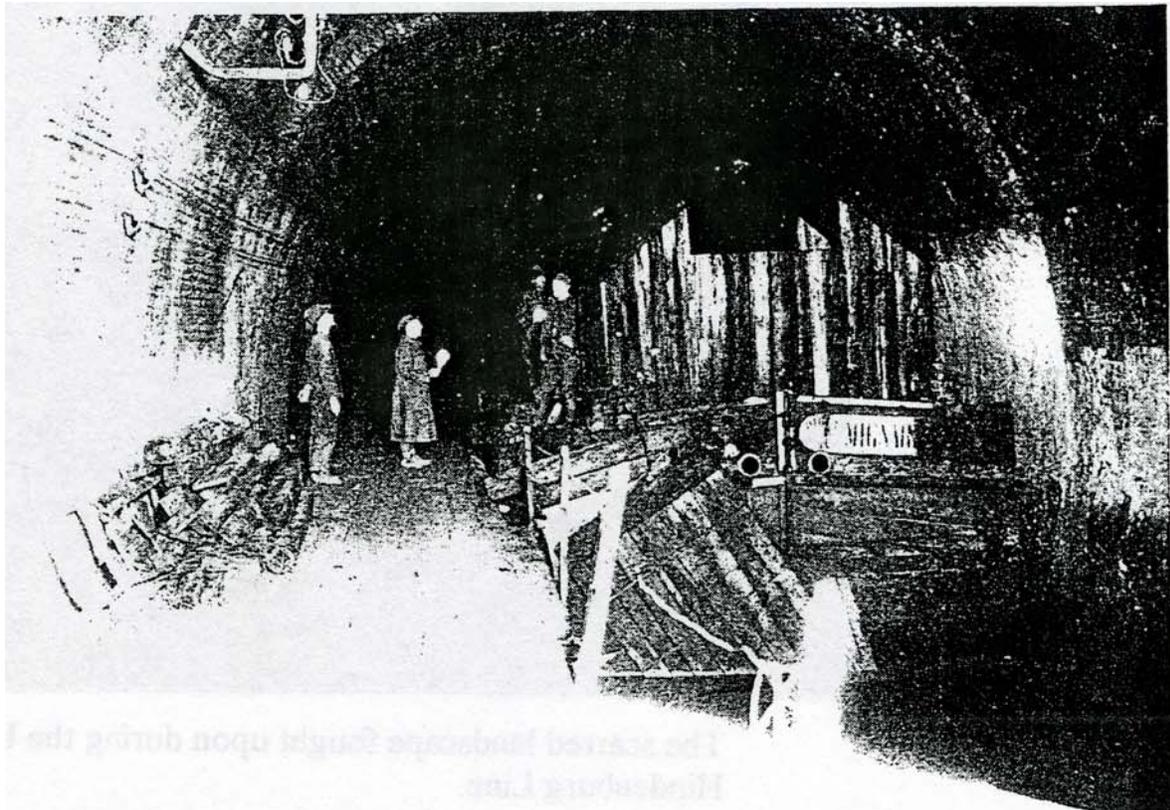
Elton T. Ryder Wm. H. Williamson, Norman D. Stone
Unknown Charles H. Baynes, Charles W. Hudson,
Charles Sibus, Myron A. Raesler, William F. Moses.

MAP SHOWING MOVEMENTS OF THE 27TH DIVISION A.E.F. IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE 1918

SCALE 1:250,000

Indicates location of Division Headquarters
 Railroads Routes taken by Div. Hq. Area Boundaries

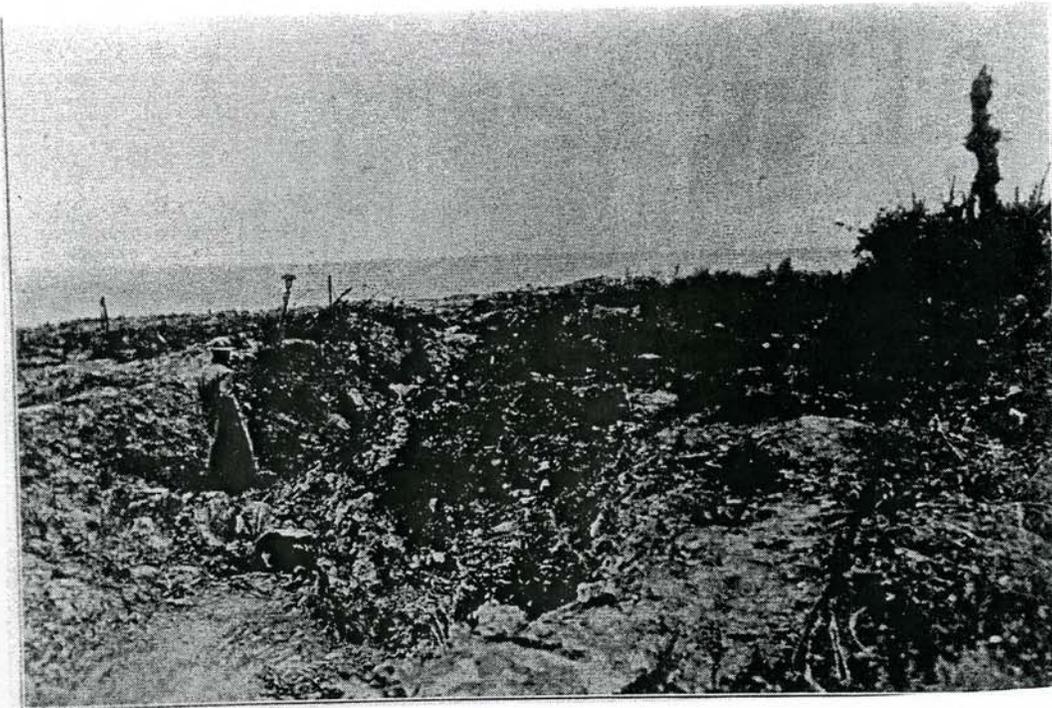




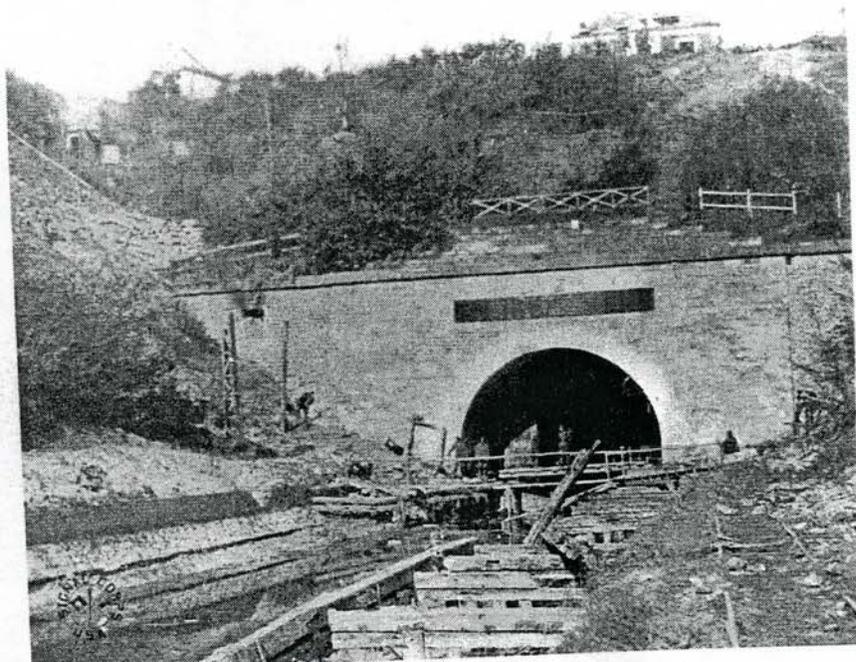
Another view of interior of St. Quentin Canal Tunnel, showing barges used as billets by the Germans. The tunnel at this point is 300 feet underground



One of the many passages cut from the tunnel to the trenches

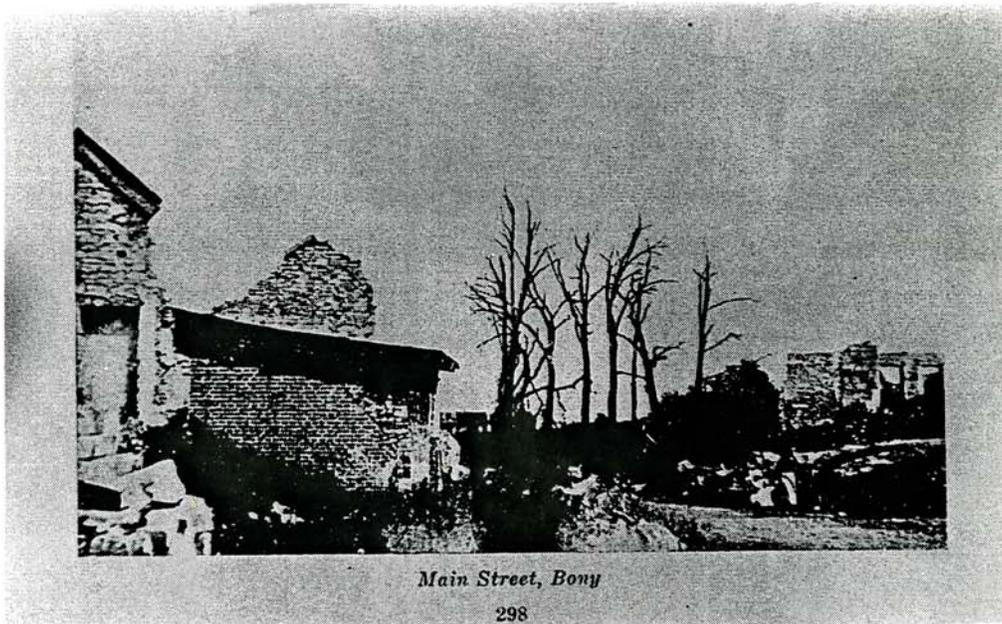


The scarred landscape fought upon during the battle of the Hindenburg Line.



Tunnel entrance, Hindenburg Line defenses, north end

The entrance to the tunneled portion of the Hindenburg Line in which German soldiers were quartered.



Main Street, Bony

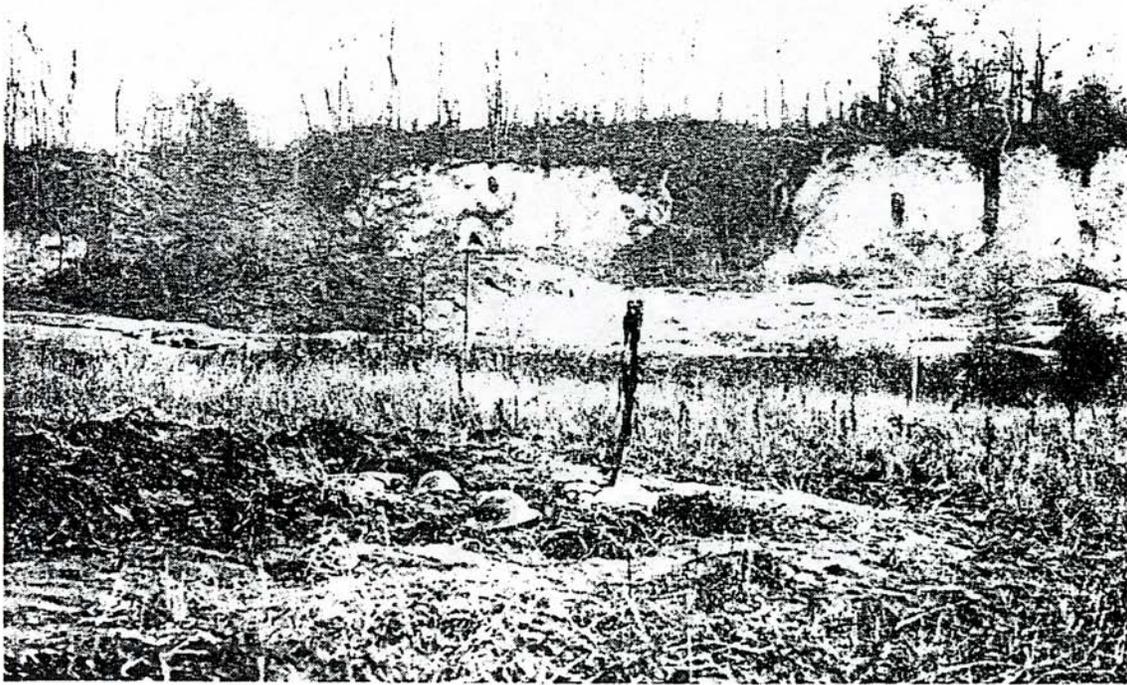
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Village of Bony, France, the objective of the battle.
September 28th and 29th, 1918.



*Monument erected by the 102d Engineers at
Guillemont Farm to the memory of the men
who lost their lives there*

The 102nd Engineers were part of the 27th Division.



Temporary graves of two soldiers of the 27th Division who were buried where they fell, near Le Cateau, France

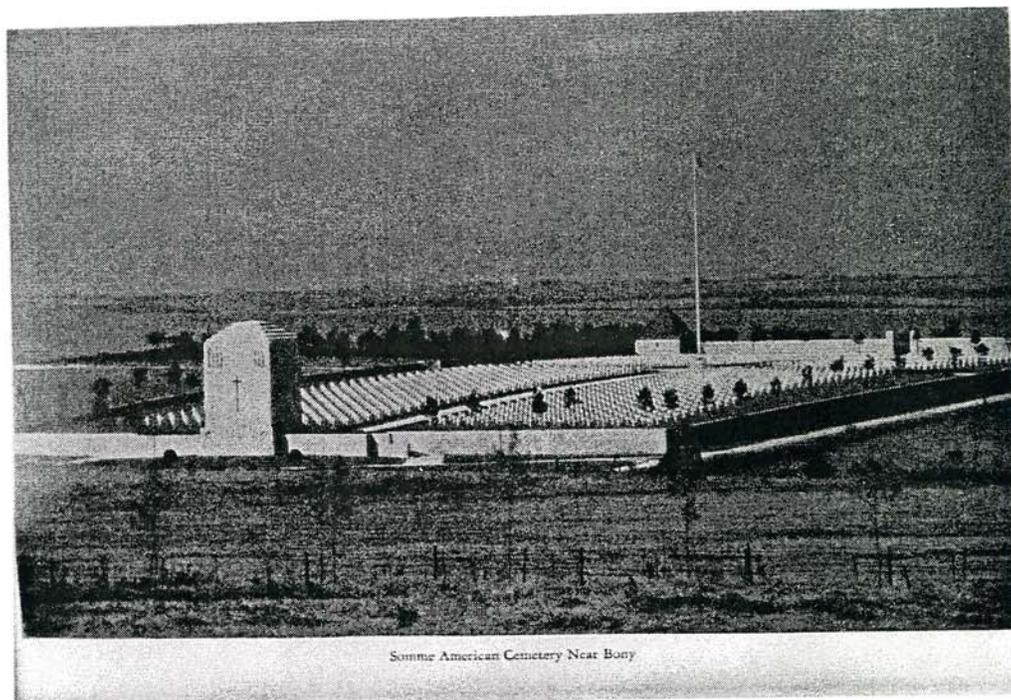


American plot in British Cemetery at St. Emilie, France, where a number of the 27th Division soldiers killed in the Hindenburg Line Battle were buried. In the foreground Second Lieutenant Summerfield S. Curtiss, Division Burial Officer, checking up graves. To the left may be seen a burial party at work.



Soldiers of the 27th Division being prepared for burial. Nearly all were initially buried near the battlefield on which they were killed.

Source: The 27th Division, Sacrifices, etc., John Eggers



Somme American Cemetery Near Bony

The Somme American Cemetery at Bony, France as it is today. Most of those who died were re-interred at home; 730 soldiers of the 27th Division still lie here, including 7 men of Company M and 130 men of the 108th Regiment

Source: American Battlefields Monuments Commission

MAURETANIA BRINGS JENNINGS' WELCOME SETS A RECORD FOR TEARS, CHEERS

LEVIATHAN BEATS SHIP OF 108TH INTO N.Y. PORT; BIRDMEN DROP GREETINGS

Throngs Assembled for Khaki Lads' Arrival Largest in Hoboken's History—Riot of Joy Breaks Forth As Bands Play Stirring Airs.

New York, March 6.—The Mauretania reached Quarantine in mid-afternoon bringing 54 civilians and 46 members of the British ministry of shipping in addition to her soldier passengers. The British shipping attaches will be stationed at various American ports.

Among the officers on the liner was Lieut. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

Troops that smashed the Hindenburg Line and covered themselves with glory for all time troops of Twenty-seventh Division National Guardsmen of the State of New York, set foot on home soil again today after 10 months' service in France.

They stepped ashore, more than 10,000 of them, from the giant transport Leviathan, which ended an eight day voyage from Brest when she docked in Hoboken just at noon.

More of the Twenty-seventh were on the Mauretania, several hours behind the Leviathan in arriving. Altogether on the two vessels were 344 officers and 11,891 men of the division. Four other vessels are speeding to port with the rest.

The 105th Infantry in command of Col. James Andrews was formed out of the old Seventy-first National Guard, New York City and the old Second, which included men from Schenectady, Albany, Troy, Cohoes, Amsterdam, Rensselaer, Gloversville, Whitehall and Glens Falls.

The 106th Infantry, commanded by Col. Franklin P. Ward, consisted of former members of the 104th and Twenty-third National Guard Regiments of Brooklyn.

The 107th Infantry, commanded by Col. Mortimer Bryant, and composed of old Seventh National Guard, New York City and the old First, Binghamton, Ulster, Watertown, Ogdensburg, Newburgh, Walton, Oneonta, Middletown, Malone and Mohawk.

JENNINGS IN COMMAND.

The 108th Regiment aboard the Mauretania and commanded by Edgar S. Jennings, was formerly the old Third Regiment of the National Guard, composed of Genesee, William from Rochester, Medina, Genesee, Syracuse, Oswego, Niagara Falls, Olean, Hornell, Elmira and Auburn.

The 105th Machine Gun Battalion, composed of Companies A, B, and C of old Squadron A and Company D of the First Cavalry, veteran New York City guardsmen, was commanded by Maj. Stanton Whitney.

The ranks of all these National Guard regiments in the reorganization at Spartanburg were filled out with drafted men and come home with many replacements of troops from various parts of the country.

Ten thousand men, women and children, waving American flags and the blue and white colors of the Twenty-seventh, packed Battery Park as the great ship passed and cheered themselves hoarse. The troops on the vessel could be seen tossing up their hats and gesticulating joyously in reply.

SETS NEW RECORD.

The welcome home which the New York veterans received from their own people far surpassed in enthusiasm—in tears, cheers and noise—any demonstration thus far accorded to the nearly 100,000 troops that have returned from France through this port since the armistice was signed.

The great transport moved up the harbor in the midst of a flotilla of small craft each loaded to capacity, each with friends and relatives, each decked with bunting and with a band playing American tunes. Two huge seaplanes soared and dipped over her smokestacks. Meanwhile it seemed as if half the city's population had gathered at the waterfront while windows and roofs of skyscrapers along the river were black with people, who let loose showers of paper and ticket tape.

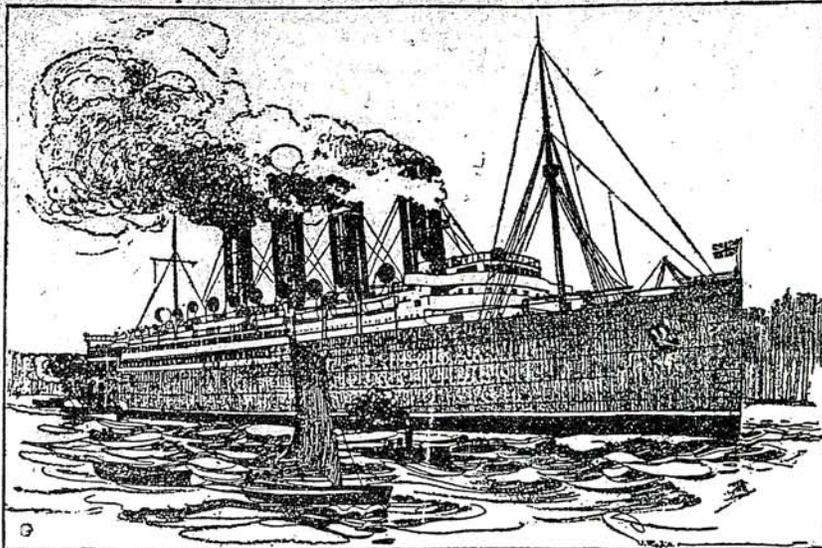
When the Leviathan swung into her dock with the Twenty-seventh's commander, Maj. Gen. John F. O'Ryan standing on the bridge, the wildest enthusiasm broke loose. The huge flag waving crowd gathered there fairly roared their welcome and the doughboys who lined rails and rigging of the ship and every vantage point roared a response, while through it all bands played

Hoboken's history, was treated to a novelty in the way of soldier enthusiasm when the troops, emulating the men from the Antipodes who ran rough-shod with them over the "impregnable" German defensive system, repeatedly shrieked out the Australian yell "Co-O-O-EE-EE."

Docking the big transport was a long drawn out task, and the crowds made the best of the opportunity to get a glimpse of the khaki host which immediately upon landing marched to trains and boats en route to the embarkation camps. Mrs. O'Ryan, wife of the general, with her children, greeted the commander, and Brig. Gen. Cornelius Vanderbilt, retired, who led the 102d Engineers in service overseas, met his former brother officers. Scores of Red Cross workers furnished smokes and food facilities to the soldiers as they came ashore.

The Leviathan's passengers re-

BRINGS "AUBURN'S OWN" HOME TODAY



The Twenty-seventh's troops on the Mauretania as officially announced are as follows: 108th Infantry, complete, 80 officers and 8,255 men. Of these, 74 officers and 2,643 men who were former New York National Guardsmen, are assigned to Camp Merritt. The others, replacements, will be distributed among six camps.

Fifty-fourth Infantry Brigade, headquarters, six officers and 24 men, to Camp Merritt. Brig. Gen. Palmer E. Pierce, commanding the Fifty-fourth, traveled as a casual.

102nd Train, headquarters, three officers and 24 men, to Camp Mills.

The troops on the Mauretania totalled 3,730. Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, general staff, traveled as a casual. There were several hundred casualties and nurses. Seven officers, 17 men, one nurse and one civilian were sick or wounded.

EXODUS TO NEW YORK IS BEGUN

Over 50 Persons Plan to Take in Metropolitan Celebration.

CANNOT SEE MEN BEFORE SUNDAY

Arriving Troops Must First Undergo Inspection in Camps—Other Rules.

With Company M and other units of the 108th Infantry expected momentarily at New York, the advance Guard of Auburn delegation which will welcome the soldier boys back to the United States is setting out for the Metropolis. Within the next two days, Auburn will be largely represented among the welcoming crowds that will throng into New York.

Last night, William O. Dapping, Howard R. Merritt and John M.

WHAT TO DO!

The following instructions have been prepared by the committee for the convenience of those intending to go to New York from this city to view the great parade:

These instructions may be changed without notice. Keep in touch with Official Headquarters. CLIP THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS—The Cayuga County Reception Committee has official headquarters in the showrooms of G. W. Richardson & Son, No. 733 Fifth Avenue, southeast corner of Fifty-eighth Street. Entrance on Fifth Avenue. Has telephone.

PARADE DATE—If this has not been set by the time you reach New York, watch the New York newspapers. They will have it the moment General O'Ryan sees the day. The tentative plans state that the parade will move from the Washington Arch northwards on Fifth Avenue to 110th Street. All grandstands are north of our official headquarters. Only those having been assigned "Richardson" badges will be admitted to view the parade from the Richardson store. All others, being late applicants, will have to secure grandstand seats through the required channels.

TIME OF PARADE—The Twenty-seventh Division headquarters announce that the parade will leave the Washington Arch at 10 a. m. sharp. That means that all will have to be in windows or grandstands by 8:30 a. m. In fact to avoid crowds and to obtain access to best seats visitors should go to their places EARLIER if possible. TAKE A BOX LUNCH ALONG. THAT IS CUSTOMARY. ESPECIALLY IN THE GRANDSTANDS.

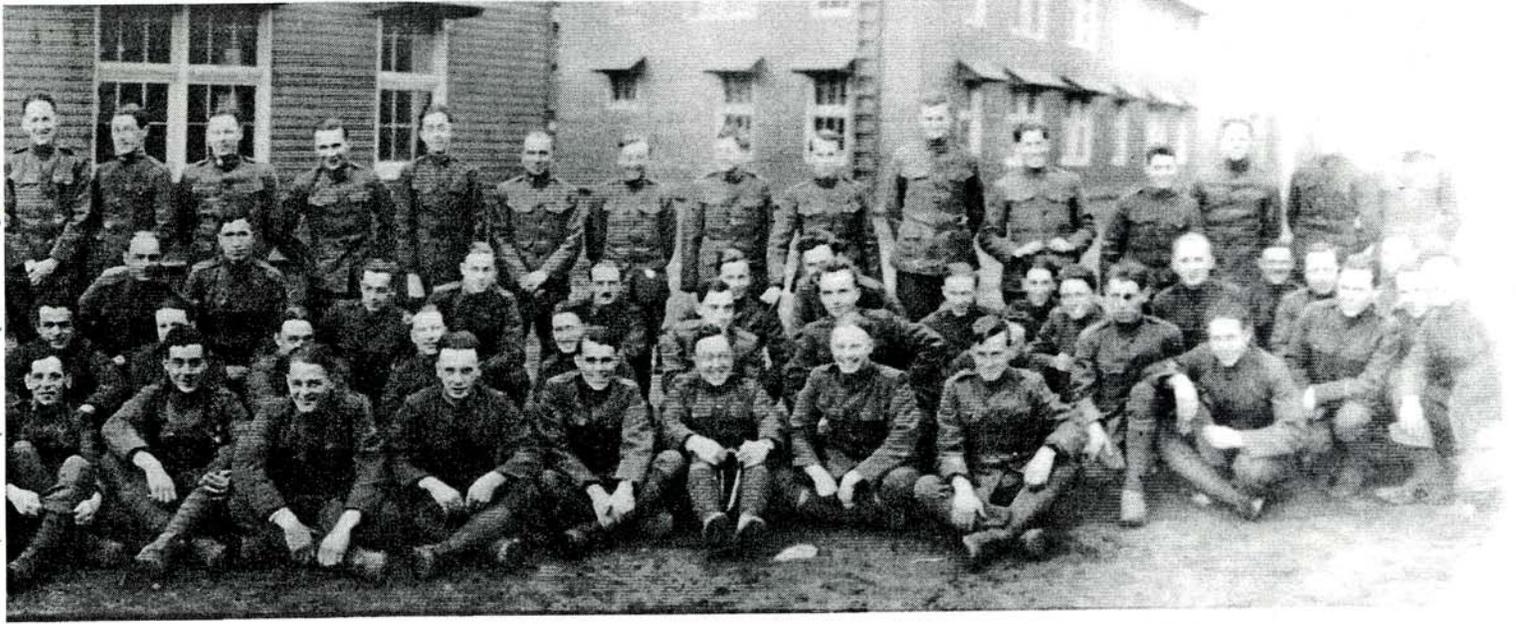
PLACE—The parade will be on Fifth Avenue for its entire length. Persons rooming EAST of Fifth Avenue will have easy access to the grandstands and Richardson's but persons rooming WEST of Fifth Avenue should cross to East of Fifth Avenue EARLY, because the crowds may close the crosstown streets, and thus make it difficult for ticket-holders to reach their places on the line of march.

LOCATION OF CAYUGA COUNTY MEN—For the period of the parade and festivities in New York City the men of the 108th Infantry, all units, will be quartered in the Eighth Coast Defense Army, located at Jerome Avenue and Kingsbridge Road, Bronx. To reach that place take Lexington Avenue Subway, Jerome Avenue train, and get off at Kingsbridge Road. Ask subway guard for further information.

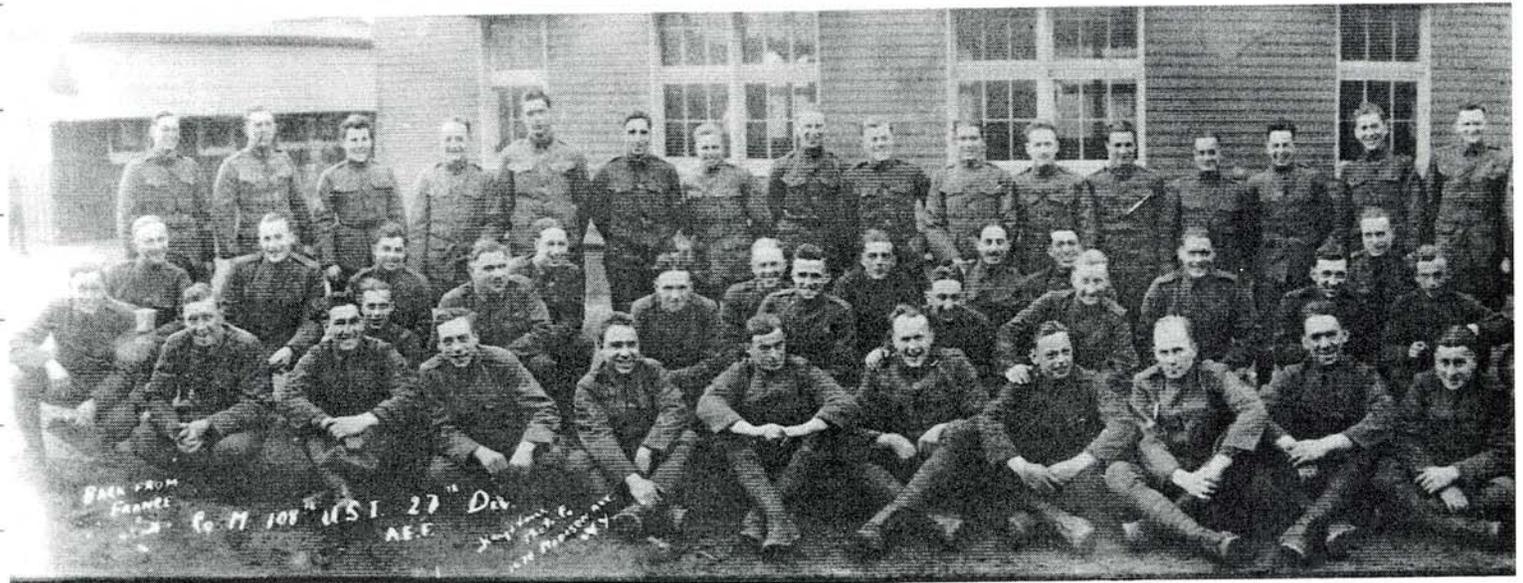
NOTE—The soldiers will all receive 12 hours' leave at some time during their stay in the city, and it would be well to find out if they are to come in town before going out to army.

The Cayuga County Reception Committee will inform the boys that we have headquarters at No. 733 Fifth Avenue and those who come to town may turn up there. It might be advisable to leave your city address at the Official Headquarters.

BOARDING PLACES—The ladies of the Cayuga County party will be quartered in the Young Women's Christian Association Hostess House, on East Fifty-second Street at Lexington Avenue. An overflow will be quartered at the Y. W. C. A. Hostess House, Forty-first Street and Lexington Avenue. Sleeping accommodations will be provided at 75 cents per night and meals may be obtained in the Hostess Houses at reasonable rates.



Back From France

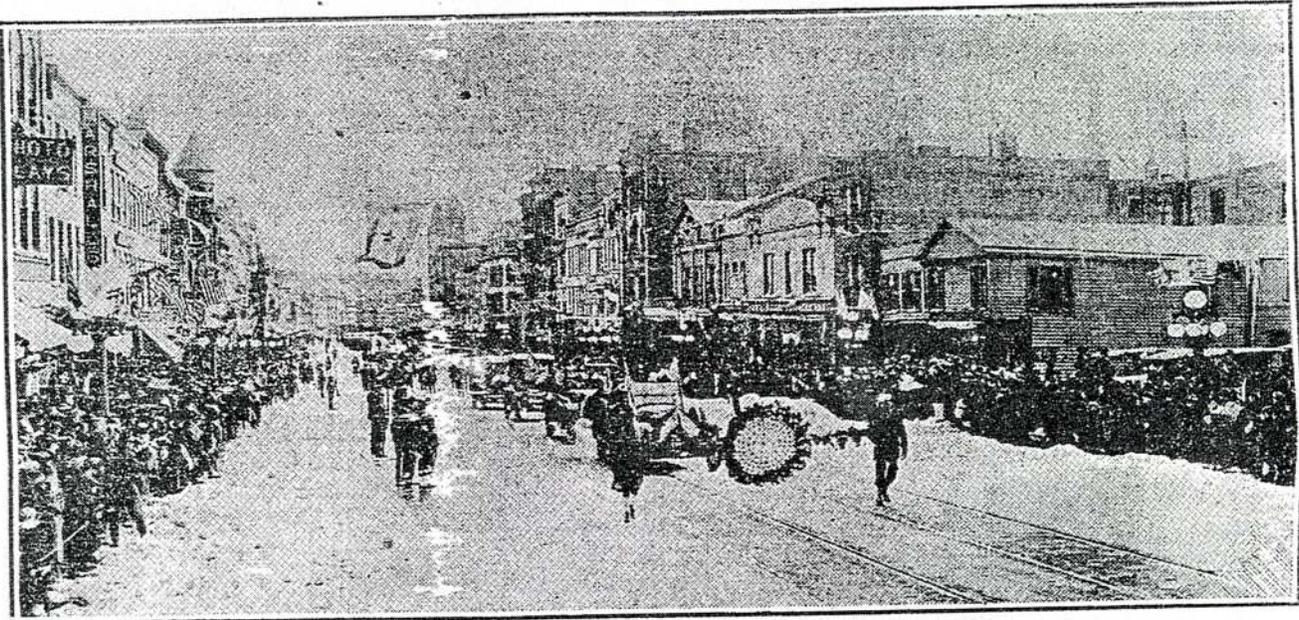


Company M, 108th Regiment, 27th Division

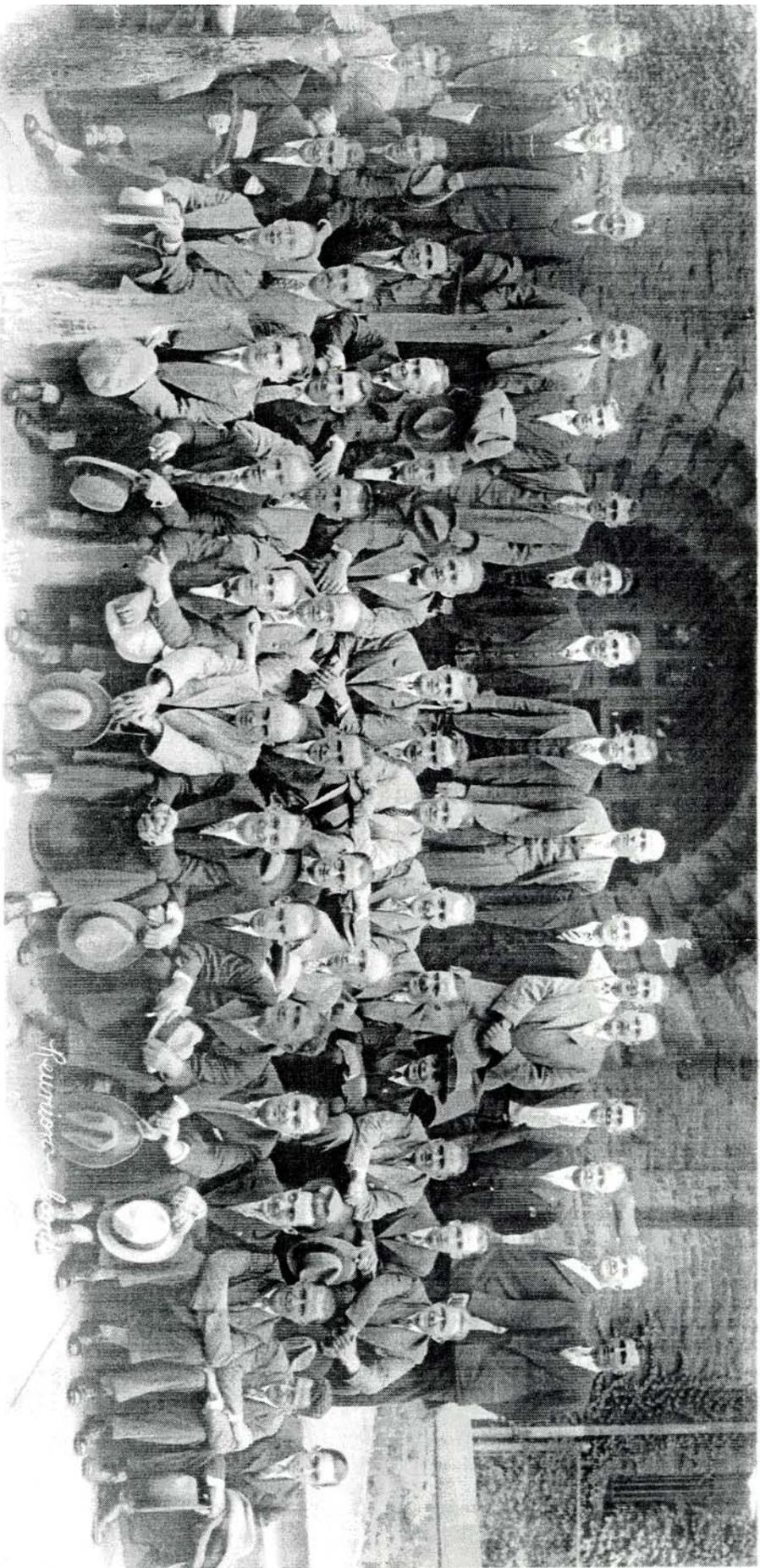
March, 1919 Camp Merrit, New York

(photo includes many replacements received after October, 1918)

SCENES IN PARADE HERE



Above is shown a view of Company M as it was nearing the Victory Arch on Genesee Street. Below is shown that section of the parade wherein mute tribute was paid to the men who "went West."



Company M Reunion
Buffalo N. Y.

September 29, 1928

Ten years after

The Battle of the Hindenburg Line

REUNION PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION

All counted from the left:

2nd Row, 6th Raymond E. Keefe, Sr.

2nd Row, 9th William Moses

3rd Row, 7th Raymond Donovan

3rd Row, 12th William Daley

4th Row, 9th Claude Spicer

4th Row, 10th Leroy Whitney (DSC)

4th Row, 12th Edward Vanderbosch

4th Row 13th, Nelson Morrow