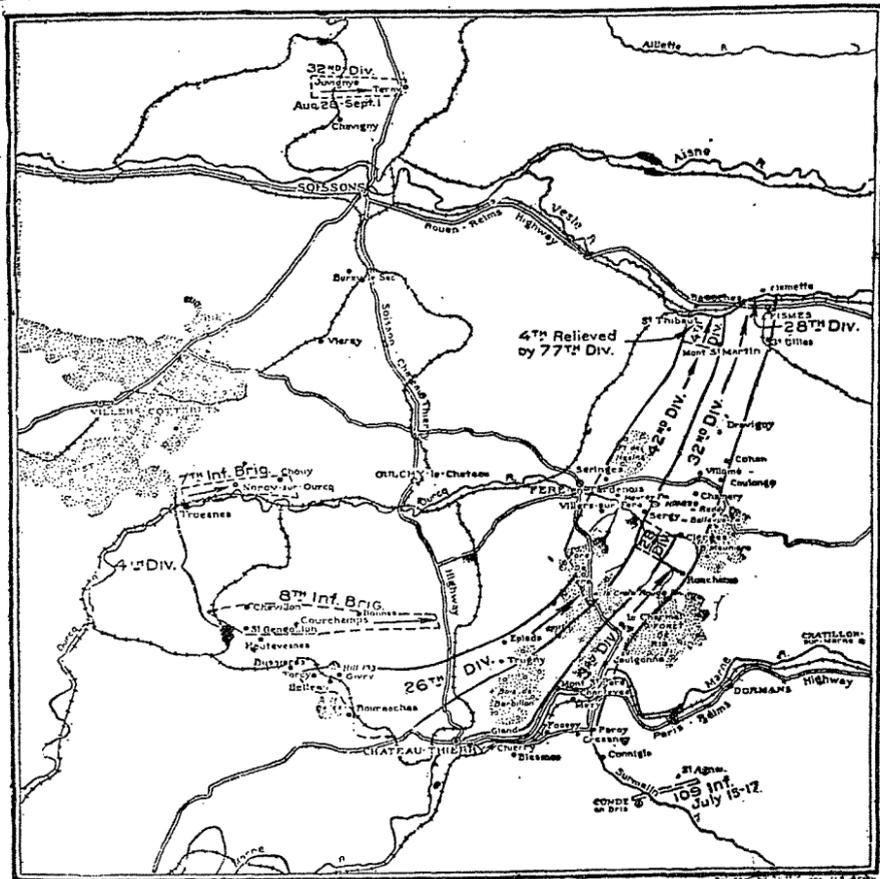


### 3rd MEETS SHOCK SOUTH OF MARNE



The paths of the American divisions which helped drive the Boche from the Marne to the Vesle

Continued from Page 1  
 between Jaulgonne and Chavigny. In the sector of the 125th French Division, crossings by boats of pontoon bridges were vigorously striven for by troops of the 3rd German Division on the right of the XXXVIII Division on the left.

**Company Gets Across**  
 At Ru Chally Farm about one company of the 38th German Infantry Regiment got over after the rest of it had been killed or scattered by the American artillery. This company took the farm but could not progress beyond Pessay, so turning east, worked its way along the valley in the direction of Mezy and was eventually all disposed of by elements of the 30th and 7th Infantry, Companies E and F of the latter, under Major Gaston, sticking persistently to the railroad grade toward Mezy despite the presence of these Germans in their rear.

Near Mezy and up the river above it in the Jaulgonne Bend, the enemy got two pontoon bridges laid, and a great number of troops poured across belonging to the XLVIII, the LXXXV and the VII and VIII Grenadier Regiments, of which the last two were in the 14th and 15th divisions, respectively, of the XXXVIII and the 13th division, respectively, of the 3rd German Army.

Some of these troops, after a bloody struggle, took Mezy from a platoon of the 20th Infantry, which fought to practical annihilation, but in moving forward were all either killed or captured by elements of the 30th Infantry of Major Walker's battalion.

**38th's Right Flank Exposed**  
 On the extreme right, however, the situation was for a time more serious than anywhere else. The 125th Division fell back from the Marne when the Germans came over, thus exposing the right flank of the 38th United States Infantry to attack from the Jaulgonne Bend and the high hills extending southward from it along the east side of the Surnelin valley.

The 38th was thus obliged to throw its right flank around facing northeast across the hill slope toward Vassennes, which the enemy had seized, while other elements of the regiment held to their position on the bank of the Marne and still others were echeloned in depth down the east side of the Surnelin valley covering the villages of Meudins, Paroy and Lannoy, a depth of nearly three kilometers.

In this position, surrounded on three sides, Major Rowe, commanding at the point of the wedge on the Marne, sent a message back to headquarters cheerfully reporting that he was holding the line and could do so indefinitely. The men in the ranks were of the same opinion. For example, Acting Sgt. Alexander Newell, Co. G, who, seeing a sergeant of his company lying out in front helpless from wounds, took the offensive through the German barrage with a squad of nine men, captured five machine guns and 33 prisoners, recovered the sergeant and returned to his platoon.

Spirits of this sort all along the American battle line were inevitable. The enemy in the Jaulgonne Bend, having seen his attack further west checked, smothered and finally hurled back in fragments across the Marne instead of sweeping southward, mopping up Pessay and Cazanay and proceeding definitely toward Montmirail, as it had confidently been expected to do, made but half-hearted attempts on July 16 to improve his positions against the 38th Infantry, and through the 17th, 18th and 19th the opposing forces lay quiet, except for artillery activity, grimly watching each other.

**General Advance Ordered**  
 The only territory which the enemy held south of the Marne was the narrow strip between the Surnelin and Châtillon, and on the 20th three French divisions made an attack along this whole front only to find that the Germans had retreated to the north side of the river during the previous night.

combat patrols moved up by Gland to Mont St. Pierre and Chartèves, sweeping the river valley of scattered machine guns and infantry and thus aiding the crossing of the 7th Infantry, which went over, partly by boats, at Ru Chally Farm and Mezy.

The 20th and 38th Infantry made their way across at the head of the Jaulgonne Bend and between there and Chartèves and by evening the lower ground north of the river was firmly held all along the divisional front. But the work was only commenced, for as they started northward next morning in the general direction of Le Charnel and Le Charnel Château, heavy opposition was encountered along the steep hill slopes and in the narrow creek valleys and tracts of dense timber running back to the uplands between the Marne and the Ourcq.

The advance battalions found it very difficult and sometimes impossible to keep touch with one another and with the flank units of the neighboring divisions, and at dark the line was an irregular and disjointed one, the front of the 7th Infantry, on the left, being in the Bois de Mont l'Évêque and across the creek valley east of La Tellerie Farm, the 4th Infantry across the hill crest southeast of Les Franquets Farm, and the 38th and 30th Infantry extending eastward from there into the Forêt de Ris. But none the less, the line averaged about a kilometer beyond where it had been 24 hours earlier.

**In Broken, Obscure Country**  
 The 23rd and 24th of the month saw a continuation of the incessant fighting and maneuvering between infantry and machine gun detachments in the broken, obscure country, while the artillery of the opposing sides, a little further back, mutually pounded one another's support and rear zones with high explosives and gas. But the Americans steadily fought and filtered their way northward toward Le Charnel, on the road to Plessen-Tardenois, and northeastward toward Bouvaires, and by evening of the 24th the Marne bridgehead had been enlarged to include the territory to the outskirts of Le Charnel and the farms of La Theoderie, La Tellerie and Les Franquets.

Major Whitten's 3d Battalion of the 4th Infantry, on the hill crest to the west, forced its way through, entered the village by noon and had completely occupied it at dark, against fierce machine gun opposition in the town and the park of Le Charnel Château, just to the east of it.

About a kilometer northwest of Le Charnel is the southern edge of the Vente Jean Guillaume, an outstanding spur of the large Forêt de Fère. Battalions of the 4th and 7th Infantry were ordered to take this, in co-operation with French battalions, at 4:50 o'clock on the afternoon of the 26th, following an artillery preparation of two hours. But the enemy put down a heavy counter-barrage which inflicted heavy losses on the Americans, the attack from the flank did not develop and the effort was a failure.

It was resumed, but further to the east, the next afternoon, after the cleared ground had been cleared of the enemy, and the front progressed toward Ronchères through La Fosse Farm to Villardelle Farm, where the left flank reached out and seized the crest of Hill 190, overlooking Ronchères, on the other side of the valley of the Ourcq near the very head of that river.

**Attempt to Stand on Ourcq**  
 The backbone of the watershed between the Marne and the Ourcq was now crossed. Further down, the enemy was making a determined effort to hold the line of the Ourcq at Sergy, Fère-en-Tardenois and points further west, but the flank of his line was already partly turned when, continuing its advance, the 3rd Division crossed the river and took Ronchères the following morning, July 28, and then, swinging more to the left, moved against Clerges, three kilometers north of Ronchères on an affluent of the Ourcq.

Orders for strict enforcement of the rules protecting private property are embodied in G.O. 242, G.H.Q., which points out that now that the partly destroyed villages are welcoming back, as best they may, the inhabitants who have been forced to leave them during the war, "every stick and stone" that remains must be left untouched by American soldiers.

"During the period of active operations," the order states, "it was not always possible in ruined villages to regard property rights as sacred. With the cessation of hostilities the situation has entirely changed. The inhabitants who were driven from their homes for four years are returning. No matter how nearly complete the destruction of property may have been, every stick and stone remaining has a real as well as a sentimental value, which must be respected."

Commanding officers will be held accountable for infractions of discipline in this regard.

#### SERVICE RECORDS SOUGHT

Two things are necessary to get a soldier on board a ship, as the A.E.F. knows, and one is a gangplank and the other is a service record. Sometimes it is possible to get around one or the other, but not often. In order to assure the presence of the latter institution at the port of embarkation, it has been decided in G.O. 242 that a search be made of all company files for records that may belong to former members, since lost, strayed or stolen.

All such records that may be discovered but cannot be immediately forwarded to the point where the recordless soldier is at present are to be sent to the Central Records Office. Company and detachment commanders are ordered to send to that office a list of all soldiers serving with their commands who have no records.

#### FOR HOME-TOWN PAPERS

American soldiers on leave at Grenoble are being asked to write descriptions of their sight seeing in the lower Alps. A leave center official, formerly a writer, offers to edit all the stories and put them in best form for publication in their home town papers.

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"Every Stick and Stone Must Be Respected," Declares G.O.

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### REAL A.E.F. LADIES IN MUSICAL PLAY

"Battle of Bourges," With 60 Waacs in Ranks, to Tour Army

Ten of the 600 Waacs stationed at Bourges, supported by perhaps a half hundred sister privates and non-coms, have produced, with the assistance of some soldier actors, a musical play entitled "The Battle of Bourges," which is unique in that it is the first production of its kind in the A.E.F. featuring real English speaking, pretty young women.

For some months now, five hundred Waacs have been helping 3,000 soldiers stationed at the Central Records Office to finish incomplete service records, rectify false casualty returns and red-rect unclaimed mail matter, along with many other things that are essential to keep A.E.F. machinery running smoothly.

#### DOGS SMUGGLED IN PLANES

Dogs, large and air broken, small and more or less compact, have been leaving France in airplanes or neatly rolled between pins, tent, five and socks winter, one pair, in the doughboy's roll, have been arriving without passports and spreading rabies instead of joy in otherwise Merry England.

Why the members of the A.E.F. even those with smuggling tendencies, should pick out, for bosom or blanket-roll companions, mad dogs, it is difficult to say. However, G.H.Q., in Bulletin 106, officially warns the A.E.F. "that the attention of all concerned is called to the British law requiring the quarantine of all dogs entering the United Kingdom."

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