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THIRTIETH BROKE

HINDENBURG LINE

War Department Issues Official Bulletin.

GIVES HAIG'S DISPATCH

Says Twenty-Seventh Encountered Difficulties but That Groups Aided Australians.

The following official statement has been issued by the war department news bureau at Washington:

"The war department authorizes the following from the office of the chief of staff:

"On account of erroneous reports as to the activities of the Second American Corps against the Hindenburg Line, September 27 to October 1, 1918, the following resume is released:

"Operations of the Second American Corps against the Hindenburg Line, September 27, October 1, 1918.

"In September, 1918, the Second American Corps, Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth divisions, was placed at the disposal of the Fourth British Army for operations against the Hindenburg line east of Peronne.

"On the night of September 23-24 the Thirtieth division took over what was known as the Nauroy sector, with a front of 3,750 yards, about 1,000 yards west of the main Hindenburg Line and approximately on the old Hindenburg outpost line. On the next night the Twenty-seventh division took over the Gouy sector, on the left of the Thirtieth division and connecting with it, its front was 4,500 yards, approximately along the old British front line trenches, very close to the Hindenburg outpost line.

"On September 27, a preliminary operation was undertaken, to straighten the line of the Thirtieth division and to bring the Twenty-seventh up to the start line for the main attack. The Thirtieth division succeeded but by the afternoon of September 28 the Twenty-seventh division was back in its original position.

At 5:50 a. m., September 29 the corps attacked, supported by the Australian Corps. The Second British Corps attacked simultaneously on its right and the Third British Corps on its left. The attack was to be led by tanks, behind a rolling barrage. The start line was slightly to the east of the Hindenburg outpost line, and the objective east of Nauroy and Guoy. The plan provided that after the

American had reached their objectives, the Australians were to pass through them and continue in the advance.

"The Thirtieth was already on the start line, close behind the initial line of the barrage. The Twenty-seventh, however, had not yet been able to take the three strong points, The Knoll, Guillemont Farm and Quennemont Farm, and was consequently about 1,000 yards behind the barrage line, which was east of them. The question of changing the barrage lines for this division was raised, but decided in the negative, the brigade designated to make the attack having reported at 6 p. m. on the 28th that it expected to be within 400 yards of the barrage lines or possibly even on the intended starting line before the hour for attack.

"The barrage fell as planned at 5:50 a. m. September 29, stood for four minutes on the initial line and then advanced at the rate of 100 yards in four minutes. The Thirtieth division advanced behind it, Sixtieth brigade in first line. The One Hundred and Seventeenth infantry was to follow across the tunnel, then deploy facing south and cover the right of the Australians after the relief. Arrangements were made to seize the southern exit of the tunnel, which lay in the division sector.

"The German barrage was not heavy, but nevertheless there were many casualties, especially in the support battalions. Smoke and fog rendered it difficult to keep direction and contact. The One Hundred and Twentieth infantry, on the right, crossed the Hindenburg Line and occupied Nauroy; the One Hundred and Seventeenth reached its proper position, facing southeast and connecting the One Hundred and Twentieth with the Forty-sixth British division. The One Hundred and Nineteenth however on the left, was enfiladed by machine guns from its own left, and had to form a defensive flank in that direction, reaching back to the tunnel and then connecting with the Twenty-seventh division. A battalion of the One Hundred and Seventeenth and one of the One Hundred and Eighteenth were sent to support this flank. In this position the Australians passed through the lines and relieved the Thirtieth division on the afternoon of September 29.

"In the Twenty-seventh division the Fifty-fourth infantry brigade made the attack under the same difficulties on account of fog and smoke. It also received machine gun fire in the en-

filade from the direction of Vendhuic outside its sector to the left. Part of the right regiment, the One Hundred and Eighth, by a detour to the south, avoided Quennemont Farm and reached the Hindenburg Line south of Bony. Groups from all attacking battalions succeeded in penetrating between the strong points and reaching the Hindenburg Line, but by dusk only the extreme right retained its footing in that line. Here the division was relieved by the Australians and remained in support; numerous groups, however, aggregating over 1,000 men, remained with the Australians and assisted them in cleaning up the Hindenburg Line on the right taking it throughout the rest of the sector, and occupying part of the village of Bony.

"The following is a quotation from the dispatch of Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, dated January 7, 1919; North of Bellenglise, the Thirtieth American division (Maj. Gen. E. M. Lewis) having broken through the deep defenses of the Hindenburg line stormed Bellcourt and seized Nauroy."

"On their left the Twenty-seventh division (Maj. Gen. J. F. O'Ryan) met with very heavy enfilade machine gun fire, but pressed on with great gallantry as far as Bony, where a bitter struggle took place for the possession of the village."

CONFEDERATE VETERANS INDORSE MEMORIAL

Columbia, Nov. 10.—The United Confederate Veterans of Camp Hampton, Number 389, have adopted the following resolution indorsing and approving the Memorial to be erected by the State of South Carolina to the white soldiers and sailors who gave their lives for humanity in the late World War:

"Resolved, That Camp Hampton, United Confederate Veterans, indorse and approve the memorial to be erected by the State of South Carolina and the citizens of the State to the memory of the soldiers and sailors who gave their lives as a sacrifice to the cause of humanity and personal liberty; to the cause of right and freedom, in the late World War, and pledge the hearty support of the Confederate veterans to that worthy purpose."

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