

## **Appendix A**

*[This historical document covering the World War I service of the 342 Field Artillery, the unit in which Lt. C.J. Hansen served, was obtained by Janet Hansen Robson in 2001, when she worked at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The Xeroxed copy of the 1919 document obtained by Janet was scanned into the computer by Gary B. Hansen in April 2003.*

*It should be noted that after completing his training at the Saumur Artillery School at the end of July 1917, Lt. Hansen joined up with the 342 FA unit (Battery C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn) at Camp de Souge near Bordeaux, Franc, on August 5, 1917. ]*

### **Regimental History 342nd Field Artillery, 89th Division. World War I Submitted March 9, 1919**

#### **Contents Narrative of Events**

The 342nd Field Artillery was organized on September 5th, 1917, at Camp Funston Kansas, under the command of Colonel George A. Nugent, U.S.N.A. The regiment was recruited from the first draft of men from Green, Polk, Dallas, Stone, Bollinger, and Laclede counties of southeastern Missouri, men for the most part from farms and rural communities. Although officered by newly commissioned graduates of the first Officers Training Camp at Fort Riley, there were a number of officers in the regiment who had seen long service in the regular army, including Colonel Nugent, Lt.Col. Henry B. Clark and Major Malcom P. Andruss, in command of the first battalion.

During the first weeks the entire work of organizing the six batteries and two companies fell upon the shoulders of Colonel Nugent, who was also in command of the Brigade in the absence of the Commanding General. Owing to the lack of non—commissioned officers, the detailed labor of paper work, supply, and drill fell to the lot of the commissioned officers, who early discovered that there were many things about morning reports, memorandum receipts, and mess statements that were not taught at Ft. Riley. Due to the carefully arranged system of distribution and efficient provisions for clothing and feeding the men, the first 5 per cent of the draft was inducted into the service without severe hardship. That the task was performed without confusion, was due largely to the patience, willingness, and adaptability of the first trainloads of drafted men. The first non-commissioned officers, clerks, cooks, and supply sergeants of the new army were furnished by that contingent of the draft, and greatly facilitated the reception of the subsequent 40 per cent.

By the end of September, the short space of three weeks, the regiment had enrolled 145~ men, very nearly filling its quota. Meanwhile building construction of the camp was keeping pace with the increase in troops, and before the end of the month the regiment had moved into a second set of temporary quarters in the 16th Unit, where most of the fourteen hundred men were received, registered, bathed, clothed and examined. Just how the cold showers, the ill-fitting uniforms, and the strange routine of roll calls, foot drill, mess, and more foot drill impressed the

men) is a matter for future reminiscences. Certainly there was novelty in the rapidly changing surroundings, with soldiers drilling among lumber scrap piles, along the dusty streets of the completed cantonments, or again on the scarcely trodden prairie grass of the flats. When company and battery organization had begun to take shape, inoculations completed, end guard duty established, the regiment moved across what was later the "Zone", into its final quarters in Units 22 and 25. Here training had so far progressed that the first efforts, after bull doing walks and clearing the ground, were directed to making wooden rifles for simulation of the manual of arms, for as yet there had been no rifles received and even the guard carried only wooden clubs. One of the most important parts of the training at first consisted in conditioning the men. Under Lt. Charles A. Raymo, a special instructor in calisthenics, the men gained daily in alertness and in physical bearing. Systematic athletic programs were also carried out on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, including, football, obstacle racing, sack-rushes and the usual field events. Much of the actual instruction consisted in introducing the men to the customs and habits of the service, and in constant attention to the details of sanitation and health. A non-commissioned officer's school was conducted at this time to give the marked leaders among the men a superiority in drill.

The problem of equipment was a difficult one. The regiment was organized as a dismounted motorized heavy artillery outfit, 6-inch or 155 mm. Howitzer; so that while training in the school of the driver was not contemplated, no motor equipment was available. As a makeshift, some old Spanish War relics were hauled down from the Artillery Parade at Ft. Riley and served to simulate the pieces for preliminary drill of the gun squads. Since we had the distinction of being heavy artillery, we used the Drill and Service Regulations for the 6-inch Howitzer, a publication rarely followed before or since in the service of the piece. Some theoretical training for specialist details and for non-commissioned officers was attempted at this time. It was not until late in November that some model 1898 rifles were issued and following that, target practice conducted on the range just west of Riley. While ordnance equipment was certainly scarce, the service of supply was on the other hand efficient in respect to food and clothing. The men were well fed and comfortable.

Altho these first months were without startling events, some startling changes were brought about by the novel monotony of the routine itself, chiefly in the appearance of the men. Much progress had been made.

With the winter weather of December, the schedule was changed only by an increase in indoor instruction. The routine was broken by occasional ceremonies and reviews, and outdoor work was varied by road-marches, and trench digging at the Divisional trench system on Carpenter Hill. The December record was marred by considerable sickness through out the Division, and the regiment lost fourteen men by death, largely from pneumonia. This began a series of quarantines that were occasionally imposed upon the regiment, for mumps, measles, and meningitis. In connection with the latter epidemic it is worthy of note that the 342nd was the first unit in the new army that offered itself for experimental inoculation an anti-meningitis vaccine. About 1000 men were inoculated by Army medical officers formerly associated with the Rockefeller Medical Institute, the experiment leading to the treatment of 5000 men in the Division and establishing the efficacy of the vaccine for at least temporary immunization.

The holiday season was duly celebrated. Thanksgiving spoke well for the progress of the cooks and mess-sergeants, and those that could not go on furlough certainly could not have feasted much better. On the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day the regiment marched in a body to an inter-divisional football game. Christmas was marked by similar feats and more athletic events. In the morning the Division had an outdoor meet and field day, the Regiment had a Christmas tree and band concert and the batteries looked after the other festivities and the gifts.

The next few months passed more slowly for this regiment of motorless, gunless; motorized artillery. The only equipment received consisted of U.S. Model 1917 rifles, and all artillery training was necessarily theoretical.

In so technical a branch as artillery it is fitting to lay some emphasis upon the training of the officers. The elementary and decidedly general training of the first training camp, had left a great deal to be learned, especially in the conduct of Position Warfare. In the early part of December a Brigade School of Fire was started under the Directorship of Lt. Col. Stephen H. Mould, successor to Col. Clark. With a corps of translators the school was energetically pushed by Capt. Francois Munro of the French Mission. Special indoor terrains were built and classes held daily. The translated French books and pamphlets were mimeographed, distributed, and explained by daily lectures of the school staff. Later, outdoor exercises were attempted. The value of this instruction was fully appreciated later on in the stress of training in the A.E.F. Other training for officers was had at Divisional specialist schools, - liaison, gas defense, intelligence, machine gunnery and the like. Beginning in November, two officers a month attended Fort. Sill School of Fire for a three months course. Several officers were also sent to Ordinance Schools for motor and tractor instruction. The records of our officers in those schools was creditable throughout.

Changes in the personnel occurred in the latter part of December, when an increase of 60 officers from the second training camp reported for duty. With eleven promotions the regiment was largely over-officered. Among the officers who joined at this time were, Capt. Uhl, Capt. Floete, Capt.. Hopkins. Lieutenants, Johnson, Putnam, Raymond, Brennan, and Miller.

The Training began more intensively in April when service practice took place on the target range, first with the three inch guns and later with the 4.7 Howitzers. To prepare the men for the contemplated motorization of the regiment, 30 men a week were sent to the Manhattan Agricultural College for a short course in motors and tractors. The regiment was also assigned four trucks for practice work. By the end of the training period, some confidence was felt that with one officer and a number of men trained for each battery, the regiment could handle motor equipment.

To represent Camp Funston as a mere training ground, and the regiment as six batteries and two companies would be to omit a real description of the life there. Passes were liberally distributed, and the men were given much liberty in visiting nearby towns. The "Y" and later the "Zone" served to furnish recreation. The spring season found the regiment well stocked with some of the best baseball players in the country, and the Divisional Team itself used eight of our players. The baseball enthusiast of the Regiment was Major Malcolm P Andruss, who scoured the country and pulled all strings to get such names on the regimental lineup as Alexander, Mitchell, Noyes, Lambeth, Novak, Ward, Wetzel and others, and with college players among the

officers such as Lindsey of Kansas, Clark of Illinois and Lewis of Washington, the team went through its career unbeaten.

Altho the athletic prowess of the Regiment was largely instrumental in cementing it into a unit, the secret of an unusual "esprit de corps" lay in the leadership of Col. Nugent. Tho the discipline was strictly maintained there was not a man in the regiment who fostered a grudge against him for injustice or severity, There was not an officer who did not think that in ability, Col. Nugent was fitted to be Chief of Artillery. It was the Colonel's insight into the process of transition from civil to military life that won him loyalty. Untiring in devotion to detail, and exacting as he was of the best efforts of everyone, Col. Nugent's wise answer to criticism of the officers and men was always, "Give them time." The solidarity of the regiment under analysis was largely a loyalty to its leader. Its points of excellence were merely a reflection of his policy.

When the regiment left Camp Funston on June 3rd 1918, it was considerably below strength, having contributed an average of 100 men a month to replacement detachments during the previous five months. The regiment traveled East in three sections, made up of tourist cars, with kitchen and baggage cars. Arriving at Hoboken N.J. the morning on June 6th, the entire day was consumed in ferrying across to Long Island and it was late in the evening when the batteries arrived at Camp Mills and filed into their company streets in the tent embarkation camp. Here the time was largely spent in preparation of records, in equipping the men, and in training about 300 new recruits, mostly from eastern states. Passes to Hew York were plentiful and among other outings a memorable hike was taken from the camp to Long Beach; for a "Regimental swim".

Under conditions of considerable secrecy the regiment prepared to leave during the night of June 26th, and at dawn June 27th, entrained in good order for Long Island Ferry and ferried to the White Star Docks. Here we embarked on a giant ship labeled H.M.T. F-8261, which we were instructed was a British Transport, called the "Juaticia" a ship of 36,000 tons displacement.

The "Justicia" started down the harbor on the morning of June 28th, and joined the convoy of camouflaged vessels in the lower bay, under the escort of the cruiser Huntington, the auxiliary cruiser Virginia, a number of small "chasers" and a dirigible balloon. At the time, submarines had been reported on the Atlantic coast and the first night was not without qualms. The following day the guards and life boat drills were organized and became a part of the daily routine. General Donnelly was in command of the ship, and the 342nd being the only complete unit on board, furnished all the interior and exterior guard and the bulkhead and lookout guard. There were also on board two replacement detachments, considerably under-officered, and two or three advanced detachments from other divisions.

The atmosphere of mystery surrounding our course, occasional sudden change of direction, active rumors and the strict regulations of lights at nights, made the trip somewhat adventurous. Due to one or two slow vessels, the convoy progressed slowly, and as the men became accustomed to the routine, drills on the deck were instituted with calisthenics and running. Events that broke the monotony was a celebration of July 4<sup>th</sup> that included an address in the morning by General Charles G. Treat (on the way to Italy) and a number of boxing bouts in the afternoon. Every evening the band of our regiment gave a concert on the decks and it was

always with regret that the “lights out” order and “clear the decks” followed each other so rapidly. It was anything but pleasant in crowded hammocks of the hold – sections, where the men were quartered.

One evening, that of July 8th, we sighted a small black shape in the distance the first of a new escort of British destroyers. Then slowly the semaphore and projectors began to signal and finally our convoy of twelve ships was increased by eight destroyers. The Huntington left us here to return to the States.

On the morning of July 9th we rose to find land in sight — a mysterious land of high cliffs and rocks. From “some one that knows” we learned that it was Scotland, and later Ireland and the Isle of Man were pointed out. And some one else that knew told us of the reputation of the localities for lurking submarines. During the morning one of the destroyers furnished some excitement by blowing some mines that were picked up. In the meanwhile, the serious, serious concern of the powers on the bridge was beginning to give way to a solid look of satisfaction.

Someone blundered on the morning of the 10th. We were all awakened at 4:30 for a pre-arranged disembarkation only to see the sun rise over the towers of Liverpool as we swayed on the ebbing tide in the Mersey. It was not until 6:00 o’clock that night that the great ship was finally docked in the tide locks, and each with a small travel ration, the men filed off into the streets of Liverpool.

Disembarking at about 5:00 o’clock the regiment marched through Liverpool to the debarkation camp at Knotty Ash, a tent—camp apparently built in a private estate or park. Altho the full packs and forced inactivity of the voyage made this 5 mile hike something of a trial, the scenes of war-time Liverpool furnished diversions. Altho the disposition of the people was friendly and generous, one dirty faced little rascal seemed to sum up the general feeling when, leaving the column in disappointment, he remarked “Aw, they’re only goings.” And the real heroes of the city were very evidently those who “Come Back” the blue-clad convalescents that watched from crutches along the way and waved from the hospital windows.

After a comfortable night at Knotty Ash there was another hike and we entrained for Winchester. Arriving late in the evening we again marched five miles through picturesque Winchester to Winnell Downs Camp. We took quarters in a half completed portion of the camp with inadequate messing facilities. Altho the spirit of the men was excellent under the circumstances, there was a distinct impression of pinched conditions in England, and comments were heard comparing the generous American ration with the bread and cheese allowed by the British.

The morning of July 12th found us again on the march to entrain for Southampton. A short wait at the docks gave us opportunity to look over a park of artillery materiel, captured or condemned, and to take a good look at the ships, most of which bore heavy scars of submarine encounters or displayed gaping holes where torpedoes had torn through. The light channel steamers — side wheelers — rapidly cleared port and entered upon the channel. It became apparent very early that it would be necessary for the decks to be cleared on account of the weather, and what had been discomfort before became acute distress. It was a bad night.

When the regiment lined up finally on the docks at Le Harve, it was a very tired organization. Marching through Le Haive, then the seat of the Belgian Government, we arrived about noon of the 13th at U.S. rest Camp No.2. Though crowded here in small tents, we got a good rest of a full twenty four hours.

Bastille Day found the 342nd F.A., A.E.F., marching in pouring rain through the streets of Le Harve to entrain for parts unknown. We soon learned from our interpreters, who joined us here, that our station was to be somewhere near Bordeaux. The train was a typical troop train with the "40 Hommes, 8 Cheveaux" legend on the box cars, and the regiment again appreciated the luxury of American travel. With occasional stops for coffee and water we crept slowly south through western France to Bordeaux, and on July 16th, detrained at St. Medard, Gironde, and hiked some eight kilometers to the town. of Le Taillan, where we were billeted with the French inhabitant for three weeks, under tie administration of Camp de Souge. Here we received a battery of the guns we were finally to use,—1915 model Schneider 155 mm howitzer, and both officers and men settled down to master the drill and service of the piece. About a week after we arrived we learned definitely, and for the first time, that we were to be a horse-drawn regiment, and details were sent to receive our first consignment of horses at Camp de Souge. Altho we had always been skeptical of ever receiving any tractors and motors, this was something of a surprise, for all our training had been for motor tractors. However, thanks to the farmers of the regiment, there were plenty of men who were at home with horses and mules. As one man from old Missouri expressed it, "I ain't done nothing all my life, only drive mules."

Of all the regiment's experiences in France the stay at Taillan was perhaps the most pleasant. Since we were the first American troops to be billeted in this town, the inhabitants took the opportunity to give us a hearty welcome. On the afternoon of Sunday the 21st of July, the Mayor of the Commune extended a formal invitation to General Donnelly and to all the officers of the regiment to attend a punch at which the Mayor presided and at which mutual expressions of good will were exchanged. Refreshments consisted of cakes, light wine, and champagne served to the guests and functionaries on the tables set under the trees. The soldiers und populace fraternized on the sidelines and listened with interest to the speeches. The regiment later returned the courtesy by a similar farewell party.

On August 3rd the regiment left Le Taillan for the barracks at Camp de Souge and commenced the six weeks' strenuous course at the School of Fire. The crowded curriculum of this six weeks included the final and basic training for the front. Telephone, radio, machine gun, and reconnaissance officers and details took practical courses and drivers and cannoneers had their first actual experience in handling a battery. After two weeks, firing was begun on the range, applying the theoretical work under the school instructors. Such excellent progress was made by the Brigade during this training that we completed the final, big problem a week in advance and received official commendation from the Director of the School. Whether it was this record or larger considerations that put us on the "priority list", we were soon cautioned to prepare to move, and equipment was rapidly received, guns, horses, and materiel being taken over from another Brigade, then attending the school. Time was barely allowed for fitting harness and for some practice in reconnaissance and occupation of position, when entraining orders were received.

While at de Souge, Colonel Nugent was promoted to Brigadier General with orders to proceed back to the states. From that time Colonel Earl Biscoe took charge of the regiment and was in command throughout our entire operations.

On very short notice the Regiment moved out. The schedule called for eight train sections to leave at six hour intervals from the long loading ramp at Bonneau Station near the Camp. Altho loading materiel, horses and mules was distinctly a new problem, the difficulties of it did not prevent the trains from pulling out on time. Due to plentiful room and the use of rolling kitchens for hot food, the trip was more comfortable than that from Le Harve. In spite of the fact that no stops were made to exercise the horses, very few animals were lost on the three day trip.

The first section (Headquarters) arrived at Toul about noon of Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and immediately took the road for a forced march through Lucey, Menil-La-Tour, Bernecourt, Flirey and Essey to Pannes, where regimental headquarters was established. Following in rapid succession and under the same orders, unloading and departure of the batteries took place. When the first battalion arrived that evening its orders were to be in position at a point thirty kilometers distant and ready to fire, the following night. Altho compliance meant the loss of a number of exhausted animals, the battalion took the road, arrived at the Bois de Mort Mare in time for a few hours rest, and went into position that night, in a position just south of Deney. Detraining at dawn on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> the second battalion also immediately took the road and camped below Flirey for the night of the 19<sup>th</sup>, taking up position on the 20<sup>th</sup>, slightly south of the first battalion, in the same ravine.

The third battalion took a position on the right near Bouillonville on the night of Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. In all battalions the batteries were close together. On the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> after being in position only a few hours Battery "A" opened fire for adjustment on Dampvitoux. The other batteries were allowed more time for digging gun pits, arranging camouflage, and getting up ammunition, but all went into action shortly after arrival. It appeared that the reason for the haste was the scarcity of artillery in the sector following the drive, and it was more the assurance of artillery support than the necessity for action, that required the haste. The regiment was in support of our own division on the line organized following St. Mihiel drive on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Due to separated positions and tactical employment the battalions now became separate units, knowing nothing of each others activity. By an order from the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the first battalion was assigned as corps artillery for counter battery and corps reprisal work, and remained a part of the regiment only for the purpose of supply. The remaining batteries continued under divisional command of 89<sup>th</sup> Division which was then part of the IV Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Army, and held a sector with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division on the left and 78<sup>th</sup> Division on the right. The disposition of the Regiment was then as follows: The two batteries of the first battalion formed a "nest" at the very head of the Ravine just East of the Pannes-Benney Road, known as the Le Fond de Marmez (9810) with an observation post just north of Beney and command post at the battery positions. The second battalion was just south of the first along the same ravine "C" Battery at 0060 "D" Battery at 9899, Command post at "D" battery position and observation post at B-1513. The third battalion had batteries close together on the hill just east of Bouillonville, with P.C. in the town and observation post at 1518-B.

The echelons had constituted a problem from the very start. Under orders from higher authority the echelon was first established in the open valley of the Madine near Pannes, a convenient but dangerous location, as events proved. Whether the boche had observed the exposed picket-lines from his planes, or whether he was merely picking a likely location for a target is unknown, but on the evening of Sept. 21st a number of "150"s fell among the lines. Besides four men of "D" Battery killed outright by Huns shells, eight men were wounded and two died in hospital. Fourteen horses were lost. The following day the entire echelon was moved to a woods north of Nonsard, and finally on the 25th to the Bois de Mort Mare among the trenches of the old salient, where lack of shelter and mud meant hard labor for the men, and made life a burden for the officers in charge. The task of furnishing a rock footing for the horses, of building stables, and huts for the men, and kitchens to cook food for those at the battery was no inconsiderable labor. Originally in poor shape, and pulled down by the railroad trip, some of the animals never recovered from the pull from Toul, and were lost. When it later became necessary to evacuate considerable number with thrush and mange, the regiment was in part immobilized for lack of transportation, and it became a problem to keep the horses in shape for the daily work of hauling rations and ammunition.

The adjustment of supplies and rations was soon worked out satisfactorily. Altho regulations prevented the use of kitchens near the battery positions, hot food was brought up, which after the first week, improved rapidly in quantity. Rations and supplies were drawn at Bouillonville and distributed at the echelons.

Ammunition supply was simplified for the 1st and 2nd battalions, by the use of a narrow gauge railroad up the Fond de Marnes, and the third battalion was so close to the road that direct truck deliveries could be made. Later dispositions of the batteries made it necessary to use horses to haul from the forward dump to the guns, in some cases. It is notable that the heavy and impracticable caissons were never used for this purpose.

Once established on the front in this "quiet sector," the regiment began to settle down to the routine of firing at night and working during the day, sleeping between times. Tho our areas were shelled periodically, the first impression of an artilleryman's life at the front was less danger and more plain hard labor. Carrying 100-lb. shells up to the guns, washing and greasing them, and fuzing and firing at night left little time to worry about anything but food and sleep. The German dugouts we adopted and improved, and after a shell or two landed in our neighborhood, we also began to develop some very fair excavations.

During the first few days there was considerable harassing fire by the enemy and a number of successful raids by our troops. Altho our batteries did some adjusting and were called upon in the evenings, as a rule, for reprisal fire on Hageville, St Julien, and Chambley, the first protracted firing was called for on the evening of Sept. 26th the date of the drive along the whole front from Verdun to Flanders. For the regiment, this was the first experience of waiting at the lanyards for the H-hour, and the first experience of the flash and roar as a general bombardment broke loose. Altho only a small raid was attempted that night on the right of our sector, the firing lasted from midnight till after dawn, expending about 300 rounds per battery. Whether the rumors of a possible advance in the sector had any foundation remains undisclosed, but considering the decoding, the synchronizing, and transmittal of confidential orders to the



batteries, the action might have been a major one. And it required some time before an early morning shoot became a matter of routine. In the course of time, however the receipt of orders over the phone, the assignment of missions, the rousing of the officers and calculations of data became a common-place, and usually within fifteen minutes after receipt of an order the men were out, lighting devices set, and the first shell over. "rounds complete" became merely a grateful signal for the men to curl up in their blankets and fall asleep, just as though hurling a few tons (more or less) of high explosive across miles of country had been a custom for years in the Ozarks.

During the night of Sept. 27 -28th there was heavy fire by all artillery to hinder a relief in the German lines.

On Sept. 27th a daily schedule of harassing fire was published allowing 10 rounds per gun per day. This allowance gave the batteries a chance to adjust for close shooting, the previous fire having been mostly zone fire on towns or localities in the back areas. Although frequent short bursts of reprisal fire were directly ordered and occasional raids took place, the first three weeks in October were very quiet. This was due to a variety of causes. By an order of Oct. 5th it was announced that the supply of ammunition was low in the sector and that batteries would keep strictly within their allowance. Moreover, the policy of keeping quiet was necessitated by reliefs in the line. On Oct. 5-6-7th the 57th relieved the 89<sup>th</sup> and between the 15th and 17th the 28th Division relieved the 37th.

Meanwhile some changes took place in the disposition of the regiment. On Oct. 6th the second battalion moved to a position on the left in the Bois de Beney north of the Beney-St. Benoit road. On the nights of the 7th and 8th the first battalion, still under the Corps moved into the positions vacated by "C" and "D" batteries. At this time Major Lee A. McCalls left the regiment to go to Staff School at Langres and Capt. A. J. Watson assumed command of the second battalion in its new position, establishing a P.C. in the old railway station of St. Benoit, just behind the battery positions. Capt Watson remained in command of the battalion until Oct. 26th, when Major F. J. Williams, previously Chief of Section of the A.I.S. of the Corps, took command.

Most of the adjusting during this time was upon church steeples and buildings in the towns along the Hindenburg line. Occasionally however, it was possible to observe fire on dugouts and works. The nature of the terrain made observation rather difficult. The Hindenburg line opposite us had been built about two years before and was characterized by the usual reverse slope positions, extensive use of concrete in dugouts and emplacements and double lines of wire. The Chief of Staff of our Division writing on the nature of the terrain, remarked that "the natural strength of the enemy's line, his left resting on the hill and woods east of Remercourt, and his right on Lake Lachaussee, is noticeable." On October 15th observers for Battery "F" adjusted on some camouflage just to the right of Non Plaisir Farm, a feature of the terrain which dominated the right of our sector. The initial shots of the adjustment fell very near the target and five men were seen to run out, only to be caught by machine gun fire from our own lines. A total of 119 rounds were fired on this target, and that evening a patrol from our lines found a wrecked concrete mixer and the bodies of fifteen of the enemy in a partially

constructed concrete dugout. Battery "C" had a similar experience in adjusting on a regimental P.C. to the left of Dampvitoux, when a number of the enemy were caught by our fire.

Some attempts were made during this time to adjust with airplane observation, but altho the planes frequently got into liaison with our ground stations, the réglages were with one or two exceptions, interrupted by hostile chasse planes. A few adjustments were made by sound ranging in the first battalion and visibility occasionally allowed work with the balloon companies. However, the enemy's superiority in the air continued on this front, due to our lack of any chase squadrons, His activities included almost daily reconnaissance over our lines, some night bombing, and a number of successful attacks on the balloons. Our regiment suffered chiefly from undisturbed hostile airplane adjustments on our positions, and was handicapped by the lack of plentiful observation for long-range adjustment.

Cases of heavy shelling under airplane adjustment caused some of the few casualties suffered by the regiment in its stay at the front. After the batteries of the first battalion had fired most of the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, a boche plane was seen flying about above the position and at seven o'clock, started adjusting a platoon of 150's on the guns. When this adjustment had been carefully completed at about nine o'clock the Germans opened up with fire for effect and fired a total of 160 rounds for demolition. Two hundred rounds of powder were burned and with them camouflage and considerable individual equipment. Four men of the Headquarters Detail were wounded, one man was gassed, and one of the guns was put out of action for several days. Again on October 4th a plane adjusted on the same position, wounding one man in "A" battery, four men in "B" Battery and one in "C" Battery. By good fortune the guns were only scarred. The batteries were moved from the position on the 7th. Another case in point occurred later in the month, when "D" Battery's position was adjusted on in the afternoon, by a low-flying plane. Two men were slightly wounded. With the exception of a smashed limber, no damages were done to the guns, owing to the fact that the two center pieces had been moved 200 meters to the north, leaving only the camouflage.

With the exception of the above casualties and those at the echelon in September, there were few worthy of mention. "E" Battery suffered heavily from gas on October 25th. Tho hostile shell fire caused but one injury, an explosion of a nearby dump of gas shells, gassed twenty-one men of the firing battery, then in action. Lt. Ferguson and a Sergeant of "F" Battery were slightly burned by mustard gas on the night of Oct. 15th while camouflaging a forward observation post at B2051, but neither injury was serious. Considering that most of the batteries were well forward near the line of resistance the casualties during the entire period at the front were very light.

When the 28th Division came into the sector on the 16th and had become well located, it soon became evident that more active work was in store for the artillery. The sector was a wide one, extending from Haumont on the left to Jaulny on the right. (The 89th Division had soon after our arrival taken over the sector of the 42nd Division and a part of the 2nd Division). When the 28th arrived, it took over this entire sector, with the 39th French Division on the left and the 7th Division on the right. Following this relief a number of other changes took place. On October 25th the daily harassing and interdiction fire was replaced by a daily schedule of concentration on sensitive points, prescribing the firing of from 120 to 300 rounds daily by this

regiment, on targets such as dumps, machine gun emplacements, command posts, trench mortars and the like. On the 26th the first battalion was returned to the command of the Division from the Corps. On October 29th, both batteries moved to the left, taking up positions in the Bois des Rays, just north of Hattonville, where the battalion Command Post was established. The echelon moved from the Essey location to Creue.

The activity of the 28th Division began on October 21st. On that date a gas bombardment was ordered on the ravine running northeast from Rembercourt. The regiment contributed about 250 rounds of the 4,000 gas shells that were concentrated there that evening at 8:00 o'clock. Later that night a raid was made on Marimbois Farm, bringing in a total of 26 prisoners. The 2nd Battalion fired 428 rounds of H. E. to accompany this raid, on the road running to the farm from Dampvitoux and on the nearby salient in the line. On the nights of October 27th and 28th, Division and Corps boundaries were changed, the 7th Division taking over the Jaulny Sub-Sector on the right and the 28th taking over part of the 39th (French) Division on the left. Apparently to cover these reliefs, raiding parties were sent out both nights. On the night of the 27th the Bois de Dommartin was penetrated and fire was delivered by the 342nd as follows: 2nd Battalion on Marimbois Farm and the depot de materiel near the woods; 3rd battalion on the road leading from Dampvitoux, and on a zone to the rear of the salient in that part of the line. Total rounds fired, 1158. This raid netted three prisoners.

The following night at the same hour a raid was made on the Bois Bonseil, bringing in eight prisoners. Missions were similar to those of the previous night and 945 rounds were fired by the two battalions.

Again on the morning of November 2nd a raiding party left our lines for the Bois Bonseil, this time returning with 2 officers and 42 other prisoners. Fire of the batteries of the 342nd consisted in neutralizing machine gun fire and keeping enemy personnel in their dugouts. The regiment fired 2142 rounds during this raid.

Two raids on the Bois Bonseil having followed each other in rapid succession, a simulated raid was planned for that night. For this purpose fire was delivered at the same place on the morning of the 3rd, the barrage lifted forward as before and then a rolling barrage combed the woods to the rear. Supposing that the boche would come out of his dugouts at this time to meet the expected attack, the entire fire was concentrated back again to the area first shelled, using No. 5 gas exclusively. Whether this fire took the enemy by surprise or not remains undetermined. The fire lasted only 15 minutes in all and the 342nd fired 150 rounds concentrated on the northwest corner of the woods.

On the third of November information was received indicating a withdrawal by the enemy along the entire front. Accordingly three strong reconnaissance parties of one company each advanced across no man's land at dawn of the 4th, the right party to the right of Dommartin, the center in front of the Bois Bonseil, and the third through the Bois des Cerfs into the Bois de Noire Terre • The first Battalion of the 342nd was in support of the left, laying down destructive fire on the point of attack and then shifting forward to neutralize machine guns beyond the Hindenburg line, The 2nd Battalion supporting the center, opened at once on machine gun emplacements beyond the line of wire, and the third Battalion supported the right company in the

same manner. Altho plans for advance in case of withdrawal were laid, all three of these parties found the line still strongly held, and were halted by heavy hostile fire. This reconnaissance lasted from 5 A.M. until nearly noon, when 29 prisoners had been reported. Rounds fired by this regiment, 2937.

A raid on the Bois des Cerfs, planned for the dawn of November 5th was never executed. Instead, a patrol attacked Mirambois Farm unassisted by artillery fire, and took 26 prisoners, From that time on the enemy abandoned the Farm as an outpost, except for occasional patrol work. The raid planned for the 5th was accomplished on the 7th. At 5:30 hours a party of 200 combed through the Bois des Cerfs, capturing 14 prisoners. Demolition and neutralizing fire was delivered by the 342nd on the wire and works of the salients along the hostile line.

Two similar raids were made on the morning of the 9th, to determine the strength of the enemy near the Bois des Oerfs and in the Bois Bonseil. Four officers and 40 men penetrated the line near the Bois des Cerfs, but found the enemy present in force and suffered some loss in withdrawal. The party of 100 that entered the Bois Bonseil took two prisoners. Fire by two of our batteries was directed on enemy works. At about this time orders were issued by the Army and Corps contemplating a general attack for H-hour on D day. The Fourth Corps of the Second Army was to attack with the 28th Division on the left and the 7th on the right. Preceding the general attack a strong reconnaissance of the hostile line was ordered. This reconnaissance was assigned to the 112th Infantry for the early hours of November 10th. At 5:30 that morning a battalion advanced with the mission of penetrating the salient near Dommartin, capturing prisoners and determining the strength of the enemy. Opening fire at the H hour the 342nd fired for two hours on targets in the vicinity of Dommartin and Dampvitoux, with irregular volleys of harassing fire. This reconnaissance patrol met with very heavy hostile fire and was forced to withdraw from the attack. Due to the method of fire only about 900 rounds were expended by the 155's.

The main attack was planned for the afternoon of the 10th. The 55th Infantry Brigade (or a provisional brigade so designated) was to attack on the salient between Lachaussee and the Bois Bonseil, and the 1st and 2nd Battalions had orders to neutralize machine guns threatening the advance. The 3rd Battalion had a similar mission in support of the 56th Brigade, attacking near Dommartin on the right. Fire was opened at about 2:30 P. M. and lasted for an hour during which about 1000 rounds were fired. The attack on the left succeeded in gaining the enemy line, but due to enfilading fire, the position was consolidated about 300 meters from the wire. The right attack was never launched, due to heavy artillery fire. The detailed preparations for this attack were hurried and the exact progress of events remains in doubt.

In the meantime, anticipating a move forward, the echelons of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were moved up and the night of the 10th was spent near the battery positions. During the evening of the same day an order was received for fire to accompany another attempt to break through the lines on the left. This operation was also a failure. An order received at about the same time made provision for this outcome by providing for three phases in an attack to be begun at 5:45 on the morning of the 11th. Generally speaking the first phase involved the occupation of the Hindenburg line, and the second and third an advance forward in the direction of Hageville. It was for the latter purpose that the echelons of the 2nd and 3rd battalions had been moved up.

The attack at 5:45 was apparently launched and met with success in the initial stages. From all that could be learned the advanced units later met with severe fire and were forced to retire. Perhaps one reason why the facts were obscured for us was that after the firing for the initial phase had been accomplished, all attention was given to the news of the armistice. The radio detail of the Third Battalion had the distinction of picking up the first news of the signing of the terms, and passed the news on to higher units. The only question that remained was just how soon the operations could be terminated. At 8:45 fire was suddenly called for on the boche communications, apparently to aid in a withdrawal, and shortly after the completion of this fire, orders were received concerning the last minute of fire. The plan was to cease fire at 10:55, to open again suddenly at 10:59 and fire at maximum rate of fire until ten seconds before 11 o'clock. Watches were carefully synchronized and the plan was duly executed. During the night of November 10th-11th the regiment fired a total of 2472 rounds. Of this amount some were expended in desultory fire before 10:53, following a permission to fire on selected targets in the back areas. After firing every day at unknown targets, the gunners were allowed to pick targets of their own and last rounds of the regiment were in most cases fired by the Chiefs of Section.

Following the armistice on the 11th, and the constant firing that preceded the cessation of hostilities, the natural inclination of every one was to take a few hours rest.. However, curiosity brought many soldiers to the lines to see their opponent and that evening there was a general celebration signalized by thousands of rockets and flares. Altho the lines were lightly held during the following days for the reception of prisoners, to keep troops within bonds, and to receive maps and information in accordance with the terms of the armistice, nevertheless only a small part of the men was needed for this duty and many troops started training in the rear areas at once. The artillery remained for a week or so in the dugouts of the positions and then gradually moved to the slightly more comfortable quarters afforded by the ruined towns. On November 15th the firing batteries of the first battalion moved into old German barracks in Hattonville; on November 27th both cannoners and echelon of "A" battery moved into Vigneulles while "B" battery moved back to the echelon at Creue. On November 23rd Capt. A. J. Watson took command of this battalion vice Major Cottrell, promoted and transferred.

The Second Battalion moved batteries, echelon and Headquarters into the town of Beney on the 17th, while the Third Battalion made the best of quarters in Bouillonville.

The announcement that the 89th Division was part of the Army of Occupation was shortly followed by orders to take the road to join our Division. Extra horses had been drawn and on the morning of November 29th the regiment took the road for Germany. The first days march took us parallel to the Hindenberg line as far as Woel (3rd Bn.) and thence through St. Hilaire, Butgneville, to Harville, (2nd Bn.) Moullotte ("B") and Allamont where stables and shelter were found in the ruined houses. We found pioneers and engineers still engaged in blowing up the mines in the vicinity. On the next days march it was something of a relief to leave the ruins of the war zone. Brainville, Puxe, Jeandelize, Conflans and Abbeville were passed and Fleville (3rd Bn.) and Ozerailles (2nd Bn.) provided billets. Due to a circuitous route necessitated by a bad road, the only battalion to make its objective was the 1st, which marched through Gondrecourt to Boulogny.

On December 1st with fair weather and good roads a trip to Xivray-Circourt (Hq. 2nd and 3rd Bn.) and to Mercy-le-bas for the first battalion was an easy march and there was time to spare to clean up equipment and materiel. The next day, starting as usual about 8:00 o'clock, a hilly and picturesque road took us through Joppecourt, Mortfontaine to Villers-le-Montagne. Altho we found the streets of these towns decorated, the enthusiasm of the people appeared to be exhausted, partly by previous celebrations and partly by a forlorn depression over their ruined fortunes, for the Germans had stripped the country of all its livestock, food and other valuables. That night the First Battalion went to Harcourt, just beyond Villers-le-Montagne.

The route of march on December 3rd took the regiment through the industrial towns of Longwy and Mt. St. Martin. Crossing the Belgian border at Aubange, we continued to Messancy, where we were billeted for the night. Here the people appeared far different from those in northern France, having enough food and still retaining most of their live stock. Tho the men were crowded and the horses were on the picket lines, the night was a hospitable one. The next day we left Belgium~ near Arlon and entered wooded country in Luxemburg. Some long hills and rainy weather made the trip to Saeul and Brouch (1st Bn) a hard days work.. Altho German became the language of the inhabitants from now on, it was evident that the Luxemburgers were well disposed toward us. A call to arms at Saeul that night caused a stir, and when it was learned that the call was merely for practice, some unfavorable comments were heard from travel-worn members.

The following day's hike was also picturesque, and tho hilly, the excellent roads continued through Brouch, Buschdorf, Boevange, Bissen and Colmar. In the latter place we passed the castle of the Dutchess, who shortly afterward was deposed in favor of a Republic • The Regiment was billeted that night partly in Schieren and partly in Ettelbrucl, where excellent treatment was given us.

The eighth day out brought us through the most interesting country of the trip and into the most ancient of the towns. We passed through the city of Diekirch and thence through Tandel and Fouhren, over the hills. and suddenly down into the valley of the Sauer River, where Vianden was located. Here the regiment had a pleasant stay. In the evening a civilian band made the rounds of the town followed by the greater part of the population forming a torch-light procession.

Leaving Vianden at 8 o'clock on December 7th, a quarter of an hour brought us across the German border. Obersgegen, Geickilingen and Sinspelt were the first towns passed and we arrived at Oberweis at 3:30 in spite of the rain and a stretch of bad road. The townspeople showed no hostility. As we found in all of the rural districts of the Rhineland, food was plentiful. It appeared that the absence of the men had not prevented the cultivation of the land, due to the fact that the women were well accustomed to manual labor in the fields.

Having, been constantly on the road during the previous nine days and having covered about 190 kilometers, the tenth day was spent in Oberweis and nearby towns in resting, cleaning up and reshoeing. On the 9th the regiment left Oberweis at 8 o'clock and marched through Bitburg, which was then Third Army headquarters, and through Erdorf, to Badem (1st Bn), Pickliessem, (3rd Bn) and Spangdahlem (Hq. and 2nd Bn), in which towns the regiment was

billeted for five days. The towns were dirty and inconvenient, and the orders for the subsequent move were fortunate for us. On the 15th we retraced our march to Bitburg and then took the Echternach road to Wolafeld (2nd Bn and Supply Co.), Aladorf (3rd Bn) and Niederweis (Hq.) and Irrel (1st Bn). In these towns, the regiment remained, and celebrated the holiday season. No trouble was experienced with the inhabitants, and the Christmas and New Year celebrations were none the less merry for being spent in hostile territory.

The long march into Germany was accomplished without any unfortunate incident. No materiel was abandoned and only four animals were lost on the march. The organization and arrangements for the march included a moving supply base, deliveries of forage being made by truck. Very little was requisitioned from the inhabitants. Billets were apportioned by daily advance billeting parties. One of the successful aspects of the march was the fact that the men were under cover every night, and never pitched shelter camps in the open, which was fortunate in view of the consistently wet weather experienced. Even in the case of the animals, outdoor picket lines were the exception.

During January the regiment carried out a systematic training schedule. Changes in personnel included the transfer of Lt.Col. Joseph C. King, who had been with us since November, and the assignment of Lt. Col. W. W. Overton, previously the Adjutant of the Brigade. Occasional manoeuvres were held, and novelty was introduced into the training by the receipt of motors for the long postponed motorization of the regiment.

HEADQUARTERS 342ND FIELD ARTILLERY.  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.  
NIEDERWEIS.....GERMANY.

March 9th, 1919.

MEMORANDUM to G-2, 89th Division.

Pursuant to memorandum, Headquarters, 89th Division, Second Section G.S., dated March 7th, 1919., make the following report.

There are no members of this Regiment who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, or Distinguished Service Medal.



Robert B. Putnam  
1st Lt. 342nd Field Artillery.  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.



