

# Rainbow Division Gives German Troops One Parting Smash and Goes to Argonne After Killing 50 and Taking 25 at St. Mihiel

## After Battle of St. Mihiel Had Subsided Into a Mere Mopping Up Process and the Last Swat of Argonne Campaign Was Finished, the Rainbow Division Then Moved Toward the Meuse Front To Take Part in Last Great Drive of War.

By **RAYMOND S. TOMPKINS.**  
EIGHTH INSTALLMENT.

After the battle of St. Mihiel had subsided into a mopping up process, as related in the last installment of the History of the Rainbow Division by Raymond S. Tompkins, which appeared in The Bee, there was a transfer of the line to the west, and the line of the Meuse was reached. Wherefore, he left the St. Mihiel salient, it gave the Hun its last swat. It was only a raid, but it left 50 Hunns dead on the field and 25 prisoners, to say nothing of the wounded. The next day the Rainbow division moved toward the Argonne-Meuse front to take part in the last great drive of the war.



Col. Matt L. Finley

Only in the matter of moving up the supplies and ammunition and in keeping the artillery close up behind the advancing infantry in this St. Mihiel drive did the machinery of the American offensive function poorly. Had the German power of counter-attack not been so demoralized by the suddenness and unexpectedness of the blow, there might have been disaster in this fact.

The roads across No Man's Land had been entirely destroyed, and the condition of the ground and the weather made repairs difficult. Colonel Kelly's engineers labored incessantly to get the Rainbow's roads into shape, but traffic poured in on them from all directions and at the village of Flirey there was unbelievable congestion.

### Everything Blocked in Flirey.

In four directions from the crossroads in the center of Flirey were the masses of traffic for distances of from three to five miles. Nothing could move in any direction. Staff automobiles were there from different divisions; heavy artillery, tractors, supply and ration wagons, motorcycles and tanks—all locked in the most hopeless tangle. At some points, this part of the American army was at a complete standstill for 24 hours.

Several well-placed shells in this mass from the German guns would have wrought terrible havoc. But all the German guns that hadn't been captured were being desperately dragged off to the Hindenburg line by an army that hadn't time to realize what had hit it. Intelligence found on captured prisoners showed that the Germans did not expect the attack during the rain, and that they considered it a rather mean thing to do—an advantage that would not have been taken by the French and British. They had been caught in the act of withdrawing their artillery from their old positions to the line of La Chaussee, where it would have inflicted considerable damage to the advancing Americans.

Yanks Heavily Shelled. Back on the Hindenburg line, however, and under the guns of Metz, they regathered their scattered wits and proceeded to shell the new line and the near areas heavily. Day and night they rained shrapnel and high explosives on the First American army, not concentrating their fire on any particular points, but covering everything. For several days after the drive the St. Mihiel sector was the most active in the matter of artillery duelling on the whole western front.

Brig-Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commanding the 84th brigade of the Rainbow division, realized this activity in time, perhaps, to save his life. He had established his headquarters in a chateau at St. Benoit, almost in the front lines. It was under full observation from the German positions. For a time it escaped the shelling, because the German commander never dreamed that a brigade commander was living there, almost in the front-line trenches.

One day, though, several shells fell pretty close to it and General MacArthur decided to move. And the day after he moved the Germans, having noted the activity around the place, shelled it fiercely and reduced it to a blazing, smoking heap of ruins.

Town Blotted Out. General Menoher, the Rainbow division commander, was also forced to alter plans for establishing division headquarters in the St. Mihiel sector, but for a different reason. Looking at the map he decided upon the village of Maizeris, about a half kilometer from Essey. It looked like a pretty good town on the map. But when he arrived at the spot, expecting to see a village with at least a few decent inhabitants in it he found nothing. Maizeris was not only a ruin; it was an almost extinct ruin. Over the crumbled foundations of shell-battered houses grass had grown; a casual observer would have marked it merely as an extraordinarily rough-surfaced field. As a destroyed French town Maizeris held the record as far as the Rainbow was concerned, throughout the whole war.

General Menoher established his headquarters in Essey. The ghost of ruined Maizeris must have haunted the forest of the Lovely Willow. If it didn't it should have. For there the Germans, feeling secure in the unchallenged possession of the land for four years, had built themselves a suburban village like unto the places tired city dwellers journey to on Sundays in contemplation of a "back-to-the-land" movement. They had turned the forest of the Lovely Willow into a pretty little bungalow park.

Got Huns' Clubhouse. General Menoher took it over later for Rainbow Division headquarters, and he and his whole staff

and detachments from Lieut.-Col. Ruby Garrett's Missouri Signal Corps—about 300 men in all lived and flourished there for several days convinced before they left that the better part of "Kultur" as the Germans practiced it, was the art of being comfortable.

Pretty rustic walks with hand-railings curled through and around its cluster of cozy houses; there was one of those amusement park rifle ranges with a moving target; the Officer-Kasino was snugly upholstered in red, with bright electric lamps, tasteful wall paper, a butler's pantry and electric push-buttons for summoning the drinks or the chicken salad.

The rest house for soldiers was a pretty little chalet with picture postcards plastered on the walls, showing the German army being joyously greeted in Brussels and London, crumbing into the Thames under Zeppelin bombardments.

And there were rows and rows of houses for officers' billets, rows of squad cottages like hunting lodges in the Adirondacks; a bowling alley, an electric power house, a hospital, a central kitchen, and a London model city and to live there after the mud and foxholes was somewhat like a vacation for the Rainbow division headquarters.

Not a mine or a booby-trap had been planted in the whole place, so rapidly had the Germans left it. They had not even time to remove the signs from the villages and the bungalow city, calling upon all soldiers who wanted to settle on the "conquered" land to file squatters' claims with their officers!

Clamored for Metz. And now, with the new line of the first American army all consolidated and perfected, the men of the Rainbow division, now holding not only their own sector but the First division on the left as well, wanted to go to Metz. They felt sure they could make it. They growled and fumed constantly about it. But they did nothing except hold on to the new line under the constant fire of German artillery until the night of September 22, four days before the opening of the first Meuse-Argonne offensive of September 26.

As soon as the St. Mihiel salient was reduced and reserve divisions were on their way westward for this, the supreme effort of the American army, absolute secrecy was essential. So in order to prey upon the Germans' nerves, to keep them in doubt as to the next attacking point, and to obtain information of their plans, several raids were planned and executed. Some of them had not been very successful. It was the night of September 22 that the Rainbow division's turn came.

Haumont, to the northeast of St. Benoit and Marimbois Farm, to the northwest were selected as the objectives. There were to be two raiding parties to strike simultaneously, one at Marimbois Farm to the northwest of St. Benoit and one at Haumont to the northeast. They were to be "Go-and-Come" raids like one in the Bois des Chiens back at Baccarat in May.

Struck a Last Blow. Detachments of picked men were made up one from M company of the 167th (Alabama) infantry, under Capt. Maurice Howe, and the other from the 167th (Alabama) infantry, under batteries of the Illinois (149th) field artillery regiment was to support the Alabamians and Iowans.

And to make a long story short, they rushed over while the artillery poured enflaming fire into the farm and the village, killed more than 50 Germans while most of them retreated, leaving a general attack, and brought back 25 fine healthy prisoners and two machine guns. It was the best night's work around the old St. Mihiel salient since the night the salient had disappeared.

Tinley in Charge. At about this time there were a few changes among unit commanders. Colonel Mitchell, by the way, had led the New Yorkers of the

shifted from one part of the line to another far away with great speed. Out of control, with the lines of the allies so close that they were under bombardment by artillery, they would be useless. Captured at any point, they would work the complete defeat of Germany. The German high command knew all this as well as it knew everything else about its own chances for defeat or victory—which was very well, indeed. It was prepared to defend these lines of its last resources in strategic cunning and in men and arms.

With Metz as a pivot, the Germans were prepared to swing back slowly toward the east, withdrawing no more rapidly than was necessary to keep their railroads and stores under control and, pulling their house in behind them, so to speak, retire eventually to their own borders and fight forever. They had only, while so withdrawing, to protect such of their railroad centers as Sedan, Montmedy or Longuyon and they would get away in good order.

The objective of the American offensive (which began September 26, was Sedan, more than 25 miles away from lines that had remained virtually stationary since the fall of 1914. That offensive ended as the war ended with the acceptance by Germany of an armistice, as shrewd a military maneuver as it made throughout the whole war.

It began discouragingly enough. Endless hills and heavy woods were in its path. Of nine American divisions that jumped off out of the old French trenches on September 26, only six reached the barbed wire growths and pitfalls and machine-gun nests of four years' preparation at least one came out in three days badly shot up. Many of them had had no previous experience whatever in the line, some had never been under shell fire. In the first two days they pushed ahead seven kilometers, but they couldn't keep it.

Then stretched up ahead of them on the left the great forest of Argonne, turned by boche military ingenuity into an almost impenetrable, impregnable jungle of wire, mine traps and machine guns. Hill lay behind hill like a succession of bumps in a roller-coaster, and more deep forests were spread over them. Of roads there were virtually none. Tanks could not operate. And 10 kilometers from the line the German were trying to hold with these advantages was the famous Kreimhilde line.

And so finally the veteran American divisions had come up. The Thirty-second had gone in and battered at Romagne and Cunel without success. The first division went over to the left, captured Hill 212 in dashing style and found itself up against the Kreimhilde Stellung.

Trucks at 4 a. m. and goodby to St. Mihiel! The Rainbow—a shock division now, to be held back like a ring champion's best punch—till time for the knockout—was rushed over to Benoit Vaux in the autumn-tinted country behind Verdun.

That was October 1. Three days later to Reicourt and on October 6 to the Bois de Montfaucou, a pitiable wreck of a ruined forest, gouged and chewed for four days by the guns of the world's armies seeking to conquer and to defend Verdun.

And now Verdun lay behind the Rainbow division, while every day the roar of the battle beyond came down to its dead streets and its brave citadel falter and fainter. And before the Rainbow division lay the line of the First American army fighting the final battle for the world against the armies of Germany, and the armies of Germany struggling with the last desperate strength of tripped and beaten beasts. The Rainbow crouched in its black mud holes, waiting for orders to strike.

Again it becomes necessary (as the storm necessarily precedes the advent of the bright-hued bow in the sky) to paint in a gray, neutral-tinted background.

Last Drive of War. When we left the Rainbow division in the last chapter the breezes from the west were bearing toward St. Mihiel the rumble of many guns. It was the start of the Argonne-Meuse drive of September 26—the beginning of the end.

The echoes of the last American barrage in the St. Mihiel salient had scarcely died away when corps and army artillery and some divisions in reserve were starting westward for this, probably the greatest single operation of the war. Their trip had ended back of the line that stretched from the Meuse river to the western edge of the Argonne forest. On the other side of the line was the heart of "New Germany," built by the German army upon the ruins of France and Belgium.

During four years the German war-making plants had accumulated there; there were his great military railway hubs, the northernmost running through Liege and Namur, the southernmost running through Longuyon, Montmedy and Sedan. These lines, the upper one starting at Liege and ending slightly south-west and the lower starting at Coblenz and curving first south and then northwest, met and crossed east of Cambrai.

Lines Vital to Huns. Through them all the armies of Germany in France and Belgium were fed, clothed, armed, supplied with ammunition and reinforced with men. With them under control the German armies were wonderfully mobile; divisions could be

waited for a week in this hell-hole of a Bois de Montfaucou, with the 32d's efforts just ahead of it bringing the German barracks on its impotent head and the fifth of an old battlefield soaking into its clothes and disposition, now got the word. It took over the brilliant but tired First division's line north of Fleville and Exermont and got to work. It was in the great Argonne drive at last.

### Stolen Car's Recovery Leads to Request for Permanent Auto Bureau

Following the recovery by State Agent C. J. Wilson during the past five days of 12 automobiles stolen in Omaha, insurance men of the city have appointed a committee to request Governor McKelvie to establish a permanent bureau for the recovery of automobiles.

The insurance committee, made up of W. H. Ahmanson, E. D. McCall and H. N. Wood, will also ask the government to aid in the passing of a law authorizing the holding of cars with mutilated motor numbers for a period of 60 days. This law is designed to permit the identification of machines which have been stolen.

The recovered machines were owned by F. C. Groves, C. J. Shee, Nebraska Buick Co., G. W. Jewell, W. C. Bullard, N. E. Fain, C. B. Edquist, Lloyd Magney, J. E. Schaeffer, Dr. M. Wohl. Two other cars have been found but not yet identified.

### Resident of Omaha for Half Century Dies at Age of 77

L. Levi, 2211 Howard street, died at his home Thursday of Bright's disease. He was 77 years old and had resided in Omaha for 50 years.

He engaged in the retail coal business here when he came to Omaha and continued the business until 10 years ago, when he retired. He is survived by his widow and 10 children, three of whom, Ida, Clarence and Albert, live at home. Two daughters, Miss Mable of New York and Miss Agnes of San Francisco, will return for the funeral. Five other daughters, Mesdames Eldridge, Heinman, Robinson, Freidman and Wells reside in Pacific coast cities.

### Veteran Burlington Employee Celebrates 84th Birthday

"Steve" Meallo, an employee of the Burlington railroad for the last 37 years, celebrated his 84th birthday anniversary last Tuesday evening with a family reunion. The Meallo home is at the Carlisle apartments, 625 South Eighteenth street. Mr. Meallo is employed in the law department of the Burlington.

### MINISTER'S WIFE ADMITS SMOKING, LIKES COCKTAIL

#### Accuses Her Husband, Who Is Episcopal Clergyman, of Introducing Her to Bad Habits.

New York, June 20.—White under cross-examination before Supreme Court Justice Giegerich, Mrs. Emilie Neiert admitted that she smoked cigars and took a cocktail now and then. She is suing her husband, the Rev. Josiah M. Neiert, an Episcopal clergyman, for a separation.

"Didn't your husband object to cocktails, cards and cigars?" Mrs. Neiert was asked.

"Absurd," she answered. "It was Dr. Neiert who introduced me to them."

Mrs. Neiert alleges her husband was very "chummy" with Miss Carrie Cooper, a pretty nurse, who attended him during an attack of rheumatism. She defended her two children against attacks in their declarations that they saw their father kiss and hug Miss Cooper.

"Did you ever call your husband names?" Mrs. Neiert was asked.

"I've been married 20 years," she replied. "I may have called him names during that time. Who does not? Do you refer to the time when I called him a name because of an affair he had in my house with a young girl?"

"Yes, I did call him a snake," she added.

"Well, did you call him a damn-able hypocrite?" "I don't remember; perhaps," Mrs. Neiert replied.

A neighbor testified he wouldn't believe Isabelle and Morton Neiert, the minister's two children, under oath. "They tell white lies," he testified.

Mrs. Neiert was on her feet in a moment. She shook her finger at the witness.

"You know you are lying," she declared.

"It is the truth," said the witness.

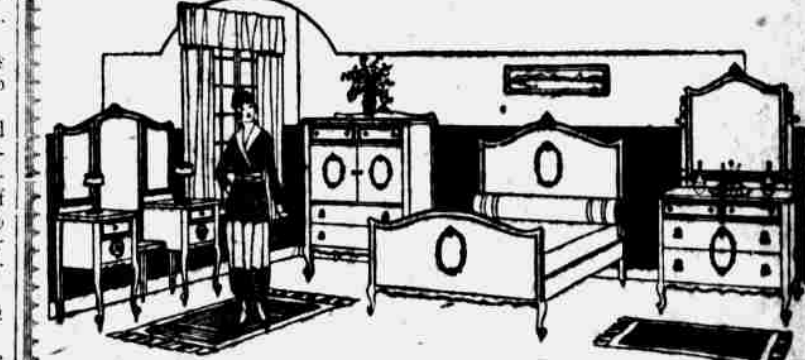
Mrs. Nancy Cooper, mother of the nurse, testified in favor of her daughter.

# Bowen's

## To Those Who Desire a Bed Room Suite

that represents the latest style in vogue without paying an exorbitant price, and of the Bowen Recognized High Standard Quality, will find this store the better place at which to shop. This store is showing many beautiful suites handsomely finished that you will be pleased to possess. Then, too, you are positive of receiving a full dollar value in merchandise for every dollar expended.

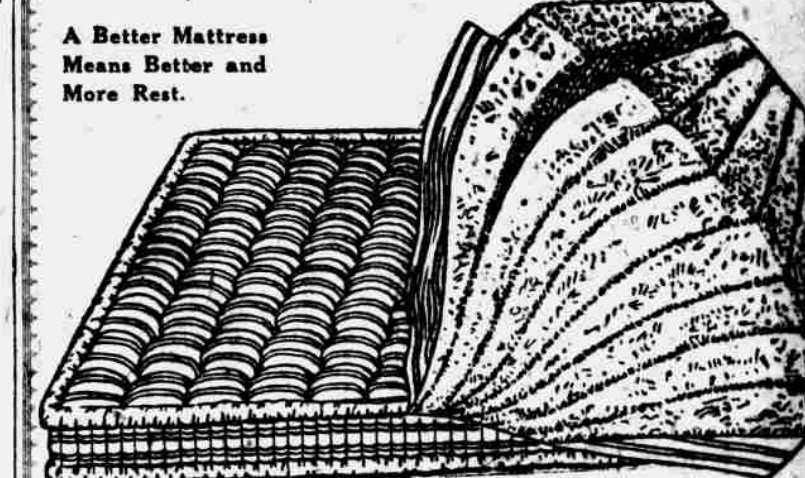
### These Bowen Bed Room Values Cannot Be Duplicated Elsewhere



- Mahogany Beds, artistically designed and finished, \$22.50 and \$35
- Mahogany Beds, Queen Ann design, \$35
- White Ivory Beds, handsomely finished and desired by many, \$50
- White Ivory Chairs and Rockers to match, \$7.50
- Mahogany and Walnut, extra heavy 4-poster Beds, extremely pleasing in design, \$47.50
- Mahogany Beds, William & Mary design, \$35.00
- Golden Oak Beds, Colonial design, \$22.50 and \$19.50
- Golden Oak, 4-poster Beds, \$39.50
- Fumed Oak Beds, Adam design, \$13.00
- Metal Beds, finished in Mahogany, Pearl White, Vernis Martin and Oak, \$7.50, \$9.50, \$12, \$15 and \$24
- Walnut and Mahogany 4-drawer Dressers, \$42.50
- White Ivory Dressers, \$30.00 and \$45.00
- White Ivory Vanity Dressers, \$75.00
- White Ivory Table to Match, \$39.50
- Walnut Triple Mirror Dressing Tables, \$35.00
- Fumed Oak Dressers with large drawers, \$22.50
- Fumed Oak Dressers with 8 small and 1 large drawer, \$24.50
- Golden Oak Dressers, each a big value at these prices, \$14.00, \$19.00, \$24.50 and \$27.50
- Chiffonettes in brown mahogany, \$39.75, \$55 and \$78
- Golden Oak Chiffonier, 6 drawers, \$16.50
- Golden Oak Chiffonier, mirror, 5 drawers, \$13.00

## Again the Bowen Store Values Predominate

Tomorrow, Saturday, June 21st, the Bowen Store offers you an opportunity to economize, yet at the same time secure the best Value-Giving Quality Mattress it is possible to manufacture and sell at any of the prices given below. If you need a new mattress, then don't fail to be at the Greater Bowen Store tomorrow and reap the benefit of their Mattress Values offered on that date.



- A Better Mattress Means Better and More Rest.
- There's a Mattress for you of the kind and quality you want, and at the price you want to pay. They are "not a wee bit higher—just a wee bit better" at Bowen's.
- Felt top, plain stripe tick, \$3.95
  - Cotton top and bottom, plain tick, at \$4.65
  - Combination felt and excelsior, plain edge, at \$5.45
  - Combination felt and excelsior, roll edge, at \$5.95
  - Combination felt and wool wool, fancy tick and roll edge, at \$9.90
  - Extra heavy combination felt and wool wool, fancy art tick and roll edge, at \$12.50
  - All felt mattresses, roll edge, 45-pound, art tick, at \$8.95
  - Felt pad to match, at \$20.00
  - All felt mattresses, roll edge, 50-pounds, three rows stitching, at \$18.00
  - All felt mattresses, roll edge, 50 pounds, four rows stitching, at \$22.50
  - All cotton sanitary couch pads, at \$6.50
  - All felt box-edge couch pads, at \$7.50
  - Box spring mattress, fancy ticking, at \$19.50
  - Felt pad to match, at \$14.50
  - Box Spring mattress, roll edge, fancy ticking, high grade, at \$35.00

### Place a Bowen Guaranteed Sagless Spring on Your Bed With Your New Mattress

and you will have done more for the comfort of the body and for your own good than you heretofore believed possible. It's no experiment; it's a known fact, so why not get a new set of non-rustable coil or link springs that are guaranteed a lifetime against sagging at any of the following prices:

- \$3.75, \$4.50, \$5.50, \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$12.50

### The Test of a Good Refrigerator

Three questions to apply (and each an important question):

- Will it keep food properly cold?
- Will it use little ice?
- What is the price?

The efficiency and ice consumption come first, because the cost of a Refrigerator is little compared to its upkeep, with the present price of ice. All the Refrigerators on our floors have measured up to this test—and the cost is no greater. It would be well for you to inspect the

Thermo-Cell, Blizzard and Gurney

With prices ranging as follows: \$9.50, \$12.50, \$15, \$17.75, \$29.50 and up.

Central Furniture Store

# J.R. Bowen Co.

Furniture. Carpets-Draperies

BUY BOWEN'S GUARANTEED FURNITURE

On Howard, Between 15th and 16th Street

"THE TALK OF THE TOWN"

With Extra Trousers FREE

MADE TO YOUR MEASURE SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

# \$35

Made in America

# Lundee

WOOLLEN MILLS

157 1/2 & HARNEY

Liberty Bonds Taken at Full Face Value.

# The Emporium

310-12 SO. 16TH ST.

Store Closes 5 P. M. Week Days. 6 P. M. on Saturday.

## Saturday Sale of Suits, Capes and Dolmans

This Saturday sale of fine Capes, Dolmans and Suits at \$15, means much to the woman who can appreciate an extreme bargain. These garments are of the latest design and are of excellent design and workmanship.

Not one of these garments is worth less than \$35, and some were originally priced up to \$55

# \$15

THIS SALE IS FOR ONE DAY ONLY—DOORS OPEN AT 9 A. M.

## Tub Frocks

A special concession enables us to offer this array of pretty tub frocks at this ridiculously low figure. The variety of styles and materials is bewildering—they will sell quickly at

# \$8.75

## Wash Skirts

Just the thing for the hot weather; in endless variety of style and of washable materials in Gabardines, Tricotines, Sol-Satin, Novelty Stripes. Special for Saturday only, at—

# \$3.50 to \$12.50

## Special Skirt Lingerie Blouses Value

At this price we feature Skirts that have sold up to as high as \$10, for Saturday only, at—

# \$5.95

Beautiful Tub Blouses in pretty French Voiles and Organdies, featured in all the wanted colors; exceptionally low priced at, from

# \$1.95 to \$5.95

WHERE QUALITY REIGNS