

## CHAPTER XV "OVER THERE"

OFF FOR FRANCE—ARRIVAL "OVER THERE"—"BILLETS" AT SANCERGUES AND VICINITY—40TH DIVISION BECOMES THE 6TH DEPOT DIVISION—REPLACEMENTS FOR THE FRONT—THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE 40TH DIVISION—THE REGIMENT CHANGES STATION—DUTIES AT CHEMINON-LA-VILLE AND VICINITY—THE ARMISTICE—DEPARTURE FOR BORDEAUX—PREPARATIONS FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES—"CHANGES"—40TH DIVISION INSPECTED AND REVIEWED BY GENERAL PERSHING—"HOMEWARD BOUND"—ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES—HOME AGAIN IN COLORADO—MUSTER OUT AT FORT D. A. RUSSELL, WYO., APRIL 29, 1919.

Little time was lost at Camp Mills in preparing the regiment, together with the rest of the 40th Division, for overseas service, and on August 9, 1918, Regimental Headquarters Company, Machine Gun Company and 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry, left by rail for Boston, Mass., where they embarked on the *H. M. T. Berrima* the same night. The transport left Boston harbor the following morning, en route for Halifax, N. S., where it was intended to commence the hazardous voyage across the Atlantic by the northern route. However, word of the activities of German submarines was received the day the *Berrima* sailed, and it put about for New York harbor, arriving there early on the morning of the 11th. At this port it joined a large convoy of transports and supply ships which sailed that night for Europe escorted by cruisers and destroyers. The voyage over was uneventful, and on August 26th the *Berrima* arrived at Tilbury Docks, London, England. The troops were disembarked and immediately entrained for Southampton, reaching that port the same day. There they were billeted for the night at the Rest Camp, and on the following morning marched to the docks and boarded the *S. S. Charles* (formerly the *Harvard*) for the trip across the English Channel. The *Charles* crossed the channel that night and arrived at Le Havre, France, early on the Morning of August 28th. The stay at Le Havre was short and on the afternoon of the 28th the men of the 157th Infantry were introduced to the "Hommes 40—Chevaux 8" (Men 40—Horses 8) boxcars which were to serve them for Pullmans in all their travels in France, while the officers squeezed into the tiny compartments of third-class French coaches. However, the discomfort of the railroad accommodations was compensated for in some respects by the novelty and beauty of the country passed through in the journey to Nerondes, Department of Cher. Normandy with its green valleys, little white towns, its fair fields, and leafy woods partly concealing here and there an old chateau, was a source of unending delight, and the rest of the journey south through some of the fairest scenery in France was equally novel and interesting. Arriving at Nerondes early in the morning of August 31st, the troops detrained, and at 9:00 A. M. commenced the eighteen kilometer march under heavy pack to the billeting area at and near Sancergues, Cher. To quote from a letter of Colonel Hamrock's sent to a friend in Denver: "The physical and moral condition of the men was such that not a man dropped out. The men spent the night in pup tents and in the morning regimental headquarters was established at Sancergues, and the various companies assigned to their billets at Sancergues, St. Martin, Charantonay, and Jussy."



Meantime the remainder of the regiment had embarked for overseas duty as follows: The 1st Battalion and Supply Company on the *S. S. City of Bombay*, left Philadelphia on August 7th, and joined the convoy at New York on the same day. Leaving New York on the night of the 11th in company with the *Berrima* and other vessels of the convoy, it arrived at Tilbury Docks, London, on August 26th. Here the battalion and attached company joined the troops from the *Berrima*, and proceeded with them to Southampton and the billeting area at Sancergues. The 2nd Battalion embarked on the *S. S. Osterly* at Hoboken, N. J., on August 8th, and left that port in convoy at 5:00 P. M., same date. The voyage over was uneventful and the convoy arrived at Liverpool, England, on the morning of August 20, 1918. Disembarking, the battalion was marched to Knotty Ash Rest Camp, about four miles from the docks, and remained there until the following day when it entrained for the quaint old cathedral city of Winchester in the south of England. Here another day was spent in rest camp, and on August 23rd the 2nd Battalion entrained for Southampton. Crossing the English Channel during the night, the troops disembarked at Cherbourg, France, on the morning of August 24th, and were marched four miles to the British rest camp at Tour la Ville. Leaving Cherbourg by rail on August 25th, the battalion arrived at La Guerche, Cher, on August 27th, bivouacking there for the night. The following day the 2nd Battalion marched to its stations in the Sancergues billeting area, Companies E and F going to the village of Sancergues and Companies G and H to the small hamlet of Charantonnay.

The strength of the regiment upon arrival in France was as follows: Officers present and absent 111, enlisted men 3,443, making a total of all present and absent of 3,554.

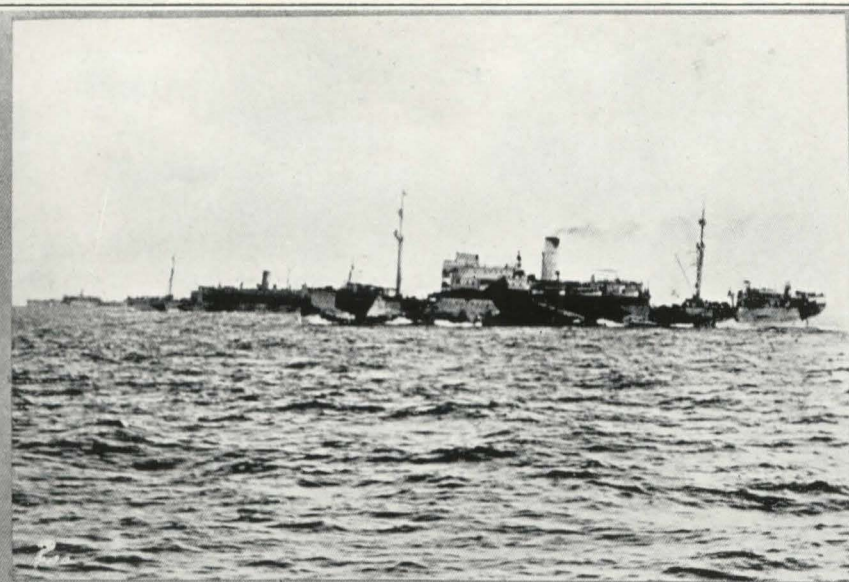
The surroundings in which the men of the regiment now found themselves were strange and novel, though, as they later discovered, they were merely living in typical French communities. The red-roofed houses looked as if they might have been built hundreds of years before. The town laundry and the town pump were strange institutions, as were the stores, which unfortunately were found to contain none of the accustomed American delicacies. Chocolate sweetened with saccharine turned out to be the best available substitute for candy. Ice cream was replaced by the French national beverages—vin blanc and vin rouge. Primitive is a mild word to describe the living conditions of the men. A few fortunate ones had bunks; others slept in hay lofts and barns. They were under the same roof with horses, cows, pigs and chickens,—indeed it was nothing unusual for a soldier to return to his billet and find it over-run with chickens, calves, and other quadrupeds.

Intensive training, interrupted by the trip over from the United States, was again instituted, and officers and men plunged into the work with enthusiasm in anticipation of the grim business ahead. However, disappointment, bitter and unalloyed, was in store for the units of the 40th Division, and soon after arrival in France the division was re-designated as the 6th Depot Division and assigned the duty of preparing and sending replacements to the combat divisions at the front. To quote from the official history of the 40th Division:

“All looked forward with confidence and anticipation to the supreme moment when the division should enter the lists of battle in vindication of the high cause to which it was summoned.

“But by the fortunes of war, it was called to a role of abnegation and self sacrifice more difficult than the trials of the hardest campaign. When the division arrived in Europe, the enemy had completed a great series of smashing drives which started on the 21st of March and ended with his last fatal





1—Embarking for Overseas Duty. 2—A Convoy at Sea. 3—The “Side-door Pullmans” of the A. E. F., the well-known “Hommes 40, Chevaux 8” Cars of the French Railroads. Photograph shows 157th Entraining at Revigny for Bordeaux. 4—General Pershing Inspecting the 157th Infantry Near Bordeaux, France, Prior to the Departure of the Regiment for the United States.



attack of July 15th. The Supreme Allied Command had instituted its counter-offensive between Soissons and Chateau Thierry on July 18th, and was planning the chain of furious assaults which were to break Germany's back and end the war. Other divisions had been fortunate in arriving in France earlier, thus preceding us to battle. In playing their high role, they had suffered great casualties and there arose the problem of filling the depleted ranks. The cruel, but essential, solution was that our division had to make a vicarious sacrifice and was denied the long anticipated reward of entering the battle line. That the divisions on the line might carry on the fight, 11,000 of our men had to be stripped from us to help other divisions write their pages of glory. At first the bitterness of our disappointment was supreme and unalloyed. But we played the game and did with loyalty what we were ordered to do. We are still disappointed and always shall be, but will not a true analysis show that we played our part and contributed a full share to the success of our nation's arms? Nothing can take away the disappointment of the individual officer and soldier who was denied the privilege of striking a direct blow. But this in no whit detracts from the credit due for making effective the blows of others.

"When Americans barred the way to the enemy in the region of Chateau Thierry, men of the 40th Division were there. With the 26th Division, or Yankee Division, replacements from the 40th Division stood in the trenches in the Toul sector, fought in Foch's epic battle of mid July, stormed the Bois des Eparges at the battle of St. Mihiel, raced down the Grande Franchee de Calonne on the famous night march that brought junction between the two attacking American forces and cut off thousands of German prisoners, and fought to the last in the operations of this division north of Verdun, which ended with the armistice November 11th. Our machine gunners gained the highest commendation of their commanders in the 32nd Division, made up originally of the National Guard of Michigan and Wisconsin. They fought with the 32nd in its brilliant and glorious storming of the Kriemhilde Stellung, the last organized line of the enemy defense south of the Meuse. Four thousand of our men went to fill the ranks of the 77th National Army Division, recruited from New York, and drove forward with the 77th in its remarkable advance through the Argonne forest to the left bank of the Meuse, southwest of Sedan. The officers of the 77th Division testified in glowing terms to the splendid deportment of these men of the west. Also 2,000 40th Division men went to the 28th Division (N. G. Pennsylvania), 1,000 to the 81st and 2,000 to the 80th, 82d and 89th Divisions.

"In no grudging sense, in no spirit of narrow sectionalism, do we say it, but when our fellow countrymen from other sections of the country rightly acclaim the high deeds of the divisions that were associated with their community, we suggest that it be remembered that the lives of thousands of the incomparable sons of the west were laid down to write their pages of glory. Not in a spirit of detraction, not in a spirit of criticism, but in a spirit of fraternity, we emphasize the fact that the great military traditions established in this war, which will be treasured in New England, in New York, in Pennsylvania, in Wisconsin, in Michigan, and many other places, were created in part by men of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

"Thus it was not given to the Sunshine Division, as we have seen, to stand as a unit to light up the smoke of battle with the torch of western valor and western patriotism, so that all might see and acknowledge. But loving eyes and proud hearts see beneath the surface. We watched the ebb and flow of battle. With solicitude we saw the young American army hurled in the furnace of the decisive campaign of the war. We saw division after division leap forward to the battle, advance gloriously against stout resistance and





1—Sancergues, Cher. Headquarters of the Regiment, Sept. 1 to Nov. 2, 1918. 2—Jussy-le-Chaudrier, Station of the 1st Bn. (less Co. D), Oct. 8th to Nov. 2, 1918. 3—Colonel Hamrock's Headquarters at Sancergues. 4—Chateau des Bordes, Headquarters of 1st Bn. at Jussy. 5—Cheminon-la-ville, Meuse, Headquarters of the Regiment Nov. 4th, 1918, to Jan. 6th, 1919. 6—French Barracks and Canal at Revigny, Meuse. 7—A Company of the Regiment in the Bordeaux Billeting Area Prior to Departure for the United States.



enormous obstacles and retire from the line with great gaps in its ranks. The battle must continue. The enemy must not be given a moment. Two hundred here, three thousand there, in groups of hundreds, or in groups of thousands, they were thrown into the gaps—these men of our 40th Division. Had they been found wanting, the results would have been disastrous. But well trained, as we know they were, and inspired by what we like to believe was an especially high morale that characterized our division, they brought confidence and encouragement with them wherever they went. Their graves are on every field that bears witness to the valor of American arms in Europe. They now bear worthily and loyally the insignia of the most noted organizations in our army. As they carried away from us our abiding and affectionate interest, we know they have carried with them an abiding and affectionate loyalty to the organization that trained them and sent them forth."

The 157th Infantry, in common with the other units of the division, sent its full share of replacements to the combat divisions at the front during the stay at Sancergues, and there was not an officer nor enlisted man who was not chosen to be sent as a replacement, but was jealous of the privilege given the lucky ones to risk their lives in the "Great Adventure" on the battle-front.

On October 8, 1918, the First Battalion (less Company D), changed station from Sancergues to Jussy le Chaudrier, a small village about four kilometers south of Sancergues; Company D remained in Sancergues. Later in the month, the 22nd to be exact, orders were received from G. H. Q. transferring the 40th Division to the First Army as regional replacement depot with headquarters at Revigny, Meuse, and on November 2, 1918, the 157th Infantry marched from the Sancergues billeting area to La Guerche to entrain for its new stations in the department of Meuse. Leaving La Guerche by rail at 9:00 P. M. on the 2nd, the regiment arrived at Revigny, Meuse, at 7:00 A. M. November 4th, and was at once marched to billets for the night at Mogneville, a distance of eleven kilometers south of Revigny. Here, during the night, an urgent call was made on the regiment for 200 noncommissioned officers to be transferred to the military police for duty at the front. With characteristic promptitude the requisition was complied with, and early in the morning of the 5th the noncommissioned officers were on their way to their new duties. Later the same day instructions were received assigning the 1st and 3rd Battalions to station at Cheminon-la-ville, Marne, and the Headquarters Company, Machine Gun Company, Supply Company, and 2nd Battalion to stations at Mogneville and Andernay, Meuse. The 1st and 3rd Battalions marched to Cheminon-la-ville via Contrisson and Sermaize-les-bains, a distance of 15 kilometers, on the 5th, and later during the month regimental headquarters and the 2nd Battalion (less Company G at Andernay) were also moved to Cheminon.

The duties of the 157th Infantry at its new stations were to act as a replacement depot, and in the execution of this work the regiment received large numbers of casualties, mostly hospital evacuees, who were classified, reequipped, and sent back to the divisions at the front. The facilities for carrying on the work were meager in the extreme, and the following account of these operations taken from the official history of the 40th Division will give us some idea of the difficulties encountered:

"The emergency created by the Meuse-Argonne drive of November first, together with the anticipated drive of the Second Army on Metz, necessitated clearing hospitals of patients who were in condition to be evacuated. Many of these evacuees were thus sent to the Fortieth Division before any of its facilities to handle them ever existed except on paper, a condition which pre-

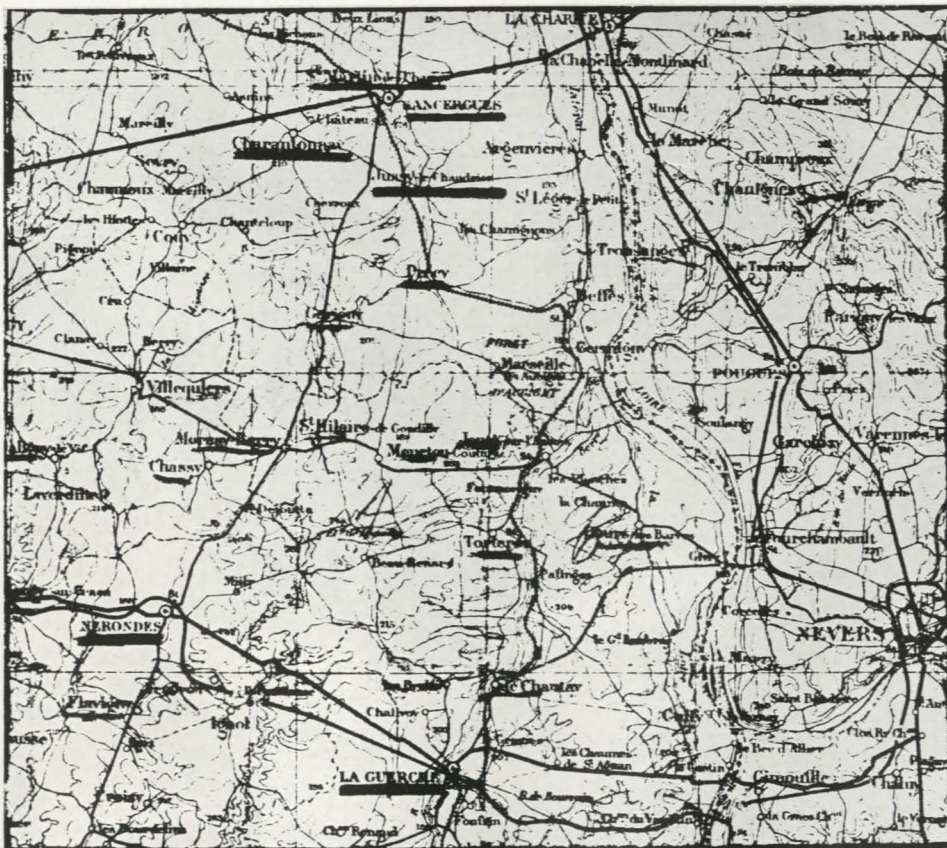




1—On the march in France. 2—German prisoners of war. 3—No Man's Land. 4—In the trenches—France. 5—A Cootie Hunt. 6—Infantry attacking in the Argonne Forest.—Photos by U. S. Army Signal Corps.

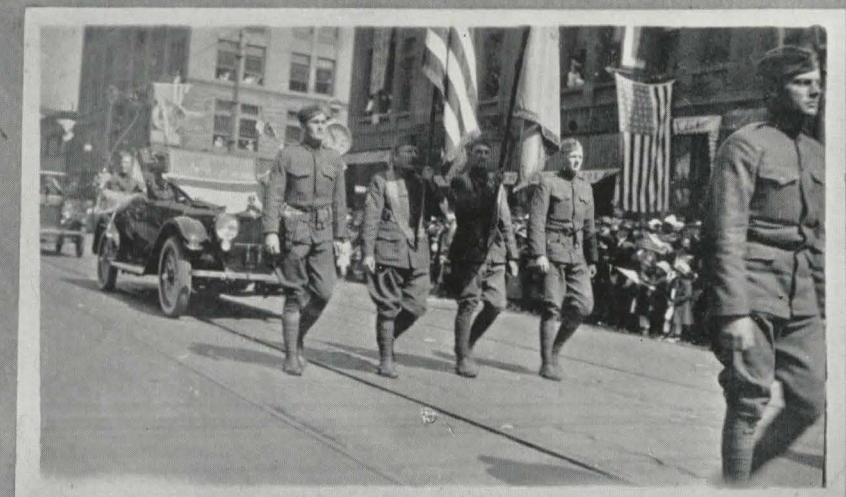
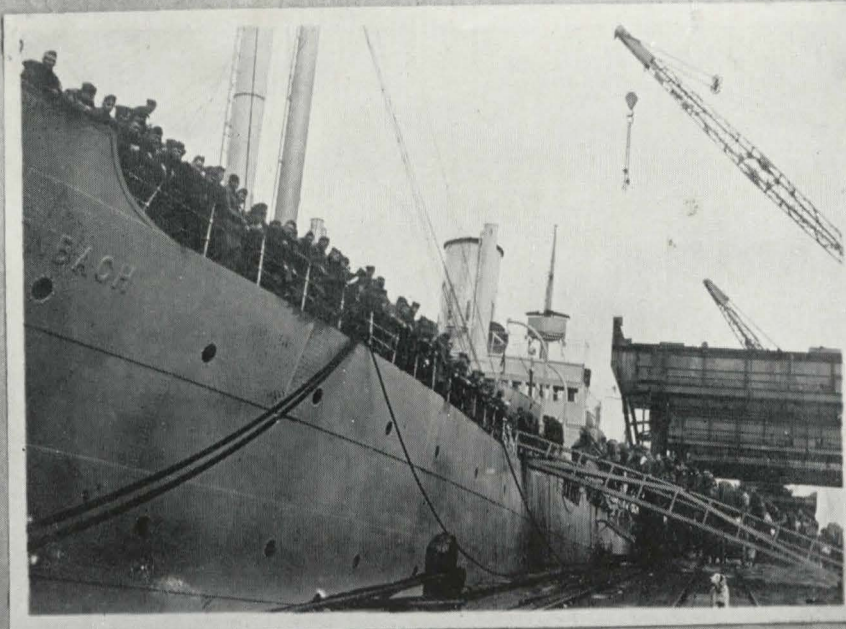


vailed, indeed, until the end. The little camp at Contrisson had a maximum capacity of seven hundred, whereas scarcely a day passed during a space of over a month when more than this number was not received. As at La Guerche these casualties were hospital evacuees, requiring complete equipment, delousing and the making of supplementary service records and individual equipment records. After the signing of the Armistice the situation was complicated by the fact that divisions of the Third Army were moving forward to take up the new line, and all other divisions were moving back into training areas. Scarcely an organization had a railhead for a period of two weeks after November 11th. Following that, an embargo was placed on transportation to facilitate the demobilization of certain classes of the French Army. All the time hospitals were evacuating their patients to the division, while it was impossible for the division to forward them to their organizations. The area occupied by the division had been devastated by the enemy, and billeting accommodations were extremely limited. The fall offensive of the allies taxed the transportation system to the extent that it was almost impossible to procure sets of equipment. This combination of circumstances necessitated the delivery of a large number of casualties with incomplete equipment to organizations to which they did not belong. To the Sixth, Thirty-sixth, Eightieth and Eighty-first Divisions there were delivered during this emergency such casualties, in number ranging



The La Guerche-Sancergues billeting area, France, August-October, 1918. 157th Infantry area: Sancergues—Charantonay—Jussy-le-Chaudrier.





Upper Left: Band Concert by 157th Infantry Band in front of regimental headquarters, Cheminon-la-ville, France, November 1918. Upper Right: The 157th Infantry embarking on the S. S. Julia Luckenbach, March 28, 1919, for the voyage back to the United States. Lower Left: Col. Hamrock and a few of his officers in France. Lower Right: "Home Again"; the colors of the 157th Infantry in the home-coming parade in Denver, April 26, 1919.



from six hundred to four thousand, without regard to qualification, with the sole consideration, in fact, of placing them where they could be properly housed and fed."

Soon after the arrival of the 40th Division in the Revigny area rumors were rife to the effect that the division was to be re-habilitated and moved to the front as a combat unit. These rumors were later confirmed, and all looked forward to the time when the division would take its place on the line. But the armistice of November 11th dissipated this hope for ever. As the Army of Occupation moved forward to the Rhine other divisions, including the 40th, withdrew to billeting areas near the Atlantic ports of France preparatory to embarking for the United States. On January 6, 1919, the 157th Infantry (less Company G) marched from Cheminon-la-ville to Revigny, and was billeted there for the night in the French barracks. Company G, leaving Andernay on the morning of the 7th, joined the regiment at Revigny, and the entire command entrained for Bordeaux at 5:30 P. M., the same day.

During its assignment as a replacement unit at Sancergues and Cheminon-la-ville, the 157th Infantry had sent 60 officers and 2,836 enlisted men to the front as replacements—81.5% of its total strength on arrival in France—and of the 51 officers and 607 enlisted men of the original organization remaining with the regiment the greater part had either been on or very near the front before the armistice. Although denied the privilege of taking its place on the line as a combat unit the 157th Infantry, nevertheless, had fulfilled its allotted task worthily, and the officers and men from the regiment that did serve on the front acquitted themselves as gallantly as their predecessors had done in the Philippines years before. To quote the commander of a combat company in referring to the 157th Infantry replacements: "In the attack \* \* \* these men were steadier than the average of the company. They were far above the average replacements received by us, and showed evidence of having had training and discipline."

The regiment arrived at Villenave-de-Ornain, department of Gironde (five kilometers south of Bordeaux), at 9:15 P. M., January 9, 1919, immediately de-training, and marching four kilometers to Pont-de-la-Maye where the various companies were billeted for the night. The next few days were spent in assigning the troops to their permanent billets in the area, the 1st Battalion going to Bouscat, the 3rd Battalion to Isle St. Medard, the Machine Gun Company to Isle St. George, and the balance of the regiment remaining at and near Pont-de-la-Maye. At these stations the companies were split into various so-called "camp detachments" named after demobilization camps in the United States where each detachment would be sent for muster out on the return to the homeland. Here, also, were received officers and men transferred to the regiment from other units for transportation to the United States.

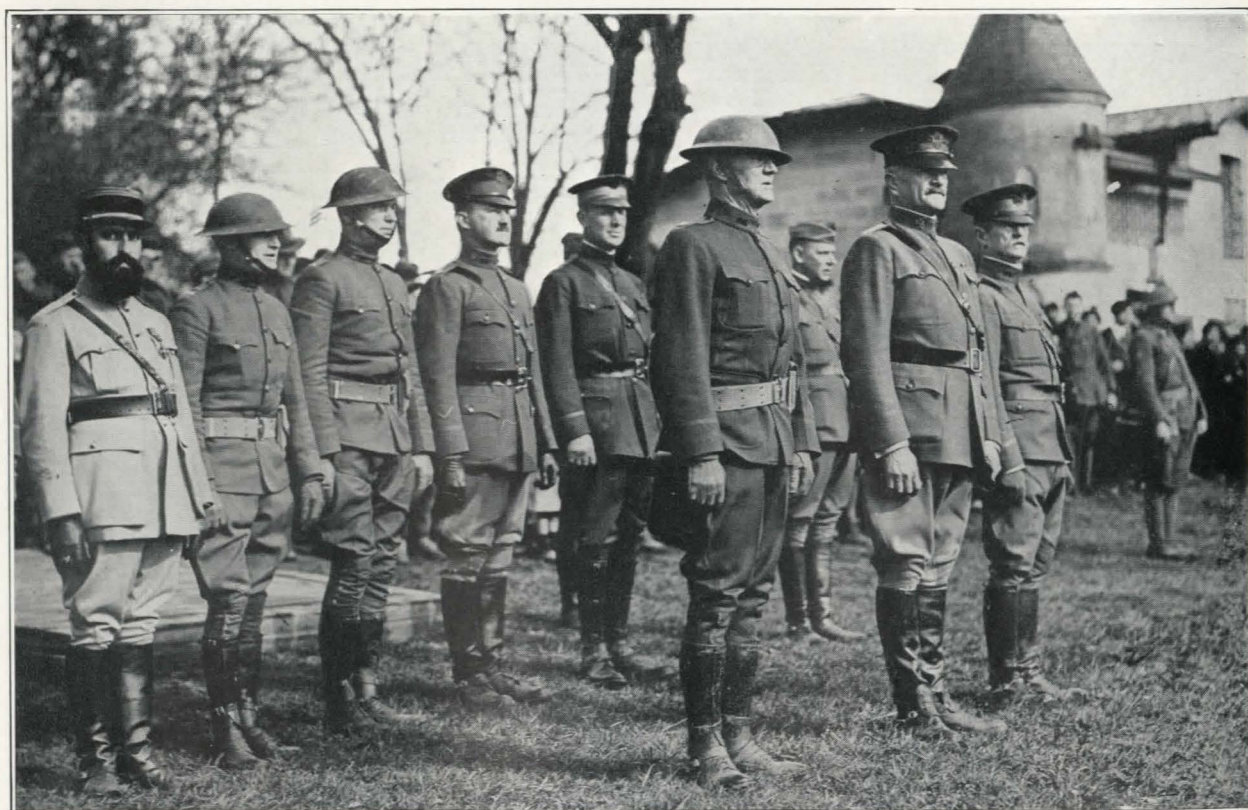
Early in March, 1919, the units of the 40th Division in the Bordeaux area were inspected and reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief, General Pershing. Brigadier General R. D. Walsh, commanding Base Section No. 2 at Bordeaux, wrote the following to the Commanding General, 40th Division, as a result of this inspection and review:

"1. I desire to commend you and the officers and men under your command for the fine appearance which they presented at the review in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief. It affords me great pleasure to be able to compliment you upon the appearance, the clothing, the cleanliness, and the good marching of your command.





General Pershing Inspects the 157th Infantry Prior to Its Departure from Bordeaux for the United States.



General Pershing Reviewing the 79th Brigade, 40th Div., A. E. F., Near Bordeaux, France, March 1919.  
Front Row, Left to Right—Brig. Gen. A. M. Tuthill, Commd. 79th Brigade; General Pershing; Brig. Gen. R. D. Walsh, Commd. Base Section No. 2, Bordeaux.



"2. I wish you would send a copy of this letter to the several units of your command present at that time."

Commenting on the above letter General Strong, in a letter to all unit commanders of the 40th Division, said in part:

"The Division Commander feels justly proud of the Division and desires to thank every member thereof for their loyal efforts which have resulted in such merited praise, and to commend them for maintaining their high standard of efficiency and discipline after his departure for the United States."

When the 157th Infantry was ordered south from Cheminon-la-ville to the billeting area near Bordeaux all members of the regiment anticipated an early return to the United States. However, a period of almost three months was to elapse before the date of sailing, and during this time the slowly dragging days and aggravating wait were to test the discipline and morale of the regiment to the limit. No "let up" in cleanliness, military bearing, smartness at drill, and discipline was permitted, and the regiment maintained its high standards and excellent morale the entire time.

On March 3, 1919, the 157th Infantry moved into the entrance section of the embarkation camp at the Chateau de Genicart near Bordeaux, and on March 6th the regiment marched to quarters in the permanent section of the camp. Here the process of going through what was termed the "mill" was undertaken by the entire regiment. Shortages of clothing and equipment were made up, all—officers and men—underwent a strict physical examination, and the rigors of the "delouser" eliminated the last tenacious "cootie". The standards of the embarkation camp were rigid and exacting, and it was a source of great pride to every member of the regiment to learn that the 157th Infantry soon became the accepted model for all other organizations in the camp. Colonel Ryan, commanding the embarkation camp, issued the following instructions to all company commanders and mess sergeants of the other organizations: "I want you to look at the 157th Infantry's kitchens and barracks. Their quarters and messes are the models after which you must all work. Every organization here will make its building and kitchens as clean and neat as those of the 157th Infantry, and every company and battery commander will make his men as neat and military."

Several changes in the officer personnel of the regiment took place at this time. Colonel Hamrock was transferred to the inspector general's department and assigned to duty at the embarkation camp at Bordeaux. Lieutenant Colonel Rice W. Means, who had rejoined the regiment after a tour of duty at the front with 4th U. S. Infantry of the Third (Regular) Division, assumed command in Colonel Hamrock's stead, and Majors Newlon and Head and several company officers were transferred from the regiment to duty at the camp at Genicart. Majors Washburn and Nankivell, as members of a general court martial, were ordered to accompany the division commander, Major General F. S. Strong, to the United States on February 20, 1919. The strength of the regiment just prior to embarkation was 76 officers and 2,653 enlisted men; of this number 28 officers and 607 enlisted men were members of the regiment when it left Camp Kearny for overseas duty.

The long awaited day of sailing came at last and on March 28, 1919, the 157th Infantry embarked on the *S. S. Julia Luckenbach* at Bordeaux for the voyage back to the United States. The trip, except for a little mild excitement and delay caused by a broken propellor blade, was uneventful, and the transport with the regiment aboard arrived at New York on April 11th. Immediately after landing the command was moved to Camp Merritt, N. J., and here preparations



were instituted to dispatch the various detachments to demobilization camps throughout the country.

The reception of the regiment in New York had been enthusiastic and generous, and the receipt of the following telegram from the Governor of Colorado gave the personnel of the regiment an inkling of the welcome that awaited them in the home state.

"To Lt. Col. Rice Means, Commander 157th Infantry, Care Postmaster, N. Y.

"On behalf of all the citizens of Colorado it gives me great pleasure to send to your command the most hearty words of greeting. We are delighted to learn of your safe arrival to your homeland and we look forward with earnest anticipation to the pleasure of extending a welcome to you upon your arrival here and trust that the privilege may be ours very soon.

Oliver H. Shoup,  
Governor."

The regiment, less detachments for other demobilization camps left Camp Merritt, N. J., in two troop trains, for Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., on April 21, 1919. Stopping over for a few hours en-route at several towns in southern Colorado, the troop trains arrived in Denver, Colo., early in the morning of April, 26, 1919. What happened thereafter on this great home-coming day let the following synopsis from a Denver newspaper tell:

"3:10 a. m.—Two special trains bearing 157th Infantry regiment arrived at station. Men awakened by crowds who had come to meet them.

"7 a. m.—Thousands storm gates in effort to reach men. No reveille needed because of noise of throngs.

"7:30 a. m.—Red Cross canteen workers serve breakfast to 844 men and officers of regiment.

"8 a. m.—Relatives greet returning heroes.

"10:30 a. m.—One hundred and fifty thousand people form solid wall along Seventeenth, Sixteenth and Fourteenth streets to shout mighty welcome to fighters; 10,000 soldiers, Victory drivers and civic groups march in two-mile procession thru streets.

"11 a. m.—Secretary Carter Glass, Gov. Oliver H. Shoup, Mayor W. F. R. Mills and Lieutenant Colonel Means review Colorado's own from stand in front of Auditorium.

"12:30 p. m.—Luncheon served at El Jebel temple for regiment by Red Cross women and mothers.

"2 p. m.—Vaudeville and smoker for men at El Jebel, at which Governor Shoup, Mayor Mills and Colonel Means speak.

"3:30 p. m.—Men entrain after another visit with relatives for journey to Fort Russell.

"4 p. m.—Special trains leave for Cheyenne by way of Fort Collins where last welcome of the state is given by 6,000 citizens.

"9:40 p. m.—Troops leave Fort Collins.

"11:00 p. m.—Trains arrive in Cheyenne. Men remain entrained for the night."



Detraining at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., (now Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo.) on the morning of April 27th, the regiment was finally mustered out of the service there on April 29, 1919. The strength of the regiment on demobilization was 29 officers and 550 enlisted men.

The 157th Infantry had returned to its home state, and no more fitting tribute to its services in the greatest war of all time was given than that of its beloved division commander in his farewell message to the 40th Division:

Headquarters 40th Division,  
Camp Kearny, Calif.  
April 4, 1919.

General Orders, }  
No. 16, }

1. On the eve of its demobilization, the Division Commander desires to express his deep appreciation of the constant and loyal support given him by the officers and men of every organization in the Division. Due to their devotion to duty, often under most adverse conditions, military efficiency, discipline and esprit have been maintained at the highest standard. Notwithstanding the bitter disappointment universally felt over the failure of the Division to see active service, as a unit, in the front line, there has been an intense feeling of pride in the splendid achievements of the thousands of replacements sent to combat divisions. These men have, without exception, displayed the highest type of soldierly bearing and won the admiration and commendations of their superiors.

2. We shall never cease to revere the memory of the large number who so cheerfully made the supreme sacrifice. We also extend our sympathy and grateful acknowledgment to the still larger number who came out of the terrible conflict wounded and disabled.

3. It is a keen satisfaction to know that there is nothing in the record of the 40th (Sunshine) Division which does not reflect credit upon its personnel. The undersigned is proud to have had the honor of commanding such a sterling body of American Troops and his heart is filled with sincere affection for the officers and men who have endeared themselves to him in so many ways.

4. May good fortune and happiness be the just reward of those who have rendered such faithful and meritorious service to their Country.

F. S. Strong,  
Major General, U. S. A.,  
Commanding.

Official:  
T. H. A. Tiedemann  
Lieut. Colonel, A. G. D.,  
Division Adjutant.