

Commander-in-Chief had waited. On July 18 Foch launched a counter-offensive, which continued until the end came. \* \* \* With their position about Sedan, the Allies held the narrow neck of the bottle. British and French armies were driving the defeated German armies toward the neck when the end came.

"The terrain made it necessary for the Germans to evacuate France past Sedan and down the Moselle River. Our mission toward Sedan was to capture the road over which the enemy must withdraw.

*Beginners' History, enlarged edition--Mace; Rand, McNally & Co.* Transports carrying American troops conveyed by battleships. The American troops then formed a united army, fighting under their own flag. They took over a hundred miles of the front, relieving tired Frenchmen.

"I never heard of transports carrying troops being conveyed by battleships. The western front was over 400 miles long, depending upon the period at which it is estimated. During all of 1918 the French held far over one-half of the western battle front and at the time of the Battle of Cantigny they held three-fourths of it. Grouping Italians with French and Portuguese with British, the percentage of battle line held by the Allies at the end of the month in 1918 was about as follows:

January--Belgian, 5; French, 69; British, 25; American, 1.  
March--Belgian, 5; French, 72; British, 19; American, 4.  
May--Belgian, 4; French, 75; British, 16; American, 5.  
July--Belgian, 5; French, 63; British, 18; American, 14.  
September--Belgian, 6; French, 58; British, 18; American, 18.  
Armistice--Belgian, 6; French, 55; British, 18; American, 21.

*History of Our Country--Halleck; American Book Company.* During the forty-seven days of the Meuse-Argonne battle there never was one day of clear American sunshine.

"This observation on the weather is interesting and does not seem to be in the other fifty-one histories examined.

#### Our First Task in France.

*Primary History of the United States--Benziger Brothers.* The first important task that fell to our share in France was to cover the road to Paris at Chateau-Thierry. The Germans were only forty-two miles from the capital and the French troops were exhausted.

"I went to France with the first division of Americans. First in sector, first to fire a shot at enemy, first to attack, first to raid the enemy, first to be raided, first to capture prisoners, first to inflict casualties, first to suffer casualties, first to be cited singly in General Orders. This is the first time I have heard of our "first important task at Chateau-Thierry. The ensemble situation of the Marne or Chateau-Thierry salient on July 18, 1918, shows the battle line to be about seventy miles long. Fifty miles of this battle line, including Chateau-Thierry, was held by the 'exhausted' French troops; twenty miles by the Americans.

#### The American Soldier.

*Our United States--Guitteau, Silver Burdett & Co.* The fighting at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry and in the Argonne Forest demonstrated that the American soldier with six months of training is more than a match for the German veteran. Lack of training on the part of our troops was overcome in large measure by native ingenuity, courage and skill.

"Steady, Clio! 'By pride, angels have fallen ere thy time.'" Q. E. D. Ideas like these when believed by children make work for the Graves Registration Service. As a veteran of three wars, I have seen the flower of America fade three times and enough money spent to pave with concrete every road in the United States. Same old story. Unprepared!