

"Every night seemed to be eternity. The wheels ground along bound for a common place. It was gravity. It was resistless. Wheels of Ixion! The horses, skin and bones, tugged. The men shoved and pushed the guns. Very little swearing. Few words spoken. A man saved his breath—he needed it.

"The rendezvous — Villers-Cotterets Forest, near Soissons—was reached. We had run in on time! But our men were all in. They dropped on the ground as dead. The order was there—move forward! They moved. They leaped! Something gave them strength—but I am not writing theology. They faced machine gun fire that was as wind-driven sleet. Thousands fell—every man shot in the breast.

"Historians: Why not write that in your school books?

#### "Fifth," Not "Fourth," Drive.

*The United States—Howard & Brown; D. Appleton & Co.* Their (German) fourth drive was a complete failure, and their loss of men and supplies was great.

"A slight change and the author is correct. Make text read "fifth" drive.

#### Ludendorff's Failure.

*History of America—Fish: American Book Company.* On July 15 Ludendorff drove again against the same part of the line. There were now eight American divisions in position. The drive fell dead and on July '8 Foch began a counter-attack, in which the Americans took a prominent part.

"The 'drive fell dead' enough to almost scare the Allies to death! The enemy was on the verge of cutting our line of communications. In my judgment, had we been a day later in reaching Soissons, our histories would tell a very different story! Soissons was not a counter-attack. Soissons was the beginning of the decisive battle that hinged on Verdun and changed the world from monarchies to republics.

#### The Flank of the Salient.

*Brief History of United States—Andrews; J. B. Lippincott Company.* On July 18 French and American troops received orders to strike at the flank of one of the

"salients" or wedges driven into the allied lines near the Marne River.

"Soissons, where the Allies struck, is about twenty-five miles from the Marne River. A salient does not have a flank. The attack was made at the base of the Chateau-Thierry salient.

#### The Line of Battle.

*School History of United States—Mace; Rand, McNally & Co.* On July 18 the Allied armies delivered a mighty counter-blow from the Swiss border to the North Sea. \* \* \* The German people were almost starving, thanks to the blockade.

"On July 18 General Mangin made an assault on a front of about twenty-five miles from Chateau-Thierry to Soissons. The western front, depending upon the time it was estimated, was over 400 miles from the Swiss border to the North Sea.

#### The Flight at St. Mihiel.

*History of United States—Mace-Bogardus; Rand, McNally & Co.* There (San Mihiel) 100,000 Americans met the best troops Germany had, captured 16,000 and went smashing through their lines. \* \* \* Over a million men in khaki fought like heroes for over a month. They drove the Germans reeling back toward the Rhine.

"Reeling back toward the Rhine! The Germans contested every foot of ground from Vauquois Mountain to Sedan. They made a masterful retreat. If the period of 'reeling' covers the time from the turn of the tide to the armistice, they killed 44,000 American soldiers during this time. Our soldiers did not wear khaki.

#### The Situation at Sedan.

*American History—Bourne and Benton; D. C. Heath & Co.* The German offensive which had lasted since March had spent its strength. For this moment the