

The Marines at Chateau-Thierry.

Beginners' History of Our Country—Harry F. Estill; Southern Publishing Company. At Chateau-Thierry, a town on the Marne, the French forces were being driven back, when a division of American marines was rushed to the front. They arrived in trucks and cattle cars, disembarked almost upon the field of battle, and hurried forward without waiting for their artillery. They stormed ahead right through the midst of a retreating French division.

"There was not a division of American Marines on the front. Less than 1 per cent. of forty-two American divisions in France were Marines. I am told the Marines never fought in the town of Chateau-Thierry. They did not arrive in cattle cars and 'disembark' almost upon the field of battle.

The Location of Belleau Wood.

History of the United States—Gordy; Charles Scribner's Sons. The deadly struggle in Belleau Wood, where the battle of Chateau-Thierry was fought, began on June 2 and lasted for almost an entire month.

"Belleau Wood is about six miles west of Chateau-Thierry and has less than 800 acres.

Artillery at Belleau Wood.

History United States—Daffan, Ennis, Texas. The battle of Chateau-Thierry fought in Belleau Wood began on June 2 and lasted nearly a month. Here the Americans, though outnumbered sometimes four and five to one without artillery and before machine guns cleared Belleau Wood of every German soldier.

"These operations had artillery support.

First Defensive Battle.

America. A History of our Country—Long; Ginn & Co. The first defensive battle in which American troops were largely engaged was at Chateau-Thierry. The first offensive was at Belleau Wood.

"The Americans in various units occupied defensive sectors after the first shot was fired, Oct. 23, 1917. The first distinctly American offensive was the battle of San Mihiel. Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Wood and Soissons are included in the Aisne-Marne major operation which was participated in by 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32d and other divisions.

First German Setback.

Brief Review of United States History—Hawkins; Severn School, Boone, Maryland. The fight at Belleau Wood was the first serious setback the Hun had encountered, and the stopping of his advance relieved Paris from immediate danger.

"The Germans had been stopped at the Marne River. Army after army had been sacrificed before the walls of Verdun. Toul was opposite Metz. Belfort had not been taken. My estimate of the ensemble situation is that Paris was not in danger of being captured in June, 1918.

The Turning of the Tide of Battle.

History of the United States—Hall-Smith-Ousley, Southern Publishing Co. Later the Americans and French drove the enemy out of Belleau Wood and definitely turned the tide of battle.

"The brilliant exploit of the Marines and Seventh Infantry at Belleau Wood never turned the tide of battle in the World War. A great military critic states that 'the psychological turn of the war, was on May 28, 1918, at Cantigny, when the first American division captured the town.'" In my opinion the actual tide of battle turned on July 18, 1918, when the First, Second and First French Moroccan divisions, later leap-frogged by the Gordon Highlanders, made the surprise attack, without the usual artillery preparation, near Soissons. This move endangered the German line of communications. A general withdrawal of the enemy was almost immediately begun. The initiative was now in the hands of the Allies.