

ANNEX No. 5

COMMENDATIONS

IN addition to the commendations of the 90th Division which have been set forth in the previous text, the following additional complimentary communications, among others, were received:

LETTER FROM GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES:

“American Expeditionary Forces
Office of the Commander-in-Chief
France

April 26, 1919.

MAJOR-GENERAL CHARLES H. MARTIN,

Commanding 90th Division,
American E. F.

My dear General Martin:

It gives me much pleasure to congratulate you and, through you, the officers and men of your Division on the splendid appearance that it made at its inspection and review on April 24 at Wengerohr. The smart appearance of personnel and the good condition in which I found the horse transportation and artillery are sure signs of the high morale that permeates all ranks. This is only what one would expect of a division which has such a fine fighting record.

Arriving in France towards the end of June, 1918, it underwent, until the end of August, the usual course of training behind the line. It was then placed in the Villers-en-Haye sector and there took part in the St. Mihiel offensive where it attacked the strong positions on the Hindenburg line immediately to the west of the Moselle River. In these operations it was entirely successful, mopping up the Bois-des-Rappes, occupying the town of Vilcey-sur-Trey, the Bois-de-Presle and the Forêt-des-Vencheres, and advancing to a depth of 6½ kilometers. On the night of October 21 the Division entered the Meuse-Argonne offensive, taking the town of Bantheville and the high ground north and northwest of that town. In the tremendous attack of November 1 it continued its splendid record, piercing the Freya Stellung, crossing the Meuse and taking 14 villages in its very rapid advance. The Carriere Rois, the Bois-de-Raux, Côte 243 (the capture of which was vital to the advance of the division on the left) and Hill 321 were the scenes of desperate fighting on the opening day of the attack. On November 2, Villers-devant-Dun was taken, and the following day the Bois-de-Montigny, Bois-de-Tailly, Bois-de-Mont, Bois-de-Sassey and the town of Montigny-devant-Sassey were taken, and a very deep and rapid advance being made. On the 4th, Halles was occupied. By November 10 the infantry had

crossed the Meuse and the town of Mouzay was taken. The Division was pressing the enemy hard at the time of the signing of the armistice.

As part of the 3rd Army the Division participated in the march into Germany and the subsequent occupation of enemy territory. I am pleased to mention the excellent conduct of the men under these difficult circumstances as well as for their services in battle. They are to the credit of the American people. I wish to express to each man my own appreciation of the splendid work that has been done and the assurance of my continued interest in his welfare.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John J. PERSHING."

B

LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT-GENERAL LIGGETT, COMMANDING GENERAL, FIRST
ARMY,

AND SUBSEQUENTLY COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY OF OCCUPATION:

"Army of Occupation
Third C. S. Army
Office A. C. of S., G-3

8 May, 1919.

From: Chief of Staff, Third Army.

To: Commanding General, 90th Division.

Subject: Appreciation of services of the Division.

The Army Commander takes this opportunity, on their separation from the Third Army, to express to the Commanding General, the officers, and the men of the 'Texas-Oklahoma Division' his appreciation of the excellent service rendered by them while under his command during the St. Mihiel offensive, the Meuse-Argonne operation, and in the Army of German Occupation.

At St. Mihiel the Division went forward with a dash and energy that carried all before it, taking those redoubtable fortresses west of the Moselle which had previously been impregnable to our gallant Allies. Again, in the Meuse-Argonne operation, with that indomitable spirit of their pioneer forefathers, the Division drove the enemy from his strongholds on the heights between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River, contributing largely to his final destruction. As one of the Divisions forming the Army of German Occupation the spirit and conduct of the officers and men has been an illustration to the enemy's people of the best traditions of the Nation and its Army.

It is a matter of keen personal regret to the Army Commander that your splendid Division is now leaving his command.

By command of Lieutenant-General LIGGETT:

(Signed)MALIN CRAIG,
Chief of Staff.”

C

LETTER FROM FRENCH REPUBLIC

“FRENCH REPUBLIC
Paris, May 24, 1919.

From: President du Conseil.

To: Commanding General, 90th Division, U.S.A.
My dear General:

Before your Division embarks for the United States, I am very happy, in recalling the memory of the glorious fights in which the 90th Division was engaged, to express to you the gratitude of the Government of the Republic.

When the American Army attacked at St. Mihiel, the 90th Division was on the right of the attacking units. That Division had the honor of carrying by storm the enemy's defensive works of the Bois le Pretre, which place had been the theater of hard and bloody engagements and had a particular renown among the French Army.

In the evening of the 14th, the 90th Division had outflanked the wood by the left and reached Vandieres, taking from the enemy 500 prisoners and very important war material.

In the month of November your Division was again engaged in a great offensive and reached the river Meuse near Stenay.

The soldiers of the 90th Division, who have been acquainted with the sufferings of the war, are now going back to their happy homes. They will not forget their brothers in arms of France, and both democracies will remain after this war, in which they suffered side by side, united forever.

For the President du Conseil and by his command.

Signed:The General Commissioner
of Franco-American War Affairs,
ANDRÉ TARDIEU.”

OTHER COMMENDATIONS

D

TELEGRAM FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, SEPTEMBER 16, 1918

“Please accept my sincere congratulations on the successful and important part taken by the officers and men of the First Corps in the first offensive of the First American Army on September twelfth and thirteenth period The courageous dash and vigor of our troops has thrilled our countrymen and evoked the enthusiasm of our Allies period Please convey to your command my heart felt appreciation of their splendid work period I am proud of you all period

PERSHING.”

TELEGRAM FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, FIRST ARMY CORPS,
SEPTEMBER 20, 1918

“G-3 Number 1023 period Please express to the officers and men of the Ninetieth Division my congratulations over their having successfully met their first severe test

LIGGETT.”

The following message was received from the Fourth Army Corps on September 24, in reference to the raid of the 357th Infantry on the night of September 23-24:

“Headquarters Fourth Army Corps
American Expeditionary Forces

4h.50, 24 September 18 (By Phone).

The Commanding General congratulates the Commanding General of the 90th Division on the successful operations.

CHIEF OF STAFF.”

EXTRACT OF GENERAL ORDERS No. 42
Headquarters Third Army Corps

November 11, 1918

“It is with pride and pleasure that the Corps Commander places on record, in General Orders of the Corps, the following communication from Headquarters, First Army, November 10, 1918:

‘I. The Army Commander has noticed with great pleasure and appreciation the excellent work of your Corps in crossing the Meuse River and clearing the heights to the east of the town of Dun-sur-Meuse. He appreciates fully the difficulties involved in this problem and therefore realizes that the results attained reflect great credit on your Corps and the divisions included therein.’

He desires me to transmit the foregoing to you and to request that his appreciation be transmitted to the officers and men of the Corps.

(Signed)J. L. HINES.”

E

FAREWELL MESSAGE OF MAJOR-GENERAL HENRY T. ALLEN TO THE 90TH
DIVISION:

“Headquarters Ninetieth Division
American Expeditionary Forces
France

21 November, 1918.

MEMORANDUM:

To the Officers and Men of the 90th Division

Having served with you throughout your period of organization, training, and fighting, from the arrival of the first recruit at Camp Travis to the last shot at Stenay and Baalon when the Armistice became effective, – I am now constrained by instructions from General Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, to leave you when you are headed toward Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. This separation has given me so much pain that renunciation of the Corps Command persisted in my mind.

Your superb comportment everywhere in France, as well as your unsurpassed battle exploits, have won for you a designation in the Army of Occupation; your wonderful fighting ability and your superior manhood have won for you a place in my heart that will remain with me for all time.

The fathers and mothers who have produced men such as you, who know not battle straggling nor retreat under any circumstances, must be thrilled when they learn your stories. The States to which you and they belong possess the prime essentials of prosperity and greatness.

The Soul of the 90th Division will remain a sacred inspiration to me wherever I be.

HENRY T. ALLEN
Major-General.”