

# **HISTORY OF THE YANKEE DIVISION**

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History Of The Yankee Division by Harry A. Benwell & John J. Pershing & Clarence R. Edwards

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**HARRY A. BENWELL & JOHN J. PERSHING & CLARENCE R. EDWARDS**

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HISTORY  
OF THE  
YANKEE DIVISION

*by*

HARRY A. BENWELL

*with appreciations by*

GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING

MAJOR-GENERAL CLARENCE R. EDWARDS

*and*

SECRETARY OF WAR NEWTON D. BAKER



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BOSTON

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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE, . . . . .	vii
GENERAL PERSHING'S TRIBUTE TO THE YANKEE DIVISION, . . . . .	ix
GENERAL EDWARDS' TRIBUTE TO THE YANKEE DIVISION, . . . . .	xi
SECRETARY BAKER'S TRIBUTE TO THE YANKEE DIVISION, . . . . .	xiii
HISTORY OF THE YANKEE DIVISION, . . . . .	3
CHAPTER I. — Organization, . . . . .	11
CHAPTER II. — Expands All United States Units, . . . . .	23
CHAPTER III. — Training in France, . . . . .	32
CHAPTER IV. — Enjoy Old-fashioned Christmas, . . . . .	39
CHAPTER V. — First United States Divisional Shot in War, . . . . .	47
CHAPTER VI. — Yankee Spirit Amazes the French, . . . . .	56
CHAPTER VII. — Move to Start a Big Drive, . . . . .	62
CHAPTER VIII. — Battle of Apremont, . . . . .	70
CHAPTER IX. — How They "Kept the Faith," . . . . .	79
CHAPTER X. — Boche Beaten at Own Game, . . . . .	86
CHAPTER XI. — "Saviors of Paris," . . . . .	92
CHAPTER XII. — Germans "Pinched Out," . . . . .	101
CHAPTER XIII. — General Degoutte's Tributes, . . . . .	106
CHAPTER XIV. — Sniper "Gets" Young "Scotty," . . . . .	114
CHAPTER XV. — St. Mihiel Salient Wiped Out, . . . . .	137
CHAPTER XVI. — Flank of Twenty-sixth Uncovered, . . . . .	144
CHAPTER XVII. — 102d Infantry Cited, . . . . .	152
CHAPTER XVIII. — Edwards' Report on St. Mihiel, . . . . .	156
CHAPTER XIX. — 102d Takes Prisoners, . . . . .	164
CHAPTER XX. — Colonel Bearss's Report, . . . . .	171
CHAPTER XXI. — Yankees Create Diversion, . . . . .	176
CHAPTER XXII. — Transferred to Verdun, . . . . .	180
CHAPTER XXIII. — Praised for Action at Hattonchatel, . . . . .	192
CHAPTER XXIV. — The Cessation of Hostilities, . . . . .	204
CHAPTER XXV. — President Wilson Dines with the Twenty-sixth, . . . . .	208
CHAPTER XXVI. — Animals of the Division, . . . . .	222
CHAPTER XXVII. — "Homeward Bound," . . . . .	234
APPENDIX. — Roster of Officers, Twenty-sixth Division, as Originally Organized, . . . . .	249
INDIVIDUAL SERVICE RECORD, . . . . .	275





## PREFACE

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In preparing the "History of the Yankee Division," the author is indebted to Major-General Clarence R. Edwards, General John J. Pershing, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker and Brigadier-General Harry C. Hale for tributes to the Twenty-sixth Division, which appear as forewords.

Thanks are also due for personal assistance rendered in the compilation of the work by Major-General Edwards, Brigadier-General Charles H. Cole, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew L. Pendleton, Brigadier-General George H. Shelton, Major John W. Hyatt, Lieutenant-Colonel James L. Howard, Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton R. Horsesy, and other members of the Division, both officers and enlisted men, together with Bert Ford, Boston's own war correspondent; and also to The New England Publishing Company for the permission to reprint the work which appeared serially in the Boston Sunday Advertiser and American and the Boston American.

It is hoped that readers of this book, especially those associated with the famous Yankee Division, will accept it in the spirit in which it is offered, — as a tribute to the men of the Division and to its great leader, Clarence Ransome Edwards.



## GENERAL PERSHING'S TRIBUTE TO THE YANKEE DIVISION

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, March 21, 1919.

*Major-General Harry C. Hale, Commanding Twenty-sixth Division,  
American Expeditionary Forces, Écommoy.*

MY DEAR GENERAL HALE:— It gives me a great deal of pleasure to congratulate you, and through you all the officers and men of the Twenty-sixth Division, on their splendid appearance at the inspection and review which was held near Écommoy on February 19. The spirit and soldierly bearing of all ranks pleased me very much, and was what one would have expected of a division with such a long and excellent record in France.

Arriving in the autumn of 1917, the division went through the prescribed course of instruction until early in 1918, when, brigaded with the French, it entered the line for a month and a half's further training north of Soissons, in the Chemin des Dames sector. It was withdrawn for rest when the German offensive of March 21 necessitated its immediate return to the line in the La Reine and Boucq sectors, north of Toul. Here it had two important engagements, — one in the Apremont Forest, where it repulsed with loss a heavy German raid, and at Seicheprey, where casualties on both sides amounted to approximately 2,000 men.

On July 18 the division was thrown into the battle between the Aisne and the Marne, advancing in seven days more than 17 kilometers against determined enemy