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Attack on Negro Soldiers Resented

Thomas Montgomery Gregory

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ATTACK ON NEGRO SOLDIERS RESENTED

Former Special Assistant to Secretary of War Assails General Bullard's Attack on Record of Colored Officers and Soldiers During World War.—Doctor Scott Recalls Glorious Exploits of Negro Units and Quotes General Pershing Against Bullard.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Doctor Emmett J. Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, during the World conflict, 1917-19, has sent the following letter to the New York Herald-Tribune refuting the attack of General Robert Lee Bullard, of Youngsboro, Alabama, upon the colored officers and soldiers who served in France during the World War:

Dr. Scott's Letter

To the Editor of The New York Herald-Tribune and Syndicated Newspapers.

The charges and statements against Colored officers and Colored soldiers who served in France during the World War contained in General Bullard's articles in the New York Herald-Tribune, and which are also being syndicated throughout the country, were completely exploded in 1918, not only by Ralph W. Tyler, Special Representative who was a regularly commissioned War Correspondent to specialize in reports regarding colored troops in France, but also by official records which have been published in full detail in my history of "The American Negro in the World War." Over against the charges and statements of General Bullard may be set the conclusive statement of General Pershing, the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, who said:

"A tour of inspection among American Negro troops by officers of these headquarters shows the comparatively high degree of training and efficiency among these troops. . . .

"The only regret expressed by colored troops is that they are not given more dangerous work to do. I cannot

tinguished itself. I commend the 92nd Division for its achievements not only in the field, but on the record its men have made in their individual conduct. The American public has every reason to be proud of the record made by the 92nd Division."

It remains only to be said that the charges against colored officers were thrashed out in France and also before a special commission assembled after the Armistice in Washington, and I think the record bears me out that in each and every case the men were acquitted.

The Negro soldier in the World War can hold his head as high as any, for the records of individual units as well as of the two divisions won the unstinted praise of officers of every kind and degree.

As long as there have been engraved in the archives of the French military establishment such unequivocal expressions of appreciation and glory as the following, they can afford to permit even so high an officer as General Bullard to take a fling at their courage and their sacrifices:

"P. C. October 7th, 1918.
9th Army Corps,
Staff 3rd Bureau,
No. 2555

NOTE

"The 157th, 161st and the 2nd Moroccan Divisions are leaving the Army Corps. The General commanding the 10th Army Corps addressed to them his most sincere thanks and his warmest congratulations for the glorious success achieved by their admirable ardour and their indomitable tenacity. He salutes the brave American Regiments who have rivaled in intrepidity their French comrades.

"He cannot recall here the feats which have been performed for every one of the days of that victorious journey. They are inscribed on the conquered grounds, materialized by the trophies taken from the enemy, and engraved in the heart of the chief who bows before the troops and salutes them profoundly.

has recommended your regiment for citation in the orders of the French Army worded as follows:

"Gave proof, during its first engagement, of the finest qualities of bravery and daring which are virtues of assaulting troops.

"Under the orders of Colonel Tupes dashed with superb gallantry and admirable scorn of danger to the assault of a position continuously defended by the enemy—taking it by storm under an exceptionally violent machine gun fire. Continued the progression in spite of enemy artillery fire and very severe losses. They made numerous prisoners, captured cannons, machine guns, and important war materials."

(Signed) "QUILLET."

On October 8 General Goybet of the 157th Division, in a communication addressed to the commanding officers of the 371st and 372nd Infantry Regiments, U. S. A., said:

"Your troops have been admirable in their attack. You must be proud of the courage of your officers and men; and I consider it an honor to have them under my command.

"The bravery and dash of your regiment won the admiration of the 2nd Moroccan Division, who are themselves versed in warfare. Thanks to you during those hard days. The Division was at all times in advance of all other divisions of the Army Corps. I am sending you all my thanks and beg you to transmit them to your subordinates.

"I called on your wounded. Their morale is higher than any praise.

"GOYBET."

It is to be noted that at the date this communication was received, October 8, 1918, the 372nd had on its roster six colored line officers, who were later transferred to the 92nd Division.

"December 15, 1918.
157th Division
Staff of the Infantry.

Order of the Divisional Infantry

the indomitable dash, the heroic rush of the American Regiments up the Observatory Ridge and into the plain of Monthois. The most powerful defenses, the most strongly organized M. G. nests, the heaviest artillery barrages, nothing could stop them. These crack regiments overcame every obstacle with a most complete contempt for danger; through their steady devotion the RED HAND Division, for nine whole days of severe struggle, was constantly leading the way for the victorious advance of the 4th Army.

"Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, I respectfully salute our glorious comrades who have fallen, and I bow to your colours, side by side with the flag of the 333rd Regiment of Infantry they have shown us the way to VICTORY.

"Dear friends from America, when you will be back again on the other side of the ocean, don't forget the Red Hand Division. Our brotherhood has been cemented in the blood of the brave, and such bonds will never be destroyed.

"Remember your General who is proud of having commanded you, and be sure of his grateful affection to you all for ever.

"General Goybet, Commanding the 157th Division.

(Signed) "GOYBET."

Whole Regiments Decorated.

Four Negro regiments won the signal honor of being awarded the Croix de Guerre as a regiment. These were the 369th, the 379th, the 371st, and the 372nd. The 369th (old 15th New York National Guard) was especially honored for its record of 191 days on the firing line, exceeding by five days the term of service at the front of any other American regiment.

Among the honors which France has bestowed upon American soldiers, none is more interesting than the "Citation" by which the entire 369th Regiment was given the coveted Croix de Guerre. The citation was for gallantry in the September and October offensives in the Champagne sector. By command of General Martin, commanding the 92nd Division, General Orders were issued commending a number of colored officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 379th Infantry for meritorious conduct in action at Bois Frehaut, near Pont-a-Mousson, November 10 and 11, 1918, during the drive on Metz.

Metz, being an extract from Scott's History of "The American Negro in the World War":

"In this last battle of the war to establish world democracy—the following colored army units effectively took part: 365th, 366th, and 367th Infantry; 349th, 350th, and 351st Field Artillery, and 167th Machine Gun. All these men were combatants in this final drive, but in this account of the battle the three non-combatant units, the 317th Ammunition Train, under the command of a colored Major, Major Milton T. Dean; the 325th Field Signal Battalion; the staff of the 366th Field Hospital, to which the wounded and gassed were rushed, and the 365th and 366th Ambulance Corps, under the command, respectively, of Captain Sherman Hickman of Memphis, and Captain Charles N. Garvin of Cleveland, must not be overlooked or slighted. The 368th Infantry, while they did not get into this last action, had, however, been moved up to Guzoncourt, where they were held in reserve.

"If the reader will get out his map of France, and observe it, he will be able to follow the advance of the combatant colored troops in this last drive, which must go down in history as the final battle of the World War. The 367th, or "Buffaloes," as they were familiarly known, had been holding Villers-sous-Preny for many days, and up to the time, seven o'clock Sunday morning, November 10, they were ordered to advance to Pagny, which they did, and held. The advance of this regiment was through "Death Valley," exposed to the heavy fire of the German guns stationed on the hill skirting the advance. They made the advance without a single casualty, and that they did so, considering the fire the men were subjected to, appears like a miracle, blind fate, or the will of God. They reached their objective in good form, and it was providential that they did, for it was from this point they were able to open up fire on the German guns, and save the 56th Infantry (white) from annihilation, when it had become pocketed by a murderous German fire which prevented its making Preny, or retreating.

"This saving of the 56th by the 367th was history repeating itself—colored troops saving white troops from destruction in 1918 as the 10th Cavalry saved the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War in 1898. So

lain out in the woods, thus terribly wounded, for twenty-four hours. Capt. George A. Holland, of the same regiment, also displayed remarkable courage and leadership. He had been ordered to take a position by his Colonel, and hold it at any cost. With his men he took it, but the fire was so heavy and murderous that his white Major, commanding his battalion, sent orders to him to retire. This he positively refused to do, sending word back that he had been ordered by his Colonel to hold the position taken, and he and his men would hold it until the last man fell, unless he had orders from his Colonel to retire. Few instances, in the annals of war, are recorded showing equal courage, in the face of heavy odds, to that shown by this colored officer, Captain Holland, and his company of the 366th who obeyed to the letter the order given to take and to hold a position. As a result of the incomparable courage, endurance, and bravery shown by this company, twenty-five of them were commended, in General Orders, by the Division Commander.

"The First Battalion of the 365th engaged in this final drive of the war, had occupied the front line trenches in the Marbache sector. From almost the moment of occupancy, active patrolling and raiding into the enemy's lines was ordered, to determine the strength of the enemy. Officers and men of this battalion were sent out daily and nightly on such missions, and many instances of conspicuous bravery were displayed. Several of their number, however, were captured, and not a few killed and wounded, but the number of the enemy killed, captured, and wounded greatly outnumbered the casualties suffered by this First Battalion.

The 365th in the Bois Frehaut.

"The 365th, prior to the last drive, had been occupying the front line trenches near Dieulouard, that town being the regimental headquarters. It had orders to advance into, take and hold a position in the Bois Frehaut. It happened that, for one reason or another, all the white officers of this regiment, including the Colonel commanding, and save the Major commanding the 2nd Battalion, had been incapacitated for action, and so the 2nd Battalion went into action with but one white officer, the Major. No unit in the advance had a more difficult position to take and hold than the position assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the

rage laid down by the Germans checked the advance, and the battalion was ordered to remain in its position for the night.

"At five o'clock the next (Monday) morning, the 11th of November, the battalion moved into position under cover of our artillery barrage, which began at 4:30 A. M. With two companies in the front line and two in support, the 1st Battalion advanced through the difficult woods, Bois de Frehaut. It advanced with machine gun support until the northern edge of the woods was reached, overlooking Champey. At this point the advance was met by a most terrific artillery bombardment and machine gun fire delivered by the Germans stationed on the heights of LaCote Hill. The fighting at this point was bitter. Men and officers, however, remained in action and held their line under extremely adverse conditions. Up to this point the line had advanced, in the face of a terrific fire, about 400 yards, forcing many machine guns of the enemy to retire, and capturing a number of others, along with much material. This action continued until 10:45 A. M., at which time the 'Cease Fire' was sounded, which ended the hostilities of this titanic war.

"The casualties of the 1st Battalion of the 365th in this engagement were two officers wounded and 61 enlisted men killed, wounded, and gassed. Among the wounded officers was Lieut. Charles H. Fearing, formerly of Washington, D. C., who was slightly cut in the arm by shrapnel. Lieut. Fearing, but a few days before, had escaped death most miraculously.

Work of the Ammunition Train.

"Distributing the many tons of ammunition along the route of the advance and moving it up to the American combatants in this final drive for the 92nd Division was a big task, but was successfully done by a colored ammunition train, under the command of Major Milton T. Dean, a colored officer. Arranging the telegraphic and signal communications between the various units was a dangerous—most dangerous—and big achievement, and this was done by the 325th Colored Field Signal Battalion. Caring for and attending to the hundreds of wounded and gassed, as they were rushed back to the field hospital in ambulances driven by colored men and commanded by colored ambulance commanders, was the big task of those sacrificing and sympa-

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"A tour of inspection among American Negro troops by officers of these headquarters shows the comparatively high degree of training and efficiency among these troops. . . .

"The only regret expressed by colored troops is that they are not given more dangerous work to do. I cannot commend too highly the spirit shown among the colored combat troops, who exhibit fine capacity for quick training and eagerness for the most dangerous work.

"JOHN J. PERSHING."

General Bullard, of course, comes from that section of the country where the tradition has been built up that the Negro soldier can become a good fighting man only when commanded by white men. It is a tradition which eager efforts have been made to preserve that colored officers are not to be depended upon and that colored soldiers will not fight under colored officers. The record made by colored reg-

iments in the field, but on the record its men have made in their individual conduct. The American public has every reason to be proud of the record made by the 92nd Division."

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"P. C. October 7th, 1918.

"9th Army Corps,
Staff 3rd Bureau,
No. 2555

NOTE

"The 157th, 161st and the 2nd Moroccan Divisions are leaving the Army Corps. The General commanding the 10th Army Corps addressed to them his most sincere thanks and his warmest congratulations for the glorious success achieved by their admirable ardour and their indomitable tenacity. He salutes the brave American Regiments who have rivaled in intrepidity their French comrades.

"He cannot recall here the feats which have been performed for every one of the days of that victorious journey. They are inscribed on the conquered grounds, materialized by the trophies taken from the enemy, and engraved in the heart of the chief who bows before the troops and salutes them profoundly.

"GEN. GARNIER DUPLESSIS,
"Commanding the 9th Army Corps."

In transmitting this order to the several regiments comprising the Division, General Goybet reviewed the exploits of the division in the following order:

"P.C. October 8, 1918.

"157th Division.
Staff.

General Order No. 234.

"In transmitting to you with legitimate pride the thanks and congratulations of the General Garnier Duplessis,

Army worded as follows:

"Gave proof, during its first engagement, of the finest qualities of bravery and daring which are virtues of assaulting troops.

"Under the orders of Colonel Tupes dashed with superb gallantry and admirable scorn of danger to the assault of a position continuously defended by the enemy—taking it by storm under an exceptionally violent machine gun fire. Continued the progression in spite of enemy artillery fire and very severe losses. They made numerous prisoners, captured cannons, machine guns, and important war materials."

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"The bravery and dash of your regiment won the admiration of the 2nd Moroccan Division, who are themselves versed in warfare. Thanks to you during those hard days. The Division was at all times in advance of all other divisions of the Army Corps. I am sending you all my thanks and beg you to transmit them to your subordinates.

"I called on your wounded. Their morale is higher than any praise.

"GOYBET."

It is to be noted that at the date this communication was received, October 8, 1918, the 372nd had on its roster six colored line officers, who were later transferred to the 92nd Division.

"December 15, 1918.

"157th Division
"Staff of the Infantry.

Order of the Divisional Infantry
No. 100.

"The 371st and 372nd Infantries are leaving France after having carried on a hard campaign of six months with the I. D. 157.

"After having energetically held a series of difficult sectors, they took a glorious part in the great decisive battle which brought the final victory.

"In sector, they have shown an endurance, a vigilance, a spirit of devotion and a remarkable discipline.

"In battle they have taken by storm, with a magnificent animation, very strong positions doggedly defended by

RED HAND Division, for nine whole days of severe struggle, was constantly leading the way for the victorious advance of the 4th Army.

"Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, I respectfully salute our glorious comrades who have fallen, and I bow to your colors, side by side with the flag of the 33rd Regiment of Infantry they have shown us the way to VICTORY.

"Dear friends from America, when you will be back again on the other side of the ocean, don't forget the Red Hand Division. Our brotherhood has been cemented in the blood of the brave, and such bonds will never be destroyed.

"Remember your General who is proud of having commanded you, and be sure of his grateful affection to you all for ever.

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Among the honors which France has bestowed upon American soldiers, none is more interesting than the "Citation" by which the entire 369th Regiment was given the coveted Croix de Guerre. The citation was for gallantry in the September and October offensives in the Champagne sector. By command of General Martin, commanding the 92nd Division, General Orders were issued commending a number of colored officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 379th Infantry for meritorious conduct in action at Bois Frehaut, near Pont-a-Mousson, November 10 and 11, 1918, during the drive on Metz.

Individual Awards for Bravery.

Among the first men in the 92nd Division to receive the Distinguished Service Cross for Bravery in the fighting in the Argonne was First Lieutenant Robert L. Campbell. He was twice cited for bravery in a single battle. Another instance of his bravery is told, when it became necessary to send a runner with a message to the left flank of an American firing line. The way was across an open field swept by heavy machine-gun fire. Volunteers were called for. Private Edward Saunders of Company "I" responded. Before the first wave of fire had started

were combatants in this final drive, but in this account of the battle the three non-combatant units, the 317th Ammunition Train, under the command of a colored Major, Major Milton T. Dean; the 325th Field Signal Battalion; the staff of the 366th Field Hospital, to which the wounded and gassed were rushed, and the 365th and 366th Ambulance Corps, under the command, respectively, of Captain Sherman Hickman of Memphis, and Captain Charles N. Garvin of Cleveland, must not be overlooked or slighted. The 368th Infantry, while they did not get into this last action, had, however, been moved up to Guzoncourt, where they were held in reserve.

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"This saving of the 56th by the 367th was history repeating itself—colored troops saving white troops from destruction in 1918 as the 10th Cavalry saved the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War in 1898. So splendidly did the 367th colored regiment advance and perform that they wrung from the Corps and Division Commander a letter of praise, in which he paid tribute to the regiment's high qualities. Although the 'Buffaloes' had for weeks been holding the front line trenches in a particularly active zone, upon which the Boche rained shells and gas daily and nightly, and although from this regiment, almost daily and nightly, raiding parties of colored soldiers went out and brought in German prisoners, the regiment was the only colored regiment ever here, perhaps, that had not been sent into an engagement—something they had

to him to retire. This he positively refused to do, sending word back that he had been ordered by his Colonel to hold the position taken, and he and his men would hold it until the last man fell, unless he had orders from his Colonel to retire. Few instances, in the annals of war, are recorded showing equal courage, in the face of heavy odds, to that shown by this colored officer, Captain Holland, and his company of the 366th who obeyed to the letter the order given to take and to hold a position. As a result of the incomparable courage, endurance, and bravery shown by this company, twenty-five of them were commended, in General Orders, by the Division Commander.

"The First Battalion of the 365th engaged in this final drive of the war, had occupied the front line trenches in the Marbache sector. From almost the moment of occupancy, active patrolling and raiding into the enemy's lines was ordered, to determine the strength of the enemy. Officers and men of this battalion were sent out daily and nightly on such missions, and many instances of conspicuous bravery were displayed. Several of their number, however, were captured, and not a few killed and wounded, but the number of the enemy killed, captured, and wounded greatly outnumbered the casualties suffered by this First Battalion.

The 365th in the Bois Frehaut.

"The 365th, prior to the last drive, had been occupying the front line trenches near Dieulouard, that town being the regimental headquarters. It had orders to advance into, take and hold a position in the Bois Frehaut. It happened that, for one reason or another, all the white officers of this regiment, including the Colonel commanding, and save the Major commanding the 2nd Battalion, had been incapacitated for action, and so the 2nd Battalion went into action with but one white officer, the Major. No unit in the advance had a more difficult position to take and hold than the position assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 365th. The Bois Frehaut was a network of barbed wire entanglements, and the big guns in Metz had nothing to do but sweep the woods with a murderous fire, which they did most effectively. French and Senegalese in turn had failed to hold these woods, and it was worse than a hell—it had become a sepulcher of hundreds. Mr. Tyler wrote: 'I was over and through these woods; I saw the mass of barbed-wire entanglements; I saw the nests in the trees in which Germans had camouflaged machine guns that rained a fire upon the Allied troops.'

"It is impossible to describe this

port, the 1st Battalion advanced through the difficult woods, Bois de Frehaut. It advanced with machine gun support until the northern edge of the woods was reached, overlooking Champey. At this point the advance was met by a most terrific artillery bombardment and machine gun fire delivered by the Germans stationed on the heights of LaCote Hill. The fighting at this point was bitter. Men and officers, however, remained in action and held their line under extremely adverse conditions. Up to this point the line had advanced, in the face of a terrific fire, about 400 yards, forcing many machine guns of the enemy to retire, and capturing a number of others, along with much material. This action continued until 10:45 A. M., at which time the 'Cease Fire' was sounded, which ended the hostilities of this titanic war.

"The casualties of the 1st Battalion of the 365th in this engagement, were two officers wounded and 61 enlisted men killed, wounded, and gassed. Among the wounded officers was Lieut. Charles H. Fearing, formerly of Washington, D. C., who was slightly cut in the arm by shrapnel. Lieut. Fearing, but a few days before, had escaped death most miraculously.

Work of the Ammunition Train.

"Distributing the many tons of ammunition along the route of the advance and moving it up to the American combatants in this final drive for the 92nd Division was a big task, but was successfully done by a colored ammunition train, under the command of Major Milton T. Dean, a colored officer. Arranging the telegraphic and signal communications between the various units was a dangerous—most dangerous—and big achievement, and this was done by the 325th Colored Field Signal Battalion. Caring for and attending to the hundreds of wounded and gassed, as they were rushed back to the field hospital in ambulances driven by colored men and commanded by colored ambulance commanders, was the big task of those sacrificing and sympathetic colored surgeons on the staff of the 366th Field Hospital.

Mr. Tyler again wrote: "I was at the front when the drive began—this the last battle of the World War. I was thrilled and inspired by the enthusiasm of our men, and their eagerness to get into battle. The thundering of the big guns, the terrific explosion of death-carrying shells—hell opening up—served only to inspire our colored soldiers with a grim determination to maintain the race's traditional fighting reputation. As I retraced my steps over the battlefield, the awful field of carnage, and saw the havoc German shells had wrought: saw lifeless, blood-

Moorland-Springarn Research Center

exhibit the capacity for quick training and eagerness for the most dangerous work.

"JOHN J. PERSHING."

General Bullard, of course, comes from that section of the country where the tradition has been built up that the Negro soldier can become a good fighting man only when commanded by white men. It is a tradition which eager efforts have been made to preserve that colored officers are not to be depended upon and that colored soldiers will not fight under colored officers. The record made by colored regiments in France, including those brigaded with the French, will stand the acid test of investigation and technical criticism. Among such troops were not only the Old Fifteenth of New York, the Eighth Illinois, the First Separate Battalion of the District of Columbia, but also the 373rd Infantry, the 372nd, and the units of the 92nd Division, and the 93rd Division.

Scott's history of "The American Negro in the World War" published in full detail the French citations and commendatory notes of General Duplessis, General Goybet, General Gouraud, General Quillet, and many other French commanders.

Over against the charges of General Bullard, of Youngsboro, Alabama, I wish once again to place a statement of General Pershing, being an address delivered by him to assembled units of the 92nd Division, which General Bullard assails, at Le Mans, France, January 28th, 1919:

"I want you officers and soldiers of the 92nd Division to know that the 92nd Division stands second to none in the record you have made since your arrival in France. I am proud of the part you have played in the great conflict which ended on the 11th of November, yet you have only done what the American people expected you to do and you have measured up to every expectation of the Commander-in-Chief. I realize that you did not get into the game as early as some of the other units, but since you took over your first sector you have acquitted yourselves with credit, and I believe that if the armistice had not become effective on the 11th day of November, the 92nd would have still further dis-

Commanding the 9th Army Corps."

In transmitting this order to the several regiments comprising the Division, General Goybet reviewed the exploits of the division in the following order:

"P.C. October 8, 1918.

"157th Division.
Staff.

General Order No. 234.

"In transmitting to you with legitimate pride the thanks and congratulations of the General Garnier Duplessis, allow me, my dear friends of all ranks, Americans and French, to thank you from the bottom of my heart as a chief and a soldier, for the expression of gratitude for the glory which you have lent our good 157th Division. I had full confidence in you, but you have surpassed my hopes.

"During these nine days of hard fighting you have progressed nine kilometers through powerful organized defenses, taken nearly 600 prisoners, 15 guns of different calibres, 20 minenwebers, and nearly 150 machine guns, secured an enormous amount of engineering material, an important supply of artillery ammunition, brought down by your fire three enemy aeroplanes.

"THE 'RED HAND' sign of the Division, thanks to you, became a bloody hand which took the Boche by the throat and made him cry for mercy. You have well avenged our glorious dead.

(Signed) "GOYBET,
"General, Commanding 157th Division."

But even greater distinction was to come. On the following day, October 8th, Colonel Tupes of the 372nd, received notice that his regiment had been recommended for citation in the general orders of the French Army. Following is a translation of the official order conveying this splendid news:

"October 8, 1918.

"157th D. I.
No. 5508

"From: Colonel Quillet, Commanding
157th D. I.

"To: Colonel Tupes, Commanding
372nd Infantry.

"The Colonel Commanding the I. D.

"The 371st and 372nd Infantries are leaving France after having carried on a hard campaign of six months with the I. D. 157.

"After having energetically held a series of difficult sectors, they took a glorious part in the great decisive battle which brought the final victory.

"In sector, they have shown an endurance, a vigilance, a spirit of devotion and a remarkable discipline.

"In battle they have taken by storm, with a magnificent animation, very strong positions doggedly defended by the enemy.

"In contemplating the departure of these two fine regiments which I commanded with pride, I desire to tell them all how much I think of them and also to thank them for the generous and precious concurrence which they brought to us at the decisive period of the great war.

"I shall keep always in my soldier heart their loyal memories and particularly those of their distinguished commanders who have become my friends: Colonel Miles and Colonel Tupes.

(Signed) "QUILLET,
"Commanding the I. D. 157."

On the same day General Goybet, Commander of the entire 157th Division, also took occasion to praise the work of these American fighters:

"H.Q., December 15, 1918.
"157th Division
Etat-Major.

General Orders No. 245.

"On the 12th of December, 1918, the 371st and 372nd R. I. U. S. (both U. S. colored troops) have been replaced at the disposal of the American Higher Command.

"With deep feeling of emotion, on behalf of the 157th Division, and in my own personal name, I come to bid farewell to our brave comrades.

"For seven months we have lived as brothers at arms, partaking in the same activities, sharing the same hardships and the same dangers. Side by side we took part in the great Champagne Battle which was to be crowned by a tremendous victory.

"Never will the 157th Division forget

Individual Awards for Bravery.

Among the first men in the 92nd Division to receive the Distinguished Service Cross for Bravery in the fighting in the Argonne was First Lieutenant Robert L. Campbell. He was twice cited for bravery in a single battle. Another instance of his bravery is told, when it became necessary to send a runner with a message to the left flank of an American firing line. The way was across an open field swept by heavy machine-gun fire. Volunteers were called for. Private Edward Saunders of Company "I" responded. Before he had gone far a shell cut him down, when Lieutenant Campbell sprang to his rescue and carried his man back to the American lines. For the valor shown both were cited for the Distinguished Service Cross.

The commander of the 92nd Division spoke in highest terms of two colored officers, Captain Adam E. Patterson and Captain M. T. Dean, who won their promotion in the field as Majors "on merit alone." It is to be regretted that General Bullard has not reviewed the record which has been compiled of the fighting qualities of colored officers and men, for he cannot possibly set his individual judgment up against that of the officers who individually commanded these colored officers and soldiers from the United States.

The high state of discipline and morale which existed in the 92nd Division was a subject of commendation from all of the allied officers who had opportunity to review the troops who composed that command, and General Pershing's own statement is in line with the comments of these allied officers. Brig. Gen. W. H. Hay, of the 184th Brigade, 92nd Division, said:

"I have been with colored troops for 25 years, and I have never seen better soldiers than the drafted men who composed this division."

Captain Willis, of the 365th Infantry, said:

"These men are the best disciplined I have ever seen."

Colored Troops in the Final Drive.

Finally, this word regarding the colored troops in the final drive on

ment advance and perform that they wrung from the Corps and Division Commander a letter of praise, in which he paid tribute to the regiment's high qualities. Although the 'Buffaloes' had for weeks been holding the front line trenches in a particularly active zone, upon which the Boche rained shells and gas daily and nightly, and although from this regiment, almost daily and nightly, raiding parties of colored soldiers went out and brought in German prisoners, the regiment was the only colored regiment over here, perhaps, that had not been sent into an engagement — something they had longed for. The order to advance at seven o'clock Sunday morning, the 10th of November, gave them the opportunity they had so long waited for impatiently. In spite of the fact that their advance was to be through 'Death Valley,' a section flanked by big German guns massed on the overlooking hills, the order gave them more enthusiasm and satisfaction than an order to embark for home. When seven o'clock came they were ready to move, these 'Buffaloes,' and they did move with astonishing rapidity, absolutely indifferent to the bursting shells, which, fortunately, fell a little short of them, or caromed over their heads. 'Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here, What the Hell Do We Care!' greeted many a Boche shell as it fell short or spent its force a few yards beyond their advancing line. They established and maintained a perfect liaison, and even their supply department, under that efficient acting supply officer, Lieut. McKaine, co-ordinated perfectly with the line advancing 'on to Metz.'

Colored Officer Refuses to Retire.

"The 366th had been occupying the line at Vaudieres, prior to the Metz advance, and the order was to advance into one section of Bois Frehaut and Bois de Voivrotte, which it did in a most effective manner, displaying such bravery, in the face of a deadly shell fire, and its colored line officers displaying such excellent qualities of leadership as to merit unstinted praise from the Division Commander. In the engagement in the Bois Voivrotte, Lieut. Guy W. Canady, of Atlanta, was killed, and Lieut. M. W. Rush, of the same city, fell mortally wounded, dying a few days later in the hospital, after having

365th. The Bois Frehaut was a network of barbed wire entanglements, and the big guns in Metz had nothing to do but sweep the woods with a murderous fire, which they did most effectively. French and Senegalese in turn had failed to hold these woods, and it was worse than a hell—it had become a sepulcher of hundreds. Mr. Tyler wrote: 'I was over and through these woods; I saw the mass of barbed-wire entanglements; I saw the nests in the trees in which Germans had camouflaged machine guns that rained a fire upon the Allied troops.'

"It is impossible to describe this scene of carnage. The order to the colored men of the 365th was to 'take and hold,' although it was believed, almost to a certainty, that they could not hold it, even if they did take it. But they did take and hold it, and these men of the 2nd Battalion, with Spartan-like courage; with an endurance unbelievable, would be holding the position at this writing had not the Armistice been signed, or had they not received order to retire. In these woods, at the head of his company, Captain Boutte and the other line officers fought tenaciously, heroically—so heroically that the Major commanding stated to me that the world had never produced gamier fighters than the colored men who made up his battalion of the 365th Infantry. The casualty list, because of the savage nature of the resistance the Germans made, because of the heavy, well directed big guns and machine gun fire, was large. But the 365th did take and did hold that which the fighting Senegalese could not hold after they had taken it.

"After sixteen days of activity on this front, the battalion was ordered in support for a week, and on November 5th, it was ordered to the front line trenches in the Mousson sector, an intensely active front, that was shelled daily and nightly. On the memorable morning of November 10, 1918, the 1st Battalion was ordered to the 'alert,' as support for the 2nd Battalion of the same regiment, then engaged in the last drive. On the evening of the 10th it was ordered to attack Champey and LaCote Hill, a very strongly fortified German position. The battalion moved to the attack at five o'clock Sunday evening, entering the position from the rear of the 2nd Battalion's position. A very heavy gas-shell and high explosive bar-

netic colored surgeons on the staff of the 366th Field Hospital.

Mr. Tyler again wrote: "I was at the front when the drive began—this the last battle of the World War. I was thrilled and inspired by the enthusiasm of our men, and their eagerness to get into battle. The thundering of the big guns, the terrific explosion of death-carrying shells—hell opening up—served only to inspire our colored soldiers with a grim determination to maintain the race's traditional fighting reputation. As I retraced my steps over the battlefield, the awful field of carnage, and saw the havoc German shells had wrought; saw lifeless, blood-bespattered bodies of colored soldiers lying on the dark and bloody field; saw the maimed and mangled living, the natural feeling of sorrow, of anguish, of pain, was made endurable only by the thought that our men—our colored soldiers—were in it to the end, that they fought like heroes, died like heroes, died like martyrs. And then there was the radiant hope—perhaps they fought and fell, in the last battle of the greatest war ever waged for civilization, NOT in vain.

"As the colored troops, in the last battle of war, the drive on Metz, so it was colored troops, the old 15th New York, that first reached the point farthest east nearest to the Rhine, in the battle on the Meuse. They were in Alsace, and their line ran through Thann and across the railroad leading to Colmar."

This, then, is a part of the record of the colored soldiers from the United States who fought in France. It is a record of which colored Americans are justly proud. It is a record which it pains them to have a man like General Bullard seek to besmirch. But—the record will stand to the eternal glory of the race which has never deserted the Nation in its hours of peril.



Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, 1917-1919.

Howard University,
Washington, D. C.
June 10th, 1925.