

28TH BOYS SECOND TO NONE, SAYS MUIR

Commanding General Expresses Pride in Iron Division's Accomplishments

CONFERS AT DIX ON PARADE

"Second to none in the A. E. F." is what Major General Charles H. Muir thinks of the Twenty-eighth Division.

General Muir went to Camp Dix today to confer with Major General Hugh L. Scott concerning the possibility of a parade of the Iron Division here with out hardships to the boys, breaks through his traditional Scotch reticence to pay tribute to his fighters.

A kindly, wrinkled face, seamed with the hard days of exposure when he violated army regulations and went up in the lines to help his boys forward, breaks into smiles when he is reminded that he is "Uncle Charlie" to the boys.

"Sure, I know it," he smiles. "It's good enough for me. But get this down and get it right. I'm partial, I know, but the Pennsylvania Division that I commanded left France second to none in the American expeditionary force."

"Only three divisions sustained greater losses and they were regular divisions that reached France long before the Twenty-eighth. My boys were only out of the fighting from July to November for three weeks, and that was when they were changing their positions. The rest of the time they were under constant fire and were in the battle of the Marne, the Oureq, the Vesle, the Argonne and the Woivre.

"They were fighters second to none in France, and I feel that it is my right to say that."

Over Top in Argonne

"Uncle Charlie" went over the top in the Argonne, braving court-martial and official displeasure, but ready to show his lads that he was with them to the end.

"Say," he expostulated, when this incident in his career somewhere in France was recited, "don't have me saying too much of that kind of stuff or my friends will think that I'm getting bombastic."

"Well," he added, "if you must know I'll tell you the truth. I was down in the Argonne up in the front lines where there was some fighting, and there was quite a little scuffling going on about me. If you want to say that it was going over the top, why that's up to you."

"He did it, though," murmured a staff officer wearing the silver leaves of a lieutenant colonel. "If you say over the top you won't be jarring the facts any."

General Muir took a potshot, too, at many a German aviator who flew over the Yankee lines dropping his flaming death and explosive murder on the lads from the Keystone state.

"Pretty Darn Tough"

"Pretty darn tough, too," sighed the wrinkled old fighter, "aimed at three of those Heines and never got one of 'em. Used to be a dandy shot, too, but never practiced on aviators. I was sorry I hadn't when I missed those fellows."

General Muir, in dealing with the achievements of the Iron Division, made the following formal statement:

"The Twenty-eighth Division was under my command from the time I assumed command at Camp Hancock early in December, 1917. I went across with them to Calais the following May. They then had about three weeks' additional training behind the British lines east of Boulogne. Then they were sent to a point near Meaux, and given additional training with the French until the end of June, 1918.

"We began by putting small units into the front line, gradually increasing their size. By the time of the last German drive in the middle of July, we had several companies in the front line and the remainder, less the artillery, in the second lines of the first position. The artillery joined the remainder of the division at the Vesle river and remained with it until it came out of the Argonne fight.

"The artillery was then sent to the Ninety-first Division for its final campaign with the British in Flanders, rejoining the main division just before it left France.

On Front After July 1

"From July 1 until the armistice, November 11, the Twenty-eighth was in the front lines, in whole or in part, except for about three weeks, when it shifted from the Vesle to the Argonne, then to a point opposite Metz. Being in the front line and being at such important points, its losses were necessarily heavy.

"Only the First, Second, Third and Fourth Divisions suffered heavier losses, and they had gone to France much earlier than the Twenty-eighth."

"The division always acquitted itself in a creditable manner, and I was impressed with it from the beginning to the end. I believe I have the right to say that when the armistice was declared it was second to no division in France."

General Muir declined to talk parade. "I am going to Camp Dix," said he, "and I shall talk over the plans with General Scott. He undoubtedly has made plans which he will outline to me. Until I can talk with him I can say nothing."

General Muir was cited for three decorations, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Croix de Guerre and the British cross of St. Michael and St. George.

PLUNKETT GETS D. S. M.

Admiral Produced Naval Gun Battalion, Greatest of War

Washington, May 1.—Award of the Distinguished Service Medal to Rear Admiral C. P. Plunkett for his services in connection with the production, transportation to Europe and placing in action on the western front of the United States Naval Gun Battalion, was announced here by the War Department. This battalion consisted of five fourteen-inch guns on railway mounts, according to the citation "the most powerful artillery weapons brought into action against Germany and her allies during the war."

The medal also was awarded to Colonels Alfred J. Booth, Francis W. Raiston, adjutant of the Forty-second Division; James A. Logan, Jr., and Edward N. Rowditch, and Captain John C. Hughes.

U. S. WAR INSURANCE MAILED TO SURVIVORS

86,000 Checks Sent Out Today. \$38,900,000 Paid to Dependents Last Month

Washington, May 1.—(By A. P.)—Eighty-six thousand checks, representing payment for virtually all awards made to date, were mailed today by the bureau of war risk insurance to beneficiaries of men who died in the military or naval service, and who were insured under the provisions of the war risk insurance act, it was announced.

Approximately 1,007,000 checks, amounting to \$38,900,000, were mailed last month, and since October 6, 1919, when the war risk act became effective, the bureau has sent out more than 15,000,000 checks to dependents, and more than \$496,900,000 has been paid out in allotments and allowances, insurance awards and compensation awards.

These checks have gone to every corner of the world. During March, 50,000 were mailed to foreign countries, the greatest number of foreign checks going to Italy. Each check represented a man from a foreign country serving in the armed forces of the United States. More than 2,500 foreign checks are being held by the bureau because of suspended mail service. Among

them are three destined for Germany for the dependents of men in the service of the United States. Over 2000 checks are being held for persons in Russia, Poland, in Turkey, Finland and Rumania, and as soon as proper adjustments can be made they will be mailed.

Captain Costello Returns

Captain E. G. Costello, 3500 Diston street, son of Congressman Peter E. Costello, has returned from overseas. He was in action with the Sixteenth Field Artillery and went through the battles at the Marne, the Oureq and at Fionnes. He was gassed at Fionnes and then assigned to prison camp work at Tours. He returned to active duty for the Argonne offensive and at the signing of the armistice was assigned to the artillery school at Samur.

PENNA. AND N. J. MEN REPORTED WOUNDED

No Major Casualties Are Listed Today From Either of These States

Washington, May 1.—The following are included on today's overseas casualty list issued by the War Department:

PENNSYLVANIA
Wounded, Degree Undetermined: CORPSEALS: Jesse Pratt, Pittsburgh; Stanley Kowalski, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Wounded Slightly: MAJOR: Wilson Potter, Chester Hill, Philadelphia.

MORE ARMY OFFICERS BACK

Three Whose Homes Are Near City Return From France

Three army officers whose homes are near this city have returned from overseas service. They arrived on the steamship Louisville at New York.

Lieutenant J. Thomas Loggett, of Berkeley road, Haverford, is one of the returned officers. He went over with the Twenty-eighth Division but four months ago and was assigned to the provost marshal's office in London.

Another arrival is Lieutenant Harry J. Stites, Chester. He was with the Fifth Telegraph Battalion since January, 1918, and was at the front several times.

Lieutenant Walter R. McHenry, of Jersey Shore, was Lino. officers on the Louisville. He went abroad in August, 1917, with the Nineteenth Engineers and worked with this unit in St. Nazaire, where it assembled from 1400 to 1500 Baldwin locomotives. He enlisted as a private and received his commission as lieutenant in September of that year.

The English bride of a navy petty officer came over on the Louisville. She is the wife of George H. Lowery, 1511 North Fourth street, a boatswain's mate. Lowery at present is assigned to the battleship Utah, lying in the Hudson river. He is to put out to sea within a day or so.

The couple met in London about a year ago. They were married December 6 in All Saints' Church, Wantaworth.

GOVERNMENT STILL NEEDS TYPISTS

There is still need for hundreds of stenographers and typists in the government service at Washington, according to an announcement made by the Civil Service Commission.

PERGAMENTS—Daniel J. Daley, Pittsburgh; Samuel J. Raiston, 2328 Lambert street, Philadelphia.
MECHANICS—Charles E. Sankay, Clearfield.
PRIVATEERS—Joe Johnston, Wilkes-Barre; Michael Ferrante, 6129 Halsey avenue, Philadelphia; Hans Johnson, Carver, Frank Kelly, South Bethlehem; Byron A. Schwartz, Reading; Lee James, Wilkes-Barre; George William Simanish, Ashland.

Wounded Slightly (Seriously Reported Died from Wounds):
PRIVATE: Harry G. Pittsburgh.
NEW JERSEY
Wounded Slightly: CORPORAL: James J. Eaton, 135 North Twenty-second street, Jersey City.



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