

YANKEES ON THE WESTERN FRONT: NEW ENGLAND IN FRANCE DURING WORLD WAR I

BY STEVEN ALBOUM

On April 6, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson declared that the United States would enter World War I on the side of the Allies, a move that would mobilize the American army and propel the 26th National Guard Division onto the world stage. Originally comprised only of boys from the New England states, most of whom had barely left home and had never fired a rifle in combat, this brave unit was put to the test on the Western Front against the Kaiser's army, an enemy who had been at war for three years. The 26th was the first American military unit to arrive in full force in France. With almost 12,000 casualties in the 37 kilometers it had advanced by the end of the war, the 26th gained notoriety for its brutal fighting and recognition for its courage under fire, securing a place for itself in the annals of history. Steven Alboum, who came from Hillsborough, New Jersey, to study at the University of Maine, is currently working on a Bachelor of Arts in History. He hopes to eventually earn a doctoral degree and become a college professor.

New England Mobilizes for War

BY THE time the United States entered World War I in 1917, Europe had already been at war for almost three years. Neither the Allied nor the Central powers seemed to be winning in a ferocious stalemate ranging across France and Belgium and eastward to the Alps in northern Italy. Key countries on both sides saw no reason to end the hostilities, because victory in this war meant dominance over the European and African continents. President Woodrow Wilson, an isolationist at heart, sought to keep America out of this European engagement, but on April 2, 1917, after several threatening incidents, he asked Congress to declare war on the Central

powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. Congress gave its consent four days later, and the United States was officially at war. One of the first American units sent across the Atlantic to France was the 26th Division, made up entirely of National Guard outfits. This unit, which fought in many major battles and assisted in the Allied victory of 1918, was recruited exclusively from the six New England states. Many of the recruits had never traveled beyond their home towns, and yet they were faced with the prospect of entrusting their lives to one another in what was the bloodiest war in human history at that time.¹

The years after 1914 saw appalling rates of attrition in the belligerent nations, due to the tactic of charging across open ground with fixed bayonets directly into heavy machine-gun fire. Some battles on the Western Front resulted in casualties as high as the entire United States Army at the time, which consisted of about 120,000 men at the time Congress declared war on the Central powers. As a result, branches of the military scoured the country looking for new enlistees, while Wilson activated the National Guard for front-line service, a move that brought units from different states together, often for the first time.²

The National Guard had deep roots in New England history dating from the Revolutionary War period, when units were mostly local militia. For New England, the National Guard meant much more than just a home unit; it represented the beginning of independence from Britain and the birth of the region's identity.

The 26th—the so-called “Yankee Division”—started out as six separate state National Guard units brought together by the proclamation of war. By the time the president delivered his war declaration, some soldiers were already in active service, but most were volunteer recruits. Describing in his memoir the fast pace of the events as the division prepared to go to war, guardsman and Connecticut native Stillman Westbrook reminisced, “within a short time, two or three days, we were encamped under canvas at Niantic, Connecticut, on Long Island Sound, not far from New London.” According to John Holman, son of Sargeant Marshall Sidney Holman of the 101st Ammunition Train, the division “mobilized at the state or other training camps, at Framingham, Westfield, and Boxford, Massachusetts; New Haven and Niantic, Connecticut; and Quonset Point, Rhode Island” and division units “were held [there] for further training and to receive their equipment until the time came to send them overseas.”³

Spread out across New England, there were six camps where recruits trained with their state National Guard outfits for four months until August 13, when the War Department recognized the 26th National Guard



“General John J. Pershing, Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces,” *Newspaper Pictorials: World War I Rotogravures*. Library of Congress. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:General_John_J._Pershing,_Commander_In_Chief_of_the_American_Expeditionary_Forces_LOC_6331254_533.jpg, accessed 11 July 2018.

as an infantry division under commander Major-General Clarence Ransom Edwards. With this, the division was ready for France, leaving only the task of getting the separate camps together. Frank P. Sibley, a war correspondent for the *Boston Globe*, wrote that the units were “scattered about the map of New England.” While this made the dispersion sound disorderly, Major-General Edwards believed that separating the troops made direct training and mobilization more effective. Rather than clustering 27,000 men in a single area with nothing to do, creating unprecedented logistical challenges for the United States Army, they would remain where they were under the watchful eye of their unit commanders. Units in the different training areas could be moved out within hours without the confusion of deciding which sections should mobilize and which should not.

Soldiers at the various camps were further organized into machine gun battalions, artillery brigades, and infantry brigades or into rear troops, such as engineers, supply chains, headquarter detachments, and field signal battalions. Richard E. Landers explains: “like the other U.S. infantry divisions being formed at the time, the 26th was a ‘square’ division, also known as a ‘Pershing Division.’ Designed by General John J. Pershing, this structure was more than double the size of a European army division and consisted of two infantry brigades of two regiments each, one field artillery brigade with three regiments, a machine gun battalion, an engineer regiment, a signal battalion, and divisional supply and sanitary trains. Each battalion included four companies of six officers and 250 men each.” Each battalion and brigade had a different job; each was equally important in supporting the others.

The infantry brigade was made up of regiments, each from a particular New England state. The 103rd, for instance, was from Maine. According to Landers, “the total divisional strength was 979 officers and 27,082 men.”⁴

When the War Department asked General Edwards if he could ship



“Gen. CR Edwards” by Bain News Service, 1915, *George Grantham Bain Collection*. Library of Congress. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gen._C.R._Edwards_LCCN2014704222.tif, accessed 11 July 2018.

some of the division on September 1, 1917, and the rest on September 15, he replied that he could move his whole division over to France by the first of September. Moving an entire division overseas was a complicated task, even with the camps separated, so Edwards was unable to keep his bold promise. In spite of this, however, the 26th did not stay long in New England and had the distinction of being the first full division of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) to be organized, equipped, and shipped over to France. Before the War Department realized what was going on, the 26th Infantry Division had somehow managed to acquire boats (due to the officers' connections to the harbor in Boston) and were setting off across the Atlantic to war-torn Europe. The 26th was supposed to be stationed at Camp Greene in North Carolina but were in fact on their way to France. The first elements left Hoboken Harbor, New Jersey, on September 7, and the rest of the division arrived in France by late October.⁵

The 26th in France

The 26th Infantry, as the first full division to arrive in France, raised the spirits of the French people, who by 1917 were demoralized and looking for the quickest way out of the fight. Seeing American soldiers rushing ashore helped to strengthen their resolve. Major Emerson Gifford Taylor wrote the following about these war-weary civilians, stating that they “looked on our men as crusaders, who had left their homes to fight for an ideal, as the force which was destined to cause the triumph of right and justice.” According to Richard Rubin, a journalist who spent a decade interviewing some of the last remaining veterans of the Great War, the division offered “a symbol of hope as much as anything else.” While nearly three million American troops arrived to boost the morale of the French soldiers, the Yankee Division paved the way and found themselves especially welcome due to the fact that so many of the soldiers were Franco-Americans and could communicate in the French language.⁶

It was some time, however, before even these early arrivals would see combat, since the French high command required the 26th to undergo training in trench warfare before heading to the front lines. On October 31, 1917, the division headquarters were opened at Neufchateau, and the troops began training with the 162nd and 151st French Infantry. This training was vitally important to the unit. The French had vast experience in the trenches, as the front lines had barely changed over the past thirty-eight months. The French drilled the Americans in reading maps, reinforcing trenches, throwing grenades, handling bayonets, firing machine



Soldiers in the 103rd Infantry Regiment String Protective Wire, France, 1918, *Joseph C. Bridges Collection*. Image courtesy of Maine National Guard Archives.

guns, and launching mortars as the American doughboys anxiously awaited their opportunity to “go over the top.” Rear echelon troops were guided through the process of signaling and repairing or building roads, bunkers, and railways—and destroying them. General Edwards insisted that the men concentrate on the use of the rifle and bayonet. Though his wisdom proved to be well founded in later conflicts, the French insisted the Americans’ training be well rounded before they were moved to the front. The French, meanwhile, counseled the Americans against overconfidence in battle; their German counterparts, they cautioned, would be courageous and determined. Harry A. Benwell, who wrote a history of the division in 1919, claimed that the Americans took this advice lightly, stating that “time and time again in the various battles in which they took part they went forward through barrages that were considered impassable.”

The New Englanders, it seemed, were driven by a sense of superiority

and indestructibility, and as they gained confidence in their combat readiness, they itched for action on the front lines.⁷

During the first week of February 1918 the division was deemed combat ready and placed into action in the Chemin des Dames Sector in the northern Champagne region of France. The Chemin des Dams had been the site of fierce fighting for several years. In 1917, the French army took so many casualties in this region that it was beset by large-scale mutinies among soldiers stationed there. By February 1918, however, the sector was relatively quiet; both sides were too exhausted to continue fighting, and they remained mostly below ground in their trenches. The landscape around the front line was pocketed with old mine shafts, and the American troops, like their German counterparts, used these shafts for shelter during German artillery bombardments and as underground barracks, hospitals, and ammo depots. Here they were integrated into French infantry companies, and the training continued. One report detailed the arrangement as follows: "At all headquarters were detailed experienced French officers and NCOs, who gave minute personal instruction to all units, down to the smallest. Patrols, working parties, machine gun and artillery sections—all were supervised and taught by the French day and night. Confidence and proficiency were secured rapidly."⁸

The French officers kept a close eye on the American troops, training them rigorously so that they might live to see the end of the war. One after another, the battered French units were pulled out, and American units moved into their places. It was there in the Chemin des Dames Sector that the first Yankee Division soldier, Private Ralph Spaulding of the 103rd Regiment—a native of Madison, Maine, perished in an attack on February 16. Struck by shrapnel from a German artillery shell, Spaulding's death made the war seem very real to the soldiers of the 26th. They had lost men to disease and friendly fire, but Spaulding was the first casualty at the hands of the enemy.⁹

After his death, the Germans tried two assaults against the new arrivals, whom they mistook for British soldiers. These attacks came on February 19 and 28, 1918 and were followed by gas attacks on March 16 and 17. Following the Bolshevik Revolution, Russia formally withdrew from the war on March 3, 1918, and pressure on the United States president and high command mounted as the British and French suddenly found themselves having to fend off the entire German army as German troops and supplies flooded onto the Western Front from the Eastern Front with Russia. Under French supervision, the 26th conducted raids against the German trenches and was successful in capturing and killing a small number of soldiers.

Each patrol typically had around twenty American soldiers accompanied by twenty French soldiers. One particular patrol, led on the night of February 14 by Lieutenant James W. Brown on February 14, managed to make it to the German barbed wire, where a small skirmish with a German patrol separated some of American and French patrol from the rest. When the party fell back to friendly lines, eight men were missing. When he realized this, Brown returned into "No Man's Land" (the unoccupied area between Allied and German trenches) to search for his missing comrades. His behavior was not only courageous; it also spoke to the sense of brotherhood forged the previous year in the New England camps.¹⁰

From Chemin des Dames the New England troops were shipped out to the Toul Sector to further their training in defensive and offensive tactics. Their arrival freed up several regiments of French soldiers so they could help block the German offensive on the Somme to the north. This was the first time an American division held a sector of the front line, an enormous responsibility for the newly trained troops that demonstrated that America was pulling its own weight in the war effort. They were given this responsibility, because General John J. Pershing, the AEF commanding officer overseeing all American units in France, stubbornly refused to allow British and French commanders to take control of his forces, break up his units, and distribute them among their own armies in the way that they had with troops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the African colonies.¹¹

The Toul Sector

On the Toul Sector the Yankee Division was put to the test. The heaviest fighting took place around the town of Seicheprey where the 102nd Infantry Regiment from Connecticut became the first AEF troops to formally engage the German army. On April 20 at 3:16 a.m., the Germans began their assault with a horrendous artillery barrage that created a "box" around the American lines at Seicheprey. The box was open only at the front; if the Americans wished to leave, they would have to go through the Germans. The Germans fired gas shells along the front of the box to create a screen of toxic fumes. The 102nd Infantry Regiment refused to budge even as the German soldiers advanced upon them. The open front of the gap in the box was quickly filled by a dense column of German troops, at the head of which were hundreds of dreaded *Stosstruppen*, the German storm troopers. The literal translation of *Stosstruppen* is "Shock Troops,"

and their job was to charge without warning into enemy territory, shrieking and throwing grenades everywhere and firing off rifles when they were not throwing grenades. The objective of the *Stosstruppen* was to shock and disorient the entrenched enemy, thus softening them up for a much larger force of infantry following close behind.¹²

The battle for Seicheprey tested the New England troops, putting them up against some of the most feared soldiers of the war. The storm troopers took control of most of Seicheprey, but the retreating Americans realized that there were still 102nd men in town and mounted a counterattack. They drove the German troops out of Seicheprey, and by 6:00 a.m. the battle was over. The division not only retook the town, but they delivered a psychological blow. According to Sibley (the *Boston Globe* war correspondent), “the Germans said they considered our men [the 102nd] crazy because when surrounded and outnumbered they refused to surrender and continued fighting, regardless of odds, until physically overpowered or killed.” Other regiments might have faltered and surrendered under this well-planned attack, but in this case, Sibley wrote, a “*Sturmbataillon*, backed by other troops of long experience, yielded before the courage, tenacity, and fighting spirit of some despised New England militia.” Realizing that their buddies were still locked in combat inside Seicheprey, they not only refused to surrender, but launched a counterattack. The enemy attacked twice again at other sections of the line at points held by the 1st Battalion and the 103rd Infantry Regiment (Maine’s National Guard). Both were repulsed.¹³

Chateau-Thierry

After successfully holding the Toul Sector, the Yankee Division was shipped off by rail to the Chateau-Thierry region northwest of the town near the Marne River. Meanwhile, the Germans mounted a massive attack on Allied lines, hoping to break through and end the war before more American troops were trained and sent to the front. At that point, the Germans had broken through at Chemin des Dames and were making their way back to the Marne. The attack was successful enough to panic the French high command. Commander Philippe Pétain, one of the leading French tacticians, asked General Pershing for as many divisions at Chateau-Thierry as possible. The 26th Infantry Division was rushed to designated support positions, ready to relieve the United States 2nd Division. Between July 5 and July 8, 1918, the transfer took place, and from July 15 to July 18 the 26th helped repulse local attacks made on the front



“103rd Infantry Soldiers in a Support Trench,” (No Man’s Land in background), France, 1918, *Joseph C. Bridges Collection*. Image courtesy of Maine National Guard Archives.

lines by German troops. “As a result of their defense of this line,” Benwell asserted, “they received the name of the ‘Saviors of Paris,’ since for a brief moment 26th was the only division standing between the Germans and Paris.”¹⁴

When the German attack was halted, the Allied forces launched a counteroffensive to push them back into the Chateau-Thierry salient and avert the danger threatening Paris. Allied Commander-in-Chief Marshal Ferdinand Foch ordered a Franco-American attack at Soissons to divert the Germans, then launched a much larger attack elsewhere. This second attack was to sweep across the middle of the salient from west to east into the flank of the German army. The Yankee Division played an important part in this battle as the first American military unit to enter a line to at-

tack. On July 18, 1918, the whistle blew, and the assault started with the 103rd and 104th regiments advancing into the villages Belleu, Torcy, and Givry. The 103rd captured their objective of Torcy within the first twenty-two minutes and set up defensive positions. This was the Americans' first experience with machine guns, and the casualties were heavy because the 26th would insist on charging the guns frontally. Charging an enemy machine gun was one of the toughest things a soldier could do, besides fighting uphill. In World War I, running head-on at a weapon capable of firing 500 rounds a minute was essentially suicide. The French typically sat tight until their heavy artillery damaged or destroyed the machine-gun nests, but the New England soldiers seemed to feel they were invincible, and by July 21 the division had reached the Chateau-Thierry-Soissons road. In his account of the events that transpired, Major Taylor recalled: "On the left the 167th French Division could not progress past the stubborn resistance of the German garrison in La Goutterie Farm, which, like every point of their general line, fairly bristled with machine guns." But on the following day, the 26th moved forward. With losses mounting, the 101st, 102nd, 103rd, and 104th infantry regiments were unable to reach their objective and were forced to retreat. They resumed the attack on July 23 but made no immediate gains. By the time elements of the division were replaced on July 25, they had advanced 17.5 kilometers. They took many prisoners but suffered 4,931 casualties with 757 deaths. Orchestrating such an attack with such short notice and having it go as planned was a testament to the Yankee Division's focus, readiness, and training. This victory at the Second Battle of the Marne would be considered a turning point in the war.¹⁵

After the battle, the French colonial general Jean Degoutte wrote to General Edwards: "the Twenty-Sixth Division fought brilliantly on the line Torcy-Belleau, to Monthiers, to Epieds and Trugny and in the Forest of Fere, thus making an advance of more than 15 kilometers in depth, in spite of the desperate resistance of the enemy." French military commanders saw first hand the willpower and spirit of this young, determined New England division. Due to its bravery and tenacity, the 26th became a distinguished unit, one that would be used effectively for specific objectives for the rest of the war.¹⁶

After a brief recuperation on July 25 and 26, 1918, the troops marched to a place in the reserve area. As one participant wrote, they were "not actually in the line at the moment . . . but the old rumble [was] going on incessantly just over the hill so that [they] all [knew] that the miracle of Peace [had] not yet occurred. [They were] camped out in some poor, mangled, shell-torn woods, pitiful places that somehow or other have the same atmosphere of abject desolation and forlorn hope that the dead cattle and



"103rd Infantry advancing on Torcy," 18 July 1918, *Selected photos of the 103rd Infantry Regiment, taken from the book entitled "Pictorial History of the 26th Division."* Image courtesy of Maine National Guard Archives.

horses and the shattered towns and farms have." Despite the death, destruction, and terror, with bullets passing overhead, Stillman Westbrook, found this a time of "tremendous excitement" and remained positive, as did most of the troops in the Yankee Division.¹⁷

The Rupt Sector

The division remained off the front line until August 13, 1918, when it was again shipped out by rail, this time to the Chatillon Training Area. Once there, they received new uniforms and replacements, this time from all over the country and from other units. On August 25, the division received orders to ship out to Bar-le-Duc.

After arriving by rail, the division marched north to the Rupt Sector on September 5 and relieved the 2nd French Dismounted Cavalry Division. The sector remained quiet until September 12 when the 1st American Army and the 26th Division launched a well-prepared attack on Saint-Mihiel. The 101st, 103rd, and 104th infantry regiments reached their objective by evening, and French infantry units to their south were equally successful. Their objective was to reach Hattonchatel and Vigneulles to join the



“Men from front lined up to turn in their clothing for replacement and disinfection at disinfecting plant no. 2, of the 26th Division . . . Battery F. 102d F.A.,” 10 August 1918. By United States Army Signal Corps. Library of Congress. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2013648399/>, accessed 10, July 2018.

Americans advancing from the south. The 102nd entered the town of Vigneulles at 2:30 a.m. on September 13, and a few hours later the town of Hattonchatel fell to the 101st. According to Major Taylor, “the story of the . . . Twenty-Sixth in the operation to reduce the Saint-Mihiel salient [was] less an account of heavy fighting than of a maneuver in which new situations, continually presented, were promptly and efficiently met . . . in which every movement goes according to schedule, in which, moreover, the unexpected is met and turned to advantage promptly, in which control is never lost.” The division had followed up on every order given, demonstrating just how thoroughly it could get the job done. Again the 26th won praise for its performance under fire from an enemy desperate to hold every inch of ground. Though the fighting was not intense in the area, the swiftness of the operation on German forward positions made for a quick victory. The Yankee Division captured 2,400 prisoners along with supplies while suffering 483 casualties with 109 deaths.¹⁸

Bringing the War to a Close

The 26th Division took over a new sector between Thillot and Combrès on September 14 after relieving the French 15th Colonial Infantry Division. The division's ground was then given to the French II Colonial Corps. On September 26, the Yankee Division executed raids on Marcheville and Riaville as a diversion while the main attack proceeded on the Argonne front. They were to penetrate the enemy front lines, take prisoners, occupy the position until nightfall, then retreat under cover of darkness back to Allied lines. These raids were designed to cause a diversion so that the Germans would reinforce the city of Metz and not the Argonne front where the 1st American Army would launch the main attack that very same day. These raids went well despite heavy losses from stiff enemy machine-gun resistance, with the attack on Marcheville being successful and Riaville being repulsed. After a failed counterattack by the Yankee Division, the men had to fight their way out of the towns. The battle would be the division's bloodiest of the war, although it probably did divert the Germans. On October 8, the division was taken off the front line and concentrated in and around Verdun in preparation for the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

On October 23 through 27, the 51st Infantry Brigade, with assistance from the 29th Infantry Division, advanced on the heavily fortified Pylon d'Etrayes–Bois Belleu–Hill 360 positions. The 101st Infantry were occupied in Bois Belleu at Hill 360. Both attacks were successful despite heavy losses. After the October attacks, the division halted at the front but continued raiding for prisoners and equipment. On November 7, the division attacked along a wider front toward Jumelles d'Orne. According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, "shortly after noon, November 8, strong patrols were pushed out by the 26th Division, as the enemy had shown signs of withdrawing. These were to be followed by a general advance at 3 p.m., with the high ground dominating the Azannes-Moirey road from the west as the object." When the 1st Army broke through the German lines on November 4–7 they put pressure on the German front lines in other places. This pressure caused a general retreat of German forces, with the Allies in pursuit. The 26th Division followed the retreating Germans until November 11.¹⁹

On that day—the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:00 a.m.—hostilities came to an end. The Armistice was signed in Ferdinand Foch's railcar at a railroad junction in the Forest of Compiègne at around 5:00 a.m., and it was to take effect at 11:00 that same day. The division's twenty-five days at the Verdun front was the longest stay of any American division. Of the

American troops in World War I, as Rexmond C. Cochrane relates, “the 26th Division had the unhappy distinction of suffering the greatest number of gas casualties, most of them on quiet fronts.”²⁰

By the end of the war, the 26th had suffered a total of 11,955 casualties, which included those who were killed, wounded (either severely or slightly), gassed, missing, and taken as prisoners. Of those casualties, 421 were officers. The division advanced a total of 37 kilometers—impressive in a war that saw little movement either way along the Western Front. The New Englanders showed extreme courage under fire, and in many cases led the way. National Guard troops rushed into fierce battle, becoming one of the most effective fighting divisions sent to France. The repeated praise from French generals makes this particular unit one of the best-known United States fighting forces in the war. New Englanders from half a world away had assisted in liberating France and had done their share in bringing this convulsive global conflict to an end.²¹

NOTES

1. Rexmond C. Cochrane, “The 26th Division East of the Meuse, October 1918,” Study Number 20 in *US Army Chemical Corps Historical Studies: Gas Warfare In World War I* (Washington, DC: US Army Chemical Corps Historical Office, 1960), *Gas Warfare In World War I*, Digital Archive of Herman B. Wells Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, accessed 31 May 2018, <http://bl-libg-doghill.ads.iu.edu/gpd-web/historical/acchs/acchs20.pdf>.
2. Mitchell Yockelson, “They Answered the Call: Military Service in the United States Army During World War I, 1917–1919,” *Genealogy Notes* 30, no. 3 (Fall 1998) in National Archives, *Prologue Magazine*, accessed 12 July 2018, <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/fall/military-service-in-world-war-one.html>; “New York National Guard Reported for World War I Duty 100 Years Ago,” accessed 12 July 2018, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1248030/new-york-national-guard-reported-for-world-war-i-duty-100-years-ago/>; National Guard Bureau Historical Services, “The Defining Role of the National Guard in WWI,” accessed 12 July 2018, https://www.army.mil/article/191849/the_defining_role_of_the_national_guard_in_wwi.
3. Stillman F. Westbrook, *Those Eighteen Months* (Hartford, CT: Lockwood and Brainard, 1934), 1 (first quotation), 142; John M. Holman, “Welcome Home YD”: *In Commemoration of the Foreign Service and Homecoming of the 26th Division* (Boston: Committee of Welcome, 1919) in Lane Memorial Library “History of the 26th ‘Yankee’ Division,” accessed 31 May 2018, <http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us/hampton/history/military/26thDivisionYD/26thDivisionHistory1919.htm> (second and third quotations).

4. Frank P. Sibley, *With the Yankee Division in France* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1919), 19; Richard E. Landers, "The 26th 'Yankee' Division," *Soldiers' Mail*, September 20, 2008, accessed 31 May 2018, <https://worldwar1letters.wordpress.com/the-adventure-unfolds/watchful-waiting-1917/26th-yankee-division/>.
5. Anne Cipriano Venzon, ed., *The United States in the First World War: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1995), 633; Anatole Sykley, "Boston at War: City at War," *Over the Top: Magazine of the World War I Centennial* (May 2009) in "Boston at War," The United States World War One Centennial Commission, accessed 12 July 2018, <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/images/massachusetts/boston-at-war-text-draft-5.pdf>.
6. Major Emerson Gifford Taylor, *New England in France, 1917–1919* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1920), 38 (first quotation); Richard Rubin, *The Last of The Doughboys* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013), 58 (second quotation).
7. Rubin, *Doughboys*, 59 (first quotation); Harry A. Benwell, *History of The Yankee Division* (Boston: The Cornhill Company, 1919), 38 (second quotation).
8. *The Book of Salutation to the Twenty-sixth ("Yankee") Division of the American Expeditionary Forces* (Boston: Committee of Welcome, 1919).
9. Richard Rubin, *Back Over There* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017), 93.
10. Benwell, *Yankee Division*, 50.
11. Maine Army National Guard, "Our Proud History: World War I," accessed 31 May 2018, <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/about/history/ww1.aspx>.
12. Rubin, *Doughboys*, 66.
13. Sibley, *With the Yankee Division*, 148 (first and second quotation); Taylor, *New England in France*, 132.
14. Rubin, *Back Over There*, 124; Benwell, *Yankee Division*, 92 (quotation).
15. Sibley, *With the Yankee Division*, 204, 211; Taylor, *New England in France*, 194 (quotation).
16. Westbrook, *Those Eighteen Months*, 142.
17. *Ibid.*, 142.
18. Taylor, *New England in France*, 218 (quotation); *Book of Salutation* (Committee of Welcome, 1919).
19. American Battle Monuments Commission, *26th Division Summary of Operations in the World War* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1944), 59 (quotation).
20. Cochrane, "26th Division East of the Meuse."
21. Holman, "Welcome Home YD."