

- Woëvre, The, 421.
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YOUNG, COL. HUGH H., 73.

Chaplain Wright of my regiment, the 316th of the 79th Division, which captured Montfaucon, that is the 79th Division did, remained in the regular army after the war. He told me, after the war, that he had served with the Colonel, also after the war, who had commanded the left regiment of the 4th Division during the Argonne battle. This regiment was in touch with the right regiment of the 79th Division (ours) all during our bloody frontal attack on the high and strongly defended town of Montfaucon. It was the 313th Inf which captured this town, the 316th, my regiment, was in close support.

This Colonel told Chaplain Wright that his regiment got beyond Montfaucon on the first day of the battle, and realized that we were having a very hard time in front of Montfaucon, and were losing heavily. He said he could easily have sent a battalion to attack the town in the rear, and have helped us to take it, if the Germans had not vacated it upon their approach, as they most certainly would have done. But the Colonel dared not do this without authority, as he would be going out of the sector of his Division, the 4th. The matter was reported back to Brigade Headquarters and to Division Headquarters, and finally to Corps Headquarters, where General Bullard said he would not help General Cameron, our Corps commander, win any battle laurels, so on account of this nasty jealousy between high officers, the help

was not sent to us, and the 4th Division went ahead with its much easier advance, and left us to be slaughtered by hundreds in making a frontal attack against machine guns in Montfaucon.

Bullard received all the high military decorations of America, France, England and Belgium. What he deserved was a long term in military prison for deliberately murdering hundreds of American soldiers.

Signed

H. D. Parker

Ex Major 316th Inf

79th Division

Ballou, Calif. 7/14/36

I am entirely convinced that Chaplain Wright was telling the absolute truth in telling me this story. H.D.P.

Mont-
faucon

313th Inf

316th Inf

79th Div

[Redacted]

Left regt of
4th Division

Commanded by Col. who told this story

and 35th of the First Corps, under the experienced and wise Liggett; the 91st, 37th and 79th of the Fifth Corps, under General George H. Cameron, who had been director of the War College when I attended it; the Fourth, 80th and 33rd of the Third Corps, under General Bullard, a graduate Commander from the veteran First Division. Five of these Divisions, the Fourth, 28th, 33rd, 35th and 77th, had been trained with the British. The Fourth was a Regular Division. The 28th, 33rd, 35th and 37th were National Guard in origin. The other four were of the National Army — made up of selective service men. The Fourth, under John L.



Hines, was all-American in geographical origin. Metropolitan New York furnished the 77th, made up of all the racial strains which characterize that great city, and its Commander was Robert Alexander. Practically pure Pennsylvanian was the 28th, commanded by Charles H. Muir. My native State of Illinois contributed its National Guard to make up George W. Bell's 33rd Division. The 37th under Charles S. Farnsworth was a National Guard Division from Ohio. Men of the National Guard of Kansas and Missouri manned the 35th under Peter E. Traub. Joseph E. Kuhn commanded the 79th, selective service men from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. The 91st, which was under William H. Johnston, came from the Pacific slope States of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, and was National Army. This battle order was not based on any particular fitness of a Division for the duty expected of it. Each took its turn. The most

My Division was the 79th. We had only a few days in a quiet sector, before we went into battle. Perhaps this was necessary, but it was unfair and foolish to give us the hardest task of all, but we accomplished it.

*from Virginia
but Pennsylvania.*

distant and perhaps most difficult objective in this attack was given the 79th, which had never been under fire. Such things had to be. *Not so. This was post-staff work. Veterans 4th Div. should have had this job.*

The plan for the attack by the American First Army called for advance by three Army Corps, in order from left to right — First, Fifth and Third. The Commander-in-Chief was aiming for beyond the heights of Montfaucon, the Fifth Corps bucking the center up the hogback, with the First Corps going up the valley on the left and the Third pivoting on the Meuse and going up the valley on the right. It was expected that a salient would be driven between the Bois de Forges and the Bois de Montfaucon by the First Corps, and a similar salient on the other side made by the Third Corps. These two advances would carry the enemy Giselher Stellung, and outflank Montfaucon. The troops driving these two salients mentioned, having been joined by troops attacking between the salients, would advance until the third hostile position about Romagne and Cunel had been penetrated.

At 5:30 A.M. on September 26th, after three hours of bombardment by twenty-seven hundred guns, they shoved off to the music of a fixed and a rolling barrage. Eight hundred Allied and American planes dominated the enemy aircraft during this initial stage. General Pershing had realized that his line must be strong enough if possible to carry through the third enemy position for which he was really reaching, which meant that he must have depth of reserves to insure continuity of pressure. An allotment of six Divisions to Corps and Army reserves also provided for prompt replacement of worn-out first-line Divisions; for extension of front; and insured a continuity of attack in case the third position was not carried as planned.⁶

⁶ In Corps reserve on September 26th were the 92nd, 32nd and Third Divisions with the First, Fifth and Third Corps respectively. The 92nd was a colored Division, under Charles C. Ballou. The 32nd was commanded by William G. Haan and was National Guard from Michigan and Wisconsin. The Third under Beaumont B. Buck was a Regular Division, the one which had stood in front of Château-Thierry in June. In Army reserve were the First under Summerall, Regular of the Regulars. The 29th, a National Guard unit from Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey under Charles G. Morton.

With the Fourth Corps under Joseph T. Dickman east of the Moselle were the 69th French Division, the 90th, 78th, 89th and 42nd Divisions with the Fifth in reserve and the Seventh en route. The 90th, men from Texas and Oklahoma, was commanded by Henry T. Allen. The 78th, men from New Jersey and Delaware, was under James H. McRae. The 89th, men from Kansas and Missouri, had been trained by Leonard Wood, but was now commanded by William M. Wright. The 42nd, the Rainbow Division, under Charles T. Menoher, was National Guard from all over the map. The Fifth, a Regular Division, was commanded by John T. McMahon. The Seventh Regular not yet joined was under Charles H. Barth. It is

*Jealousy
between Corps
Commanders
presented this
plan from being
carried out.
See Page 632
if this looks for
explanation*