

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OF 1917-1918
AND KINDRED TOPICS

BY
THE GERMANS

PREPARED BY

THE INTELLIGENCE SECTION

(THE ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE SUBSECTION)

THE GENERAL STAFF

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

1919

-7-

THE AMERICANS' INSTABILITY AND PERSISTENCE

Interrogation of Julius Baer,
of BEPAGES.

Baer is a butcher who was with the German heavy artillery for three years. Referring to enemy artillery he said the French was the most accuratened could throw shells where they wanted. The enemy gas was very weak and little attention was paid to it. It was difficult to choose between the French and American infantry; there was however, a difference in the way they fought. The French would not advance unless sure of gaining their objectives while the American infantry would dash in regardless of all obstacles and that while they gained their objectives they would often do so with a heavy loss of life.

42nd Div., Com. of Int. §230.
January 26, 1919.

Interrogation of James Levy,
of BEPAGES.

Levy served on the Western front in the 207th Div. This division fought against U.S. troops in the Flanders sector near the close of the war. The Germans have nothing but words of praise for the manner in which American soldiers fight, admiring their nerve and courage. Their way of advancing greatly discouraged the Germans. The American way of making drives also disheartened them considerably, as they were followed up in such quick succession that no opportunity was given the Germans to make a good stand, and to dig in and fortify themselves. Referring to the gas used by the Americans, he says that this caused more casualties than was ever supposed. Towards the last stages of the war there was great disorder among the German soldiers and they hailed with great delight the signing of the armistice.

42nd Div., Com. of Int. §238.
Feb. 4th, 1919.

From reports received it is evident that the German soldier has brought back a wholesome respect for the Americans and American Arms. They relate that after the warfare of movement started in last July they never fought against Americans but that they came out with heavy losses and much disorganization.

2nd Div. Hdqrs. Com. of Int. §189.
January 24th, 1919.

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Interrogation of Karl Finkl,
of SOISSONS.

"He has faced the Americans on several occasions, at CHATEAU THIERRY CPAMPAGNE, in the Sector north of SOISSONS and in the ARGONNE, he says the prevailing opinion in Germany before our entry into the war, was, that America was a money hunting nation, too engrossed in the hunt of the dollar to produce a strong military force. But since our troops have been in action the opinion has changed, and he says that though Germany is at present a defeated nation, he believes that they would be victors in a war with any nation in the world with the exception of the United States, whose wonderful resources in men and material they could not overcome.

42nd Div. Sum. of Int. #232.
February 17th, 1919.

Obliged to take our troops into account:

"One of the captured officers was profoundly impressed by the manner in which the Americans fight. He speaks of their valor, their energy, and their scorn of danger. "We shall be obliged to take into account troops which are so well armed and infused with such a spirit."

(French 3d Army, Interrogation No.
7120/2, Oct. '16, 1918)

'Killed to last man, rather than surrender':

"The troops recently arrived in Alsace were strongly impressed by the good showing of the Americans under fire. They mention occurrences in a battle in which they took part, where groups of American soldiers were killed to the last man, rather than surrender. Most of the men are still completely dumfounded. They declare that all is lost."

(French G.Q.G., Belfort report,
August 10, 1918)

"Germans fear Americans more than any others":

Three Russians, used by the Germans as workmen, escaping to the Americans, stated: "We have seen numerous French, Italian, and British prisoners, but no Americans. The Germans fear the Americans more than any other enemy forces on the front."

(Annexe to S. of I. #6, 77th Div.
Nov. 5, 1918).