

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OF 1917-1918
AND KINDRED TOPICS
OF
THE GERMANS
PREPARED BY
THE INTELLIGENCE SECTION
(THE ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE SUBSECTION)
THE GENERAL STAFF
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
1919

-9-

THOSE WHO DISTURBED THE PEACE IN QUIET SECTOR.
COMMENTS ON THE BACCARAT SECTOR.

Baccarat, which in 1917 and the Spring of 1918 was the training ground in trench warfare for many of the American Divisions, was considered almost as a leave area by both German and French soldiers who had been through the hard fighting of the active fronts. By mutual agreement the fighting had been reduced to a point where it was almost negligible. The German artillery would not fire if the French did not, and the French were as willing as the Germans to maintain peaceful relations with their enemy. It was a common thing for the soldiers to go across No-Man's land and barter chocolate for cigarettes and even to discuss the military situation and the prospects of getting home soon. It was a fine war.

One day when the Germans were sitting in their trenches playing cards and enjoying the rest and freedom from disturbance, a shell came over from the French lines, then another, and another. The Germans beat a hasty retreat to their dugouts, confused and angered by this violation of the Baccarat rules of warfare. The shelling continued and the anger of the Germans changed to anxiety. What could be the meaning of this unprecedented artillery activity? Surely the French would not attack. Determined to go to the bottom of the mystery, when night came a patrol ventured out from the German lines with instructions to visit the enemy trenches and try to get information that would account for the afternoon's shelling. The patrol accomplished its purpose - it reported that instead of French troops being opposite them, the Americans were there. No further explanation was necessary.

Sum. of Int. #236.

42nd Div. Feb. 2, 1919.

Interview with a member of the Staff,
of the 2nd Battalion, 76th Res. Div.

An interesting interview was held with a member of the staff of the 2nd Battalion of the 76th Reserve Division, against whom the 77th U. S. Division (Major Whittlesey's Battalion) was opposed during the last Argonne fight. He said in effect that it wasn't lack of morale in his unit, but the fact that fresh troops with seemingly every necessary equipment, were opposed to them, and that the four years of hard service they had undergone had sucked every bit of initiative they had.

Lieut. Prinz was the adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, who wrote the note to Major Whittlesey asking him to surrender.

3rd. Army Sum. of Int. #23.
December 9th, 1918.