

MOVED INTO POSITION.....FINEE LA GUERRE.....

On October 30th, General Summeral talked to the Battalion. That night, Oct. 31st, we moved into position for Jump Off, November 1st, 1918.

Small town of Sommarence October 31, 1918:

IN CONTROL..... WAR IS OVER.....

The 74th Company on our right got control of the situation at St. George. Pressure was relieved on the 76th. We crossed that little river on foot! From that morning till the morning of November 11th 1918, we had gained our objective, and the war was over! Our clothes were never dry! They told us that our objective was the cutting of a railroad center and crossing the Muesse River. They failed to inform us that it would take 11 days of tramping over very rugged wooded terrain. Not much personal contact with the German Army, but under constant heavy harassment day and night, from guns ranging from "Block Busters" to "77's" those terrible "Whiz Bangs" able to fire so rapidly you thought you were walking into a whole battery of "one pounders!" Whiz Bang you are---eternity next stop!

NO WARM MEALS! NO NOTHING!.....

For those 11 days we never had a warm meal! Never anything more than French Bread, ala "saw dust crust!" Canned tomatoes and "monkey meat"; South American canned corn beef from Argentina--cold. Under these conditions we heard reports of the thousands who were dying in the states from Flu. We could not even catch a good case of "Sniffles!"

MORNING OF NOVEMBER 11th 1918.....

The afternoon of the 10th we were told the Engineers would build a pontoon bridge across the Muesse for us. We were to cross over the river and attempt to infiltrate the German Lines during the night so as to be in their rear the next morning!

The 2nd Engineers tried--would get the bridge half across the rim and the German Artillery would open up! Pontoon boats were blown out of the river and American Youth to Kingdom Come! The 2nd Engineer loss that night was terrible! We were ordered back to our position in the woods at day break! The sun came up! Every bit of ground and trees was covered with a heavy coating of white frost!