

**THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OF 1917-1918
AND KINDRED TOPICS**

THE GERMANS

PREPARED BY

THE INTELLIGENCE SECTION

(THE ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE SUBSECTION)

THE GENERAL STAFF

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

1919

-4-

Deny the Americans even a moral success:

"It was decided to use picked men against the Americans. 'A Division of five Regiments', to inflict on them a morale defeat.

"The purpose of the intervention of the 5th Guard Div. and the 38th Inf. Div. was to prevent at all costs the achievement of success by the Americans - especially a moral success." (This is the statement of officers and platoon leaders.)

The High Command seems to have been much impressed by the Franco-American attacks, and to have decided to prevent at all costs the possibility of the United States being able to boast a success over the German troops.

(French 6th Army, Interrogation No. 6637/2,
June 12, 1918).

Enslaves best divisions against Americans:

Extract from letter: "We shall have a look at the American: the embitterment against him is great. We should have been relieved, but now the American Division has been identified and therefore our Army General Staff has selected the best of our divisions for use against it."

(Mqrs. 2d Div. U. S. Army June 14, 1918)

JUNE AND JULY REVISIONS

Germans marvel at skill of Americans:

"The prisoners do not conceal their wondering astonishment at the training and skill of the Americans, as revealed this morning before them."

(French 6th Army, Bulletin of Information 513,
June 11, 1918)

"The prisoners seemed impressed by the calm and resistance of the Americans."

(French 6th Army Interrogation No. 7024/2,
July 15, 1918)

Americans 'good and energetic fighters':

"We were told that the Americans were opposite us, and that they were brave men; and to be on our guard."

A prisoner states that as he went into line he met men coming out, from whom he learned that the Americans were "good and energetic fighters."

(2d Div. Interrogation June 25, 1918)

AND AGAIN IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

"The Americans have the reputation for irresistible courage."

(Report of Intelligence Officer, Pontarlier,
from Interrogation of Alsatian Deserter,
Oct. 3, 1918)