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THE FIRST DIVISION IN FRANCE .

Now, when the American Army of Occupation is looking down on the Rhine and the censorship has been relaxed, the Regulars are coming into their own. Indeed, there is no reason why the exploits of any American unit cannot be described. The stories of the Rainbow Division, the Empire Division (the 27th), the 77th of the National Army, the Wildcat Division (The Western unit claiming that designation) have been told by admiring correspondents, and the changes have been rung upon the valor of the Marines. But little has been heard of the machinelike precision and unvarying tenacity of the Regulars in action, in part, because it is their business to fight without talking about themselves. However, even a Regular is human and likes to have his efficiency recognized. So when the 1st Division enjoyed a breathing spell at a Rhine bridgehead the correspondents were asked why they had overlooked the Regulars and had written so much about the achievements of National Guard and National Army Divisions; also why the Marines had been lauded to the skies as supermen when Regulars had done some of the work for which the sea-soldiers received credit; for instance, the capture of Vaux, which was taken by a battalion of the famous 9th Infantry.

It is true that the Regulars, whose organizations are not in touch with any given part of the United States, coming from everywhere, so to speak, and therefore without champions, had been more or less neglected. The 1st Division, consisting of two brigades of infantry, a brigade of artillery, with a regiment of engineers, a signal battalion, and the usual adjuncts, had been the first unit to land in France, the first to go into the trenches and into action; and the first to win anonymous fame in the brisk capture of Cantigny; and it had fought on until the heights of Sedan were won - all this without filling the trump of fame. The censor had consistently cut out the name of the organization all along the path to victory. Its remonstrance recalled the growth of the Regulars in Cuba when the Rough Riders eclipsed them in the first news of the carrying of San Juan Hill. At that time John J. Pershing was a First Lieutenant of the 10th Cavalry, a crack negro regiment, and he remarked ironically to a correspondent that the Rough Riders seemed to be the "whole show" in the newspapers.

The Regulars have to wait for recognition. As fighting is their profession they are supposed to excel and be silent. In all our wars their discipline has told. They have done great things as a matter of course, and it is a pleasantry when others are praised to say that they themselves are only Regulars; but there is a world of meaning in that way of putting their devotion to duty. The story that a commander of Regulars at the front sent word to a French General that he could not ask his men to retire may have been an inspiration of a correspondent on the alert for heroics with a quick ear to hearsay, but it is a fact that the Regulars hate going back with a passionate intensity. In France the 1st Division has certainly done very little of it, if it has ever given way a foot.

One explanation of the obscurity of this unit right up to the armistice is that from the day it landed in France the censor had orders to cut its number out of bulletins of the fighting lest the Germans might obtain intelligence of the identity and increase of the American forces. General Bullard, every inch a soldier and a born leader of men, is said to have commanded the 1st Division at Cantigny but nobody at home knew it for many a long day. Thereafter these Regulars, with brief respites to get their breath and reorganize, were in the thick of everything that was going on and bore themselves with a steadiness that had become second nature.

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They did not want to be called heroes; and exaggeration of their deeds would have excited a grim sense of humor that is characteristic of the Regular. It seems that the 1st not only made a great fighting record, as was to be expected, but from its ranks furnished officers for other organizations. Sometimes it was an obtuse censorship that clapped down the extinguisher upon the 1st Division, but it is not the fashion to make the Regulars wait unconscionably long for their laurels?

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