The Stars and Stripes

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 1919.

# 1ST AND 2ND LAY OFF TO CELEBRATE

## Cantigny and Chateau-Thierry Dates Remembered by Rhine Yanks

Monday, June 2, was a holiday in the 2nd Division in the bridgehead on the Rhine. The anniversary of the battle of Château-Thierry was observed. It is just a year ago that Infantry and Marines of the 2nd Division were thrown against the Boche on the Paris-Metz road near Château-Thierry, and from that moment on the Americans were in continual fighting until November 11.

The program for the 2nd Division holiday opened with the announcement that there would be no reveille. There were concerts and entertainments, baseball, doughnuts, ice cream and cake, with corned willie absolutely taboo for the day.

The 1st Division, also occupying the bridgehead, celebrated the anniversary of its capture of Cantigny a year ago, May 28. The capture of the little village on the Western front proved to the Allied world that the Americans could fight, and the 1st Division places this victory high in its long list of military accomplishments.

### Visit Scene of Fighting

It was an entirely different Memorial Day to the 14 members of the 1st Division who returned to the Picardy front this year to pay honor to the men of the division who died while in the Cantigny sallent.

This year when the division's representatives returned under the command of Capt. Phipps and Chaplain Hart, to hold services for those who died, it was far from that of 1918. All was peace and quiet, which has reigned over Cantigny for six months. The inhabitants are gradually returning to the territory and it is again becoming the same as before the German drive of March, 1918.

To the memory of those of the division who are buried in the cemetery at Bonvillers the division has erected a large wreath with the red "1" in the center—the divisional insignia. In front of the little town of Cantigny they have erected a monument to show the point of the line held by them after they had consolidated and held the line, following the offensive.

Services were held at all the cemeteries in the sector where men of the division have been buried. The cemeteries are at Bonvillers, Villers-Tournelle, Cantigny and Broyes. All graves had been decorated for the occasion by both the Red Cross, coming from Amiens, and the men of the division, who came from the Coblenz bridgehead.

Chaplain O. J. Hart officiated at all the ceremonies held in the sector, and at Bonvillers there were many French civilians, while at the other cemeteries there were but the firing squads and members of the Graves Registration Service.

OldMagazineArticles.com