

ST. MIHIEL, SEP 1918

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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OVERVIEW

Situational exigencies had required Pershing to dispatch some American troops to support both British and French forces through July and August, to turn the tide of the German offensives. He was keenly aware that both the Wilson Administration and the American public at large wished their troops to be “a distinct and independent force.” However, U.S. divisions continued to fight in support of Allied forces during the Allied counterattacks as the Marne and Amiens salients were eliminated along the Western Front.

Running south and east of Verdun, one more German protrusion into the Allied lines remained. The so-called St. Mihiel Salient had been part of the German lines since the 1914 invasion. Wailed by the Allied counterattacks on the Marne and the Somme, Ludendorff ordered a withdrawal from this remaining salient on 8 Sep; the retrograde movement began three days later.

The attack on the final salient began on 12 Sep. Three U.S. Corps, a French Corps and 1500 planes (with American, French, Italian & Portuguese pilots) enjoined the retreating Germans in a total surprise, the outcome of which was never in doubt. It was so successful that Pershing halted to advance to allow American units to withdraw for participation in the upcoming Meuse-Argonne sector.

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