

16th PHOTO SECTION

MISSION

LINEAGE¹

16th Photo Section

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The November 11th, 1918 signing of the armistice was the death knell to the activities of many organizations. Not so with the 16th Photo Section. We had our own little " Scylla and Charybdis " in the form of the R. T. O. at Issur-Tille, whose clutches we escaped after a twenty hour struggle, only to fall into the throes of a train wreck, from which we emerged with only a few scratches.

Thus November 11th found us at the First Air Depot with hostilities for others ended and ours just

begun. Witness our morning report for November 14th: Losses 66 2/3% (20 men by transfer), Captured 5 (same way). That day we advanced on the 2nd Day Bombardment Group at Ourches, and successfully attached ourselves to the Group.

At Ourches the section anxiously awaited orders to go over the top. Zero hour was December 19th, and under the able leadership of our C.O., nine went to the attack while six men were kept in reserve, and for the services of supply at Ourches. At a previously arranged signal (the turn of a crank) the men advanced with motor photo truck and lorry, and aided by a motorcycle and Ford, they soon reached their objective, Charey, Meuse.

This was not a battle without bloodshed. A Bolsheviki hand grenade who had not put his signature to the armistice, attacked two of our number, slightly wounding them. Many trenches and machine gun nests were "taken" by our camera men, and much powder was used (for flashlights) in overcoming the obstacles presented by dugouts. We took many enemy positions by subjecting them to exposure. This method of attack was very successful, sometimes taking but a fraction of a second for its completion. Our "shots" always took effect, and our attacks always "developed" in our favor.

While billeted at Charey we made many discoveries. We found that as a photographer, one of our number made a good cook. Our Chauffeur was a credit to the Air Service. He could loop the loop in a Ford, landing upside, down without injury to himself or observer.

Well, our work is done now and they tell us we're going home. Adieu, France. The 16th Photo Section passes into history.