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Letter From Commander and Chief John J.
Pershing to Major General Edward F. McGlauchlin,
Jr., March 29, 1919

John J. Pershing
American Expeditionary Forces

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AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Major General Edward F. McGlachlin, Jr.,
Commanding 1st Division, A.E.F.,
G e r m a n y .

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

France, March 26, 1919.

Major General Edward F. McGlachlin, Jr.,
Commanding 1st Division,
American E. F.

My dear General McGlachlin:

To the officers and men of the 1st Division, I wish to express my compliments upon their excellent appearance at the inspection and review on March 14th at Montaubauer. The high morale of all ranks and the condition of the artillery and transportation were what one might expect to find in a command with such a splendid fighting record. The 1st Division has the distinction of having been the first combatant unit to arrive in France and the first to enter the fighting line. From that time until the present its work has been marked by a high state of excellence and efficiency.

After serving in the Sommerviller and Ansauville Sectors the division entered the line near Montdidier, and on May 28th took Cantigny. This attack may be considered as the beginning of American offensive operations, and its success had much to do with the creation of the splendid spirit thereafter displayed by American troops. In the Aisne-Marne offensive, the division participated in some of the most desperate fighting of the entire war, and helped to insure the success of the Allied attack. During the early part of August the division moved to the Saizerais sector, and shortly after took part in the St. Mihiel

operation, making a deep advance through the Rupt de Madt across the Vigneulles-St. Benoid road to Hatton-Chattel. In the Meuse-Argonne battle the division was twice thrown into the line, - on October 1st, at which time it pushed forward in spite of heavy resistance, and on November 5th, when, after a march of 20 kilometers to reach the jumping-off line, it attacked the enemy and marched on Sedan.

Since the signing of the armistice the 1st Division, as a part of the Army of Occupation, has had the honor of safeguarding the results of its victories, and for its conduct in this work I have only praise and commendation. In view of the above record, each man in the division should feel an especial pride in its accomplishments, and I want all ranks to know of my appreciation of the achievements which stand to their credit, and of the admiration in which they are held by their fellows throughout the American Expeditionary Forces.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John J. Pershing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".