

John Frank Stiehm World War I Diary – Part 2

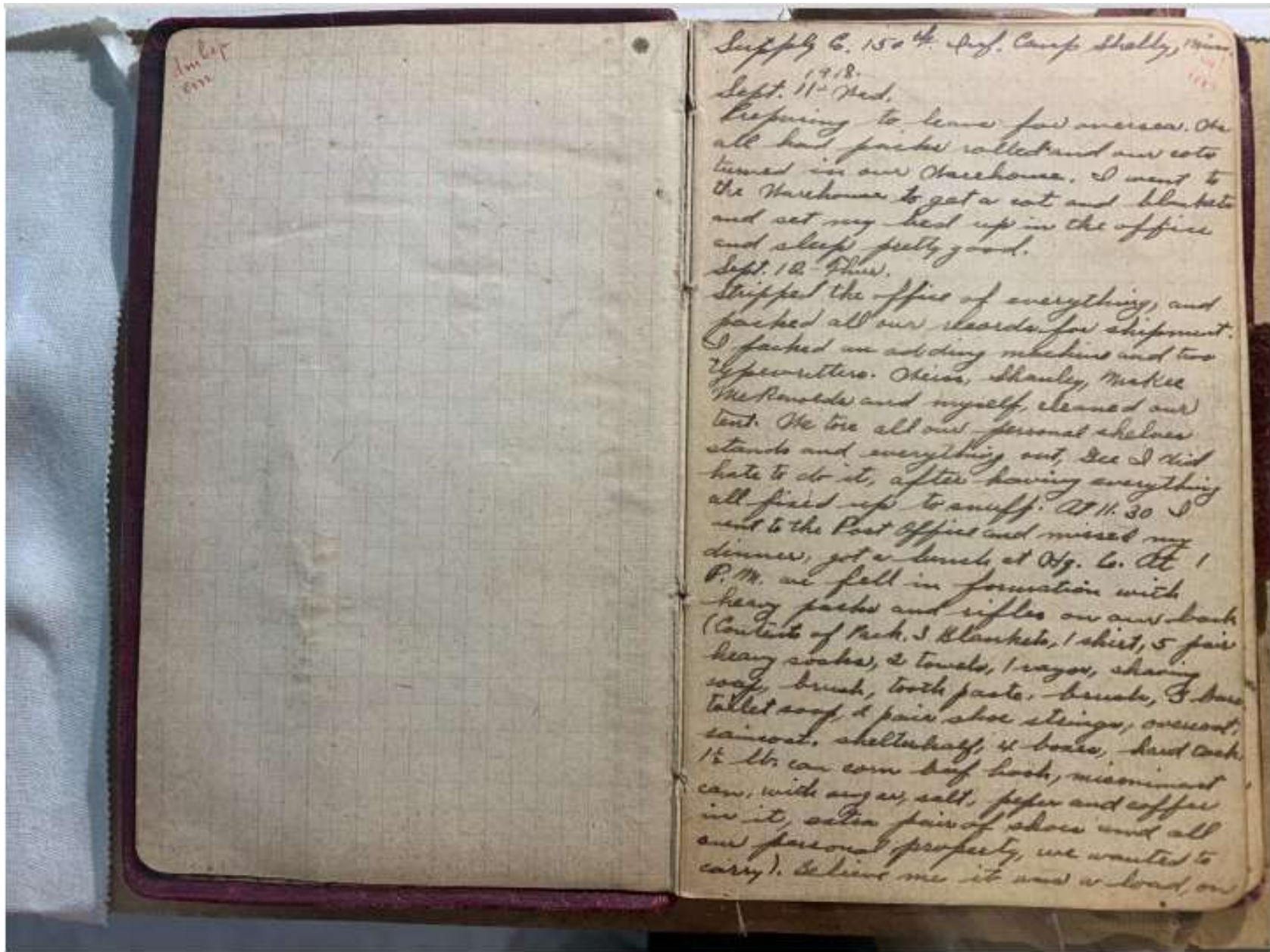
John Frank Stiehm

13 February 1896 – 22 November 1968



World War I Diary

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Amlog
1918

Sept. 15th Prof. Camp Shally, 1918.
Sept. 11th Wed.
Preparing to leave for overseas. We all had packs rolled and our cots turned in our Warehouse. I went to the Warehouse to get a cot and blankets and set my bed up in the office and sleep pretty good.
Sept. 12th Thurs.
Stripped the office of everything, and packed all our records for shipment. I packed an adding machine and two typewriters. Miss, Shanley, Macke, McRonde and myself, cleaned our tent. We took all our personal shelves stands and everything out. Gee I did hate to do it, after having everything all fixed up to snuff. At 11:30 I went to the Post Office and missed my dinner, got a bunch at 10th. At 1 P.M. we fell in formation with heavy packs and rifles on our backs (Contents of pack, 3 blankets, 1 shirt, 5 pair heavy socks, 2 towels, 1 razor, shaving soap, brush, tooth paste, brush, 3 bar tablet soap, 2 pair shoe strings, overcoat, raincoat, shelterhalf, 4 boxes, hard tack, 1 1/2 lb. can corn beef hash, misominant can, with any ev, salt, paper and coffee in it, extra pair of shoes and all our personal property, we wanted to carry). Believe me it was a load, on

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my back. To make it all the worse
we stood around in the hot sun until
3 P.M. and then marched to the railroad. We
went in Pullman cars. We were not per-
mitted to leave our cars. Of course I was
working on service records and posted
invoices in the baggage car and had a
pass to go all over the train. We pulled
out of Shelby at 3.45 P.M. and arrived
at Nashville at 4.30 P.M. They switched
me on the Nashville track and we arrived
at Meridian, Miss. at 8.15 P.M. The Red
Cross treated me to coffee and sandwiches
also candy. I mailed a few cards.
Near midnight we arrived at Jackson
Tenn. After that Weiss and I made our
bed and retired.

Sept. 13 - Friday.

We arrived in Birmingham, Ala. early
in the morning. Laid over awhile, the
rest of the day I worked and wrote
two letters.

Sept. 14 Saturday

We arrived at Raleigh, N.C. at 10 A.M.
We got off train here and marched to
Red Cross Headquarters. While one half
of train took bath the other half
had a light lunch and some
singing. We pulled out at 2.30 P.M.
Went thru Petersburg, Va. at 7.45 P.M.
It is almost a year since I pulled
in here for Camp Lee. We then
arrived at Richmond, Va. at 10 P.M.

The laid over here until after midnight
Some boys were out selling chocolate and
candy. I bought some. Then Weiss
and I went to bed.

Sept. 15 - Sunday.

At 5 A.M. we awoke and found out
we were in Washington, D.C. Did not
stop long and could only see the
Whitehouse lit up as we went thru.
We stopped at Philadelphia, Pa. at
10 A.M. The Red Cross treated us to the
Creamy cake and candy. I also mailed
cards here. At 3 P.M. we arrived in
Penna Station, got off train and loaded
into a ferry and landed at Long
Island, N.Y. at 3.45 P.M. We loaded
on another train and while we waited
we received coffee and sandwiches.
We went thru Garden City and Hempstead
about a 15 mile ride. We unloaded
and hiked about 10 blocks to Camp
Mills. We stood around over half an
hour and at last moved into tents at
6 o'clock. Believe me I was tired and
I had to get busy and go to work company
and get orders for supper and breakfast
then I went to the Commissary and drew the
rations. I went to bed at 10 P.M. About
1 A.M. another section came in of our
Regiment so I had to get up and draw
more rations. Got back to bed at
3 A.M. and I certainly was sore and
cursed the Army.

Sept 16th Monday.
Arose again at 5:30. Had breakfast. The
cow had to move our quarters. I got a
better tent, an awl tent, which I used for
my office. I was lonesome so I got Owen
to move in with me. I took a two day
order for the 8 companies that were in the
camp then. I drew the rations and delivered
them by 3:30 P.M. at 7 P.M. the balance
of the Regiment arrived, so I had to draw
ration again. The bakery is at one end of
the camp, the meat house at the other
end and the Commissary between the two
my tent is across from the commissary.
Retired at 10:30 a.m.

Sept 17th Tuesday
This morning I opened a set of books
to keep an account of my purchases and
sales. Shanley was supposed to do this
but as usual he is on a drunk so
it is up to me. Drew rations as usual.
Had trouble with Mess Sgt. in getting
orders in on time for next day, so I
sent out an order to have all grocery orders
in my office not later than 2 P.M. the
day before issue.

Sept 18th Wednesday
Drew rations again. Started to receive our
mess equipment, but inspection. Some
outfit left for France. Retired at 9:30 P.M.

Sept 19th Thursday
Drew rations in morning. Drew straw this
afternoon, it rained like hell and the

straw got wet, so the boys had to dry
it the best they could, before using it
for beds.

Sept 20th Friday
I drew double rations today so I could
go to N.Y. Saturday. I balanced my
accounts and was 30. out. Shanley
balled things up, trying to do things
when drunk. I am getting sore and dis-
gusted so I told him if he was going
to put entries in the books, I would
quit. So he decided to leave it to me.
I worked until 11 P.M. for a balance
but could not find the mistakes.

Sept 21st Saturday
Shanley, McKee and I went to New York
it surely is some city. We put up at a
hotel. Shanley had a room and a partner.
Drank plenty beer. ~~Retired~~ Went to
show at Hippodrome, it certainly was some
show. Retired at 12:30 A.M.

Sept 22nd Sunday
I intended to go to church but overslept
and had breakfast at 11:30. Returned
to camp Mills at 3:30 P.M. Wrote letters
home and to Irene. Owen's girl, came to
see him.

Sept 23rd Monday
Same old story drew rations again. In
the evening Owen & I went to Hempstead
and had our pictures taken at the Bell
Studio.

Sept 24th Tuesday
Drew rations again. Had stones issued

to us and they certainly seem in handy
The ground is very damp and a little fire
will be good. Hard job getting wood.

Sept. 25 Wednesday.

We received our sea caps and helmets. I
drew rations again. I started to find
that I made a mistake and found it after
midnight. Worked all afternoon and evening
Sept. 26 Thursday.

Wrote again. Had a run in with Major
Gen. Bishop of C. H. I got tired of his
Southern C. S. so I went to Capt. Cornell
and had him tell Bishop who was issuing
rations. He cooled down then.

Sept. 27 Friday.

Set all my equipment out for inspection
and then drew rations. I put a leather
folder containing all my pictures and about
\$2. worth of stamps and some things, but
the men tried to steal the whole thing. I went
to see Montague's sister at the Hostess House.
At 7.30 P.M. I went to Hampstead to see
Miss girl Mercedes Salatek and her mother.
Returned to Camp at 9.30 P.M.

Sept. 28 Saturday.

I drew rations for two days, so I would
have Sunday off. Tried to go to Confession
but Ref C was closed up on account of illness.

Sept. 29 Sunday.

Went to Hostess House and met a Catholic girl
making shoes. I asked her where the church was.
She told me. She also introduced me to a

Chapter. I finally went to Confession and
then to Holy Communion. I was kept busy
all afternoon doing typewriting. In the
evening Montague and I went to see
a friend of his father in Brooklyn
who runs a saloon. He sat up in the
kitchen and talked and drank all the
beer we wanted. We missed our
last train to Camp. So we had to take
a different train and had to transfer
3 times and I finished in a taxi
and arrived in Camp at 3.9 A.M.

Sept. 30 Monday.

Drew rations and balanced books.
again all P.M. received orders to close
books tomorrow.

Oct. 1. Tuesday.

Drew Rations and Paid. Closed the books
and made out Ration saving checks
to all companies. At 10 P.M. I drew
Travel and Reserves rations. I figured
one day travel and 3 day reserves rations.

Oct. 2. Wednesday.

Issued the Travel rations to the companies
and loaded the reserves on train
to be put in hold of boat. Then
I rolled my pack, about 100 pound
load. Helped close the L. M. accounts
and at 4 P.M. loaded on day coaches
Went thru N. Y., Mass., Conn., Vermont,
Rode all night.

Oct. 3. Thursday.

Carved a good bit of ground in Canada

and arrived at Montreal at 2.30 P.M.
We unloaded and stood around until
3 P.M. then marched to the docks, the
100000 packages were to be mailed
when we arrived some on the other
side. The Red Cross gave me a bun and
a cup of hot coffee, then we boarded on
the ship. (Demosthenes). An English
nurse was quarantined on the 3rd
deck, section F. A awful stink came here
Red & rotten supplies. After supper I
went up stairs and met my friends
and found a real bed in a state
room, with 1st. Sgt Hayes of C. Co.

Oct 4 - Friday.

Just one year since I left home
for Camp Lee, Va. We set sail at
5 A.M. from the St. Lawrence River.
We had a fine day. I landed a job
as assistant steward. I had to take
care of all meals in the gally. I also
was in charge of knives, forks, spoons
dishes, paper and other things, my
store room was in the guard house
it consisted of 3 cells and a passage.
I marked my thumb nail, where will
I be when it grows out, living or dead.

Oct 5 - Saturday.

Well started, they unloaded 10 soldiers
sick with the Flu. I wrote two letters
home and Irene, they were mailed at
Quebec, Canada. I ate my meals in
the gally, the same cats as the officers

This morning they unloaded a dead
soldier.

Oct 6 - Sunday.

We left Quebec this morning with some
other ships and an American Cruiser.
From 10 to 11 I issue stuff from the 20.
The rest of the day is mine, only at
meal times I have to be in the gally
to issue the prepared meals, pretty bad
meals too. At 9 A.M. we issue sugar
and salt. At 4 P.M. Jam, Butter and
cheese at 4.30 P.M. issue bread. I have
Hein with me so he can get in on the
good cats.

Oct 7 - Monday.

We are in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
The ship is sailing very smooth if
it keeps this up I will not get sea sick.

Oct 8 - Tuesday.

Fine weather, sailing fine, but the Flu
is getting worse, 30 cases now. I am
taking my share of pills so I don't get
it. One died.

Oct 9 - Wednesday.

The first soldier was buried at sea. They
put weights between the legs and saw the
body up in canvas. They lay the body on a
plank and then the engine blows tapes, then
they tip the plank and the body rolls into the
water with a thud and some bubbles
and then it is all over. They always have the
flag at half mast during funeral. It
entirely is an awful site.

Oct. 14. Thursday.

The flu is awful now. Hospital is not large enough, and they are preparing to use the staterooms too. Lost my soft bed. I don't intend to sleep in that stink-bomb hole and death trap. I intended to sleep in the B. N. Plenty of fresh air and much clean to my life-bowl. Heise also lost his good bed, so we got together and found a place in the orderly room. He sleep on two boxes and I sleep under a deck. I could hear the propeller and engines. The whistle was just above sea and when it blew, the sound was awful. It blew about 2 P.M. and we jumped into our space and life belt and on deck, to find it was only signaling that a relief. A few more soldiers died today.

Oct. 17. Friday.

At 10 A.M. they buried 5 soldiers and 2 of the ship crew. We had a storm this evening and the ship done some tall rocking, a good many of the boys got seasick, I was in the mouth of the boat and it did not rock much. I have not been sick yet and don't think I will either. 7 soldiers died and 1 ship crew.

Oct. 12. Saturday.

I went to the B. N. which was at the extreme rear of the ship, and believe me she was rocking all directions, I could hardly keep on my feet and started to get dizzy, so I went out on deck and got some fresh air and got used to the rocking and felt

myself again. Another bad day. 11 soldiers and 2 ship crew died. See it is awful to see them carry the dead out and mourn their death. More pills for me.

Oct. 13. Sunday.

This morning they buried 18 soldiers and 2 ship crew. I walked for awhile again, but don't care to see anymore burials at sea. So I went to the orderly room and read a book to change my thoughts and pass the weary hours.

Oct. 14. Monday.

Last night 7 more soldiers died and 1 ship crew were buried at 10 P.M. Only sailing about 1 1/2 knots an hour, two more ships joined the convoy.

Oct. 15. Tuesday.

We started to make better time and I am longing to see land again. One sailor told me we were nearing the danger zone 6 more died.

Oct. 16. Wednesday.

We sighted the Hecla Mountains, could only see the tops, but the land looked good to me. 4 more soldiers and 1 sailor died.

Oct. 17. Thursday.

We received a bunch of Sub. chasers, two battle ships, an observation balloon and an airplane. We are all on the alert now for fear of a German Sub. See those chasers certainly can go, they fly like lightning, both pretty blue. One more soldier and a sailor died. were not buried at sea.

Oct. 18 - Sunday.

We sailed up the English Channel and were escorted to Liverpool by a small pilot boat. We got off on land at 11 A.M. and got a full good. An English band played as we marched down the gang plank. All young missions. We remained around the dock until 1 P.M. Then we hiked thru the city to the Railroad station. We got on small passenger coaches, only room for 4 men and packs, but they put 8 men in a set. I was in charge of 4 crew. At 3 P.M. we pulled out. We saw thru some very fine country. We stopped in a small town at 10 P.M. Lined up the men for a beer and coffee. The American Red Cross treated us. We got on the train again at 10.45 and landed at Ramsey, Eng. at 3.4.11.

Oct. 19th, Saturday.

We stood around about an hour with packs and then hiked 3 miles to Camp Woodley, a rest camp. arrived at 5.9.11. They put us in large tents 28 men to a tent. Made our beds with only 3 blankets and hard wood floor. (Hins) I made our bed together. We hiked up for breakfast and went to bed at 6.9.11. got up at 11.9.11 and had dinner at 12. After dinner we took a bath and cleaned up, the water was ice cold. Went to bed early. (Rest Camp, like hell.)

Oct. 20 Sunday.

Hins & I went to Confession and Communion early in the afternoon I sent cablegram to Dora and home. Cost me 6.48. About 4 P.M. a bunch of red 1/2 lbs. went to Ramsey and tried to drink up the town ran out of beer, so we drank wine. Returned about 10 P.M.

Oct. 21 Monday.

We rolled our packs, ready to move. At 8.9.11. we hiked to Ramsey, got on a train and went to South Hampton arrived there about 11.9.11. in a large freight house and docked, making packs and made a milk for senten got some cake, coffee and candy, also some kind of a pack biscuit. The steamer Aquitania, was ready to sail to U.S.A. Some of the people there was German and the fellows there than hard task. I did not get anything.

At 5 P.M. we loaded on an American pleasure boat (Hartford) escorted with two sub. chasers, we pulled out. The ship made 30 knots an hour and we lost a chaser around 1 Le Harve, France, Midnight.

Oct. 22 Tuesday.

We unloaded at 7.9.11. and hiked up a mountain, 6 miles to an expeditionary camp. I was almost all in when we got there at 11.9.11. Here put in small round tents, 14 men to a tent. at 12.30

we had dinner. Had some beer at the canteen and drew rations. This is an English camp. Went to bed early.

Oct. 23. Wednesday.

Drew rations in morning and in the afternoon. No light after dark so I went to bed early.

Oct. 24. Thursday.

I drew rations early this morning. And dined at 11 A.M. After dinner we rolled packs and hitched back to Le Harve. Chew Hill started again. 30 to 35 men in a small 4 wheeled box car, not half as large as ours. No seats, we sat on our packs. We went thru Chateau, Bontier, Mayon, Chemage, Ligne, Comans and sleep on our packs.

Oct. 25. Friday.

We landed at Mantle at 8 P.M. and hitched to Pont Rousseau. We were billeted in all kinds of places, some hay lofts, I got a hay loft.

Oct. 26. Saturday.

Our office was in a small room across from a wine shop. I drew rations again and worked. The Regiment was quartered all over the place and it kept me busy until supper to get all the rations delivered.

Oct. 27. Sunday.

Drew rations, got them at noon. Ate my dinner at the wine shop. Saw 1 franc a bottle. Pretty good beer. Spent the evening

in the office.

Oct. 28. Monday.

Rations again. In the afternoon I had to go to the 34th Battalion, to get field rations. I went in a truck and did not get back until 6 P.M.

Oct. 29. Tuesday.

Rations did not come until noon so I did not get there until 4.30 P.M. In the evening Montiel and I went to a saloon and had some beer. We met an old Frenchman, who could talk German, we spent the rest of the evening with him. He is going to cut my hair tomorrow.

Oct. 30. Wednesday.

Rations again as usual. At 4 P.M. Bill and I went to the Frenchman's saloon shop, I had my hair cut. He left the shop and went to his home about 2 miles further away. He stayed with his sister, mother in law and nephew. He was in the war and was discharged on account of age, also being wounded and gassed. They were from Nancy, Lorraine. They used to drink out by the German shell fire, talked very good German. He had a lunch and wine. He promised him some bread and bacon and tobacco. Returned to our billet at 10.30 P.M.

Oct. 31. Thursday.

Rations again. I saw some bacon and 2 loaves of bread and flour.

Bell and I took the auto to his house early in the evening. We had a good supper: Pancakes, Lettuce, German Potatoes salad, etc. it was good. Wine and coffee. He returned at 11 P.M. In M.P. stopped us, I told him we were to the second Battalion to see about tomorrow rations and he let us go.

Nov. 1 - Friday.

Rations again. My friend came to see Bill and I, so we went to a wine room and spent the evening. I gave him 10¢ sugar, because we were having the next day. He told us if we got sick or wounded to come to his home after we were able. He would take better care of us and show us a good time.

Nov. 2. Saturday.

Re-rolled packages. I got a detail and loaded in trucks at 9 P.M. drew rations for the trip and put enough in each car for the trip. The train pulled out at 11 P.M. Stopped at Senans at 10 P.M. Unloaded here, I got a detail to gather all rations left in box cars loaded them in a truck and rode about 4 miles to a forwarding camp. Arrived about 1 A.M. and rained to beat hell. Stood around in the rain until 2.30 A.M. and finally went to an officers billet and slept until 8 A.M.

Nov. 3. Sunday.

Shanly and I drew rations for three

days, I had them all issued to the companies and at 11 A.M. we got orders to roll packs and move at once. So I had to have companies to return rations to me and I had to get credit for them at the commissary, some job and raining for fair. At 2 P.M. we hiked back to Senans arrived there at 4 P.M. Had supper at 5 P.M. Stood around in the mud and rain until 6.30 and then we took packs and went thru the mill, were classified and re-equipped. That night most all the boys sleep in the mud and rain. Weiss & I went to a billet, used for salvage, and made a bed with old clothes and blankets. Sleep fine.

Nov. 4. Monday.

Sit around all morning and at 3 P.M. we hiked back to the forwarding camp but took wrong road and did not get there until 7 P.M. still raining, wet to the skin. We pitched dog tents in the rain and mud. Made our beds in the soft mud, Weiss and I pitched together. At 11 P.M. I had to walk over 70 miles with a detail of 200 men and draw rations for next morning. Went to bed at 2 A.M.

Nov. 5. Tuesday.

I got up at 7.30 and drew rations again. We used best sacks and our boots were much dryer, but it kept on raining and the tents leaked like hell. In the

morning we received some mail.
Nov. 6. Wednesday
Drew curtains again. They crowd kitchen
the rest of day to keep clothes dry. Really
is a tough life.
Nov. 7. Thursday.
Pauline's 21st Birthday. Drew travel ration
and rolled packs in the rain and just
we started to hike to Lemaux it started to
pour down, arrived at Lemaux about 2 P.M.
loaded 40 men in a small bus
and pulled out at 4 P.M. Now pretty hard
cold so we built a fire and car floor
and went to sleep on our packs. Burned
a hole thru car floor. What the hell
do we care.
Nov. 8 & 9. Friday and Saturday.
We tramped thru Harvy, Lusigny,
Vedical, Montier, Amy and all the
way along the trenchman, most of us
to return, they said Le gare finit. One
arrived at Les Salettes at noon, Saturday.
He hiked to a field and pitched tents in mud
again still raining. This was in the
Dragon Forest. The Germans had
shelled this town sometime ago, we
found shell holes, trenches, dog
barbed wire entanglements also some
branch canteens with bullet holes thru
them. At 4 P.M. we hiked thru fields
and everything for about 2 miles to
next some outfit. 6 P.M. our company
was broken up and I was transferred

to K.C. 310 Inf. 78th Div. They just came
from the front. I could hear the heavy
guns and flashes from the distance.
Believe me those fellows were a sight.

Nov. 10. Sunday.

I acted as Inf. Sgt. drew new clothing
and found the band leader, I tried
to get in the band, the hell with a
line company and drilling.

Nov. 11. Monday.

Left Les Salettes at 10 A.M. and arrived
at St. Minshaw at 11.15 A.M. We
stopped to rest in front of K of C.
Building, the K.L. man told us that
the Kaiser had abdicated and that
Germany had signed the Armistice. The
best news I heard since the war
started. He hiked on until 6 P.M. carried
23 kilos. Put up in a barn in a small
village. Only had bread and some
cheese Weiss & I bought. About 9 o'clock we
had a cup of hot coffee. Weiss had
blisters on his feet, my feet were sore
but no blisters.

Nov. 12. Tuesday.

Took a bath and rested up all day.
My legs certainly are tired and sore I
can hardly walk. I went to bed at
8 P.M. and at 9 the Capt. came in and
told the 1st Sgt. that I was to report
to the band at 5 P.M. tomorrow. I
certainly am tickled to get out of the
Line Co.

Nov. 13. Wednesday

He had inspection and a check up. I rolled my pack and after dinner I reported to Bat. Sq. They had 40 men in charge of a Sgt. I take to K. Co. The saw I was going by there so they put me in charge. He left at 1.15 P.M. He had 6 kilos to go so I took it easy arrived at Dancourt at 2.45 P.M. turned the men loose to a Lt. and I reported to Band.

Nov. 14. Thursday.

I rehearsed in the morning and afternoon. Pretty cool weather, but we were in a French billet with a stove and it was pretty comfortable.

Nov. 15. Friday.

I had to report back to K. Co. and arrange for my transfer. They could not take me in the band as a Sgt. so I requested to be reduced. I had dinner with Weiss, we both ate from the same mess kit. I started back to Dancourt at 2 P.M. and arrived at 4.30 P.M. had supper and after hiking 18 kilos, I was tired, so went to bed early.

Nov. 16. Saturday.

I rolled my pack and prepared to move in the afternoon, but we did not move, so I unrolled my pack and went to bed early.

Nov. 17. Sunday.

He got up at 4.30 A.M. had early

breakfast and rolled packs and hiked 3 kilos to the railroad, loaded in box cars and pulled out at 10.30. Rode 2.5 hours and only had hardtack and bully beef to eat and damn little of that.

Nov. 18. Monday.

He got off the train at 1 P.M. and had hot coffee. Started to hike at 4 P.M. and hiked about 7 kilos to Semur a pretty good sized town, I thought we would stay here, but we hiked on, the Capt. took the wrong road we hiked 27 kilos and arrived at Ne-de-Chassonay at 10 P.M. All in down and out, saw flat sleep, tired and sleepy. He wore a billot in a building on stone floors, but I sleep fine.

Nov. 19. Tuesday.

Got up at 9.30 A.M. feeling much better, only had two meals and very scant ones at that without bread. He just laid around all day.

Nov. 20. Wednesday.

Rehearsed in the morning and played a concert at 3 P.M. and retired at 9 P.M. Still poor meals, pretty nice weather.

Nov. 21. Thursday.

Thin day, warm and nice, rehearsed, played concert and retired, poor meals. Sgt. feeling fine again.

Nov. 22. Friday.

Rehearsed and went to Semur in the

afternoon a town 5 kila from here.
Had a pretty good time. Went to a butcher
shop, bought some meat, took it to a
restaurant and had it fixed with potatoes.
Returned about 9 P.M.

Nov. 23. Saturday.

Had ins pecker. Laid around billet
all day, day cloudy and rained.

Nov. 24. Sunday.

I went to church the first time in France.
The church is over 500 years old. He
played concert at 7 P.M. and also for the
Wagon of the town. In the evening we
played for a French dance.

Nov. 25. Monday.

Rained all day and very muddy, but
feeling fine, - beans meals.

Nov. 26. Tuesday.

Cloudy day. Went to 3rd. Bat. in St. Hagen
left at 9 A.M. arrived at Tils at 12:45 P.M.
Put up at an old Monastery. Played a
concert at 3 P.M. another in the school house
in the evening. Saw Heise and had
fine talk.

Nov. 27. Wednesday.

Still cloudy and started to rain, spent
the morning with Meus, played concert
and pulled out at 3 P.M. in St. Hagen
arrived at Vic-de-Chauxoy at 4:50 P.M.
had beans supper.

Nov. 28. Thursday.

Champagnery day. Had turkey dinner
at 12.30. Went to Mass. Some gloomy
day.

Nov. 29. Friday.

Raining again, rehearsed and played
concert and retreat.

Nov. 30. Saturday.

Gloomy day, rehearsed as usual, and
played concert and retreat.

Dec. 1. Sunday.

Left for 2nd. Bat. at 9 A.M. in St. Hagen
arrived at 10.15 A.M. put up in old building
with infirmary, played service at 11 P.M.
concert at 3 P.M. and another at
7 P.M. at St. Was talking to Montigel.

Dec. 2. Monday.

Went to Janus at 9 A.M. only 3 kila, had
a good time. Came back at 1.30 P.M.

Played concert at 3 and 7 P.M. Have pretty
good meals here.

Dec. 3. Tuesday.

Left 2nd. Bat. at 8.45 A.M. in St. Hagen
wagons and arrived at Vic-de-Chauxoy
at 9.45 A.M. Had concert at 3 P.M. and
signed payroll for two months at 6 P.M.

Dec. 4. Wednesday.

Worked in orderly room and paymaster.

Dec. 5. Thursday.

Worked in orderly room in the morning
played concert at 3 P.M. Went there back
house at 4 P.M.

Dec. 6. Friday.

Windy day. Went to 1st. Bat. in St. Hagen
at noon arrived at 2 P.M. played a
bat. review and parade, killing me
it was muddy to march and play in

returned to Vie-la-Chauxoy at 8 P.M.

Dec. 7. Saturday.

Fixed our benches for weekly inspection did not play today.

Dec. 8. Sunday.

Went to 10.15 Mass. At 12.30 we went to 1st Bat. again arrived at 1.50 P.M.

Played concert at 3 P.M. went to (Lorey) about 1 kilo hike. and played concert at 7 P.M.

Dec. 9. Monday.

We went to a new town Epoinces, very small place, looked around and came back for Chow. Played concert at 2 P.M. and at 3 P.M. played another review. Left Poulignin at 4.30 P.M. in G.S. Wagnon, arrived at Viols. then at 6.10 P.M.

Dec. 10. Tuesday.

We were issued paytroche, the band went to M.S. Co. I stayed back and washed my clothes to get rid of those damn coats.

Dec. 11. Wednesday.

Nothing doing all day. Hang around our home-made fire place.

Dec. 12. Thursday.

Rained all day, sit around again.

Dec. 13. Friday.

Old Band Leader Woodcock came back today. Rehearsed and played a concert at 3 P.M. Retreat at 4 P.M.

Woodcock is a Mason I don't think

we will agree.

Dec. 14. Saturday.

Played a review in a large muddy field. Hard marching, feet wet, 20 lbs. mud on shoes and leggings. This is a tough life alright.

Dec. 15. Sunday.

Went to 10.15 Mass. The band went to Semur to play at Vier. It was raining and I played off sick and did not go.

Dec. 16. Monday.

Raining yet. Woodcock is only using one drum for rehearsal, so I only play every third day, fitting by with murder, as we call it.

Dec. 17. Tuesday.

Rehearsed today, did not play concert, on account of constant rain.

Dec. 18. Wednesday.

Went to Semur and bought a Rosary for Mamma and a pin for Dene and Pauline. Loped all over town for something for papa, but it is impossible to get anything for a man. I ate my supper at the casual kitchen and had some beer.

Dec. 19. Thursday.

Played another review and parade for whole Regiment. Dec it started to rain and the drill field was an awful mess.

Dec. 20. Friday.

Played review for Regiment again

and the General had presentation of Distinguished Service Cross for bravery. The field was worse than yesterday. Had first snow fall at 4 P.M. Not very cold the snow melted again.

Dec. 21. Saturday.

Prepared for weekly inspection again. At 10 P.M. we played track meet some of the fellows got a fooling and broke a clavicle, also concert in the evening.

Dec. 22. Sunday.

Went to 10.15 Mass. Played at YMCA services. Wrote letters and cards in evening.

Dec. 23. Monday.

Raining again, worked in orderly room in clothing slips.

Dec. 24. Tuesday.

Played another Regimental review. Retired to Confession at 7.30 P.M. and went to Midnight Mass, and also Holy Communion.

Dec. 25. Wed. Xmas Day.

Went to 10.30 High Mass. Played concert at 2.30 P.M., officers had a Xmas tree for the French children and gave each one a bag of candy and a small toy. The Priest invited me to his house to have some cake and wine. Note to have Xmas

Dec. 26. Thursday.

Played inspections and retreats. Raining again, turned into snow, had 2 inches in the morning.

Dec. 27. Friday.

Rehearsed and played concert at 3 P.M. Retired at 4 P.M. Snow melted, Newberk went away to school.

Dec. 28. Saturday.

Left in G.S. Yagons at 9 A.M. for 2nd. Bat. Played inspection from 10 to 11 P.M. Then our company and the band went to a house and escorted the colors to the drill field and the 2nd. Bat. passed in review. It rained the whole time and the Bass drummer busted a head and I cracked one eye. Retired to Vie-de-Chasing at 1.30 P.M. Did not get any dinner, only one slice of bread and a little jam. Feet wet and clothes pretty damp.

Dec. 29. Sunday.

Went to 10.15 Mass. Raining all day, hung around billet.

Dec. 30. Monday.

Still raining, rehearsed and played inspection and retreat.

Dec. 31. Tuesday.

Rehearsed and played retreat. In the evening I drank wine and some white cognac, or just water, got too much, and got sick.

New Year.

Jan. 1-1919. Wed.

Getting blue and blue. Went to 10.15 Mass. Spent the rest of the day around fire. Suit cleaning this French wine (roof paint?).

Jan. 2. Thursday.

Started to copy my diary, in small and some building in a pine grove in back of our hills. Old one pretty well torn.

Jan. 3. Friday.

Prope my pipe. Still copying diary. Got cards to Irene and home. Raining and the wind is blowing fair.

Jan. 4. Saturday.

Today in 15 months since I left home for Army and 3 months since I sailed from Montreal Canada for this side of the pond. Band went to 1st Det. to play Reunion. I did not go because drums are out of commission.

Went to Denver to buy pipe stems could not get one so I bought a cheap pipe. Came back from Denver at 9 P.M. in a steady rain. And to my surprise and delight had three letters from home, Oct. 4, 8, and 17th. Also pictures of Mother Father and sister. Two letters from ~~Wanda~~ Oct. 13 & 14th. Starting that Irene received my cablegram, and one letter from Karl Paschl.

Jan. 5. Sunday.

Went to 10.30 Mass. started at 1.30

to copy diary again and finished it at 3 P.M. The wind is howling again. Sit around until supper and in the evening wrote to home & Irene.

Jan. 6. Monday.

Getting cooler and the wind is still blowing fair. We must be having our worst winter. Did not rehearse, drums still out of commission. Ato some friends chestnuts. arranged the music and numbered it. The band is playing for a show. Wrote cards to Home, Irene, Messels and K. Paschl. Sewed buttons on my clothes.

Jan. 7. Tuesday.

Went to a new field in a square formation and formed two teams and played football, our team won. Then it started to rain and we could not. The band had indignant practice. At 3.30 P.M. we played inspection and retreat. Received letter from home.

Went to G. in evening. Ato some bread and milk tonight and went to bed at 8.45.

Jan. 8. Wednesday.

Got up at 6.45 had breakfast. Went to the camp and washed as usual. Water pretty cold. The Bass drummer went to Denver, so I played Bass drum. After inspection the Colonel ordered us and company to drill field. He had to fly the

Star Spangled Banner and the Annapolis
fired 21 rounds in honor of ex
Gen. Roosevelt. Coming back we
played and imagine me carrying
that big drum and beating it. It
about broke my back and my legs
were ready to double up, and my
back was wet with perspiration.
After supper I wrote to Irene and
home. They put on a few boxing
bouts this evening in the G.

Jan. 9. Tuesday.

Rained today, spent the morning in
the G. reading a book. I was made
Det. Cl. Musician today. Had a reel
movie tonight. Beautiful evening
stars and moon shining brightly.

Jan. 10. Friday.

Started morning exercise. Had instruction
on different parts of our Colt. 45.
Crabbe and I went to pine grove
and got two benches for our billet.
Had a show two American men and
two women, they put on a pretty good show.
Wrote cards to Irene and home.

Jan. 11. Saturday.

The band went to 3rd. Det. I stayed
back and Berry and I put in a
new drum head. Fine day.

Jan. 12. Sunday.

Went to 10. 15 Mass. I wrote a letter
to Irene this afternoon. The band is
playing services at the G. I offered

this morning Mass in honor of
Papae's birthday. Gee I wish I was
home, getting tired of laying around
in an old barn in France. I wrote
a letter home. This evening they had
a dance at the G. I played snare
drum from 6 to 7. and Bass drum
and Cymbals from 7 to 8.

Jan. 13. Monday.

Had instruction on handling the
Colt 45. Played inspection and
retreat. Received Mues card from
Irene. I was disappointed I thought
it was a letter. The 312 Inf. put
on a Minuteman show at the G. it
was pretty good.

Jan. 14. Tuesday.

He went to target range and shot
our gatts. Received two new cymbals
today. Received two letters from home
Nov. 17 & 22nd. Wrote home and to Irene.

Jan. 15. Wednesday.

Worked around all morning. Played
inspection and retreat this evening.
Received first letter from Irene of
Dec. 22nd, two from home Dec. 24 & 27th
one from Alma Kinsinger.

Jan. 16. Thursday.

Wrote home, Irene, Louis Sabant and
Paul Frank. Took walk into the woods
and shot my gatt. Met Shanley.
Played inspection and retreat.

Three American women saw it of this evening, but they were rather.

Jan. 17. Friday.

Cold day, raining. Sit around fire all morning. Took a nap in afternoon a gal woke me and I received mail from Montreal, 2 from home, Dec 22nd and five from June Nov. 7-14-16-29 and Dec. 30th. Photo to home and from Received pictures from France. Snowed this evening.

Jan. 18. Saturday.

Warmed all night, melted during the morning, walking was very mean and sloopy. But we had to go to the 2nd. Bat. (Comcalles) to play color escort and review. The ground was very wet and sloopy, tough marching. In the afternoon we were debanded of Coats. But everything we had in our bed sack and put them in a tank, under heavy steam pressure of 150 pound. cool day.

Jan. 19. Sunday.

Went to 19.15 Mass. Played in G. for service at 2 P.M. Reading 20,000 League under the sea. H. of C. Has a place in G. building now. Note cards home and to driver two American women and a man put on a show at G. it was pretty good.

Jan. 20. Monday.

Took a walk to Chateau Doubilly

about 3 kilos from here. we went thru a wonderful pine forest, the path had pine trees about 2 ft. in diameter about 3/4 kilo distance. We came upon a artificial lake, it had a thin layer of ice on it. We went inside the Chateau. The following coat of arms were hanging on the wall Doubilly 1200. Daigny 1254, Mello 1284, Fubil 1321, Bexiger 1379, Lavoie 1390, Fromonille 1403, Houlayn 1450, K abulin 1467, Daigny 1632, Siquan 1696, Birman 1705, Romme 1795, also two coats of Amours in natural size, some old rare paintings hand carved woodwork, marble floors. Also a Chapel with archway painted blue with white stars polished floors up stairs. It certainly was wonderful. Came back and played inspection and retreat. Received letters from home Oct. 30, Nov. 11-25th. also one from home Dec. 25th. Had a heavy frost last night and it was a pretty cool day.

Jan. 21. Tuesday.

Sit around all morning. Received a letter from home. Note home, home and grammar. Having lectures at G. tonight, weather still frosty but a little warmer.

Jan. 22. Wednesday.
Went to Linnell this morning, bought
a guard for my watch. Finished
reading 20,000 Leagues under the
sea. Certainly an interesting story.

Jan. 23. Thursday.
Did around all morning reading.
Wrote cards to Irene & home. Day
cool.

Jan. 24. Friday.
I went to the woods again and shot
my gatt. He stood inspection this
afternoon and got hell for having
dirty guns. In our car out the
other. Weather pretty cool, ground
all froze. Wrote home and Irene.

Jan. 25. Saturday.
Still cooler. He went to 1st. Baty
to play, but it was so cold the
skis froze, so we did not
play. I about froze riding back on
the wagon. He were paid this
afternoon. Went to Confession.

Jan. 26. Sunday.
Had an awful headache, did not
sleep well. Went to 10.15 Mass and
Communion. Received letters from home
Oct. 27, Irene Nov. 12, J. Elder Sept 20
Wm. Jan 8, Eleanor Schmeidler Oct. 15
Answered all of them, pretty cold, started
to snow.

Jan. 27. Monday.
Woke this morning with 3 inches of
snow. The wind blew snow around
beds. The tile shingles are just like
a screen. Pretty cool sleeping in the
old stone barn. Had a report
inspection of our guns. The fellows
that had dirty guns cannot get
passes to Linnell, lucky mine was
clean. Received a letter from home
Jan. 5, three from Irene, Jan.
3, 5, 6. Answered them all. Having
a band concert and boxing tonight.

Jan. 28. Tuesday.
About 1 more inch of snow. Weather
very mild. Had a minstrel show
tonight. Several of the fellows got
drunk. Fine evening, but very cool.

Jan. 29. Wednesday.
Very fine winter weather a little
snow in the air. Stood inspection.
Received a letter from Paul Stiehm
Oct. 9. Answered it and wrote home
and Irene.

Jan. 30. Thursday.
Getting a little warmer. Stood
inspection. Had moving pictures
at 4. this evening.

Jan. 31. Friday.
Snow starting to melt, fine day.
preparing to leave for Vals. Has
Bains for three week duty.

Feb. 1. Saturday.

Left (Vic-de-Chanceaux) at 7.30 am. in trucks. Left Sams on second class coach. Arrived at Lez-Lanvaux at 10.15 a.m. Laid over here. Had a fine 4 course dinner also good beer. Left at 4.15 p.m. fine scenery arrived at Dijon at 6.15 p.m. Left at 7 p.m. rode in car with 6 French soldiers one could talk American, they shared wine with us.

Feb. 2. Sunday.

Arrived at Lyon at 2 a.m. Changed train again, got in first class coach left at 4.30 a.m. I think we went thru and over the Alp. Mts. Fine scenery & ever saw over a foot of snow, followed the Rhone river into St. Paul arrived at 12.15 p.m. Had dinner at another Buffet restaurant. All meals served in coaches. Went around town, pretty nice places - but the girls are rotten. Left at 6 p.m. arrived at Vigne at 7.30 p.m. changed train and pulled out at 8.30 p.m. and at last arrived at Val-les-Bains at 10 p.m. He put up at Hotel Europe, finest beds I ever sleep in.

Feb. 3. Monday.

Had a fine breakfast. Changed hotel. I am now in Hotel Paris

everything is in white, hand flours probably made to wait on us. Had a fine dinner all meals served in coaches. This certainly is a very picturesque town, about 30 hotels here. They say the Paris is the second best. The bank must always get a good place. There is an underground cave here called a grotto. About 15 ft wide and 300 ft. long in each end a natural mineral water spring. It certainly is a beautiful place. The band is playing here now. We have about 8 y. girls here and it does a fellow good to talk to them. Had a fine supper. I played a concert this evening. Went to bed at 10.30. The French girls certainly are great.

Feb. 4. Tuesday.

Slap until 9.30 a.m. had breakfast at 11. Took a walk around town quite interesting. Wrote Home and Irene this afternoon. Had a fine show in the Casino this evening.

Feb. 5. Wednesday.

Took a walk and saw a wonderful church. Playing in grotto this afternoon. Sent booklets to Sams & Home also cards, sent card to Roy Miller saw a silk mill and went to show this evening again. They have pretty good shows here.

Feb. 6. Thursday.
Saw Geysers in action. Took a walk up
a Mt. and saw an old mine. The
stations of the road were built around
it in a circle. Took a walk down
the river this afternoon, the river bed
is all solid rock and very rough. Went
to another show this evening.

Feb. 7. Friday.
Took a walk up the Mt. road and
saw an old Carmelite Church. After
lunch I took a street car and
went to Antreas. A very nice
town about 8 miles from Falls.
Crossed a long stone bridge into
another village and visited another
very old church. Returned to Falls
about 5:30 P.M. Just as I was
going to the Casino after supper
the geysers went into action again.
It lasts about 3 minutes but no
one knows when it is due to
shoot. Wrote cards to Gene, Louis,
Susanna and home.

Feb. 8. Saturday.
A Y. girl took a bunch of us to see
a glass house where they mfg.
\$5,000 bottles per day but the
managers would not let us go
there for amount of a loss to the
company. Went to movies this after-
noon. Soldier amused show this
evening, it was very poor. Wrote
cards to Gene & home.

Feb. 9. Sunday.
Very frosty and cool this morning the
river had a thin layer of ice and
etc. Went to 10:30 Mass. Wrote letters
to Gene and home this afternoon.

Feb. 10. Monday.
A little warmer. Very little rain
Read a book today. Went to a show
this evening.

Feb. 11. Tuesday.
A very fine day, pretty warm again. Read
another book. Wrote cards to Gene & home.
Went to show, when I returned to the hotel
at 10:00, the front end some of our
boys were playing some kind of a
string and ring games. Saw Geysers
in full swing again.

Feb. 12. Wednesday.
Fine day again. We played and
marched the 80 Div. boys to the station
this afternoon the 29 Div. came in.
Took another cool tub bath in mineral
water. Makes a fellow feel handsome
to take a bath in a tub again. Wrote
cards to Gene and home.

Feb. 13. Thursday.
My 23rd birthday. Feeling fine. Took
a short walk this morning. Played
a funeral this afternoon, the 80 Div.
boys died. It certainly was sad. Went
to Confession at 5 P.M. Y.M.C.A. closed
so they had open air masses. My
first experience.

Feb. 14, Friday.

Went to 7.30 A.M. Mass. and Communion. Took a mile walk up one side of river and returned on other side, certainly beautiful scenery. Went to Auberge again. Wrote letters to Irene and home. Played for some this evening.

Feb. 15, Saturday.

Went up the Mt. in back of hotel and saw beautiful chateau, and about 15 different buildings on the estate. Saw lavender growing in the nursery. Rained this afternoon and very foggy. Wrote cards to Irene and home.

Feb. 16, Sunday.

Went to 10.30 Mass. Played concert at 3 P.M. Still raining and very dull. Wrote cards to Irene and home. Went to movies this evening. They were dancing at the hotel, but not me. I got up at 5.30 A.M. and watched a fellow (Saxons). He hurt his spine and it has affected his mind. Doctor said life was doubtful.

Feb. 17, Monday.

The 312 B and came in. Said now we will have to go back to the open air barn again to him. Wrote cards to Irene and home. Still raining. Guarded the sick fellow again. I had some time with him, took one half an hour to give him down.

Feb. 18, Tuesday.

They took Saunders to the hospital this morning. Today is 4 months in France. 3 months in No. de Chassery and today we leave Kala Lou-Bains. Wrote cards to Aunt Pauline, Uncle Frank, Irene and home. Left Hotel Paris at 5 P.M. went to YMCA and then to R.P. Station. Left Paris at 6.15 P.M. arrived at Nogent at 6.45 P.M. Laid over until 8.45 P.M. changed trains. These few trains are a failure. Arrived at Lillois at 9.50 P.M. Got off train and had to lay over. Guarded the instruments and home and then sleep in 1st. Cl. coaches.

Feb. 19, Wednesday.

Got up at 8.9 A.M. had eggs for breakfast. A train full of English soldiers went from India on their way to England. A bunch looking bunch of soldiers. At 12.30 A.M. I went to see a bunch of Germans, they brought engines from Germany as per Armistice terms. Very nice to talk to. One fellow could also talk American, had been in Canada, and we knew where man was and home was. I received some German money. Returned at 11.30 A.M. and loaded on train, train pulled out at 1.15 P.M. a fellow showed my ticket out of the train window. He gave me his. Arrived at Lyon at 7 P.M. Had to lay over here again. He received passes to see the town, second class.

city in France, 560,000 population.
Three of us walked around the town at
2 P.M. See the girls are rotten, they just
stop us and want to promenade. I got
up at Hotel Nice and sleep until 5, 2, 11
Feb. 23. Thursday.

About 73 of us loaded on a wrong
train, special for officers. But it
was too late to get off, and believe me
we did fly and arrived at Dijon at
10 A.M. We don't know how the
rest are getting on. (We are waiting on
them here. A very nice town 60,000
population. Bought a job like I saw you
me. The Red Cross had a nice canteen
here and we had all the sandwiches
and coffee we wanted very cheap.
The French girls are wild and American
dare to say the Red Cross girls here are
almost as bad, it certainly surprised
me. Could not get a room, so I decided
to sleep over French Canteen, but a High
buddy invited me to share his room
with him, we sleep in Hotel Ambassade.
Went to bed at 10:30 P.M.

Feb. 24. Friday.

At 3:55 A.M. my bed partner started to
snore, I snore and saw it was time
to get up. The hotel girl who was supposed
to wake me, was sitting in a chair
asleep and did not hear us go out.
We had breakfast at Red Cross Canteen
and loaded on train and left Dijon

at 5:26 A.M. about 5 below out, we
side tracked and let about 8 trains
thru. This frog system is rotten. Laid
over until 7 A.M. pulled out again only
to side track at 7:30 A.M. again to let
Paris Special pass. Pulled out at 8:30 AM
arrived at Les Lunettes at 9 A.M. Had
to change trains and laid over again.
Had dinner at buffet only 5 francs.
Had an awful time to get across. Left at
3 P.M. half way to Semur they switched
to cars for half an hour at 4:30 P.M.
we arrived at Semur and loaded into
Ambulance trucks and arrived at
Dijon de Chassancy just in time for supper.
Sleep in the same old, cold, dry barn
on hard stone floor with only two
blankets. Sleep often and awful change
from good beds.

Feb. 25. Saturday.

They held our mail here and received
5 letters from home, 4 Irene, 4 Louis,
1 Eleonora, 1 Monty, 3 Marguerite
1 Preschler. Wrote to home, Irene, Marguerite
Oliver and Preschler. Also received letters
from home, Irene and Marguerite. Retired
in hard bed at 8:30.

Feb. 26. Sunday.

Wrote to Monty and Eleonora. Heard
Irene went to Germany. Went to 10:15
Soldiers Mass. Received letter from Irene
also two more pictures. B. B. from
her. Pershing said we would sail
in May. Wrote home and to Irene

Wrote to put shelter halves between our
benches now, to prevent flu. Always some
thing new in the story, I am sick and
tired of this life. Played at 14. This
evening only piano and snow down
small but rotten.

Feb. 24. Monday.

Loafed around most all day, as usual
rained again. Received letter from home
getting more homesick here every day.

Feb. 25. Tuesday.

Still raining, rotten nasty weather, wet
feet, received new overcoat, 5 tent pins
and tent pole. Letter from home, and
and letter from home, answered them
and wrote card to Irene. Sad news
Lundus died yesterday. Have to put
all property in benches every day. Com. B. C.

Feb. 26. Wednesday.

We went in quarantine this morning
on account of Lundus death, death
caused by Spinstangle, received letter
from Mercels, telling of Fulton Bank
robbery. He had to go to Chow
in formation. Went to bed at 7 P. M.

Feb. 27. Thursday.

We turned out this morning at 9 A. M.
and marched up and down the road
playing a few games for parade when
we arrived in the stable I suppose. At
10.30 a divisional doctor took a culture of
our throat in order to detect germs. I was
certainly passed slow when in this

quarantine. We played ball this afternoon
& half past the time, it started to rain and
then hail and ended up with snow, this
certainly is rotten weather. We are trying to
have a show, I am to act as a woman.
Wrote cards to Irene and home. This
evening we received home made rats
made of wet wood and chicken wire.
Better than sleeping on cold damp
stones. Retired at 7.45.

Feb. 28. Friday.

We took a three mile hike this morning
a pretty fine day. Played ball all
afternoon. Received letter from home
from, Conchita and Louis Schult, also
card from Anna. A very fine evening
nice and warm, occasional show.

Mar. 1. Saturday.

Fine day. Received letter from Louisa,
wrote to Louis, Home, Irene, Conchita,
and Susanna. Took another culture.
Sent 4 men to infermy on account
of sore throat. Set out watches about
an hour.

Mar. 2. Sunday.

Arose on hand later, but did not
mind it. Started out a fine day but
as usual ended with rain. Still
in quarantine could not go to church.
Wrote letter to Mercels. A bunch of
us skipped out and took a walk
to M. S. C. Haded thru mud over
shoe tops. Retired at 8.15.

Mar. 3. Monday.

Quite rainy day. Time seems awful long passed up. Wrote card to Anna. Mails are getting very scant again. See the quarantine was lifted at 5 P.M. but 8 fellows have to wear gauze masks. Had show at G. 1st. Sgt. asked me to help G. now a few days.

Mar. 4. Tuesday.

Started at G. at 8.30 A.M. all kinds of cigarettes, cigars, cakes, tobacco, toilet articles, matches, soap, jam and milk. Received card from Louis. Wrote cards to Louis, Irene and home.

Mar. 5. Wednesday.

Opened G. at 8.30 A.M. Time goes very slow on this job. Had steak for dinner first time in six weeks. Received letter from home, answered it. Fine day, nice and warm, had a rather supper, tomatoes, prunes, bread and black coffee. Had a little thunder and lightning showers.

Mar. 6. Thursday.

Started at G. at 8.30, rather dry, raining my shoes leak, and cannot get a new pair, feet wet most of the time. Received letters from Finninger, home, & Irene, answered them all.

Mar. 7. Friday.

Started at G. at 8.30, fine warm day, mail all dried up. Received letters from

Louis, home, answered them. The old 4 helper returned and I am done and I am glad to quit the job too.

Mar. 8. Saturday.

At last received a pair of old shoes repaired over. Raining again. Helped H. man, so I could write at least. Raining tonight.

Mar. 9. Sunday.

Went to 10.15 Mass., rained most all day, rather weather. Received (W. H. news of Feb. 14th, from Irene. First home paper since I am in France certainly a treat. Had a 6 reel movie, pretty good.

Mar. 10. Monday.

Quite a few day again. Found 3 crates took a bath and changed clothes to get rid of them. Had an inspection for lice, crates and everything. He had mosquito net and Bully Beef today. Wrote cards to Irene & home. Beautiful night, kind of a rainbow ring around the moon.

Mar. 11. Tuesday.

Most beautiful sun rise I ever saw. Fine hot day. Refreshed eating my dinner. Cow (Willy) dinner. Saw John Mallock today first time since we were separated up. Received letters from home and Irene answered them. Refilled balsam. Certainly was a hot job. Played Bismarck dinner for Patrick tonight, and leader had grounds on and nothing

visited him, rather concert. Had
boeing at 4.
Mar. 12. Wednesday.
Dull day cloudy and raining again.
Received letters from Louisa and Mary.
Answered them also wrote to J. Elder
Montreal. Had show from 303 Engw.
They pulled a joke on me helping 14
man.

Mar. 13. Thursday.
Pretty fair day. Played review at
3rd. Bat. Pib. pretty muddy field.
Had a fine supper. Returned at
6.30 P.M. Received paper from Irene.

Mar. 14. Friday.
Day fine day. Washed my clothes
this afternoon. Practiced marching
in band formation this morning.
Band went 50 miles in trucks. I
was busy and got to stay back
by one in billet.

Mar. 15. Saturday.
Sleep until 9.30 A.M. sit around fire
most of day. Saw movies at 4.
this evening. Band returned at
8.30 P.M. Pretty cool evening.

Mar. 16. Sunday.
Went to 10.15 Mass. Started to work
at 4 again. Received letter from
Irene. Wrote to Irene & home.

Mar. 17. Monday. St. Patrick's Day.
Started at 4 at 8.30. Dull day and
hail this afternoon. The Socials

had a show this evening. My usual
cocoa and layer cake. Started to snow
in evening. Received two letters from
home, P. Irene X. Answered them and
sent Stars & Stripes, Photo and Mistletoe
Home and Irene.

Mar. 18. Tuesday.
Started at 4 at 12.9 A.M. going to sell
out by April 1st. Snowed a little
this morning, pretty cool. Snowed all
afternoon. Received paper from Irene.
Had a pretty good show this evening.

Mar. 19. Wednesday.
Started at 4 at 8.30 A.M. much warmer
this morning. Official order came in
the we leave here April 16th. Received
letter from home. Wrote to Louisa, Gold
Kate, Elaine, Dick, home and Irene.
Thunderbolt gun out today. 4. show
troop here, but it was rotten.

Mar. 20. Thursday.
Snowed during night, wind blew
the snow thru roof and the head of
my bed and blankets and also
my hair was wet, and shook water
from my shelter half. Tough life,
and the sun was shining in noon.
Started at 4 at 8 A.M. Received 1/2 pound
of chocolate, pretty fair day after
the snow.

Mar. 21. Friday.
Started to rain and turned into snow
imagine such weather, they call this

long train, like hell. Snowed all afternoon very wet and sloppy. Received new 5000 pounds of supplies today. Still snowing tonight.

Mar. 22. Saturday.

Three inches of snow and starting to melt and believe it is a mass outside. Frank and I are working in the G. Band went to Linn for several days. I was lucky to get out of it again. Had movies tonight pretty good. Sleep alone in billet.

Mar. 23. Sunday.

Sleep until 8:30 A.M. took another bath and went to 16.15 Mass. Started at 7 at noon. Had services at 7. This afternoon. Note to Home and Service started to rain this evening, we certainly are having rotten weather.

Mar. 24. Monday.

Sleep until 8 A.M. started at 7 at 8:30 not very long today. Sent a P.S. and photo with Mistletoe to home and Service. Received letter from Laine and answered it. Pretty fair day. Note cards to home and home.

Mar. 25. Tuesday.

Sleep until 8:30 A.M. started at 7 at 9 A.M. Started to rain at noon but I went to Linn in a truck anyway. Bought this book for my diary. I started to re-copy this evening. Old book worn out and torn. Some of the

old supply to new sleep in my billet. They certainly are a bunch of dirty talking fellows, I am glad I am out of that outfit.

Mar. 26. Wednesday.

All the company are going to the Div. Review so I have nothing to do, I copied my diary most all day, if man not here either.

Review day I ever saw, it was raining one minute and the sun shining the next. It kept this up all day. I pity the boys and the Reviews. If man returned at 9:30 P.M. and said Gen. Pershing was well pleased with the 79th. The company came back at 10:30 P.M. in trucks and I could not sleep until 1:30.

Mar. 27. Thursday.

Sleep until 8:45 and started at 9 at 9:15. The company has a holiday. Band returned at 2 P.M. Burn day raining again. Received two letters from home, 3 from Irene and one from Laura. Note to Irene and home also sent Map of France home. Had show tonight.

Mar. 28. Friday.

Started to get up at 6:45 again. Turned in for dinner. Received an old English gas mask comes to carry my personal belongings. Bully beef for dinner. Today there are having

Snowing and snow, off and on.
Had a lecture on farming this evening.

Mar. 29. Saturday

Had inspection and check up. Pretty hard
day, rainy and snowing this evening.
Had a fire stove reel mended at
J. Selling fudge today.

Mar. 30. Sunday

Awoke up this morning with five inches
of snow, not cold but very sloppy.
Went to 10.15 Mass. Still snowing. Started
at J. at 11.30 A.M. He also served wine
and cakes today. We were issued one
half pound of chocolate. Received two
letters from home. Wrote cards to
Irene and home. Had an awful
headache and left J. at 8 P.M. and
went to bed. Wind blowing and it
started to snow on my bed again.

Mar. 31. Monday

Started at J. at 7.30 A.M. feeling better
again, son out early this morning and
snow is melting. They took pictures of
the band today. I replanted the
baritone saxophone. Almost all sold
out, today is last day for dry Canton.
Wrote to Louis, home and Irene. Fine
evening, but pretty cool.

April 1. Tuesday

Helped J. man close his accounts.
2. M. St. wants me to take charge of
Army Cantina here. Received 3 cards
from home (Wesley). 1 letter and 1 card

from Irene, she was hurt with car.
1 letter from Louis and 1 Clemons Schmitt.
Wrote to home. Irene this afternoon. Much
warmer today and better weather. Had
the 36 Div. show this morning, they were fine.

April 2. Wednesday

Started at J. at 8 A.M. Wrote to Louis,
Kinsinger and Clemons. Fine day, but
very cool. I had to go to cancellation at
2 P.M. and play for 2nd. Bn. Review
pretty muddy field. Returned at 6.30
Received letter from Louis and mended
it. Fine evening.

April 3. Thursday

Fine day, but cool. Looped in J. all day.
Received 20 F. from J.M.A. Played one
piece in band. Wrote cards to Irene & Home.
An old frog came in and he was so dirty
the boys washed and shaved him.

April 4. Friday

Rain today. Sold last cakes at 10.30 A.M.
Received letter from Louis, wrote him two
cards to Irene and home. Turned our gloves
in today. Retired at 8 this evening.

April 5. Saturday

We all had to be deloused again
this morning, I did not have any clothes
but had to have clothes steamed anyway.
Received more cakes to sell this afternoon
7 reel music at J. this evening, they
were pretty good. Fine day.

April 6. Sunday

Today the 78th Division was released from

The A. E. P. and well now in the S. E. S.
Rained last night and warm today. Had
Sunday. Went to 0.30 Mass. Started at 7.30
noon. Kof C. missed your drops. J. is
giving 3 cookies and cup of cocoa today. He
must again. Wrote letters to Home & Home.

April 7. Monday.

Bring warm clothing. Turned in two
blankets, 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. leggings and
1 pr. pants. Had coat inspection this
morning. Had a real thunder shower
this afternoon. Had my hair cut.
Rain evening. Put in for Pass to Paris.
Wrote cards to Irene & Home.

April 8. Tuesday.

Fine day. Working day, sent book in

to

April 9. Wednesday.

Sold all cakes in C. at 11.2.11.4. Myling
put me and D. ^{and} in charge of Army
Canteen. Received supplies. Moved my
cut in J. building. Paged off tonight
received 332.50 F. Fine day.

April 10. Thursday.

Rained during night, sleep fine, and
missed breakfast. Swaged stock and
opened canteen at 6 P.M. Certainly a
hell of a job. Worked until 10.30 P.M.
Rained two letters and card from Home.
2 letters and 2 cards from Home. J. J.
Wrote Irene & Louis. 136 sala

April 11. Friday.

Got 1.30 A.M. 4 or 5 officers came

in J. and woke us up and sang
and raised hell until 2 A.M. Only
sleep a few hours. Missed breakfast
again. Opened canteen at 11 A.M. until
1.30 P.M. Had late dinner. 125 sala.
I write out all orders and make them
up, and am cashing off and on, some
Army and taps. Received letter from
Home and Emma, wrote Home.

April 12. Saturday.

Opened canteen at 11.30^{9.11.11} until 1.30 P.M.
Balanced stock. Received letter from Home
and J. from Home. Wrote to Irene and
Home. Went to Confession. Opened 2nd M.
from 6 to 7.30 P.M. Had movie this
evening. At 9. we took stock and balanced
accounts. Retired at 11.30.

April 13. Sunday.

Opened canteen from 9 to 10 P.M. and then
went to 10.30 Mass and Communion. Then
Sunday. (Bois - Box wood). instead of palm
Opened canteen at 11.50 until 12.30. Closed
accounts and took inventory. Received letter from
Louis and Irene. Received a new line
of stock. Wrote to Mygan, Irene, Louis
Emma and Home. My pass returned
to go to Paris.

April 14. Monday.

Opened canteen from 11-1.50. Had accounts
in order to leave for Paris. Got things
ready to leave. Received letter from
Home and Irene. Better weather,
raining. Started to wear service stripe

April 15. Sunday.
Roses at 6 P.M. Left Vic-de-Chassy at
7 P.M. for Jumeil. Left Jumeil at 9.50
arrived at Les Haumes at 10.50 A.M.
Met two fellows from Jumeil who
going to Paris. Bought ticket for only 4.30.
Had dinner at buffet at 12.30 noon.
Looped around town and left at 2.50 P.M.
Went thru the following towns, Montbard
Jeu large, all the works here, Monte-sun
Ravins, Tanlay, Vouevre, this is
where the 1st Army long-head quarters
was, Flogny, St. Laurentin,
Kergigny, Brillemont, Lorcans, 2.50 P.M.
The all following large canal filled
with large canal boats, they are all
loaded with cargo. Jorgny. A French
family got on here, father, mother
and 15 year old daughter, all three are
smoking cigarettes, and eating a book
each is left in frame. Villeneuve
Etigny-Vale, Saw a fine cathedral
it alone. The river is all overflowing
and the valleys are flooded, some
places the water is only 2 feet from
deck. River called Yonne, Ponto-de-
Yonne, Montebese, F. Promet,
Melun 6.50 P.M. We crossed the
Seine river at Cesson at 6.55 P.M.
arrived in Paris at 7.15 P.M. I got
into a truck and rode to R. X, near
the Eiffel tower. Had a lunch for
50¢. Took a walk at 8.15 P.M. to see

the Eiffel tower. Highest structure in the
world 984 ft. high, and a soft flag pole
making 1004 ft. The base covers 4 acres.
They use it for wireless radio. Retired at
11.30 in hospital tents also hospital cots,
but the beds were fine, white sheets and
feather pillow only 1 F. for bed. I certainly
sleep fine.

April 16. Wednesday.
Had breakfast at 8.30 A.M. Took a taxi and
went to Hotel Pavillon to get a room, but all
filled up. Decided elsewhere for some
brand man and myself. Walked around
center of town, buildings not new & stories
all made of stone, but they are very old and
wonderful construction. Tried to find Mrs
Stahl, but could not locate him. Went
to R. X. for dinner at 12 noon. At 12.45
I went in a truck sight seeing trip, saw
the world was painting, Pantheon-de-la-
gare, over 350 ft in diameter. All
the painting is on canvas and the work is
so good the figure look like living being.
Another fellow and I missed the truck
so I hopped a taxi and went to glass
factory, bought a trumpet for Johnson
from there I went to see Denise cousin
Madame Barovot 42. Milton. She was
not home and a french girl told me
she would take me to where she was.
We walked about 6 blocks to the
place where she works. I talked to her
about 1/2 hour in German. Returned to

R. X and had supper. After supper I went to Folies Bègues Theatre and saw some show. Finest costumes and scenery I ever saw and a real leg show, but the French call this a high class show and don't think anything of it. Left theatre at 11.30, but a tough job to get away from the girls. Took taxi for R. X. These taxis have only 1 Cyl. engine.

April 17. Thursday.

Had breakfast at 9 A.M. Took sub. to town and got the Champs. The Sub. system certainly is great. Saw some wonderful bridges over the Seine river, also saw two Wilson's machines on way to Parc Buff. Took in many interesting points in this section of Paris. Had dinner at Cigogne-de-Paris, 2 P.M. C.S. After dinner we took us to a train and we went to Versailles. This is the palace started by Louis 13th as a hunting lodge. And completed by Louis 14th and changed at different times by Louis 15th and 16th. The granite covers 6000 acres, the cost of Palace cost 4 Million. There are lakes, fountains, parks, flowers, statues and almost everything imaginable. Went thru Palace and saw the hall of mirrors where Peace will be signed also saw glass table on which Peace will be signed. Saw some wonderful painting, sculpture work in all parts of the Palace. I did not wait on for the

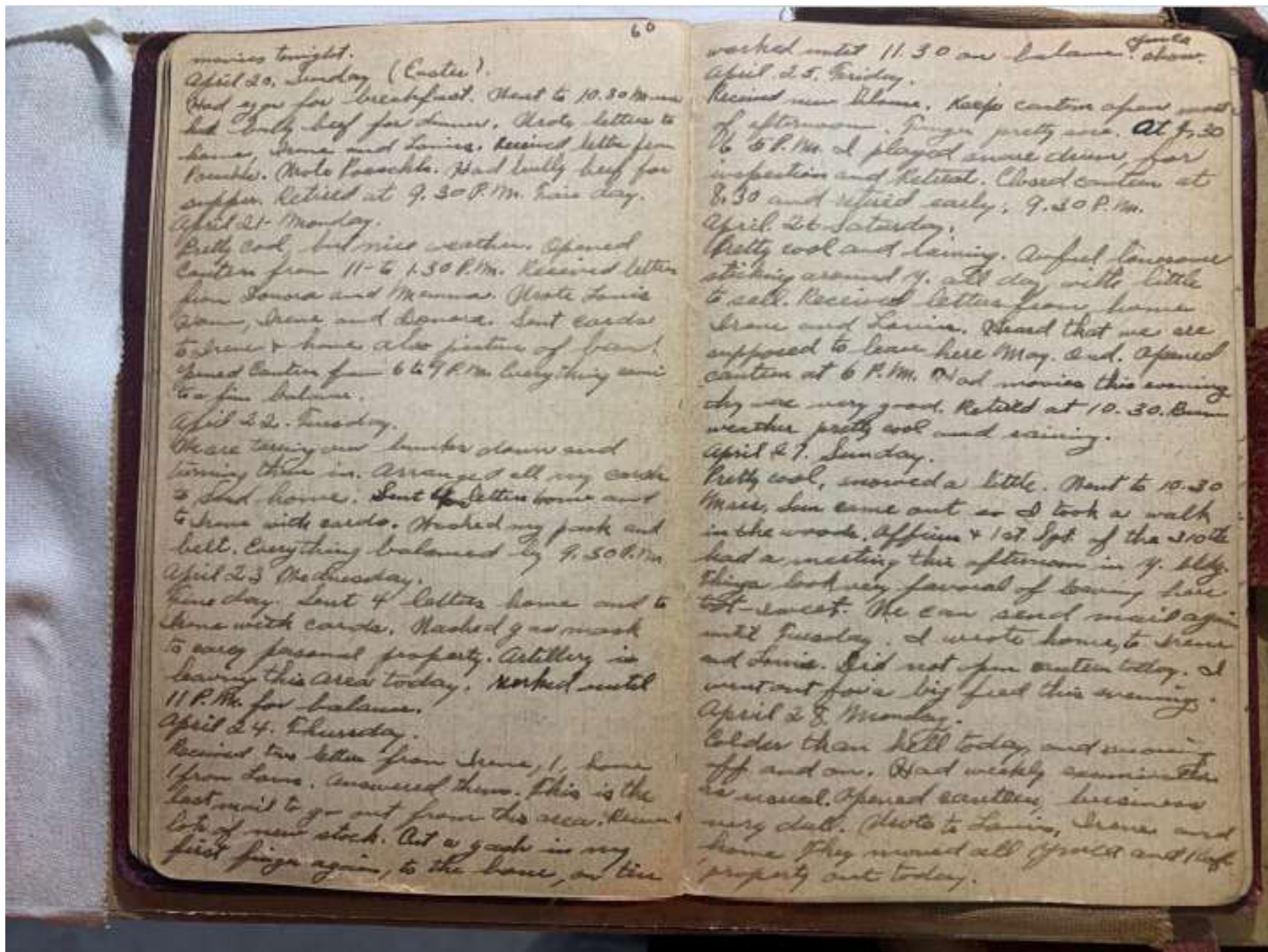
special train, took another and got back before the crowd and had supper at Cigogne-de-Paris, also had first insurance and I left the States. At 8.15 P.M. went to Casino-de-Paris and saw another show. Returned to R. X. and had light supper and retired at 2. P.M.

April 18. Friday.

Took sub. at 9.30 A.M. to center of town and went to S. & S. club. It is close to the hotel where the Peace conference is being held. Saw a bunch of German cannon and a German tank. Took in several other buildings. Had dinner in French restaurant. Went to see Notre-Dame. It is wonderful. Saw Palace of Justice. Went thru Palais-Lafayette, they have everything imaginable also saw the Louvre. Saw the Champs that the long range gun hit, still hit the clock in the tower and knocked it out. The shell also killed 65 and wounded 95. Went to S. & S. for supper at 6.30 P.M. Took bus car for Gare-de-Lyon and left Paris at 10.30 P.M.

April 19. Saturday.

Woke sleep at 6 A.M. and went past my station and went on to Dijon, but do not care, away from the company another day. Lunched around Dijon until 11.30 A.M. and arrived at La. Lunched at 2 P.M. Left at 3 P.M. and arrived at Lyons at 4.15 P.M. and hit via St. Etienne at 5.30 P.M. Received two letters from home 1 from Irene & from Lennie. She had



32 - World War I Diary - John Frank Stiehm. Owners: Shawn Bleiler and Helen Butalla. Do not duplicate without permission.

April 29. Tuesday.

Two inches of snow this morning and still coming, pretty cool. Opened canteen until 12.30 A.M. 2. M. ordered us to close. Balanced our stock and sold stock on hand to Maj. Field from dope, we have here Thursday. I received reserve rations and finished my helmet. Tore our counter out. Snowed until noon, the sun came out and it is a little warmer, so I washed my clothes. Hung them out to dry and it started to snow again. Took a walk to face the time.

April 30. Wednesday.

Snowed like hell all night, pretty damp and cold. Took my clothes to a French house to get dried. Visited another French house, to kill the morning and get warmer. Turned my belt back in. Snowing worse than ever. Had an other examination. Packed my pack, ready to leave in the morning. My feet are wet and cold and two places to get dry or warm. Snow is starting to melt and it is very sloppy. The air turning worse weather than we had all winter. Signal platoon moved in the p.m. and I have plenty of company. A man left us this morning. Several of the signal men are drunk and raised hell all night. My last

night in Vierde-Chapelle.
May 1. Thursday <sup>Received cards from Anna, my
sister on train. Some plus.</sup>
Awoke at 5.30. had breakfast, finished rolling my pack. I reported back to the band again. And we stood around until 7.30 A.M. Loaded into trucks and arrived at Senner at 10.15. Had a fine dinner. Y.M.C.A. gave us chocolate and cake. Loaded in American box cars at 11 A.M. Left Senner at 11.45. It just started to rain again as we pulled out. We went within about 30 miles of Paris and then turned south. at 6.35 we got off train and had hot coffee at Levent. Pulled out at 7.25 P.M. Sit in car door and watched the way until 9.30 P.M. and then retired. Chase cars ride much better than French ones we have had ticks. Although the car jolted a good bit. I sleep fine.

May 2. Friday

Got off at 7.30 A.M. and stopped at Chalkons and had hot coffee, I bought a French sandwich, it was pretty good, our other meals consisted of corn with tomatoes, beans and jamon. Still raining. Pulled out at 9.10 A.M. Here we got a French engine and crew, we are traveling very slow with them the American engine pulled us through pretty fast. Sit at the door all morning scenery pretty fair. Took a sleep in the afternoon at 5 P.M. We stopped at

Messon had our cold supper as usual
and hot coffee. Pulled out at 6:50 P.M.
Stopped again at 7:30. Some of us fellows
bought a bottle of Cognac for 20 F.
Went to bed at 9:45 P.M.

May 3. Saturday.

Went thru Bordeaux at 4 A.M. and
arrived at Cremon at 5:45 A.M. The
Y.M.C. gave us hot coffee and a
sandwich. He unloaded here and
got our packs in trucks. Stopped
around until 6:30 A.M. and then we
hiked about 1 kilo to Cadillac, my
billet is just at the end of the bridge.
I went to the river (Garonne) and had
a good wash and shave. I fastened
around and got a bedpack. This afternoon
I took a walk around town, also along
river shore. Saw some bronchium
fishing for scorpions. Walked around town
in the evening and bought a few things.
They have good beer here for 1 F bottle.
Retired at 8:30. Fine weather here and
nice and warm.

May 4. Sunday.

Very fine. Went to river and washed up.
The tide came in and I had to move
back a few times. Went to 10:30 Mass.
Only thing to do here is to hang around
town, a pretty fair town. A good many of
the women go around with bags on their
backs and sell different articles. I bought
5 handkerchiefs. It is fun to talk their

price down. I am only 45 kilos from
Spain and cannot get to see him. I
bought some cards and sent them to
Dora, Irene and Louis. Retired at
9:15 P.M. Fine and warm this evening.

May 5. Monday.

Went Reville at 6:30 had breakfast at 7.
A very heavy fog this morning. The sun
came out at 9 and believe me it is very
hot. Had respiration and examinations and
meal. Too hot to run around, I took
things easy on my bunk. Strolled around
town this evening and met Marvin from
Whaling. Fine evening.

May 6. Tuesday.

Went Reville and at 8:15 we took a
bike and returned at 10:30. Wrote cards
to Irene & home. Played Katalin's
parade and formal Guard Mount
believe me it was a hot job. Walked
around town this evening and wrote
to Kate, Ed, Dora & home. Received
letters from home & Kate Bonenburg.
Very fine weather.

May 7. Wednesday.

Went Reville and took another bike
from 8:30 to 10 A.M. Took a bath.
Took my clothes to a French wash
house and a woman washed them
for a franc. Watched a ball game
this afternoon. Wrote cards to some
Cathie's, Joseph, Mary, Anna, home
Irene and Bradbury. Had a dinner

this evening at the square.

May 8. Thursday.

Took another hike from 8.30 to 10.20 AM. Received two letters from home, 2 from Gene, 1 from Mary. Wrote to Gene home & home. Played Parade and Grand March and it was a hot job. Had another dance tonight.

May 9. Friday.

I did not go on hike today, my legs were galled. Had to finish our Mess equipment today. Raining this afternoon. Wrote to Gene and Mary, Gene and sent cards home. Received 2 before leave home. At 6.30 P.M. we all had to go to Movies for soldiers only. at 8 P.M. took a long walk up the river.

May 10. Saturday.

Had a very strict inspection on our property. at 1.30 P.M. We played at the next house. I had to play Brass drum and cymbals, got away with it in good style. One American had been there for 4 years. I also talked to a few Germans. Played Inspection and Retreat at 4.30.

At 6.30. He had to fill out a blank whether we wanted a job or not. at 8.00 played Brass drum & Cymbals for 2 hours. Last job played in Cadillac. We leave in the morning.

May 11. Sunday.

Arose at 4.45. Packed packs and an outfit to hike away. It looks very

much like rain. We only carry, rain coats and belts. Left Cadillac at 9.10 AM on foot. pretty nice hiking. About there several times. Stopped at 12 noon and ate a Corn Wally sandwich. It is very hot this afternoon. Several fellows fell out. My feet are a little sore, but I held out, on the home stretch. Put up for night in a small place. Villeneuve-d-Ornon. The King of Morocco stayed in this Clateau for 2 months during the war. Arrived here at 4.15 P.M. We hiked 27 kilos. We leave here early in the morning. Retired at 8.30. He talked to the people and two girls of this place but they are very nice.

May 12. Monday.

Arose at 4.30 A.M. Packed out at 6.30 A.M. Hiked straight thru and arrived at Bordeaux at 9 A.M. ~~the~~ The KofC gave us coffee, cake, pipes, tobacco and gum and chocolate. Arrived at the Canteen camp at 10.15 P.M. We are in billets now waiting for orders. Hiked 15 K. Feet pretty sore. Had our brand money changed into real money. A fellow told me that our outfit sailed last week. The letters I wrote on the 9th were all returned. At 6.30 He hiked 14 kilos to the Embarkation Camp, Bord Carter. At 7 P.M. we entered the mill. Had to take down packs and feet everything

in our shelter half. First they checked and examined all our personal and Government stuff. Then they made out an emergency card. Then we went and put our clothes on a bench and they were run into a hot air room to finish all wooties. I kept all my personal stuff in Red Cross bag. While our clothes were going there, we were examined and took a bath. We got 3 blankets and all the men clothes we wanted. We put everything in a barrack bag. And when I got there the mill I was all in carrying a full barrack bag and personal bag. It certainly was hell. We stood around until 12.30 and then hitched 1/2 mile to a billet. Retired at 1.30 P.M.

May 13. Tuesday

Got up at 5.50 A.M. Laid all our property for inspection in our barracks. Then we lined up outside for a personal examination and inspection of clothes. Returned to our billet at 10 A.M. Sit around the rest of the day. Talk about hot, a person inspires like hell in the shade. Tomorrow we play a review in Bordeaux. Retired at 8.30 P.M. All in, tied out.

May 14. Wednesday

Sleep like a log. Arose at 4.30 A.M.

Ate breakfast at D. G. At 6.30 we load in trucks and arrived at Bordeaux at 7 A.M. Stood around until 9.45, then we marched a square to the R.R. Station and played when Gen. Lewis arrived. We loaded into the trucks again, road all over Bordeaux a pretty nice place. We got off on the square where they are going to hold the fair and sit around until 9.50. Then a French Battalion came in. They certainly are damn looking soldiers. All kinds of uniforms and different colors, not shined and very dirty. At 10.15 A French Band and Gen. Lewis arrived and they had a presentation of Medals. At 10.40 we had a review, we lead the parade and the French Co. was the first troops to be reviewed, they made a damn showing, the American troops followed and they looked fine. We returned to camp at 11.30. Sit around all afternoon and had another examination after supper. At 7.15 we went to a show at the Victory Theatre, it was pretty good. Retired at 9.30 and it was storming and a fine night to sleep.

May 15 Thursday

Arose at 6.15 and rolled packages for inspection at 9 A.M. Fine day. Sit around all morning. At 1.30 we played for a ball game. Saw a fine ball game after supper.

They were not supposed to unroll packs
& unroll until anyway. Epidemic
is getting worse all the time.

May 16 Friday

Arose at 5 A.M. Ready to leave.
Set around until 9 A.M. then played a
concert until 10.15. we marched to the
end of the camp and played while
2000 troops marched out. at 11.30 we
loaded into tanks and road to 4001.
Embarkation dock at Bassens. The
R.A. gave us a lunch and chocolate
at 2.30 we started to play the troops
on the U.S.S. J. Luckenbach, a
French band played our piece
and we played the rest of our
until 4 P.M. then we loaded
on the boat. at 5.15 we played
Marsellles and the Star Spangled
Banner as the boat pulled out.
at 6.30 we went to supper which
consisted of winners and bread
some fold. Had movies and
I retired at 9.30. A very clean
boat, wire cots to sleep on & 750
troops on trip. American crew.

May 17 Saturday

Set watches back 45 minutes.
Arose at 6.30 had fine breakfast.
Dear blue denim suits to wear
our uniform. Sailing thru Bay of
Biscay. Played concert at 10 to 11 A.M.
Fine day, warm and the water is

calm. Had dinner at 10.30 and
were sitting on the extreme aft of
the boat watching this and she is
rocking pretty fair. This is a freighter
and a flat bottom ship and they
say she rocks like hell in a
storm. Played a concert at 3 P.M.
to 4 P.M. At 4.30 they saw a German
floating mine, and circled around it
and shot at it until it sank. at 6
we had a fine supper. from 7 to 8
we played a concert. from 8 to 10.30
we had movies. Certainly was a fine
day and I am feeling fine. a good
many boys are fishing the fish.
she is rocking pretty good now. Retired
at 11 P.M. Council 16 P.M. Council 246 m.

May 18 Sunday. Set watch back 30 min
Just 7 months since I landed
America. The sea is a little choppy
this morning. Nothing to do until 1 P.M.
Got on deck and watched the sick
boys feeding the fish. I am feeling
fine. Played concert from 1 to 2. Took
a bath at 2.30 P.M. In salt water
bath and my hair feel like being
glued. Played Retired at 4 P.M.
Played concert from 7 to 8. Had
movies from 8.15 to 10.30. Retired at
11 P.M. They certainly are feeding
us fine and I am feeling fine.
May 19 Monday.
The sea is very rough and

choppy this morning and a very strong wind blowing. The boat is rocking like hell, but I don't mind it. A good many of the boys are sick, but not me. Sit up deck all morning reading. This afternoon I went to the aft end of the boat and there is where you get a good soaking. The waves from 10 to 15 feet out of the water and come down with an awful splash and if you are not careful you will go over. The water splashes on deck here a good bit, but a little soaking does not hurt. No Concerts at home today on account of rough weather & sea. Hair shaved and off the deck this evening and I retired at 9 P.M. Set watch back 25 minutes. Packing fire covered 291 mi.

May 20 Tuesday

Wind still blowing and sea very rough. Sit on deck all morning. Had fix for dinner, talk about good eats. She is rocking and rolling for fair today. I am used to it and I feel certain I will make this trip O.K. We are 912 miles from Bordeaux and 2368 miles from New York. We traveled 209 miles yesterday from noon yesterday to noon today. Retired a little this noon. Sit around all afternoon, the weather is

much better. Played concert from 7 to 8 had movies from 8 to 10.15. The fellows had the officer going this morning. Retired at 10.30. At 10.45 the Col. came down and made B.C. get up and clean the boat. We got seas when the boys cheered him on deck so he got back at there. Set back 40 min.

May 21 Wednesday

Weather and sea fine this morning we are making better time now. Saw an American ship round her keener. Met a Kof C. Sailer. Saw several fish this morning. Had a fine dinner. We see 1183 miles from Bordeaux and 2097 "

" New York. Covered 271 miles since yesterday noon. Time goes very slow played concert from 5 to 4 P.M. also Retired. Another wind storm and a little rain. Mast and Masts cuffed off on account of rough sea. She is rocking worse this evening than ever yet and the wind is howling like hell. Retired at 9. Lancers around just some ship sank ahead of us. Showed back 20 minutes.

May 22 Thursday

Sleep fine, but she is pretty rough yet. Received news that Mobile, Ala has an awful fire also Germany wants more time to consider peace terms. Sea pretty smooth

at noon. We are 1418 miles
from Bordeaux and 1862 "
" New York, we covered 235
miles since noon yesterday. Spent
watch back 25 minutes. Still brown,
fine meals. Took a sleep this afternoon.
Played a concert from 3 to 4. Fine
weather. Another concert from 7 to 8.
Had movies from 8 to 9.45 P.M. Retired
at 10.15.

May 23 Friday.

Obtained fine weather this morning.
Had inspection of instruments in
order to find a lost trombone, it
was found in the next hatch where
the officers sleep. I am in a
better place than most of the
officers. At noon today we are
1699 miles from Bordeaux
1581 " " New York.
We covered 281 miles since yesterday
noon. We are every half day now
and believe me the time seems
long and we don't expect to land
until next Thursday. I am getting
tired of it. The wind is starting
to blow again, good luck seems
to be against us, very little nice
weather. Let watch back 25 minutes.
It rained a little this afternoon. At 3 we
started to play a concert, but it started
to rain and we did not get to finish
the second piece. Laid on my bunk

and read a book. At 7 we started to
play another concert and it rained
again as we finished the second piece.
I made my bed and laid there
until 10.30 and read a little
songs tonight, I am feeling fine.
May 24 Saturday.

A little sandy this morning, but
pretty fine weather. At 7.30 P.M. I
was standing on the star-board
side watching a ship sailing for
France and a large wave came
overboard and I got a little
dusky. Let around and read to pass
the time. Let watch back 30 minutes.
We are 2000 miles from Bordeaux
and 1850 " " New York
Covered 301 miles the best time we
have made yet. Played concert
from 3 to 4 P.M. and retired at 4.15
had supper at 5.30. Concert from
7 to 8 and movies until 9.30 Retired
at 10.30. Fine evening.

May 25 Sunday.

The best weather we have had
yet. We are going thru the Gulf
stream and it is pretty warm. Even
the water is as clear as a river
for two more days this morning.
Let watch back 25 minutes.
We are 2289 miles from Bordeaux
and 991 " " New York
Covered 289 miles. Certainly fine

weather. It rained and read
played concert from 3 to 4 and retired
had picture taken of band in the
bow of boat. went from 7 to 8
again. Movie until 9.45. Retired
at 10.15 but it was so warm I
did not sleep well.

May 26 Monday.

still warm this morning and the
sea is rough again and strong
wind blowing. Shaved for the
3rd. time and I needed it too.
Rained this morning. set watch
back 25 minutes.

We are 2587 miles from Bordeaux
and only 693 " " New York
Covered 298 miles. Rained a little
this afternoon just held up long
enough and we had to play
from 3 to 4 also retired. had
supper and at 7 we started to play
but it rained so we quit at
7.30. At 8.30 they started movies
and the machine broke. Betty
rough sea and she is rocking
for fair Retired at 9 P.M.

May 27 Tuesday.

Very rough and a strong wind
blowing. Had inspection of
instruments this morning. set
watch back 20 minutes. We
are 2833 miles from Bordeaux
and 447 " " New York.

Covered 246 miles. The stowage
is holding us back. These
cargo boats are very slow. We
played from 3 to 4. Sky is clearing
up. set on deck and read. Played
from 7 to 8. the movie machine
broke. found a new pair of long
pants and had them cut down
for 50¢. Retired at 10.30.

May 28 Wednesday.

Sea very calm and nice and
warm. Saw 5 or 6 sharks this
morning about 10 or 12 feet long.
set watch back 20 minutes. We
are 3105 miles from Bordeaux
and 175 " " New York we
covered 272 miles. I wrote and
mailed 4 cards to home and Ives.
Fixed most of my pack so I will
be ready to unload tomorrow. Fine
day played from 3 to 4 and retired.
had late supper. Shaved for last
time on board. Played from 7 to 8.
Col. Babcock gave us a farewell
address. Retired at 10 P.M. could not
sleep much on account of some
fellows swimming around all night
expecting to see land.

May 29 Thursday.

Had 4 o'clock breakfast. Finished
rolling my pack. at 8 A.M. we
went on the bridge deck to play.
at 8.30 a small boat representing

Men ferry meet us and welcome
us home. They row around us and
throw sand in our boat and were
shooting fire crackers, we are in the
 Hudson Bay and entering the Hudson
river. All along the river people were
cheering and shouting. I never
felt funny. Saw the Statue of
Liberty at 10.30. At 11 A.M. we docked
in Hoboken Pier #14. Unloaded at
11.30 and were checked as passengers
Det. At 12.15 we had a lunch
dinner from R.X. At 1.25 P.M. we
rided into a ferry and pulled out
at 2 P.M. Landed at Penns Station
at 2.25 pulled out at 3 P.M. West
to Newark N.J. (At 11.15 I sent
to Algonquin one home and one
to Irene (I.O) in a box on
Holland Bridge, only 4 miles
from the city. Arrived in
Newark at 6.15. Stopped about
1/2 mile to a barack. Rested up and
retired at 9.45.

May 30, Friday.

Went to the Liberty theatre and had
a lecture on insurance. This
afternoon we turned in all band
instruments, band is done for.
Received telegram from home at
1.30, we also liked up to have
pictures taken, which I received
later. Received 3 letters and a card

from home, 2 letters from
Hinsinger and from Swann.
Wrote home and to Irene this
evening. At 1 P.M. the Sgt.
asked me to help fix up our
service records, it was some
job and we did not finish
until 2.45 P.M. Retired at 2.15.
May 31, Saturday.

I did not have to stand Reville
and some of the band boys did
not like it, so they waked me and
threw shoes and hardtack at
me, I got sore and started to
fire shoes too, missed even
yellow head and the spurs went
thru a window after that they
let me sleep, such is army life.
It around the rest of morning to
kill time. Had my hair cut this
afternoon. Worked on Service Records
again from 6 to 10 P.M. Retired at 10.50
June 1, Sunday.

Rolled our packs and went thru the
mill and got rid of equipment, all
I have now is my shirt. Returned to
billet at 1.50 P.M. Helped give out
personal and valuables to the men
in orderly room. Received letter from
home, direct. Fine weather here.
Received letter from home. Sit
around all afternoon. Took a walk
to Pointville this evening, a small

town. Returned at 9.30. Retired at 10.45. Pretty warm

June 2 Monday.

Killed the morning in Canton and gym. Awful warm this afternoon, loafed in barrack all afternoon in my B.K.D's. In the evening Barry and I took a taxi and went to WRIGHTTOWN and took in a show, we walked back. Found my bunk flat on the floor, some fellows came in after dark and their bunks were fixed to fall. When the fellow sat on it, down he went, talk about a noise. Very warm tonight

June 3 Tuesday.

The 1st. Sgt. sent me to the Central Records office we call it the mad head I worked on discharges and saw a typewriter. This afternoon we put out 600 negroes there and believe me it was better than a show. I finished after supper at 7.30.

Keutanchy did work hard, because my little bit will help get me out quicker. Retired at 10.30. Five train loads left this morning for other camp. Lucky I get discharge here. Retired at 10.30

June 4 Wednesday.

At 7.45 we went to the mess hall and stood around in the sun

until 9.50 and believe me it was hot. Started thru at 10.15. Had my discharge made out at 11.30 dated June 6th. Went to physical examination, but they closed and I returned at 1 P.M. the biggest farce I ever saw. Certainly glad it is the last examination in this army. This evening Barry and I went to Wintonville and Frank beer saw eat sandwiches and ice cream & strawberries. Retired at 11.15. Certainly fine evenings to sleep.

June 5 Thursday.

Got around till all morning. After dinner I washed my flight suit of underwear and white shirt a bath very washing dirt. at 8.30 we fell in and went to the Liberty Theatre and had the same lecture we had Friday. They make my back ache, I cursed the army the day I came in and I cursed it more this afternoon. Gained in my blankets. Received letter of the 2nd from home. Certainly is hot here this evening Barry and I went to WRIGHTTOWN and took in another show. I bought a pair of shoes and a 1.50 suit case. Returned at 10.15 and packed my case and drew out blanket, for last

night in the Army.
Nov 6 Friday.
Arose at 5.30 shaved and had a
bun breakfast. Lined up at 8 AM
and went to central records office
and got my discharge card 108.50
Returned to barracks and loaded
myself up and went to station.
Had argument with ticket agent
could not get reduced rate to
Pittsburgh so I fooled them
and bought one to Wheeling
and saved 5 dollars. Picked
out of Camp Sig at 10.30 and
arrived at Phila at 12.10. Took
the Sub to Broad St. station and in
order to take the 411 I had to buy
extra fare and chair and seat. Picked
out at 1.20. Sent telegram home.
Arrived at Harrisburg at 3.30 P.M.
Believe me this is swell riding and
good speed, ~~left~~ pulled out at 3.45
Arrived in Pittsburgh at 9.45 P.M.
Met Pope, Mamma, Perkins
and Chuck Frank and sold
horns in the machine and
arrived at 12 midnight.

Finis