



No 1

1917-18

My trip through France with the
103rd U.S. Infantry Band.

Dec 31st '17

At 4 o'clock two trucks arrived & we had our blanket rolls & instruments ready for a two days trip to ^{After our} supper we went to the Y.M.C.A. where we played a concert. Much to our disappointment we were called out to play the old year out & the new year in. Most of the fellows were feeling pretty gay & the officers too. We marched across the Menz river & back to the barracks where we bunked on the floor.

Jan. 1st, 1918.

Strange to say we didn't have to get up at reveille. Nothing doing until after dinner when we went down in front of the hospital & played for the patients & nurses. At 7 we began our second concert & between selections the Y.M. put on some very clever boxing bouts. Later on a fine lot of nurses came in & we played for them to dance. It was only by a gratification to us to watch those girls & not even get a dance. The dance closed at 10 o'clock & we were glad enough to hit the (feather) floor.

Jan 2nd

The truck was ready to bring

us back as soon as we'd finished breakfast. Altho this wasn't top bad we were glad to get back to Diffol & Grasse. On my return I found 4 pgs from home so didn't care about going to dinner. The afternoon spent reading & playing cards.

Jan 2nd '18 Wed.
As usual we had our regular morning rehearsal; after dinner Ferguson had a section rehearsal which proved very beneficial. At 7 we gave a fine concert at the Y.M.C.A. & the boys enjoyed dancing at the rear of the hall.

Jan. 3rd Thurs.
Regular rehearsal in the morning & sec rehearsal after dinner; no retreat. Played a concert at the Y.M.C.A. at 7 o'clock.

Jan 4th Fri.
Rehearsal as usual; signed the payroll. Went up to the officers club for a lecture on 1st aid. But the doctor didn't show up. Much to my joy. I received 2 Christmas boxes & several letters from home. One box contained a helmet from Chig St the other a box of choc. & knife 2 pgs & sugar wafers & a fine handker-

chief from Prov. R. I.

Jan. 5th Sat.
After standing reveille I came back & got my own breakfast; heated water & made cocoa. I got some salmory & fancy cookies & with toasted bread & cheese. I got along very well. After supper Carl & I went to the Y where we saw five fast boxing bouts.

Jan 6th Sun.
The band played for church at 9 o'clock. At eleven, Barker, Brad, Fergy, Myron & I had a rehearsal in preparation for to night's services at the chapel. The Chaplain called after us with an ambulance car. It was a fine night & we had a pleasant ride out to Vellicelle.

Jan 7th Mon.
Rehearsal at 9. Sectional for an hour after dinner. I played pokew with the rest of the afternoon. No retreat. At 7 we went to the Y & played for a dance. The boys seemed to enjoy it so immensely it will be continued. I had a heavy rain all day which melted most of the snow. I bought some felt slippers & rubbers to keep my feet dry.

Jan. 8th Tues.
At nine we had instructions on the gas mask & its functions by Lieut. Cook. After the lecture we

had our band rehearsal. At 1:30 we had our sectional work under C. Furgerson's supervision. Blonde & I practiced putting on our masks in 6 sec. Played for retreat. Spent the eve. writing letters. Ans. the note I found in my respirator. A war worker in England.

Jan 9th '18. Wed.

Before rehearsal took gave us another lecture on the mask & gas attack. Section work after dinner & played Retreat. After supper fellows & I went up to the U.M.C.A. & had a little practice with the gloves. About 8 o'clock we went up to see the school teacher & played cards the rest of the eve. When we came out there was a big blizzard on.

Jan. 10th Thurs.

Awoke at 7:30 much to my surprise the other fellows had been up to reveille & breakfast. Went to the mess shack & had a Co. meeting at nine. Short rehearsal after dinner. Played retreat. Pulled off another concert at the U.M. Big snow storm.

Jan. 11th Fri.

Rehearsal in the forenoon & sectional work after dinner. On account of the nasty weather we didn't play retreat.

Jan 12th Sat.

Short rehearsal in the morning. No work after dinner so spent my time reading & playing cards. Went up to the booth at the U.M. Rained all day.

Jan. 13th Sun.

We all played for church in the morning. "Fergy" made a mouse trap & got two mice during the night. After supper about 8:20 of us were transported to Vilouet for Ford ambulances. We played for church services & afterwards played a concert for the boys.

Jan 14th Mon.

Had enough for breakfast so didn't go up to the mess shack. Made some cocoa & bought a loaf of French bread to go with my jam. Had a lot of new music to try over this morning. Tried to play a solo; come to find ^{out} my horn was filled with a rag someone had put in for the occasion. As usual we had our practice after dinner. We played for a dance at the U.M. at 7 o'clock. Came home & read the rest of the eve.

Jan 15th Tues

Ans. Reville in a rain storm. It kept up all day too. A rehearsal

was called at 9 o'clock. On my way back from mess met a det. of French soldiers going through. Had the same work after dinner on our folios & exercises. No retreat. Played cards after rehearsal. I didn't go up to supper but got my own supper in the room with several others.

Jan. 16th Wed.

Another rainy day. After breakfast I wrote letters until 8:45 & then went to rehearsal. Had onion soup, coffee & bread for dinner. Following our afternoon rehearsal we had drill with our gas masks. Played checkers & cards during during the evening.

Jan. 17th Thurs.

Had my breakfast in the room. Rehearsal at 9 o'clock. Only had 30 min. of long tones this afternoon. Played cribbage for the first time to day. At the concert I played my first solo. "The Serenade" by Victor Herbert. Got a hair cut to night.

Jan. 18th Fri.

Rehearsal as usual. Had hamburger steak, biscuits & coffee for dinner at 1:30 our afternoon work began. No retreat on account of rain. I was so interested in the game of cribbage I didn't go up to

supper. Went to the Y.M. at 7 to a vaudeville show. It was 1st class & I had a good laugh. Following this programme we heard a wonderful speaker from Nebraska Dr. Tetus Lowe's subject was "Kaiser Bill Gamble" & believe me it was worth hearing.

Jan 19th Sat.

After rehearsal we expected to have the rest of the day to ourselves but Jack came in soon after dinner & informed us that a truck would be around in a few minutes to take us to Bazailles sur Meuse. On our way out we witnessed a number of bombers having the grenade drill. Had supper with Co. A & went to the Y.M. Directly. After giving a short concert a fine minstrel show was pulled off. We played for the officers & officers to dance. Brad & I slept together on the floor.

Jan 20th Sun.

Turned out at 8 & took breakfast with R. Co. Played about an hour when the boys were at work constructing more hospital huts. Cloudy & I went into a Cafe to get a drink. There was nothing doing on the drink but the 2 girls which were exceptionally good looking detained

as for some time. Some of the other band fellows came in later & we played a while for girls & several French soldiers. The latter part of the afternoon a truck came for us, & we were sure glad to get home again. Found 5 letters from home waiting for me.

Jan 21st Mon.

Morning rehearsal as usual & a short one after dinner. Wrote several letters & played cribbage. No retreat. Played for a dance at the U.M. after supper. It was a swell eve. & hardly a cloud in the sky. It was a big night at the front by the sound of the guns, too.

Jan 22nd Tues.

The companies went to the trenches at B. so we had no reveille. The guns could still be heard when I awoke this morning. The rehearsal was a bad one this morning. Got paid off soon after dinner. Played retreat. Went to the movies after supper at the U.M. These were the 1st pictures I'd seen since leaving the States. Bought a bag of peanuts & just enjoyed myself. This afternoon I received a box of candy from ^{girl} unknown in Auburn.

Jan 23rd Wed.

Bacon & black coffee was the menu for breakfast. Our morning rehearsal went very well. Had onion soup for dinner. Played cribbage until rehearsal. Wrote some letters & put on several new pads on my sax after supper. Had a meeting at the mess shack on gas again.

Jan 24th Thurs.

After finishing our breakfast the sun could be seen just coming over the horizon. It turned out to be one fine summer day. Set out in our shirt sleeves for a good part of the afternoon taking a puny bath. We started our concert but was interrupted. It was a cloudless night with a full moon. A great night for a raid. A number of planes went over & the lights were ordered out. The eve. was spent watching the movies.

Jan 25th Fri.

Rehearsal in the morning & section all work in the afternoon. Set ^{out} in the back yard & wrote a few letters. Fergy Brad. I went to the range for a little while. After supper Brad & I got a front seat at the U.M. Three men & a young lady entertained us for nearly 2 hrs with

drugs & music. The girl was
dark & exceptionally good looking
so I had to go up & (bold) shake
hands with.

Jan. 26th Sat.

Regular work in the morning.
but no rehearsal after dinner.
Played retreat & also a march
afterwards. Got a couple letters
at supper time. I went up to the
bouts at the Y.M. They were fast
ones, two of them weren't finished.
"too much a do pip I guess."

Jan 27th Sun.

As the company was away we
didn't have to stand reveille. We
all played for church in the morn-
ing & got excused untill retreat.
About eight of us got a lunch &
put in our music pouch & started
on a hike. On our way we had to
pass a German prison. It was a splen-
did day & even had to take my coat
off. In hour & thirty min found
us in the ruins of a castle pro-
bably built sometime B.C. This
castle was on the top of a
high mountain & as I stood on
the parapet I could see for miles &
miles. I spent several hrs exploring
the old place; There were underground
passages & many things of interest.
I followed a pair of winding stairs

which took me into a black dungeon.
Several planes passed over us during
the time we were up there; we could
hear the guns & the front very dis-
tinctly. Saw the machine gun Co
off in the distance practicing "barrage
firing". Got back just in time to
play retreat. About 7 letters came
in for me which pleased me im-
mensely.

Jan 28th Mon.

Wrote a couple letters before
morning rehearsal. Went over a
number of pieces for the dance.
A short rehearsal after dinner.
Played retreat & march also. A couple
of the 101st Eng set in at the dance.
After dinner we had our gas test.
We were informed that the gas was
thrice stronger than it was the
day before & that it would effect the
eyes. Of course that made us feel
real good. We entered the gas cham-
ber with our jug. respirator & in
a few min the serg. in charge or-
dered us to change to the French
mask. A chill went through me
because my French mask didn't
fit any too well. I made the
change in record time & gave
a sigh of relief when it was
done. Fortunately, all of the band
came out. My eyes were a bit sore
but other than that I was alright

Jan 29th Tues.

Rehearsal in the morning & afternoon as usual. Found days so we played retreat. Wrote a few letters & got a fine box from Reynolds. After supper I went to the Y.M. There were 3 fine acts & a short drama pulled off. The fellows got their costumes somewhere in town & they sure were good. Had several reels of moving pictures. Saw Charlie Chaplin & Maurice Costello featured in a very thrilling two reel picture. Really this would put the Byon in the background;

Jan 30th Wed.

We had our morning & afternoon work in our rooms. Went up to "Hacks" room & help tear up musico. Retreat & march afterwards. Played cribbage & read during the evening.

Jan. 31st Thurs.

Morning & afternoon rehearsal. Played retreat. Gave a concert at the Y. & had pictures afterwards. So I stayed.

Feb 1st '18 Fri.

Usual rehearsals. Phil Jones & the rest of the scouts arrived. Got about 25 Bangor Papers & a few letters & of course they

all had to be read before going to bed.

Feb. 2nd Sat.

Had inspection in heavy marching order. The Capt. took us out the road & we played the company back with our packs on. After dinner we played for Reg. review. It was carried out to perfection. We played "Waterville" march 12 times in succession. Gen. Cole must have been proud of the 103rd as they passed the reviewing stand. After playing retreat we felt as if we had done a good days job. Took a bath & turned in early.

Feb. 3rd Sun.

Played for church. The Chaplin took several into the church & communion was observed also. Fergy got a corn popper & some corn. We soon got our fil. I stayed up until 11:30 packing my clothes so I wouldn't have to hurry so fast in the morning.

Feb. 4th Mon.

Didn't have to answer roll so slept until 7:30. Orders came out that every squad & barracks bag had to be packed at 9:30. I bought considerable camp stuff, candles etc. to have on the trip in the (Side door Pullman). Expect to have a 3 days trip. No retreat because the Bass horns

were packed. Most of the fellows got a pretty good feel of us. It was the last night in Liffol. The two cafe's were pretty well smashed up. Had a big fire in the stove & the fireplace which made it very cheerful. I emptied my sleeping bag & didn't sleep very good. Got up about 2 & crawled in with Brad.

Feb. 5th Tues.

Arose about 8 and began making my pack & cleaning up. We had to draw 3 days rations & after getting our packs on we had "some load." Besides having an exceptionally large pack I carried my sweater, blouse, overcoat, slicker, side arms, canteen, mess kit & extra pair of shoes, music pouch, a small bag & a box containing some of our rations, two gas masks, toilet articles & my sax case which was packed as full as possible. Left Liffol le Grand about 12 o'clock. The whole bunch (28) & instruments were packed in one small box car. I believe it was the longest night I ever put in. I was tied in a bow with instrument cases on one side & 4 fellows had their feet across my legs & stomach; when one moved, the whole bunch would have too. The square wheels kept the cases continually falling down on my head; the only pillow I had was my old sax. case. In spite of all these

hardships & the fact we were on our way to the front most of the fellows were in the best of humor.

Feb. 6th Wed.

Arrived at Mercin about the middle of the forenoon. It was a big artillery base; there were all kinds of shells & artillery pieces. It was a common thing for the Germans to shell the station whenever a train came in. The G's got the range when they returned so made some pretty good hits. The houses were all shot to pieces & the guns could be heard at the front. Got under way about noon; my pack weighed no less than 150 or two hundred pounds. Came through Soissons & it was completely shot to pieces. It was a large city but it did look as though it had seen some hot fighting. The hike was a terrible one for me; I had on my new high boots & they blistered both feet; the sweat was just rolling off my face; thought I'd have to fall out several times but managed to stick it out. I changed my shoes & if someone hadn't taken pity on me I think I would have dropped. Arrived at Crouy at the middle of the afternoon where we got into barracks. This hill where we are now stationed was held by the Germans for over 2 yrs.

I went through some of the trenches made of concrete & railroad irons. Most of the dugouts were blown up by the "boss" before leaving them however. They had electric lights & a good many conveniences. I saw some human skeletons & several graves two of which belonged to officers. I was some glad to turn in after supper. Several of the fellows went on guard during the night.

Feb. 7th Thurs.

1st call at 4:50. Everything was to be in readiness for the march at 7 o'clock. It was darker than Egypt when we came down to breakfast. The firing at the front was pretty active from 5 until daylight. The whole sky was lighted up & the guns sounded like distant thunder. After a good night's sleep we were ready for another hike & at 8 we got started. We passed through several deserted villages which had been almost completely destroyed by shell fire. Arrived at our destination about noon. On our arrival we were taken into an immense cave which was originally built by the "boss". There were a great number of exits from this dug out which were all named. Some of them

were as follows: New York, Brooklyn, San Francisco, Sacramento, & many others. It looked to be dug out of solid rock. There was room for hundreds & hundreds to sleep & eat in this cave. Light was furnished by electricity. When the Germans left this stronghold they mined it & blew up about two battalions of Frenchman. Of course I had to get lost several times but someone was kind enough to show me the way out. At 4 we fell in expecting to go directly to the trenches but the Capt. informed us that we were to stay here for a day or two. Not enjoying the cave we decided to find a place somewhere in the ruins of the town. Some of us finally decided to make the church our sleeping quarters for the night. There were a number of large shell holes through the walls & the windows were all blown out beside part of the tower missing. Bright I made up our bed in front of the altar on the marble platform; guess that was the first night I ever slept in a church.

Feb. 8th Fri.

Got up about 8 & had breakfast about half past. We were ordered to find other sleeping quarters as lights could be seen & would serve as a great target for some German airplanes. Brad, Wooly, Kargy, & I finally found one which had previously been used by some French soldiers. We found a stove & after making our beds it looked quite cozy. Of course the rats which were nearly as large as cats didn't bother us, every had them. In case of a bombardment we had a powder-ground dugout to shelter us. After getting settled I went prowling around some of the ruined buildings. I discovered several German helmets & the skeleton of a Frenchman half decayed with his gun & helmet at his side. I also dug out a St. rapier out of the ruins which was in fine condition. After dinner a bunch of us went over the mountain into what used to be the German trenches. As the "boosh" retreated they cut down all of the trees &

the ground was just covered with large shell holes. I went into several of the dugouts; in one I found 3 large boxes of hand grenades. The field was covered with barbed wire entanglements & a net work of trenches. Several times I saw in a cross-arc bombs that didn't explode as well as shells. The largest of these shells were nearly two feet long. I spent all the afternoon walking over this no-man's land; there were rockets, gas bombs & many other things of interest. I could see the anti-aircraft gun where I stood. I also saw a captive dirigible go up for observation. It only stayed up a few minutes & disappeared below the hill again. One thing of interest was the little sparrow hawk which wound around the mountain & up to the trenches. Between the rats & the bullets, I didn't sleep an awful lot. The rats carried off nearly two bags of hardtack besides some bread & we had. I slept with my head in a large hole & was disturbed

by more than a Regt. of rats.
The bombardment from the German
lines were quite active as well as
near during. We could lay in bed
& hear their whistle & then explode.
They are intended for the road near
by, the rest of our company had to
turn back on account of shelling
the roads.

Feb. 9th Sat.

Arose at 8 & had breakfast soon
afterwards. It was a beautiful
morning without a cloud in the
sky. We expected to see some air
fights & were not wholly dis-
appointed. A German plane came
flying over our lines, but the
French soon had their anti-air
craft guns upon it. White puffs
appeared all around the plane but
it didn't discourage the aviator;
it was long before a French
aviator appeared on the scene
who made for his opponent. The
Germans then turned their guns
on his machine & black puffs
of smoke appeared around the
French machine. I expected
any minute to see one of them fall
as the shots were pretty close.

I learned that the French made
the white puffs while the black
was made from the German
guns in this way one could easily

distinguish whether it was a
7 or 9 lbs soon as it was fired.
It sure was a thrilling picture to
us as we had never seen any
thing of the kind before. A num-
ber of similar raids & a surge of fire
were finally driven off by the
French machine. I watched them
until nearly noon when it
clouded up & made it impossible
to watch them any longer.

At 10 o'clock we went up to the
cave for an afternoon gas test which
was given by a Frenchman. He
took about 450 of us into a cham-
ber & shot off a pistol which con-
tained a gas shell; he then closed
us in for ten minutes & we
changed masks again before
coming out. Had a fine breakfast
as well as dinner, one thing very
noticeable since coming to the front
was the improvement in the meals.
The fellows must & do get fed well
while at the front. Two large balloons
were up nearly all the afternoon
taking observations. The one just
back of us was fire upon sev-
eral times but wasn't damaged.
The band was on detail most of
the afternoon at the Commencement.
Went to bed soon after
supper.

Feb. 10th Sun.

Oct. 10. Sun.

Woke up at just 8 o'clock. The kid made cakes, syrup, bacon & butter for breakfast. The cook had considerable dough left over so I got some & fried them myself. I did nothing but read until dinner time. Our menu for dinner was hamburger, potato bread, coffee & for supper a generous piece of steak with potatoes. I almost got in a gasp in the army with such feeds. The artillery fire was pretty heavy the latter part of the afternoon. To night the Germans have been shelling the road just over the hill. We could hear them when they were firing & again when they exploded. About 20 sec after they left the German guns.

Oct. 11th Mon.

It was cloudy all the morning so didn't see many planes. No detail report. Did nothing but read & play cards until dinner time. After dinner I went to the hill to watch the firing. On our way back we got quite a reception;

several big shells struck the side of the hill upon which we stood. Several men were killed all around us but as luck would have it none got us. After supper I busied myself constructing a Rat trap & managed to get 2 in the trap but they got out before I could kill them.

Oct. 12th Tues.

Had breakfast at 7:30. Tow away nearly all of our roof for firewood & stored it away. Last night several of the British fell over & went up to the front & our supply apparatus. I then made up my mind to go as soon as there was a chance. Saw several air raids. A German plane circled in the clouds flew just over our heads & attacked an observation balloon the other side of our dugout. The "bosh" swooped down, turned his machine gun on the balloon which immediately took fire. The German plane put on all his speed & zigzagged out of the way before the French could bring him down. There was a French & American officer in the balloon but they came down in a parachute without

Further mishap. I went over
to see the back & while there an
other German plane above the
clouds dropped a bomb at the
crowd who had gathered there.
Fortunately for us it struck
soft earth & didn't explode. I
was elected to go on guard &
ans. Tel. calls. Stayed up until
2 o'clock when I was released
by Brad. When I got back I
found that the boys caught a
rat in my new trap. I

Feb. 13th Wed.

Read & played cards all this morn-
ing. Ferg & I played. Coolie &
Brad winning. Four of 5 games
we made no trump & took
every trick in one of these games.
Wrote home, made some hot
choc & went to bed.

Feb. 14th Thurs.

Not much doing in the morn-
ing. Played cards & read most of
the afternoon. At 5 I started for
the trenches. All the supply wagons
had left but I was determined
to go so set out on foot. After go-
ing about 2 miles I met Blonde
who was also on his way out.
We met the wagons & kept with
them because they had French
guides. The first few miles of

road was camouflaged but
the last of it was unprotected.
We passed through what used
to be a good sized village but
now it is nothing more than
a heap of rocks & ruins. After
walking for nearly 2 hrs we
made our destination. Just before
we got to the cook shack we
saw the Germans shot several
light rockets just above our
heads. They gave off a very brilliant
light & gave me quite a start.
We were so used that everyone
was speaking in low tones.
The Frenchman said that in
the daytime signs could be
read from their lines. I saw
an old dealer of a gun just be-
hind a group of trees & the
gun crew lived in a dugout
just beside it. While the team
was unloading I was taking
in all I could; the "bush" were
just beyond the hill & we
could hear their machine
guns & see the old flash when
the big guns spoke. The quar-
sergt wanted to start back at
once as it was nearly time
for the Germans to shell
the place. He had no more
than started when bang—
went one of the big guns &
it shook the ground in

great shape. The very first
one I fired was a close shot. I
could hear it whine + it
seemed to be making a high
singing sound. Fortunately it did
not hit. I struck just the
other side of the road not fifty
feet away. Believe me it was
being a shaky feeling. I had
mit. The Frenchman said
"marches plus vite" + he didn't
have to pay it twice. We
set out at a quick pace but
the shells were whistling
pretty close, the next one landed
on the opposite side of the
road + struck the ground with
a thud. The other shells went
over our heads, + we were
quite reassured when we got
on to the next again. We
made good time coming
back. It was pretty tired
but thankful to crawl into
my little bed. I walked off the
way out + back 16 miles
with about 20 min. stop
to unload the wagon of
supplies. I believe I did more
paying during these few hrs.
than I ever did before.

Feb 15th Fri.

I was on detail most of the
morning + worked at the

commissary a while after
dinner. It was a wonderful
afternoon, with a cloud in
the sky. The sky was almost
black with machines all
the afternoon. Another obser-
vation went up here in
place of the one that was des-
troyed a few days ago. It had
been up hardly 15 min. be-
fore a German plane made
for it. The two in it came
down in separate parashutes
+ the balloon was quickly
taken down. The German was
soon driven away. At one
time two German + 3 French
planes had it at close range.
We could see the fire from
their machine guns as
they worked them on each
other. I expected to see one drop but they did
do some wild maneuvering.
Hundreds of shots were fired
from anti-aircraft guns +
on the whole we had a most
exciting afternoon. After
supper we could hear the
numerous machines over head
+ the sound from their machine
guns. Flash lights were soon
being picked up + the shells
+ the shells could be seen
as they rose like a ball of

fire to get a enemy plane.

Feb. 16th Sat.

Time day and many activities. My allies had 5 observation balloons up most of the day. Saw a German balloon up early but it soon disappeared. At 5 I was furnished with a hospital but a red cross ambulance followed Co. H for the trenches. The 2nd Battalion went out every night with their picks & spades. Each man had a certain amount of work to do & when this was completed would return. One night the Germans opened up on them killing one & injuring several; others were thrown to the ground by the concussion. The hospital men didn't come out after that but the band was called on to take their places. The men worked very good and were well under way for home when they started shelling.

★ Feb. 17th Sun.

Played cards most of the morning but the afternoon brought more excitement. It was a perfect day & I guess there were hundreds of planes up. There was a

group of six or more who were doing some very spectacular work. First, one would dip & another would follow; the deadly sound of the machine guns could be heard very distinctly. Finally one machine started on a downward plunge & we well knew that two unfortunate were on the quick road to death. After falling some distance the wings took fire & it sped down leaving a long trail of smoke behind. A large piece of shrapnel from one of the bombs ^{crashed} near that we heard it coming & later picked it up. It was sent to the trenches & Brad & I kept house.

Feb. 18th Mon.

It was a wonderful day & we saw the French bring down another German plane. Played cards as usual most of the day. After supper I took my good cross kit bag & went to the trenches again with H. Co. Rockets & signals were continually going up & a German plane passed over us several times while we were at work. A number of shells riddled through air but fell short & struck in the valley below.

us. It was pretty hard digging but the fellows worked hard & we soon were on our way back. The 2nd Brad started out with didn't have such good success. The shell fire was too hot for them & they returned.

Feb. 19th Tues.

Exceptionally fine day. Saw a great many planes up during the day. Went up to the 2nd in the cave & got choc, milk, candles etc. Played cards during the evening.

Feb. 20th Wed.

On detail work so spent most of the day reading & playing cards. The artillery just over the hill was pretty active the 1st part of the evening. We could see the fire from the guns.

Feb. 21st Thurs.

Brad & I went on R.P. Had a Band rehearsal in the afternoon for one of two weeks. It was a fine afternoon & the air planes were pretty active. There were 4 or 5 observation balloons up also. Got several letters & some papers. Wrote R &

Ma & went to bed early.

Feb. 22nd Fri.

Cloudy all day. Had doughnuts, bacon, bread & coffee for breakfast. Spent the afternoon playing cards. After supper we (the band) gave a concert in the cave.

Feb. 23rd Sat.

On wood detail in the morning. Worked a while at the commissary after dinner. At 2:30 we had a short Band rehearsal.

Feb. 24th Sun.

Turned out at 10:30. Had a fine holiday dinner. Turkey dressing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, bread & coffee. Got a letter from Ma & one from Ruth which pleased me very much. Wrote to my faithful girl. Got an issue of L.O. from Bay City Mich. Read until nearly 11:30 & then went to bed.

Feb. 25th Mon.

On detail for a while in the morning. The Germans located the French battery & were pretty active all the

we found the only air craft
bombs. The two officers tried
then escape in separate
parachutes.

Mar. 3rd Sun.

Another day of spray. I stayed in
passing the day with our spray
battles. The simple hundreds
of machine gun shells had
considerable excitement.

Mar. 4th Mon.

I was swimming when I got
up so stayed around the
shore the greater part of the
day. Had a good book &
read until 10:30.

Mar. 5th Tues.

Another stormy day. Not much
doing or excitement. Got a box
of candy from Ethel. Prokup
pleased me up. The band gave
another concert in the cave.

Mar. 6th Wed.

The 1st good day we've had for
nearly a week. I believe we
appreciated it. Saw a number
of airplanes in action but
none brought down. Was
on duty most of the morning
ing. Had a band rehearsal
at 2:30. Received 4 letters.

the day. After a few I
went to bed.

Mar. 7th Thurs.

After breakfast 10 of us reported
with our packs to go to the trenches
for sanitary work. Reported at Reg
P.C. about 11:30 & after dinner went
out with a French Lieut & started
fumigating M Co's dugouts for
scarlet fever. It surely was a big
job had to clean them all through
spray them over twice & bury the
rubbish. The trenches were awfully
muddy & my shoulders were all
raw after carrying so many
cans of solution. We were in
sight of German territory all day
the villages on that side were
all standing. I asked the "frog" why
the French didn't shell them
he said French women & children
were in them so prevented them
doing it. We were under fire
all day both sides were pretty
active all day. Was glad to turn
in after supper. Spent a sleepless
night in the cave.

Mar. 8th Fri

It was a wonderful day. Had
breakfast at 7:15 & started out in
mediately thinking we could
finish before night & go home.
The shrapnel was falling all
around us & we could see

when they broke one struck so near that I felt the concussion from it. The aeroplanes were pretty active all day & we witnessed several fights. Saw a lot of Germans shell our position & ran across several German breast plates. At 5 we thought we were finished & came down to supper. The French Capt said we hadn't sufficiently cleaned the dugouts so would have to stay another day. Fergy & I didn't care about sleeping in the cave so hiked home. About 8 o'clock 12 or 15 boche planes went over head probably on a raid. Powerful lights were turned on them & a good many shots fired. After the excitement was over I struck the hay & didn't stir until 9 o'clock the next morning.

Mar 9th Sat.

Had griddle cakes for breakfast. Sergt. Bob Fergy & I started back for the trenches again at 10. Got out there about dinner time. After mess we all went out & with the help of some Frogs we managed to complete the dugouts just about supper time. The French Capt came a-

round & inspected & said they were OK. It was a perfect day & the aeroplanes were quite active in the afternoon. On going into No 20 to complete it we found that it had been blown up. The only reason we could think of was that one of the aviators might have dropped a bomb there during the night. Played cards awhile in the evening & went to bed. Finished reading my testament.

Mar 10th Sun.

The four of us started out direct ly after breakfast on an exploration. Went over no man's land & into some German trenches. We found them just as the bochs left them. There was an awful stink so we lit our candles, put on our masks & climbed down into a dugout. One of us was in a heap on the stairs and another sprawled out at the foot. They both were in fairly good condition. Had their boots & helmets on & only about half decayed. There were several on the floor of the dugout where they had been gassed probably. One was on his back with his mouth open and a look of agony on his

face. The boots looked pretty good but didn't dare take them off. for fear of taking some of the meat with them. About 5 I heard a couple planes overhead, they both were blazing their machine guns at a lively rate. Finally the German won out & the Frenchman sped to earth defeated. The plane fell into a trench & the engine was driven down out of sight. Nearly all of the plane was destroyed by fire. The pilot was dug up by several "frog" & was in pretty bad shape. Both legs were burned to a crisp, one hand turned off & his head crushed in. He was buried near his machine.

May 11th Mon.
Read most of the morning. Had a haircut. Tried over some new stuff at rehearsal. Got 6 letters from home.

May 12th Tues.
Turned out at just nine o'clock & after breakfast went on wood detail. Got 4 letters from home. At noon 8 of us got orders to make our packs and be ready to leave for the trenches with the ration

wagon. We got out to the trenches just about dark. Found some fine bunkers with the hospital corps & turned in early.

★ May 13. Wed. Ed.
We had breakfast at 7 & worked on a trench dugout. After dinner a few pioneers arrived & we spent the afternoon digging rocks & sawing trees to reinforce the roof. Wrote a couple letters during the day. About 5:30 o'clock a "blache" flew over us. He was so low that one could almost throw a bomb into his machine. He was too low for the anti-aircraft guns & machine guns made little impression on his armored plane. He took terrible chances to get his information. It wasn't long before the woods were full of sharpshooters awaiting his return. Sure enough he did return & the whole wood rang with the put, put, put of the machine guns & the reports of rifle fire. At 2:30 & I went on guard to notify anyone of an attack of gas. We were relieved at 4 and went back to bed.

Mar 14th Thurs.
Had a lecture on gas by the
Lieut. in the morning. After din-
ner we evacuated several
cases of mumps to the hos-
pital at Pinom. Got a piece
of the stairs of an old guillo-
tine which was used to be-
head people in the days of the
French Revolution. Made
a paper knife as a souvenir.
The boche had a number
of planes up during the after-
noon about 6 another boche
came down and flew just a-
bove the trenches. We opened up
our machine guns & he came
back with a volley from his
guns.
Had a quiet night.

Mar 15th Fri.
About 10 clock M. & I took a
couple fellows to the evacuating
post. As soon as we got back
two others were waiting to go
down. One had to be carried on
a stretcher, he burned charcoal
in his dugout at night &
was found unconscious
at 12 noon. Artillery was
pretty active on the German
front. We watched them
break in the road. Two ma-
chine guns surprised me
when they opened up at

a boche plane. They took their
position after dark & it surely
gave me a start. Went on
gas guard at 12 and was re-
lieved at 2. A.M.

Mar 16th Sat.
We had little to do during the
day so I wrote a few letters. After
supper we got orders to pack up
as some others were coming out
to relieve us. Just as we got
started the Germans started what
I thought to be a barrage which later
proved to be a gas attack. We had
to go up a road for about 3 hun-
dred yards in plain sight before
we hit a trench. It was a very
comfortable position as the shells
were coming thick & fast. The
boche had begun shelling the road
most of the afternoon. After we
got into the trench we stood
where we could watch the gas
shells explode on two sides of
us. White fumes soon hid
the buildings in the valley
from our sight. Over two
hundred Frenchmen were
gassed that night. We went
along a little farther & noticed
a French battery flash in the
distance. We got near enough
to hear the gunnards and
shouts of the gun crew. The
big 105s seemed to have a

back to spring. We could also see the flame from the German artillery as they returned the fire from a distant hill. One of our guess must have hit a munition dump because there was a big fire of some kind in the distance. We got home about 8 & soon tumbled in.

Mar. 17th Sun.
Slept most of the forenoon after dinner. Blodgett & I went about 6 miles to get a bath. We got clean clothes in place of our old ones. The hot showers surely did feel good & we came back feeling 100% better.

Mar. 18th Mon.
Thompson & I were on K.P. but the cooks went out to take a bath with most of the fellows so we had a pretty busy day. I did a small washing & wrote a few letters.

Mar. 19th Tues.
Was busy most of the day getting ready to leave. Left Mantul la Rosse about 6 o'clock & arrived in Bucay long before we put up in barracks for the night.

Mar. 20th Wed.
Slept until 10 o'clock & laid around until dinner time. Played cards after dinner. It rained all night & most of the day. Read awhile & went to bed early.

 Mar. 21st Thurs. & 22nd
Went up to breakfast & came back to bed again & slept until 11:45. Played cribbage in the afternoon. About 8 we got orders that we would leave at 10 so got to our packing immediately. We were ordered to extinguish our candles not less than 6 ft. as the aeroplanes were continually passing over. We were going thru "scissors" but had to take a roundabout way as they were bombarding the place. We passed thru the outskirts of the city & made a halt just on the side of the R.R. It was fortunate that we did halt because a shell struck exactly in the middle of the road. It was of large calibre & tore up the track as well as a few wires. It sure gave us a surprise. We soon were under way & hiked until 3:30 the next morning. It was a hard hike & the officers were all in too when we reached the station at. It must have been at least 17 miles. Hot coffee was served to us & we

we were packed into "side door" pull-
mans. It was the longest night of
suffering I ever put in. There was
30 of us in the car & really there was
no room for 15 to be comfortable.
It set up all night so didn't get
much sleep. About 12 o'clock I was
aware that aeroplanes were over
head & they seem to follow us
for nearly 2 hrs. Finally we stop-
ped entirely to wait until things
became more quiet. We were
closed up in the those box cars
while the aeroplanes dropped bombs
all around us. It was very un-
comfortable as we thought the
planes were wise to the train
of troops. We could hear one plane
come over & after dropping its
bombs would drop out & was
followed by another. There was
an endless chain. The bombs
we dropping on both sides of
the track & with the machine
guns & anti aircraft guns all
going it was almost deaf-
ening inside of the box car.
The concussion of the bombs
jagged the car every time they
struck. This was the first
air raid I was ever in & the
last one I ever hope to be in.

Mar. 23rd Sat.
Morning found us at our
destination & although it

meant another long hike it
was more welcome than the
box car. At nine o'clock we
were on the road again. I had
our breakfast about 10 (a mug
tin of crackers & tomatoes & a little coffee)
at two we made a stop & had
a few hard bread biscuits & con-
tinued our march. I had to
dress my feet several times
& pulled through OK. At 5 we
had a light supper & pulled
into Blaine about 6. This was
a 15 mile hike & as I had only
a couple hrs of sleep last night
& none the night before there was
little need to say how glad I
was to hit the hay.

Mar. 24th Palm Sun.
Had Breakfast at 7. It was
a beautiful day & we enjoyed
a good rest in the morning.
Played ~~2~~ our cards & retreat. After
dinner our feet had to be wash-
ed & inspected by a doctor. Play-
ed for a short church service
at 6 o'clock.

Mar. 25 Mon.
Had breakfast at 6:30. At 8 we
started out again & were follow-
ed by the 2nd battalion & the Ma-
chine Gun Co. Wore our tin hel-
mets all day as the Gen. wanted
us to look uniform. We made

a line over two miles long. We made a short stop at noon & had a few hard biscuits. After a long & wearisome march we pulled into Bologna about 3 o'clock. At 5 we played for Retreat & a short concert. About 100 of us we billeted in a barn & I sure enjoyed a good nights sleep in the hay loft.

Mar 26th Tues.

Had breakfast at 8 & were ready for the march at 10. We hiked until the latter part of the afternoon. It was very cold so we didn't mind the march. Stopped about noon & had corned beef & hard tack. We were tired & fatigued when we entered Manoir. We bathed our feet & had an inspection by the Doc. as usual. We slept in barracks. It was a cold night so Harold & I slept together.

Mar. 27th Wed.

Turned out & got an early start. The roads were hard on our feet - were getting pretty sore but we trudged on with a good spirit & made Liffol about 12.30. It seemed like coming back home again when the people came out to greet us. We got our old Billet back again &

spent most of the afternoon in making it comfortable again. Took a bath & changed my clothes & felt like a new man.

Mar 28th Thurs

Not much doing in the a.m. Got a box from home, canned chicken etc. Played retreat & a short concert.

Mar. 29th Fri.

Packed & passed in my barrack bags at noon. At 10 o'clock we left for pay. H. & I celebrated by having a big feed in the billet. We had canned peas, fruit salads, oranges, grapes, egg omlet, coffee & beer.

Mar. 30th Sat.

Rained most of the day. No retreat. Got mine fetters which helped pass a pleasant evening.

Mar 31st Easter

Stood reveille at 6.30. Cleaned up & went to walk with H. & F. Had peaches & cream for breakfast. Bought a scarf for Clara & some wooden shoes for V. W.

Apr. 1st Mon.

It was raining when we stood reveille. Played cards

nearly all the morning.
Our instruments were shipped
so we stood retreat with our side
arms. Went to bed early.

Mar. 2nd Tues.

Had breakfast at 4 o'clock. Took
out our bunkers & cleaned out our
billets. Fell in at 6 o'clock but
didn't leave until 7:30. The compan-
ies fell in & marched out beyond
the track where hundreds of trucks
were waiting for our transportation.
The long line of trucks got start-
ed about 9 & we rode until 4
o'clock. Went through Domerey,
the birth place of Joan of Arc, & also
Commercy both of which were
good sized towns. After a short
hike we came into Conneville &
were billeted in dugouts.

Apr. 3rd Wed.

Didn't turn out until noon.
Went down to the U. M. & spent the
most of my spare time writing
letters etc. It was the 1st plea-
sant day for some time.

Apr. 4th Thurs.

Moved into barracks where the
5th Reg. Bn moved out. It
was a fine place. After getting
settled we had a rehearsal &
gave a concert at 6. Just be-

fore turning in we got orders to
leave at 8 in the morning.

Apr. 5th Fri.

Loaded our instruments & packs
on a team & left Conneville for
Vetuzey. Arrived just about noon.
We were put into a billet that a
batch of coons just left. The two
small holes in the wall gave us
little fresh air & less light. The odor
was terrible but as thick would
have it we found another billet
& changed. I believed it couldn't be
improved upon in the town.

Apr. 6th Sat.

Had breakfast at 7:30 & a fine
one at that. At 9 we had a rehear-
sal. Banty of the machine gun Co
played the Bass Drum. At 3 we
played a concert in the square &
had a very appreciative audience.
After supper we played another.

Apr. 7th Sun.

Another dull day. No church.
Rehearsal at 9. Played cards
until time for concert. Our two
concerts & rehearsal every day
makes quite a day of it. Joined
in a game of poker & won a little.

Apr. 8th Mon.

Rehearsal at 9 & concert at 12:30.
Another rehearsal after dinner.

4, concert at 6:30. Played poker the rest of my spare time.

Apr. 9th Tues.

Tried over some new music & played it at concert. Played cards awhile after dinner. Got a letter from Pa & a few snipe shots. Played another concert after supper.

Apr. 10th Wed.

Morning rehearsal as usual. Concert at 12:30. Went over to hear the Eng. Band in the afternoon. They had one clarinet & he couldn't play at all. They all beat time with their feet & it did sound like a circus band just organized. The alto sax couldn't read his music. After supper a few of us played for the pictures at the U.M. The pictures were fine.

Apr. 11th Thurs.

Awoke & found the sun shining; 1st time for a week. Regular programme, 2 concerts & rehearsal. Found time to play poker. Got a fine letter from mother.

Apr. 12th Fri.

I got the lady confew to shave me & she did a fine job. As Stack was not feeling well we had no morning rehearsal. We didn't stand, retreat or have a concert. Wrote a couple letters & spent the rest

of the day playing cards.

Apr. 13th Sat.

Had a short rehearsal in the morning. Concert at 12:30 & another at 6:30. Played retreat. Heavy bombardment was on most of the night.

Apr. 14th Sun.

Played our reg. two concerts & had rehearsal as usual. It was a fine day & a number of fine looking girls were out walking. Played cards most of the afternoon.

Apr. 15th Mon. (Left Vertuzey)

Had rehearsal in the morning. Got the girl to shave ^{me} again so felt fine. Band Concert at 12:15. Wrote a few letters. Received orders that the 1st sqd. would be ready to leave at 6:30 for the front. At 6:30 we started out with the B. C. At 12 we pulled into our destination & got to bed about 2.

Apr. 16th Tues

Didn't turn out until 10 the next morning. Lieut Blood sent us out to get familiar with the roads that we would have to use in evacuating sick or wounded. It seems to be a very quick front.

Apr. 17th Wed.

Traveled over some different paths in the morning. In

the afternoon Brad & I went into the 1st line trenches. Everything seemed to be peaceful enough. I could look right into the boche trenches. During the past 2 days it had been cloudy thus giving us more freedom to go out around. It cleared off about 6 & we were ordered to sleep with our clothes on as a raid was expected from the boche. Nothing disturbed our sleep however.

Apr. 18th Thurs.

After breakfast I came back & went to bed. Got up about 10 & played cards until dinner time. At 8 I went on guard at the hospital. Got about 8 letters which helped pass the eve. Wrote some letters & read until 2 when I was relieved.

Apr. 19th Fri.

Nothing happened of much importance during the day. Just as I was going to bed the guard came in a slighted gas; I made a dive for my mask & got it on in record time. After wearing the mask 15 or 20 min it was found to be a false alarm much to my joy. I slept with my mask on. At

Apr. 20th Sat

At 3:30 the boche started a barrage just above here which

lasted an hour or two. It was one continuous roar. About 4 the guard came in & told us to get our shoes on as we might have to get out any min. I didn't stir from my bed however but had my shoes where I could jump into them in short notice. I went down to the front line again this morning & run into B.B. Got back just in time for dinner. Wrote 4 or 5 letters after supper & turned in with my shoes on. We made our packs up the 1st of the afternoon in case we did have to evacuate. The art was active all day.

Apr. 21st Sun.

Slept all day. Got out of bed just long enough to eat my meals. Blonde came in about 2 & awoke me up to go on guard. I took in some cocoa & cookies & we had a little lunch. Blonde stuck around until about 4 o'clock & the rest of my time went very quickly.

Apr. 22nd Mon.

Got my breakfast & turned in & slept until the latter part of the afternoon. After preparing for my departure I wrote a few letters. About 9 o'clock the 3rd squad came in to relieve us & at 10 o'clock we shouldered our packs & started

...where we arrived at
...found barracks...
...the night.

Apr. 23rd Tues.

Went over to the U.M.C. & wrote a couple
letters. Prady took a walk around the
barracks & found it to be quite a place.
...foreign service stripes
had at put out. It was a nasty night
but some letters came from home
which cheered me up a bit.

Apr. 24th Wed.

Not much doing. Rained most all
day so spent most of my time in
barracks. Got a little more mail
being pretty tired I turned in early.

Apr. 25th Thurs.

Had a lecture at the hospital by Lieut.
Gloag. Owing to the late dinner cool-
broth & I got a French lady to cook
our dinner. It was a fine dinner
which was much better than
waiting for a mess tin of soup.
Went to the U.M.C. after supper &
listened to a fine lecture by one of
the U.M. men. Heard a number
of good recitations & good music
as well.

Apr. 26th Fri.

Rained most of the day. No lec-
ture after dinner so took a
shower. While taking the

bath our clothes were put into
steam boilers where they were
freed from the coopies. Came into
the U.M. to pass the evening.
Met Gilbert & he let me take his pass to
Commercy. Gave the token the once over &
went into several cafes. No 37 in par-
ticular was quite popular.

Apr. 27th Sat.

I slept until noon time & got up in
time for dinner. Read a book most
of the afternoon. It was "Nothing But
The Truth" by Isham. I finished supper
& coolbroth & I got an early start for
C. again. As we couldn't get a pass
we had to invent some other way to
pass the guard. We followed along the
canal until we came across a canal
boat. We got over in time to see some
of the place before it closed. Came back
early & guess it was just as well. Part
of the boys were in trucks already to
go to the trenches & Lieut. Bloag was
looking for us to go with them. We
got our gas mask & helmets & soon were
off for the trenches. The boys were going
up to dig out the 1st line that had
been evacuated the night before be-
cause of the heavy art. fire of the "foe".
The ground was nothing but a heap of
dishevelled rocks. The trees were all shot
to pieces. It was the worst looking sector
I'd seen and guess it was the scene of
several hard fights. We stayed in

a dugout in the 1st line but
couldn't go to sleep; stood up most
of the night. At 3 o'clock things began
to liven up & I forgot all about being
cold & sleepy. The German rained over
shot & shell for an hour & they also
sent over a number of gas shells
& we had our masks on for about
an hour. Our big naval gun (14 in)
were certainly pounding the Ger-
man lines & when they exploded
they actually shook our dugout.
Each shell seemed to have 3 ex-
plosions. About 4:30 the firing stopped a bit so
we started back. The valley was pretty
bad with gas so had to put on our masks
again. After going about 2 miles, trucks
met us & carried us back to Vignot.

Apr. 28th Sun.

Got into Vignot at just 6:30 &
after having flap jacks & syrup for
breakfast we turned in to get a little
sleep. Had a fine dinner. Read
most of the afternoon. Bought
some supplies at the U.M. for my
next trip to the trenches.

[Left
Vignot]

Apr. 29th Mon.

[3rd Trip to
the Trenches]

Read most of the morning. Made
my pack after dinner. Got a box
from home just before leaving with
some candy, candles & a book. Left
for the trenches about 6:30 in
trucks (35 to a truck). I really think

it would have been easier walking
as we all had our packs on. The trucks
took us within a couple kil. of where
we were going so we soon found the
3rd sqd & relieved them. Our sleeping
quarters we found to be very comfort-
able & we soon turned in. [Stagnant]

Apr. 30th Tues.

Had breakfast with Co. A. Spent
most of the morning cleaning up
around the quarters. The sun
was out nearly all day & made it
very pleasant. Saw a Frenchman
with a pair of shell vases & bought
them to send home (20 fr). Met St. Gilbert
& went up to see his machine gun in-
placement. Said they could see the
boche patrol several times during the
day with the glasses. After supper
I went into the Scouts Room & he
played his violin for an hour or two.
At 10 o'clock I went on guard at the
hospital.

May 1st Wed.

After eating a mess tin of soup I
went back to bed. Since we were getting
but two meals a day we prepared to
feed in the hospital. He had coffee, bread
& butter, bean soup, rhubarb sauce &
cake. The artillery was very active in
middle of the afternoon. Went on
guard again.

May 2nd Thurs.

The sun was bright all day, so

spent most of my time outside.
Saw a number of planes during the
day. A number of shells were fired
on the hillside of us; several struck
in the road & some others fell around
the dugouts. Spent the greater part of
the afternoon building a latrine.

May 3rd Fri

Went on guard at 4. I had two or three
fellows come in before the sentry got up but
fixed them up alright. It turned out to
be another fine day. About noon Cool-
broth came over from battalion P.C.
& brought me a box from Aunt Minnie.

After dinner I took my blanket & went out un-
der the trees & read "Chip" of the Flying U.
The aeroplanes were quite active all the P.M.
Went to bed early & felt I'd have a nice
sleep as I didn't have to go on guard.

At 12 Blundy & I were called out to go
& get a wounded man. We thought it
was just a short distance so jumped
into our shoes & struck out with a
guide. After going to my knees several
times in the mud I didn't give a
damn. We finally left the front line
& started across No man's Land &
through the barbed wire. We got out
about a hundred yards when a
number of light rockets were shot
out over us; we all dropped to the
ground as if we were shot down.
My Eng. watch was at the alert &
I couldn't get close enough to the
ground to satisfy me; felt as

tho I want to burrow. Guess our M.G.'s
weren't wise to our presence out there
because they opened up their guns on
us. Several shots struck not ten
feet away from us, while the others
swept the line of barbed wire. I thought
of home & wondered if I'd ever get back
alive. After laying there for 20 min-
or so we got up & cautiously & silent-
ly followed our guide. We passed thru
several lines of barbed wire & came
to a R.P. track which we followed for
nearly a quarter of a mile. I was
aware that there was someone com-
ing down the track & we all slipped
to one side of the track & waited. The
guide got his rifle in readiness & took
out some hand grenades from his
pocket & then we crouched still lower
& awaited their approach. I could
just make out 5 or 6 black forms &
they seemed to be having a consulta-
tion; my minutes seemed like hrs. just
then. Finally our guide gave a low
whistle, but got our ans. he did it the
second time with the same result,
he then prepared to toss a bomb at
them when one of them spoke & much
to our relief they proved to be one of
our patrols. We soon were under
way again but had to be careful
not to stumble as there were proba-
bly "bochi" patrols out there too, after
some time we reached our destination,
a listening post which was about
three fourths of a mile from our

line - about a stone throw from
the boche lines. We went into a
shelter & found two fellows who
were the victims of a German
raiding party. One fellow was pretty
badly shot up; got a wound in the
head in the leg & a number of pieces
struck him in the back. The other fellow
got a piece of the exploded bomb in
the leg so of course couldn't walk.
Another stretcher was on the way out
so Bloddy & I took the worst one. He
was a big fellow but a game one.
He didn't have a word of complaint all
the way in & it was a very smooth
ride. I admit we managed to get
a fellow to help us & with the help
of the guide we succeeded in getting
him into our first line trench
with out any serious mishap. I
took my coat off & put over him &
went the rest of the way in my shirt
sleeves. After getting into the trench it
was still worse. There was a board
walk most of the way but unfortunately
many strips were broken thus
leaving bad holes. I fell into a num-
ber such places & went into the slime
& mud up to my knees. The fellow
on the stretcher realize what a time
we were having. I guess so didn't
say anything. At just 3:30 we
pulled into the 1st aid station
where his wounds were dress-
ed by the Lieut. That was the

longest 3 hrs & a half I ever put in.
The other fellow arrived a little
later & after fixing him up in an
ambulance took him to the hospital.
After we got the fellows off some
got some hot drink & removed
of my wet rags. Turned in at
15:30 to get some much needed
sleep.

May 4th Sat.
Turned out at 1:30 & got a little
lunch. Brig. came over from
Battalion Idgss & brought a few
papers. Eddie Banks came over
also & handed us over a months pay.
Bloddy went back with Banks
who issued him some under-
clothes. He each got a set of new
sure needed them too. Went on guard
at 10.

May 5th Sun.
Dick Rounds & I spent most of the
morning looking for rhubarb. Got
enough for a sauce. Wrote some
after dinner. Read awhile after
supper & went to bed early.

May 6th Mon.
Washed my head, shaved & clean-
ed up my soiled clothes after
coming in from "my man's land".
I felt some different. About 2
I went over to Bat. Idgss to see
some of the fellows there. I spent
the afternoon & stayed to supper.
I spent the eve. until 12 o'

clock playing poker. Was on guard from 12 until 2.

May 7th Tues.

Slept until noon. Got a few letters from home. Spent the P.M. reading & writing letters. Went down to the U.S. A. & bought a few supplies. Played cards until about 12 & after having a feed turned in.

May 8th Wed.

Had some patients so had to get up early. About noon two shot up fellows came in. They were dressed & sent to hospital by ambulance. Washed a few clothes in the P.M. Didn't feel very well so went to bed about 6. Was on guard from 2 to 4.

May 9th Thurs.

Turned out about 8:30. Spilled some wood & built a fire as it was cloudy & rather damp & cold. Lt. Blood came over from battalion Hdqrs. & brought a little mail. Played poker until 12 & stood guard from 12 until 2. May 10th As soon as I got to bed gas again was given. I put on my mask for about an hour & when we all were ordered out. The bochi started a gas barrage about 2:20. At 3 there seemed to be an endless chain of stretchers coming in with gassed & wounded. About this time our art. started

up with a gas barrage in return. It was just beginning to get light when the hill side of the seemed to blaze. The gas & shrapnel were coming pretty close; the ground seemed to tremble under the two barrages. Our first few patients were pretty bad off; they were black in the face & some of them seemed to be unconscious. We fed oxygen to 3 of them but they were too far gone, two more were brought in dead. We telephoned for ambulances & got very good service. It wasn't long before six dead lay by the roadside & it sure was a terrible sight. The front of the hospital was just lined with litter. In spite of the fine amb. service they began to get a head of us, at times there were 15 or 20 waiting for transportation. Co. D was all shot to pieces & the machine gun Co. as well. A fellow came in badly wounded in the head & was sent immediately to the hospital, he didn't live to get there however. Many of the stretcher bearers soon began to get the affects of this new gas and we all were rushed to death up to 2:30 in the afternoon. (Just 12 hrs.) The afternoon wasn't quiet at all. stretchers poured in & at 6 o'clock some fellows from Batt. Hdqrs. came over to relieve us. As we had little time to eat during the rush we now managed to get a little something to eat.

at 7 we turned in completely all in. Jennings was feeling pretty bad so we sent him off. We all got more or less gas working around the patients but managed to pull thru alright. Reports later showed that we had evacuated about 175. According to reports things hadn't been so quiet on the other side. Our art. surely did remarkable work. From a ft. nearby we could witness all the proceedings behind the boche lines. Guess they were even busier than we were.

May 11th Sat.

Fortunately for us it was quiet most of the day. Played poker most of the afternoon. Ols. & M. Gun were both relieved at night. The Lt. slept part of the day so made us go to bed while he stood guard. Gas alarm was given twice during the night but was a false alarm in both cases. I slept the rest of the night with it around my neck.

May 12th Sun.

Turned out about 8. Tubby made some flapjacks & they went very good with syrup. Evacuated a couple of Co. E fellows in the A.M. About 4 a fellow was brought in on a stretcher with his head split open & his shoulder smashed. Evidently he had been dead all of an hour or

cause he was cold. The Lt. went up to investigate - it looked very much like a suicide case. Went on guard from 2 to 4.

May 13th Mon.

About 7 o'clock the boche took a couple shots at our kitchen; they came very close landing just the other side of the road. Not much doing in the afternoon. Made some frittens for supper & tasted very good with syrup. Played cards & read most of the eve.

May 14th Tues.

Left St. Vignot for Vignot

Got up early & cleaned up around the quarters & made our rolls. About 10:30 the boche put about 6 shots over; evidently they sighted the smoke from our kitchen. They came so close we were obliged to move up to the other end of the town until they got it thru firing. Blondy & I took a walk out after dinner & got enough rhubarb for supper. Soon after supper we left St. A. & went down to the Comb. Hdqrs where we waited for transportation. We piled into trucks about midnight & arrived in Vignot about 2 o'clock.

May 15th Wed.

Got out at 7 & after breakfast went down to Hdqrs office

I got a little mail. Saw the
Sax + Casson that just arrived
from Paris. Spent the rest
of the a.m. writing out the
M.M.C.A. Goodbroth, Blundy, Brad.
I got a lady to cook us a feed of
fried eggs beer etc. It tasted pretty
good after so much soup. The 101st
F.A. Band gave an house concert in
the square.

May 16th Thurs.

It was so warm. I didn't have
ambition to do anything. Got
several letters from home. Spent
most of the a.m. making boxes
to send my shells home in. The
101st Band gave another concert
at 7 which I attended. Played crib-
bage until nearly 12 o'clock.

May 17th Fri.

at 9 I reported at the hospital
where I was to be on detail for
the day. I helped the doc. fix up the
sick by bandaging etc. Went out
just before dinner + got a fellow who
got in a fight during a drunk.
Was alone in the hospital all
the P.M. + had quite a bit to do.
I did leave long enough to get
paid. Quite a lot of mail came
during the after noon. Played
cribage (free soup) won 3
straight games from Emay.

May 18th Sat.

Did little but lay around
all the morning. The griddle cakes
+ syrup didn't stay very good,
guess. Went for a swim for
the 1st time. The water was
very good too. Went down to
the Band concert at 7. After
the concert I went into the
Y.M. + did a little writing.
Played cribbage until 12 +
then turned in.

May 19th Sun.

Brad + I went to Catholic church
in the morning. We then came up
to the Y.M. + heard Chap. Woody.
Following this service we said the
communion. It was a fine day
so went in for a swim after
dinner. The band concert was
broken up when a shower came
up.

May 20th Mon.

Another wonderful day. We
got to gather (1st squad) and had a
German Band down toacks.
After dinner we went in swimming
again. Played cards most
of the after noon.

May 21st Tues.

Did some packing down to
acks. Took a swim again
after dinner. Went down to

the concert after supper.
"Huck" told me that I was pro-
moted to 2nd class musician.
Several fellows congratulated
me & I sure felt very much pleas-
ed. At 8 the P.M. put on some
pictures & they were fine, too.
Sidney Drew Charlie Chaplin were
the actors.

May 22nd Wed. [Left -
Spent most of the morning pack-
ing & getting ready to leave. At 2
we pulled out of Vignot. Managed to
dispose of my pack so didn't mind
the long hike as much as some of the
fellows. About 7 the teams pulled up
in a field where we had an hour for
eating & resting. The moon was
nearly full & a wonderful night
for hiking. At one o'clock we entered
Lucy where we got some fine
quarters. Was sure glad to turn in
after a 26 Kil. hike!

May 23 Thurs.
Didn't get up until about noon.
Did a little playing in the P.M.
Esmeray & I played cribbage for some
time. After supper I went down
to the S.A. Tent where Am. Girls
were serving doughnuts & cocoa.
Came back to the billet where
I spent the eve. playing cards.

May 24th Fri.
Got up at 6:30. Played cards & did

a little practicing. The rest of the
band with the 2nd Batt. came in
about 3 o'clock. It seemed good to get the
bunch together again. At 4:30 we
had supper & boarded trucks & went
to give a concert.

At 7 we began our concert; it went
very well for not having been to-
gether for over a month. Elsie Janis
came in later entertained us by
singing, dancing, reading etc.
She asked if anyone cared to dance
with her & all the band fellows
pointed me out & they finally got
my up on the stage. I was so excited
that I didn't know hardly what
I was doing. She took the part of
Miss Springtime in Miss 1917, so I
felt quite honored. She looked very
much like cousin Ruth C. After
this entertainment we returned
to our billets by trucks.

May 25th Sat.
Played cards awhile & then got
in a couple hrs practicing.
Had a rehearsal in the P.M. At
7 we gave a concert in the square.

May 26th Sun.
At 9 we had a band rehearsal for an
hour. Took my Sax. out in the summer
house & practiced for the rest of the fore-
noon. After dinner did a little writing.
At 7 we started a concert near the
station where a platform had been

constructed for Miss Janis. While we were playing an Am. aviator came over & did some exhibition work, he looped the loop & did some very daring stunts. About 7:30 Miss Janis arrived in her touring car, she recognized me & asked me later on if I'd dance with her; I didn't hesitate but went up on the platform before the Col. Lt. Col. Major, to say nothing of the hundreds of enlisted men, civilians & French soldiers on the bank. I got along fine as kittens eyebrow. After this splendid evening's entertainment we came back & packed our instruments. Got orders that we'd leave early in the morning, we got everything ready but making our roles. Good Night [Left Lagny]

May 27th Mon.

At 9 we left Lagny. We got our packs on the teams so didn't mind the hike much. Arrived in Royau-meix just about dinner time. Fairbanks, Banty & I went into the cafe & ordered a dinner. Played retreat at 5:30 & at 6:30 we gave a concert in the square. Spent the eve writing.

May 28th Tues. [ROYAUMEIX]

Turned out to Reveille at 6:45. Had a short rehearsal in the morning. Got some news from R. I knew he arrived safely as it was mailed on this side, Spain. Mirou & I went down to the next town after dinner where we got a real hair cut & shave. Played retreat as well as a march.

Gave a concert after supper. Wrote a few letters before retiring.

May 29th Wed.

Had a rehearsal in the morning. After dinner I went down to the barracks & spent a couple hours practicing. Played retreat & a concert after supper. Art Lambert & I went down to Menil La Tour after the concert; the 101 F.A. Band was playing for a dance for the nurses & officers.

May 30th Thurs.

At 9:45 the band assembled & marched to Menil La Tour where we played for memorial exercises. Got back just in time for dinner. Cloudy & I practiced a couple hrs this P.M. Got a number of letters from home. Played a concert on the new platform behind the U.M. After doing a little writing I turned in for the night.

May 31st Fri.

Rehearsal at 9. After dinner I went down to the barracks & practiced a couple hours. Played retreat. Played for the officers in front of their chateau. After the concert I went to the U.M. to an entertainment.

June 1st Sat.

After breakfast I went down to the wash house & did a small washing before rehearsal. Rehearsal went very good this morning. Retreat as usual.

Played another concert down by the chateau. Went over to the Y.M. & saw a couple good bouts pulled afterwards. Bought some can. peaches & had (peaches & cream) with fancy cookies. Took a bath & had an issue of cloths.

June 2nd Sun.

At 10 o'clock the small Band played for church. Had a rehearsal at 2 P.M. Played retreat. Concert at 7 as usual in front of the chateau. Wrote a few letters before going to bed.

June 3rd Mon.

Rehearsal as usual in the morning. Went out in the woods after dinner & spent a couple hrs. practicing. Wrote a few letters before supper. Played a solo at the concert. Woodman had some gloves & the fellows had some real interesting bouts.

June 4th Tues

Rehearsal at 9. Went down to rehearse after dinner & Sid & I played a few duets. Played retreat & concert at 7. After concert I went to the Y.M. & saw some good vaudeville which was followed by moving pictures.

June 5th Wed.

Morning rehearsal as usual. Wrote a few letters & practiced after dinner. Played for retreat.

Gave a concert at the Y.M. from 7 to 8. Then we had the privilege to listen to a couple American artists. One played a harp while the other sang. They both were fine & entertained us for over an hour. After the program the Gen. gave us a nice little talk about our furlough etc.

June 6th Thurs.

Another beautiful day. Broke up our rehearsal to go after pay. Went over to the Y.M. after dinner & wrote some letters. Sid & I spent the latter part of the P.M. practicing. After supper we all took trucks for a nearby town where we gave a short concert & heard the lady artists once more.

June 7th Fri.

Rehearsal as usual. Wrote to Paris to get a few particulars on a new Sax. Spent the most of the P.M. polishing my instrument. Played at the Y.M. & Co. C. put on a pretty good minstrel show in the evening.

June 8th Sat.

Practiced some new music this morning. Had an early dinner & went down to the chateau to play for the col. & his guests. Major Ashworth was there & enjoyed the music so much that he presented the band with 50 Francs. We played

for about two hrs. We did not play a concert at night so went over to the boat at the Y.M.C.A. Woodman went on for 3 rounds & made a good showing!

★ June 9th Sun.
After breakfast we all cleaned up & had the instruments all washed. At 10:30 we ate dinner & at 11 two trucks came for us. These Eng trucks with side seats were very easy riding & could certainly cover the ground. It was a beautiful afternoon & we enjoyed the ride immensely. Reached our destination about 12:45. Upon our arrival we learned that the aviators were going to have a field day. After having another dinner & beer on the side we went over to the ball game where we played a number of selections. Next we went into one of the hangars which was the reception hall. As the guests came in they were served refreshments of olives, sandwiches, punch, candy, fancy cookies, cigars, cigarettes etc. There were several American girls & some very classy French girls. A good many of the girls smoked cigarettes I noticed. After playing a short concert we went out & watched an aviator do a little exhibition work. Following the flight was a wrestling match & several bouts. The main bout was a prize fight with a 150 frs up. It played between rounds. This finished our engagement & we went

back to the cook shack where supper was served & beer to all those who desired it. At 9 o'clock 3 trucks came for us & carried us back. They sure gave us a good fast ride.

June 10th Mon.
Had new doughnuts for breakfast. Rehearsal took up the most of the morning. After dinner we played for a ball game back of the Y.M.C.A. Played for a treat & also a concert at the chateau after supper.

June 11th Tues.
Rehearsed for about 2 hrs & went out in the field to practice for the parade & presentation of the croix de guerres. It was a pretty hot day & we sure were warm before the thing was over. Got back just in time for dinner. Fell in at 1:30 & went out again. It was rough ground but we did a pretty good job passing in review after the presentations. As soon as I got back I went down & took a bath & had a change of under clothes. Some mail came in & I got 5 letters; one being from a man in England. At 7 we had our regular concert down at headquarters. Bought a quail of milk & had doughnuts & milk before going to bed.

June 12th Wed.
Had fritters for breakfast. After

eating I went to the wash house & did a good sized washing. Just before rehearsal time Stack, Geo. Wole & Barnes all were taken sick & had to go to the hospital. so we had no work to do for the day. Blakeney went down to Stags & got some passes for Toul & we started out about 11. Couldnt get a train so started to walk but much to my joy a truck came along & took us the greater part of the way. Had dinner at the Y.M.C.A. The menu was: Salade, fried eggs, beans, bread, chocolate, pie & lemonade. After dinner Cooly & I went to a French Theatre. They had a fine orchestra & the play was very good. Spent the latter part of the afternoon looking around. Went into the cathedral which is next to the largest in France. Had supper at the Y.M. Spent the evening looking around & at 9:30 we came to our room where we spent the night.

June 13th Thurs.

My bed felt so good that I didnt get up until 9 o'clock. Went over to the Y.M. & had breakfast but didnt dare trust ourselves out on the streets as our passes weren't good. About noon soldiers began to come in from the station so we took a chance & gave the town the once over before leaving. Went to the cathedral which is the 2nd largest in France. It was

200 yrs in construction & built in the 14th century. Before leaving Toul I got a shave haircut & shampoo. It was fortunate that we caught the noon train as the company had received orders to move at 7 o'clock. Made up my pack as soon as I got back. We were lucky to have our instruments & packs carried so didnt mind the hike so much. Started our hike at 7:30 and arrived in Roulecourt at just 1:30 where we put up for the night. Was glad to sleep on the bare floor after our long hard march.

June 14th Fri. 15th Sat

Didnt get up until 10 o'clock. Had dinner at 3 & made up my pack. The 2nd & 3rd Batt are in the trenches so the " & " sads got orders to pack up too. Owing to some of the fellows being sick Blundy & I were chosen to go in their places. At 9 two ambulances took us to Ramboucourt. Hiked about a mile or two where we put up for the night. On our way in a few shells were put over but fell short. The dugouts were pretty damp but I enjoyed the rest. Got up at 10 o'clock & had breakfast. Read most of the afternoon. After supper we went down to the front line dressing station. It was pretty crowded so I slept on the floor.

June 16th Sun.

About 3:30 a heavy bombard-

ment started & the guards gave the gas alarm. We put on our masks immediately & stood on alert. Several large shells struck our dugout but it held fast. Just when the thick-est began runners came in & said they had several wounded so 4 of us went out with litters to help get them to the dressing station. The trench was blown in places in several places but we managed to get to our man & bring him back without mis-hap. Schrapnel & dirt was constantly dropping around us & the exploding shells made a terrific noise as they buried themselves not ten feet away from us. A. Stowell went down to help in the front line but got his before he made it. He had 3 compound fractures but was as game as any one could be. Soon the fellows began to come in more rapidly but they received good care from the H. men. Several were brought in dead & some of the wounded were in very bad shape. The men had no dugouts to jump into when the barrage came over so there were quite a number of wounded. As soon as the 1st man was dressed we started off immediately in the thick of the shell fire. Our evacuating post was at least 2 1/2 miles & seemed a great deal farther before we got there. The trench was so bad that we couldn't carry them without

considerable trouble so we went out on top where we made much better progress. We seemed to be going into the thickest of the shell-ing. The ground all around us was smoking & the flying pieces were singing all around us. We had to rest several times so got our patient into a trench. We were covered with dirt & smoking pieces of schrapnel several times & once a piece struck my helmet. After two exciting hours we finally made our destination only to find the aid station had been shelled out. The U. M. C. A. was up stairs & the aid station down; the building was completely destroyed & the hospital corps had to dig their way out. They got most of their supplies & set up across the road. We took some dressings & several litters & made our way back as soon as possible. It took us just 4 hrs to make the round trip the 1st time. The barrage had lifted so we didn't mind the 2nd trip as much. We carried our patient in plain sight of the Boche but weren't bothered in the least. Several Boche prisoners were carried out on litters. We all were busy until the latter part of the afternoon when we got time to eat a mouthful. Two of the band fellows were feeling pretty bad so we sent them back to P. L.

& With A.S. gone we were three
shy. If anything happened the
next morning I think we would
n't have been much good. I slept
on the floor & had chills & cramps
all night. I think I heard every
shot that was fired; our nerves
were all strung pretty high as we
were expecting another attack in
the morning. Found out later
that all the town around us
were shelled. Sun. except Roule-
court. Connerville, Royanmeix;
Munil la Tour & Boucq were all
shelled killing some soldiers & a
number of civilians.

Mon. June 17th

At 2:30 much to our relief we
got relieved by some fresh little
beavers. We immediately made
our packs & at 3:30 were well on our
way back to Regimental. We had
breakfast with the S. M. at
Rambucourt & took a short cut
home. Got back at 6:30 & went to
bed and staid until noon. Got
up to dinner & went down to the
Y.M. & spent the after noon read-
ing

Tues. June 18th

It was pleasant but spent most
of my time at the Y.M. & S.A. huts
either reading or writing. I didn't
sleep very well in the huts so
went out in a pup tent with some

of the fellows. Got word the latter
part of the day that a Stowell had died
at the hospital which was quite a
shock to all of us.

June 19th Wed.

Rained most of the day so took my
writing tablet & books started for the
Y.M.C.A. Wrote several letters home.
Got an issue of clothing in the morn-
ing. Hot tea was served at the Y in
the after noon. Went to a meeting
at the S.A. but after supper.

June 20th Thurs.

Rained as usual so spent most of
the day at the Y. Finished "The Flight
of the Eagle." Hot choc. was served at
the Y.M. in the after noon. Heard re-
ports that Royanmeix was shelled
again during the night. The 1st shell
fired into the place last Sun. knock-
ed the clock out of the church tower.
Boynton of the Scouts, was struck by
a piece of shrapnel while eating
dinner & died from the effects.
Michaud got a horse shot out from
under him on Sun too.

June 21st Fri.

After breakfast I went back to bed
& spent the forenoon. Cleared up & was
real pleasant after dinner. Saw 3 liquid
fire tanks that had been captured
in a recent fight with the "Boche." Had
flap jacks for supper. New doughnuts &

cocoa were served by girls at the S.A. hut at 7. Spent my eve. reading out under the trees.

June 22nd Sat.

Spent most of the morning writing at the U.M. Had a good mag. so didn't mind the rainy day. Hot choc & cookies were served at the V after dinner. At 9 I went on guard at the cemetery & was relieved at 11. After 4 hrs of sleep I went on again. Things were pretty quiet until just before daybreak; both sides were pretty active with art & machine guns.

June 23rd Sun.

At 9 o'clock I went on guard for 2 more hours. The 2nd Batt. came in & the companies relieved us of our duties at noon. Read the Auction Block in the afternoon. Before going to bed I made some cocoa over a alcohol lamp which tasted very good.

June 24th Mon.

Pleasant day so spent the day out of doors. Had supper with Co. G. Read The Man & the Moment in the afternoon.

June 25th Tues.

After breakfast I did my exercising & then took a good hot water bath out under the trees. Found a good book. Spent the afternoon & eve. by reading. Found some cherry trees where

I satisfied my greedy appetite.

June 26th Wed.

Turned out to be an excellent day. Read the Hornets Nest in the morning. After dinner I went down to the U.M. & wrote a few letters. At 9 o'clock I went on guard at the church. Was relieved at 11 & went on again at 3.

About 4 o'clock a number of shells came into the edge of the town & I was on the point of ringing the old bell to spread the alarm but found it wasn't necessary. (Left Houle court)

June 27th Thurs.

At 5 I was relieved again & went to bed directly. Went on again from 9-11 & again from 3-5. Took a little time & made my pack. At 9 we were relieved of our guard duties. We pulled out of Houle court at just about midnight. We waited beside the road just outside of Conneville for the flat cars.

June 28th Fri.

Arrived in Toul

At 5:30 several trains pulled up & we boarded them. We were on the cars nearly 2 hours. 34 of us on a car. It was a very pretty ride. Arrived in Toul about 8 o'clock. After finding our barracks & cleaning up a bit Brad & I went down to the business section. Ate dinner at the U.M. Went into a number of stores & did some purchasing. Got a lady barber to shave me & came home

the latter part of the after noon.
Several of the fellows went down to
the theatre but I was so tired that I
turned in soon after supper. Left.

June 29th Sat. Foul -

After some difficulty I managed to
get by the guard & went into Foul again.
Bought some camera supplies & went
back to the barracks for dinner. I spent
the after noon printing pictures. After
supper I made my pack & at 1:30 we all went
to the station. At 2:30 we boarded horse cars
& were soon under way. I managed
to steal a little sleep now & then.

June 30th Sun.

It turned out to be a beautiful day
so the trip proved to be quite interest-
ing. Most of the morning we rood on
the top of the cars, in fact we ate
breakfast there. We passed thru many
large cities & saw (beaucoup des jolis fills)
I had corned beef hash "hard tack" & jam
for our 3 meals. At Massy we stopped
45 min & had hot coffee with a little
rum. After dinner I went back on the
flat cars & rood on one of the wagons.
About the largest place we passed thru
was Troyes. Saw electric cars for the
1st time ^{since} in France. About 10 o'clock
we detrained at Citry & took
autos to Citry. At 4 o'clock we billeted
in a chateau where we soon turn-
ed in.

July 1st Mon.
Spent most of the morning
in dreamland. Looked over the
chateau & its beautiful surround-
ings. The walls were decorated
with old trophies, statues, cost-
ly paintings & wall mirrors.
It had a pool table & also an
organ. Many of the chairs were
finished in gold & the plush chairs
were very elaborate. In front
of the chateau is a beautiful park
with a flower garden & big house
on the right & a park with arti-
ficial ponds etc. At the rear
is a fine garage & the servants
quarters. The artillery was
busy most of the after noon
& evening. At 7 we played a
concert for the officers. Wrote
some letters & turned in
about 10.

July 2nd Tues.

Beautiful day & we spent the
morning rehearsing our im-
der the trees. Took a stroll up
the road & saw some 220 m. guns.
After dinner I got my printing
set out & finished up some
more pictures. Played concert
from 7 to 8.

July 3rd Wed.

Had a field inspection at
9 o'clock. This broke up our re

hearsal. We spent the afternoon rehearsing & at 7 we played for a concert. I wrote letters until 12:5 & went to bed.

(Left City)

July 4th Thurs.
Rehearsed out in the park in the morning. At 4 o'clock we gave a concert in the square. The town mayor passed drinks around the band & his daughter gave the chief a bouquet of flowers. At 7 o'clock we gave another concert. At 9 o'clock we left our beautiful home to an artillery bunch. We had a long hard hike, got on the wrong road twice but finally reached our destination about 2 in the morning. Before turning in we had to back all the wagons into the woods & camouflage them. The only shelter we had was the woods & we had to make our bed in the dark. It was pretty rough but found little difficulty in sleeping.

(Montreuil)

July 5th Fri. (Aux Lions)
Had dinner about 11 & went back to bed & slept until 4 when we had supper. After supper we made our pack & at 8 Uncle Sam's traveling circus was on the road again. About 10 we pulled into Montreuil Aux Lions where we put up in a hen house. July 6th Sat.

Scouted around town after

breakfast & got a room at an abandoned cafe. Brad & I struck it rich. We got a chamber on the second floor with two double beds with clean sheets & pillow cases. Found a wash stand a bureau a large mirror 3 chairs & a writing desk. The whole set including the beds were black walnut. When we tumbled into the feathers that night we forgot there every was a war. Brad got orders to go to the front with several other fellows.

July 7th Sun.

Spent the morning printing pictures. In the afternoon I did considerable practicing. After supper I set up until 12:30 cooking flapjacks & making coffee etc. Ben T. moved down so we had to have a little feed.

July 8th Mon.

Ben & I spent most of the morning rehearsing. The lady of the house came back just before dinner; she felt pretty bad to find her house occupied. She was kind enough to let us stay in the room however. After supper I packed up & went up to Reg. Hdqrs. on the ration wagon. Reg. was completely surrounded with artillery & with the addition of the "boche" art. It sure was a bad place to sleep. I didn't get any until about day break. A number of fellows were wounded at the 1st line. The only protection

the fellows had was a spell hole in the corn field or perhaps they would dig a hole large enough to crawl into.

July 9th Tues.

Got up about 8 o'clock & had breakfast. Laid around most of the forenoon in order to make up some lost sleep. Found a nice room with a double bed & moved in soon after dinner. I planned on going out with Brad on guard but Roberto told me the adj. wanted me to report back to Montpenil at once. I made up my pack & went out with the ration wagon.

July 10th Wed.

I made up my trunk on the flopp & turned in about 2 A.M. after breakfast I moved my belongings into a spare room & got in a couple hrs practicing before dinner. Practiced a while after dinner. Got some mail from home so spent the latter part of the day ans. some of them. 15 letters.

July 11th Thurs.

Put in most of the morning taking my sax. apart & cleaning it. Got in a couple hrs. practice after dinner. Built a fire in the open fire place & wrote letters until about 11:30.

July 12th Fri.

Played horse shoe & cribbage until about 10, then practiced my till dinner time. Rained most of the after noon so I spent my time inside. Wrote to Paris for some sax supplies. Read until about midnight & turned in.

July 13th Sat.

Had a fine breakfast of mashed potatoes & meat balls, bread butter & coffee. Came back & spent the A.M. writing letters. Spent most of the even playing whist. One game lasted all night & we decided to turn in about midnight.

July 14th Sun

Soon after breakfast I got to writing & caught up on some of my correspondence. Practiced a couple hours in the P.M. After supper I boiled some of my clothes & did quite a washing.

July 15th Mon.

Not much doing except practicing in the A.M. Played cribbage after dinner.

July 16th Tues.

About the same schedule, practiced & played cards.

July 17th Wed.

Slept most of the morning & guess it was a good thing. I was chosen as one to help.

The expectation that something would happen that night & we worked all night loading trucks with all kinds of ammunition. About 9 o'clock a heavy shower came up which later turned into a fierce thunder shower. We got soaked to the skin but finally got the team loaded. The boys went over the top & gave Fritz quite a surprise. After coming in Brad & I built a fire & dried out our clothes.

July 18 Thurs

The boys shelled the town & struck several buildings. One landed not 10 ft away from where Mack was standing with a cross the road so we all lit out for the fields. I stayed up in the fields about 30 min. after the shelling & returned just in time to see several more drop in the town. One went through the P.C. & into a room where the fellows were sitting; it broke nearly all the glass down but didn't trouble the boys in the least. I was elected to go up to the front on a ration team as guide. Everything went fine & we got most up there. There was about 12 teams in our team & guess Fritz heard us & sent some of his shells at the road but they were a bunch

was breaking not a human eye a head of us. We stopped about ten min & the Lt. gave orders to proceed as though we counted a hit. The teams tore down the road at a gallop & the enemy began to subside up with bay 88. Fortunately the shells fell just short of the road & didn't start a team. It sure gave me a terrible fright. Some 37c bullets just after we passed & I leaved the 88 before we came back. I passed through some woods that were completely destroyed & the roads had no longer any hopes in them. I picked up one of our teams & carried it in from the back of the line. We finally reached our objective where we all unloaded. I was on the 1st team & we got shelled pretty heavy coming back & lost two horses. The shells were bursting all around us & I took to the woods for protection several times. I was felt relieved to get back to the front & sleep in a wine cellar the rest of the A.M. Left Montreal Aug 19th

July 19th Fri

Since I didn't get in any sleep about 2:30 I slept in the morning getting a little

sheep. Brad was on KP 4,
the price 3000 doughnuts &
sent to the boys in the lines. He
brought a couple of bags of
they sure was good. The fack
put in a few more shells
but did little damage.
Soon after supper we got orders
that we were to report to Reg.
P.C. We packed up with
heavy hearts as we knew that
we were going in as stretch
bearers once more. Brad
got in some of our things on the
floor.

July 30th Sat.

Said goodnight till 2 when we
pulled out of P.C. for the front. Pass
ed through Lucy & into Gas once.
Arrived at our dressing station about
4.50 began carrying litter at once.
The boche began to shell the 1st and stat
ion & we got as many of the wounded
into dugouts as possible. There were
many shells dropped besides consid
erable wounded. Bob was one of
the 1st fellows I shipped out. We work
ed until dark till 10 p.m. & got
pretty well caught up. By 10 p.m. I
found a fresh covered hole &
crawled in to get a little rest.
When we were in the bed we were very
close to the lines but at 3 a.m. the
fellows went over the top again
& drove the boche back a mile
or so.

July 21st Sun.
Got orders to move early in the morning.
We moved forward across the wheat
fields that had been taken from the
Germans by a few days before. Saw a
number of fallen boches as we passed.
Wooding turned over a boche in the field
& found a message on him. There was
the gas mask of the day. At 4 we got
orders to go in as by stretch bearers.
Our Co. pulled out before we received our orders
so we set out 4 of us & Ed Blakney to find
them. We wandered all through the
woods until midnight & finally
gave it up & sleeping culvert under
the road.

July 22nd Mon.

Got up & after eating some of our re
serve rations we started out again.
Very on the road all the morning with
out any luck. I didn't know the German
could retreat so fast. The latter part
of the P.M. got found out where Reg. was
so came back there where we found some
of our crowd. We also learned while at
supper that a number of our boys had
been sent to the hospital severely shell
shocked. Regardless of the big guns
155 in the valley we stopped our pace
with cotton & slept in the culvert as
we did the previous night. Those guns
hammered away all night & at 10 they
started up in double time. Each gun
put over two shells a min. These
six inch guns weren't a hundred
yds away so you can imagine

what a fine sleep we had.

July 23rd Tues.

Went up to breakfast only to find they had moved during the night. Hunted around all the morning in the pouring rain but back was against us. We begged a cup of coffee & some of our H.B. Went over in the field & got a souvenir of a loach plant that had been brought down. We finally found our kitchen in time to have supper with them. The boys had been sleeping out in the wet grass & as the shells were coming off once in a while I liked, & preferred my culvert under the road even tho it was a 15 min. walk.

The 6 in guns kept us company during the night & at 4 the started to speed up again.

July 24th Wed.

Put on our packs & went up to breakfast only to find they had left us again. It seemed to be our luck. We found a half can of Capoi with a few H.B. we made our breakfast. "Shaky" Myron & I tried all day trying to find the Co. Went to Belleau & nearly over to Torcy. Found the supply Co & had dinner with them. Much to our disappointment we learned that the Co. didn't come out so after dinner we retraced our steps & found that the Co. had moved over there 3 or 4 Kil. Put up for the night in some woods.

Went to Paris in last evening for 2nd Lieut.

July 25th Thurs.

Friday. Brady I went to the sales commissary & bought a few sweets. Rec'd a little mail which pleased us very much. Bob & Trundy, who had been missing for several days returned.

July 26th Fri.

Spent most of the day in my little dugout as it is raining a quite disagreeable outside. Fortunately I got several magazines. The mail bag got along very well.

July 27th Sat.

Had breakfast about 10. Sid & I went down to Chateau Thierry. There were some very pretty places & also some badly ruined places. Bought a 2.25. C.G. & got a few supplies. Got back at 4 just in time for supper.

July 28th Sun.

I moved from my one man room into a larger & much better one. Read & played cards most of the day. Got a letter from home.

July 29th Mon.

The Co. began to drill this A.M. & we began a 3 meal schedule also. Just before dinner a plane flew over as an airplane in the field just beyond. I went over & found the machine & flames.

according to reports the two aviators
ran into a number of boche planes
where the both received wounds
& a punctured gas tank. They
made the landing just in time.
The plane was entirely destroyed
& the aviators sent to the hospital.

July 30th Tues.

Made up my pack before going to
breakfast. Ruffled out soon after
eating. Hiked all the a.m. arriving
about 11 Kil from Montreuil aux Lignes
at just noon. Made my bed in the
woods where we stayed for the
night. At 7 the 104th Bn. put on
a concert which was followed
by a fine entertainment given
by the Supply Co.

July 31st Wed.

Were on the road again at 7
A.M. & hiked all the forenoon.
Passed through La Ferté & on
to Fay where we found billets.
I was pretty tired but cleaned
up & went back to La Ferté.
Went all over the town & at 6 Cooley
Shaky & I went into a private
house & had the lady cook us
a real feed. Came home & went
to bed with a full stomach.

Aug 1st Thurs.

I felt burn all day. Did

nothing but sit around all
day. Wrote one letter after
dinner. Went to bed without
any supper.

Aug. 2nd Fri.

Aug. 3rd Sat.

Got a big bunch of mail in the a.m.
at 2 o'clock we got to La Ferté & had a
short rehearsal. As Hack hadn't return-
ed, John did the directing. Went down
to La Ferté with Cooley, Ben & Burnell & had
another feed cooked. First we had eggs on
let & lobster & lettuce salad next came
some wonderful steak & french fried
with new bread & butter. Last of all
hot choc. was served. It cost us
about 12 frs. but we were satisfied.

Aug. 4th Sund.

Went over to May where memorial
services were held in honor of
the boys that have fallen since
our arrival in France. We play-
ed a couple times & the Col. spoke
& also Gen. Gole. I found some
mail for me when I got back.
Went swimming in the town
after supper.

Aug. 5th Mon.

Formed a new squad with our
new men & tried most of them

out in the morning. After dinner
Brad & I went to Jassy to hear the 26
Div. Show. They 1st put on a real good
minstrel show. Follow that a number
of good acts were pulled off. A cornet
soloist was the 1st to appear. He
played a couple triple tongue solos.
2nd. A sketch artist entertained 3rd
an orchestra of Violins, bandys &
a number of other stringed in-
struments rendered some very
good music. 4th a quartette
sang a couple new songs. 5th
We had a slight o' hand. The
whole show was a grand
success & very interesting.
After supper we all got together
& played a few of R. G. Falls' march-
es.

Aug. 6th Tues. (Went to
PARIS.)

Burnell & I went up to the top
officer after breakfast & got a 24 hr.
pass. Shaved & cleaned up & went
out to the Paris Métro ^{road} truck.
We fortunately in getting one im-
mediately. It took us to Mairie Maux
to Gilly where we took the train.
At Le Raincy Ville M. we took the elec-
tric train into Le Place du Republic.
It seemed odd to see the women con-
ductors. After B. & I found a room
we went out & took a tour around
the city. I saw the largest store in
Paris, the Eiffel tower & many
beautiful buildings along the Seine.
I continued my tour until it

was too dark to see any more so
went into a theatre for a while.
I had a place in the balcony. The
theatre was very pretty. Finally
managed to find my room after
inquireing several times. About
10 shells were fired into the city
during the P.M. I happened to be
quite near when one landed so
went over. The streets were crowd-
ed & everything ^{was} excitement for a
while. Went to a cafe & got a good
feed before turning in.

Aug 7th Wed.

B. & I didn't get up until about 9
o'clock. We soon found a cafe where
we enjoyed a good breakfast.
Travelled around on the train &
taxi until 10:30. At 11 o'clock we
pulled out of Gare du Nord. Just miss-
ed getting pinched by the hair of our
teeth. Two M.P. guards pinched a
crowd just in front of us. Fortu-
nately we arrived in Meaux
with mishap. At Meaux B. &
I hired a public carriage to take
us as far as St. Jeanne. We walk-
ed the remaining distance about
8 kil. Stood retreat at 6. Got a cou-
ple mag. but no 1st cl. mail.
Went to bed early as I was pretty
tired.

Aug. 8th Thurs.

Had flap jacks for breakfast.
Spent most of the morning

writing letters? Went down to
Le Fort to the commissary & got
some can fruit & cookies.

Aug. 9th Fri.

Laid around most of the morn-
ing & wrote a few letters. Went
down to Le Fort again. Played
cards all the evening.

Aug. 10th Sat.

Not much doing during the day.
Played for a boxing bout at Ussy
after supper. We played between
each bout. About six good matches
were pulled off.

Aug. 11th Sun.

Got paid in the morning. Rec'd
my first full mos. pay since my
promotion to 2nd Lt. mus. Brad & I
went down town after dinner. Got
something at the Y.M. & went out
in the park and all. Met quite a
number of pretty girls on the street.

Aug. 12th Mon.

Burnell & I went down town to
dinner. He also took a bath in
a real bath tub. Came back the
1st of the P.M. Got a couple letters
from home.

Aug. 13th Tues.

Put in a little individual prac-
ticing in the morning. Play-
ed poker most of the P.M.

Played another concert after
retreat. Spent the eve. writing
letters. Aug. 14th Wed. (Left Fay)

Soon after breakfast I made up
my pack. Played cards again in
the afternoon. Had an early supper
& pulled out of Fay about 6 o'clock.

Arrived at a station about 3 kil this
side of Meaux at 9 o'clock. It was a
bad place to load the wagons so did-
n't finish until midnight. At one
the train pulled out. There were about
40 in our car so we had to take turns
sleeping.

Aug. 15th Thurs.

Road all day on the train. Passed
through Chalons sur Marne again &
within sight of Chaumont. It was
about 6 when we detrained at Reims.
Ate our supper beside the road &
started out at 9 again. At 10:30 we
arrived in Lagny. Ten or a doz boys
came out at least 2 miles to walk
in with us. When we got into the
town many civilians held a light
out the windows & gave us a gladwell
come. We slept in a barn the remain-
der of the night.

Aug. 16th Fri.

Scouted around & found a room
after breakfast. It has fine polished
hard wood floors, a double bed, plush
chairs, wash stand, closets, a large
mirror & everything to make it com-
fortable. At 10 o'clock we had a rehear-

sal in the town dance hall. Had dinner at 4 o'clock.

Aug 17th Sat.
Rehearsal as usual in the morning & another after dinner. Little mail came in but I did ^{not} draw. Played a concert in the square at 7. Had a large & appreciative audience.

Aug. 18th Sun.
Met in the town dance hall at 9:30. Had the afternoon off so spent the time in my room writing a few letters. Gave a long concert to night. Had a fine crowd.

Aug. 19th Mon.
Tried over some new music this a.m. A fellow played base drum (Am. C.) & Bill played the snare. Got a haircut after dinner. Bought a watch from Sid. Had the usual rehearsal in the afternoon. Played another concert at 7:30 which was followed by 5 reels of motion pictures.

Aug. 20th Tues
Had rehearsal at 9:30 & another at 1:30. Wrote a while after the concert & went to bed in fairly good season.

Aug. 21st Wed.
Had doughnuts & rich milk for breakfast. Rehearsal in the morning & another short one after

dinner. After the concert I came back & got my milk as usual. Had a cup of milk & few cookies just before turning in.

Aug. 22nd Thurs.
Polished my horn a bit before rehearsal. No rehearsal after dinner so I spent the time cleaning up. Had supper at 4 & at 4:30 got in trucks to go to div. We worked pretty hard & the concert went off very well. Played "Raymond", "The Dollar Princess", "Amina", "Autumn Voices" (Vols). Mugsy Sur Marne was a big town so had quite a crowd there. After we finished we had the pleasure to listen to some fine music from the violin, cello & piano. They were all French, 2 ladies & 2 men. It was a beautiful ride back in the trucks with a full moon. Went thru Gratioules sur Marne going back & left Geo. D. He was ⁱⁿ to Liffol le Grande on a little business trip. The ride was 60 Kil in all.

Aug. 23rd Fri.
Rehearsal in the morning. At 2 we left by truck for the 2nd battalion. Played several pieces during the ball game. At 5 o'clock we played for Battalion parade. Had supper with I. Co. The rain interfered with our playing the eve, so we left Larry about 7:30. Got home about 9:30.

Aug 24th Sat.
Had doughnuts + rice for breakfast.
Tried out some new stuff at rehearsal this morning. Had sectional work after dinner.

Had supper at 4:30 + at 5 we started out for the 3rd battalion. It was only 12 kil so didn't take us long to go. Played for battalion review + afterwards a concert. The civilians were so pleased that they passed drinks around the band.

Aug. 25th Sun.
Rehearsal at 9:30. Spent most of the P.M. writing letters. Bought a new safety razor. M.H. + I went for a walk in the afternoon. At 7:30 we gave a concert in the square.

Aug. 26th Mon.
Washed + had a shampoo after breakfast. During rehearsal Geo. returned from Lifford where he had been spending several days. Back had a short rehearsal after dinner. After supper we took another trip. There was a good audience at the concert + the leader was presented with a bouquet.

Aug. 27th Tues.
Rehearsal as usual in the morning. Expected to go to the 1st battalion to play for parade (battalion). The trucks didn't show up so we played our last

concert in Laignes at 7:15.

Left Laignes Aug. 28th Wed. + 29th Thurs.
Made my pack up in the morning + paid my room rent. Packed the instruments after dinner. At 9:30 we said good bye to the folks. They sure felt bad to see us go. We hiked to Poincon about 9 kil and laid around until daybreak. It was pretty cold so we built fires to keep warm. At daylight our train pulled in + we loaded in short order. We road all day on the train + detrained at Longville about 5 kil from Bar le Duc. at 9 o'clock. We hiked until daylight, a distance of 23 kil. Made our beds up in Rosnes. We slept all day getting up only for meals. At dark we pulled out again + hiked all night.

Aug. 30th Fri.

Aug 31st Sat.
Brad + I made our bed under the trees where we slept most of the day. It began to rain along towards night so we pitched our tents. Picked some black berries for supper. Built a fire under the trees + got dried out before going to bed.

Sept 1st Sun.
Had a tomato with bread syrup + coffee for breakfast. Built a fire in front of the tent + set around + talked all the morning. Rolled up beside the fire + took a nap after dinner. Had soup for supper. At 7:30 we fell in with backs

but didn't leave the woods until 9:30. After about a 7 kil. hike we found billets in Issoncourt. It was nearly 10 o'clock before we got our beds made up to turn in.

Sept 2nd Mon.

Our breakfast was bread & coffee. Shaved & cleaned up before dinner so felt some better. Had another rehearsal after dinner. Found a better billet & exchanged; about 20 Frenchmen live on one side of the barn while we on the other. We have good bunks & electric lights.

Sept 3rd Tues.

Rehearsal before & after dinner as usual. Got a paper from home but no 1st class stuff. After supper a graduate from a conservatory of music played us a number of selections on the clarinet while another ^{Frenchman} sang to us. Went to bed but was roused out at 11 o'clock. We packed up & left Issoncourt just 2 hrs later.

Sept. 4th Wed.

We hiked until daylight & made a halt in some woods. Slept most of the day getting up only for meals. Had a fine supper, beef stew, steak tomato sauce, bread & coffee. Soon after supper it began to rain. Made packs again & fell in at 7:30. Hiked all night.

Sept 5th Thurs.

We drew barracks this time &

at 5 a.m. we turned in. After dinner I went blackberrying & got a good mess for supper. Some of the boys went out hunting. Packed out again at 9 o'clock. We only went a short distance but was on the road all night.

Sept. 6th Fri.

As we were only 4 kil. from the front we had to find a place to lay our heads without a candle. I scurried around in the woods & found a fairly snug spot where I made my bed. Got out about 6 a.m. & had bread & coffee for breakfast. Slept most of the day & had supper after dark. Got a little mail in the P.M. About 6 a thunder shower came up so Fred & I pitched our tent & was all set for the night. Aeroplanes were pretty active all day.

Sept 7th Sat.

Got up feeling much better after a good night's sleep. Planes were pretty busy most of the morning. Had a light lunch of bread & coffee about noon. Rec'd 3 letters from home. Played cards most of the P.M. After dark supper was served; bread, butter, coffee soup & rice wasn't so bad.

Sept 8th Sun.

It was pretty fair during the a.m. but rained most of the P.M. Had bread & coffee at noon as usual.

played cards until it began to rain. Rec'd some Sax. supplies from Paris which I had been expecting for some time.

Sept. 9th Mon.

Breakfast at 7. We had no dinner but a fine supper of boiled beef, beans, bread, coffee & doughnuts. It rained off & on most of the day. Played "Fan Tan" until it was so dark we couldn't see the cards.

Sept. 10th Tues.

It rained hard all night & continued all day. About the middle of the forenoon our tent began to leak & it was pretty disagreeable. After dinner I went out scouting for a dugout. As I had no rain coat I got soaked to the skin; doubt if it ever rained any harder. Finally, I found a spell proof dugout which was fairly dry so we made it our headquarters for the night. It was only a 4x4 so we didn't get a very good night's rest. Brad & I were doubled up like jackknives & it was almost impossible to move. Considerable shelling was kept up during the night.

Sept. 11th Wed.

It was raining when we got up, which wasn't surprising, or pleasing to me. Played

cards which helped pass the morning. For dinner we had one slice of tomato with bread & coffee. Had salmon & baked potatoes with bread & coffee for supper. Made our packs & left the woods about 7 o'clock. Iiked about 8 kil. to the next town where we found billets. The bunks were all taken but we slept on the floor which was better than staying out in the rain.

Sept. 12th Thurs.

It seemed rather queer to have only about 50 at mess. We had flap-jacks & jam for breakfast. At 10 o'clock all the guys opened up & there sure was a bunch of them. At 8 the boys went over the top. Our boys met little opposition & took 8 kil before dinner. Nearly 150 rock prisoners were brought into this town during the morning. One of our boys had a talk with one of the prisoners; he was an elderly man & said he had nine children at home, but didn't know how they were getting along because they very seldom get mail. He asked how much longer this beastly war was going to last. This prisoner said posters were up all over Germany telling how we

killed all our captives.
All the band went out black-
berrying this A.M. Sully pro-
mised to make us a big pie
if we got the berries. Got a
chance to go up in a lookout
this morning where I could see
the big guns in action. Had soup
& two big pies for supper. About
9 o'clock I went up in the look-
out to take a look at the lines
once more. It was a beautiful
night & I counted 12 fires on
the horizon. During the after-
noon while up on the hill I
saw one of our balloons break a-
way from its cable. One fellow
jumped but there was such
a gale blowing it failed to open.
The two remaining must
have had a wild ride to Ger-
many. About dusk a bomber
plane came over our barracks
but a couple of our planes
took after him in hot per-
suit & finally brought the
intruder down.

Sept. 13th Fri.

Ate with the Supply Co. all day
as our kitchen pulled out. "Stony"
was left behind so made some
flap jacks for us for supper.
We had butter & sugar on them
& it is needless to say they
would melt in your mouth.

A whole German Band was
captured & brought into this
town today. This hundred piece
band had their instruments with
them; they were all brass. We got
a new bass drum today.

Sept. 14th Sat. ^{Left Rupt} (Have)
Had bacon & baked potatoes for
breakfast at the Supply Co. We came
back to our kitchen & "Stony" had
Blackberry pie & flap jacks for us
again. He pulled out about 9 o'clock. It
was a fine morning & the poode
were pretty good. After hiking about
10 miles we made up our beds beside
the road in a patch of woods. Brad
& I got a couple wheels & took a nap
before supper. Played cards awhile
after supper.

Sept. 15th Sun. 1918
Boofbroth. I took a trip into the
Boche trenches. The ground was
surely chewed up some, but the cement
& concrete dugouts stood the bomb
& bombardment very well. Some of the
officers dugouts were pretty elaborate.
Found a few souvenirs & got back
just in time for dinner. One of the
teamsters brought in a boche wa-
gon full of salt cod & potatoes. I had
a short rehearsal after dinner.
We ate supper with the Supply Co. but
had some blackberry pie at our own
kitchen. Played cards after supper
but it finally got so dark we

lit a couple candles. It wasn't
long before we heard a plane over
head. It sounded like a French
plane so we paid little attention
to it. All at once the motor stopped
& a volley of fire issued from the
machine. It repeated this several
times & farther on dropped from
15 to 20 bombs. Needless to say we
didn't play cards any longer.

1918

