David Landis 1918-1919 Diary Transcription

Transcribed and annotated by Emily Hawk, 2015 Hackman Summer Scholar. Editorial clarification is provided in {brackets} and footnotes include further context.

Pvt.\(^1\) Landis -- Co {Company} F, 26 Engrs. {Engineers} 
#1769188

Army And Navy Diary
Including French-English Words, Addresses of Home Friends, Autographs of Comrades, Also pages for carrying Postage Stamps and Tables Showing Values of Foreign Coins, Etc.

This book is property of: Pvt. {Private} David A. Landis
Residence: East Petersburg Lanc Co Pa {Lancaster County, Pennsylvania}
Date of Enlistment: June 3 / 18
Enlisted at: Arch St. Phila {Philadelphia} Recruiting Station
Arrived at Training Camp at: Camp Dix, N. {New} Jersey
Date: June 4 / 18
Left Training Camp: Aug. 17, 1918
Date: at 7.20 A.M.
Started for France: 12.15 P.M. Aug 18
Arrived in France: (in Eng. {England} Aug 31st) Monday Sept 2nd
Enlisted in: Engineers, U.S.A. Regiment 26th Company F.
#1769188-- Army Serial No.
In case of accident, notify: Father.
H.H. Landis, Sr.
East Petersburg. Lanc. Co, Pa. {Lancaster County, PA}

{French dictionary and Military symbols, reference pages}

Addresses of Home Friends
Edmonson, Clara
Elkins, W. Va. {West Virginia}

Bushholder, H. Clay
139 E. Lemon St., Lanc. {Lancaster}

Bassler, Harry
144 East James St, Lanc. {Lancaster}

\(^1\) Private, the lowest rank in the U.S. Army.
Calvin, Henry F. Jr.
E. Orange, N.J. {New Jersey}
#56 N. Maple Ave.

Hostetter, Pat
#1403 Perry Pl
Wash. D.C. {Washington, DC}

Addresses of Home Friends
Haldeman, Waldo
King Rd.
Malvern, Pa {Pennsylvania}

Heald, Pusey
#409 Wash. St
Wilmington, Del {Delaware}

Hemmig, M. C
Elverson, Pa {Pennsylvania}

Landes, Kathryn
#86 E. Stewart Ave.
Lansdowne, Pa {Pennsylvania}

Pusey Heald
Receiving Ship
Commonwealth Pier
Naval Aviation Detail
Boston {Massachusetts}

Gun #483690
Service Checks
MD G-5 3063
" 53064
" 53605
" 53606
Frank W. Corse
720 Lennox St. Balt. {Baltimore, Maryland}

Herringhaus, Arthur Mrs
Remagen a Rhine, Germ {Germany}
Bismarck Str. {Street} #14
Addresses of Home Friends
--

Autographs of Comrades
Joseph F. Bonem
1671 Cass Ave
Bay City, Mich. {Michigan}

Russell Fulfer
Edinburg, Ill. R.R. I {Rural Route 1}

Sam'l R. Ramsey
Floydada, Texas.

Norman M. Cooper
#122 Arch St. No. {North} Side
Pittsburg, Pa. {Pennsylvania}

Frederick O. Leopold
401 Aiken Ave
Pittsburg, Pa. {Pennsylvania}

Autographs of Comrades
Herbert Fritze
2269 West 14th St.
Los Angeles, Cal. {California}

W.D. Melville
953 Park View
Los Angeles, Cal. {California}

Archie Menzies
Powell, NYC {New York City}
next depot to Cody

Clyde D. Spicer
Redford, Wayne Co. {County}
Michigan

Earle King
2037 S. 57th St.
Phila. Pa. {Philadelphia, Pennsylvania}

Autographs of Comrades
Robert O. Braunsdorf  
817 Boyd Ave  
Woodhaven  
L. Island. {Long Island}

Frank W. Corse  
#720 Lennox St  
Balto. Md {Baltimore, Maryland}

Leonard Ruckers  
Winsfield, Kansas

George A. Elliott  
256 West Dudley Ave  
Westfield, N.J. {New Jersey}

Autographs of Comrades  
Thomas L. Kenney  
#1815 N 19th  
East St. Louis  
Ill. {Illinois}

Otto E. Bryant  
502 S. Fifty St.  
Rockport, Ind. {Indiana}

Fred Crank  
75 Ferris Ave  
Detroit {Michigan}

Clyde Fox  
134 Rider Ave.  
Syracuse, N.Y. {New York}

William M. Potts  
Bartlesville  
Oklahoma.

Frank B. Barton  
Warrensburg  
Ill. {Illinois}

Walter C. Getchell  
304 S. Main St.
Mt. Pleasant, Mich. {Michigan}

Russell A. Kent
1618 Macomber St.
Toledo, Ohio

Bertuf E. Laurain
87 Riopelle St
River Rouge, Mich. {Michigan}

Gilbert Mc Elwee
189 Putnam St. Detroit {Michigan}

Chas. E Quinette
R.F.D. #5 Wilkinsburg
Penna. {Pennsylvania}

Walter J. Ranzerberger
846 N. Eighth St
Springfield, Ill. {Illinois}

Sam'l R. Ramsey
Tohoba, Texas

Andrew F. Talty
1213 Kent St.
Santa Monica
California.

Herbert W.E. Fritze
2269 W. 14th St
Los Angeles, Cal. {California}

James E. Blake
Sandy Hook
Connecticut

Lucias G. Hughes
406 Hay St.
Wilkingsburg, Pa. {Pennsylvania}

Capt. Dwight Horton
Cleyburne, Texas
1st Lieut J. Stewart
Baraboo, Wis. {Wisconsin}
314, 4th Ave

1st Lieut Garland Rounds
Des Moines, Iowa.

1st Lieut Lionel Levine
New York City
#530 Manhattan Ave.

2nd Lieut Clarence Ericsson
#5909 Kenmore Ave
Chicago

2nd Lieut Wm H. Withington
Leeds, Ala. {Alabama}

[METRIC SYSTEM reference]

July 30/18
Camp Dix\(^2\)
Final "overseas" inspection
looks like France now.
Yesterday had inspection
with tents in rain.
Some mud! Saw
Vaudeville at Liberty\(^3\) and
got soaked too. Co {Company} "E" man
drowned in sewer.

Wed. July 31/18
Worked in office all day.
We turned in our guns.
to day. Glad to be
rid of them too.
Medical Inspection
begun

Thur Aug 1

\(^2\) Army Training Camp in Burlington County, New Jersey.
\(^3\) Liberty Theatre, erected at Camp Dix by the Comission on Training Camp Activities.
Washed socks etc
Detail for me. got called
into office to work.
Medical inspection
continued and
will be till we rail.
Saw Sheridan Sisters⁴
in "His Bridal Night"⁵

Friday Aug 2
Worked in office
all day but mostly
bunk fatigue. Went
to see show at 4.
Turned in all bedsocks
and fatigue clothes.
All set to sail now.

Saturday Aug 3
Given a gun again,
was one out of 50 to get them
Worked hard in office.
Saw show at big "Y".⁶
Wish I knew how to
get the rag out of my gun
that Lowry⁷ got stuck
for me.

Sun. Aug 4
Wrote letter to C.M.E.⁸ and
watched boxing matches
on Regimental grounds.
Went to hear the Chaplin
of 312. Engrs {Engineers} in big "Y" {YMCA}
Great inspiration it was.

Aug 5
Camp Dix
Just another hot

———

⁴ Entertainers.
⁵ A performance that traveled throughout the New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania area.
⁶ Young Men's Christian Association, also known as the YMCA or the Y, provided a recreational space for
soldiers, a place where they could enjoy non-alcoholic beverages, listen to the radio, see vaudeville and concert
performances, and other wholesome activities.
⁷ Wade Lowry.
⁸ Clara Edmonson of Elkins, West Virginia, David Landis' girlfriend.
day with plenty of drill.
I worked in office all
day. "Y" #1 movies with
Munjar.9 Wrote CME
Hottest day in camp
so far.

Aug 6
This is some hot
day, 103° in shade
Office force and everyone
free today, too hot.
Went to big "Y" to
see vaudeville, some
heat there and
some show.

Aug 7
Hottest day I ever saw.
106°. No drill but some
work in office in A.M.
Sleeping is great in
"Adams" attire,10 Some
[illeg.] storm late at
night and dirt!

Aug 8
Sgt.11 Ghin lost $110. last
night everybody searched
for it.

Aug 9
Just worked in
office all day and
got ready for inspection
Visited camp Dental
Infirmary and also
Base hospital for X-ray
of tooth.
Passes12 going to be issued.

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9 Ray D. Munjar, a comrade in Company F.
10 Possibly in the nude, in the style of Adam and Eve.
11 Sergeant, a rank between Corporal and Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army.
12 Likely for furlough.
Aug 10
Ye Gods, I got a pass and home. I am going and Elverson Bet I will suprise Clara.
I sure did. Rained through and no clam-bake but we had a party all our own.

Aug 11
Went out for a ride this A.M. Clara + I. O! Yon lake and cedars. Got home 3.30 and left for camp 7.53. Everything OK. But the fellows can't see how I got a week-end pass + missed S.A. inspection.

Aug 12
Monday morning and some tired. We sure made a hit with out singing at the big "Y".

Aug 13
Plenty of work in the office but no word about going. Over a hundred men from overseas here to instruct men in bayonet drill. Wrote letters up at Y.

Aug 14
I wish Clara would write but guess she is busy traveling. Had a big chat with one of the "vets" {veterans} from over there. Fixed up service records Looks like we will leave

13 Elverson, PA.
14 Clara Edmonson, girlfriend of David Landis.
in a few days.

Aug 15
No work this A.M. but
lots of washing for me.
Co {Company} F. confined to camp area
and later to barracks.
Worked on service records
in evening so didn't
write to Clara, hope she
forgives me. Springs\textsuperscript{15} are
hard to sleep on.

Aug 16
Some night of it on
the springs with one
blanket. Hope we move
soon. We are going.
Make up packs. Sleep (?)
on springs. How we
did whoop it up with
the D.illeg. Br. {D Brigade} Band.
Everybody happy.

Aug 17
Up at 4 A.M.
Breakfast and we are
gone, at 6 A.M. Leave
station at 7.20. Arrive
at Jersey City, picked up
but Coast vessel and
taken aboard "Italia," I
think we are going to
England but am not sure.
On the Atlantic

Aug 18
Left N.Y. {New York} harbor at 1 P.M.
after anchoring all night
there. Some sights we
saw. There are 10 new
ports that we can see.
It certainly was some
moon tonight. Wish

\textsuperscript{15} Mattress springs.
C.M.E. was with me.

Aug 19
On the Atlantic
Some night of it last night. getting rough and I am a bit dizzy. The grub is fierce, can hardly eat it. Have read a book already + we have a "Vic"\textsuperscript{16} too. Gee but the moon was great.

Aug 20
Just a wondrous day on board with nothing to do. Took a bath, they merely turn a hose of cold water on you. Simply can’t eat this grub {food} at all so I am patronizing the canteen where we get soaked for fair.\textsuperscript{17}

Aug 21
On the Atlantic
The ocean is the calmest ever but the grub just the opposite. Our cooks are now running the mess, hope it gets better. The moon is great tonight almost full. Clara, I wish I could see you, am thinking of you tonight.

Aug 22
Some moon to-night, believe me Clara. We are off the Grand Banks\textsuperscript{18} and the water is light blue. On detail to-day.

\textsuperscript{16} Victrola, a brand of phonograph machine.
\textsuperscript{17} "For fair," slang for "for sure."
\textsuperscript{18} Grand Banks of Newfoundland, Canada.
Grub {food} better to-day. Our cooks are making mess {meals}.

Aug 23
A foggy and misty day very disagreeable.
Had a boxing match to-night and entertainment at No. 2 Hatch. Grub is improving I can even eat it now.

Aug 24
About same as Aug 23 except worse.

Aug 25
A hell of a night and to-night will be same.
Sea high and weather raging. Talks by Signal Corps officers and "church"
on No 2 Hatch. Finished our first week under sail. Read 4th book.

Aug 26
Just another cold, rainy day. Waves high and roly. I have a touch of seasickness to-night. Several of the fellows have lost their meals but I still am pretty well.

Tue Aug 27
Cold + rainy. Was on guard (Submarine) Days on ship are terribly monotonous and tiresome. How I long for a look of terra firma {dry land}.

Wed Aug 28
Still on guard but
didn't see any subs {submarines}.  
We are expecting the 
English Convoy any 
time now. They have 
not yet arrived at 
8 PM. Danger zone\textsuperscript{19}  
own or at least soon.  

Aug 29  
British convoy arrived,  
but they are Amer. {American} Destroyers.  
Some speed to there too.  
Danger zone and close  
to land. Everybody  
ready to go too but  
we wont arrive for  
a few days at least.  

Aug 30  
We get ready to leave  
the ship at Liverpool\textsuperscript{20}  
but only get ready for  
we are not there yet. Sleep  
on bunks with packs.  

Aug 31  
We leave ship and travel  
from 9.30 AM till 7.30 PM.  
When we arrive at  
Southampton and are  
taken to "Rest Camp" there.  
Eng. is wonderful we  
went clear across it. Cars  
are small but smooth riding.  

Sunday Sept 1  
Many inspections and  
little to eat but its good.  
Loaf all day and talk  
with "Tommies."\textsuperscript{21} at 2.15  
we left camp and at  
7 PM are put on board  

\textsuperscript{19} The section of the trans-Atlantic journey approaching the North Sea off the coast of Ireland, in which many German U-boat attacks occurred.  
\textsuperscript{20} Liverpool, England.  
\textsuperscript{21} A slang term for British soldiers.
transport for Havre, Fr.  
Spend the night on  
deck, little sleep too, and  

Mon Sept 3  
today we are sleepy  
Leave transport at dawn and  
hike about 5 miles to  
another "Rest Camp" where  
we "rest" (?) on boards.  
Nothing to do but look around  
and eat. Grub is pretty  
good and clean of course.  

Tuesday Sept 3  
We "rested"? on the boards.  
Loafed all day and tried  
to get something to eat  
a hard thing to do.  
We sleep on boards  
to-night. We had some  
inspection this A.M.  
by Colonel.  

Wed. Sept 4  
All ready to leave this  
rest camp at le Havre  
France, which we do at  
7 P.M. and sleep in  
boxcars all night. We  
have rations for three  
days. 32 men in our  
car.  

Thur Sept 5  
We travel all day and  
night. Surely is  
monotonous. I sleep  
most of the time, and  
of course I think of  
Clara almost every  
hour. This crowd  
certainly is grouchy.  

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22 Le Havre, France, a harbor.  
23 Colonel, a rank between Lieutenant Colonel and Brigadier General in the U.S. Army.
Friday Sept 6
We stopped this A.M. at
3 o'clock and don't
move until about 3 P.M.
when we move until some
time the following night.
We passed a hospital on
the way and talked to
some of the men.

Saturday Sept 7
This A.M. we are in
Neufchateâu, France, and stay here
until about 9:30 A.M. We are
served cocoa by Amer. {American} Red Cross.
travel all p.m. and arrive
at Sorcy, France, at 6.30 P.M. where
we sleep in the dust in
one of the barracks. There
are lots of truck supply
outfits here. Supply base.

Sunday Sept 8
How they feed here at
Sorcy! Bacon and cakes
galore! Visit "Y" and
get first chocolate in
France. And said
chocolate makes me
sick as it does all the
fellows.

Mon. Sept 9
Detail on light R.R. {railroad}
handling ties and
supplies. I am pretty
sick, the altitude
and climate is the
cause I suppose.
We expect to leave
Sorcy soon for parts

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24 Neufchateâu, France.
25 Sorcy-Saint-Martin, France.
26 Detail, when a unit of men is sent to work.
27 Railroad ties.
Tues Aug {September} 10
Visited Salvation Army\textsuperscript{29}
Canteen near Sorcy.
Hurt my finger and
am relieved from
detail. I can't write
to Clara now but I
will make up for it
sometime later.

Wed. Aug {September} 11
Worked on a night
detail near Montsec\textsuperscript{30}
and saw the taking
of it, the beginning
of the fall of Metz,\textsuperscript{31} I
believe it to be.
We are on the Lorraine
Section of the Hindenberg
Line.\textsuperscript{32}

Thur Aug {September} 12
Slept till noon and
then loafed. Saw
lots of prisoners and
wounded come in
to Field Hospital. Called
out to go away on
trucks but didn't
go.

Friday Aug {September} 13
Leave on trucks and
go to Bernecourt\textsuperscript{33} close
to Mont Seck. Here I
meet Walter, Michael,
Yarnall, Holmes, Hunt.\textsuperscript{34}

\textsuperscript{28} Soldiers were given limited information in the interest of maintaining secrecy.
\textsuperscript{29} Similar to the YMCA, the Salvation Army offered a recreational haven for soldiers to eat and enjoy.
\textsuperscript{30} Montsec, France.
\textsuperscript{31} Metz, France.
\textsuperscript{32} The Hindenburg Line, German's defensive position along the Aisne River.
\textsuperscript{33} Bernécourt, France.
Some talks we had
about Swarthmore.\textsuperscript{35}
They are in French
Mortar Battery.\textsuperscript{36}

Sat. Sept 14
Two details sent out but
I remain with office
force. Write letters in
P.M. and do errands
for Captain.

Toul Sector
Sunday Sept 15
Lots of hot cakes \{flapjacks\} for breakfast.
We leave for elsewhere
our headquarters are
now in German territory
in town called Pannes\textsuperscript{37}
We leave our quarters
in German buildings
I am office orderly\textsuperscript{38} and
serve in Officer’s mess.\textsuperscript{39}

Monday Sept 16
My duties as orderly
consist mainly in
serving Officer’s Mess, I
get lots to eat. Got shelled\textsuperscript{40}
for fair this evening
hope it doesn’t last
long.

Tuesday Sept 17
Sgt. \{Sergeant\} Barton\textsuperscript{41} and Corp\textsuperscript{42}
DeWalt hurt by shell that
killed one of our mules,\textsuperscript{43} we

\textsuperscript{34} Likely classmates from Landis’s time at Swarthmore.
\textsuperscript{35} Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA, where David Landis attended and graduated from.
\textsuperscript{36} Men who volunteered to fight with the French before the United States entered the war.
\textsuperscript{37} Pannes, France (although Germany occupied at this time).
\textsuperscript{38} A soldier who works for the Officers.
\textsuperscript{39} A mess hall is a dining hall, where soldiers eat.
\textsuperscript{40} Shot at by artillery.
\textsuperscript{41} Possibly Frank D. Barton.
\textsuperscript{42} Corporal, a rank between Private and Specialist in the U.S. Army.
\textsuperscript{43} Mules were used to pull guns and transport wagons.
spend night in dug out.
We are on the Toul Sector.44

Wed. Sept 18
They are all scared of the shells and we are going to move our Hdrqs {Headquarters} from Pannes, somewheres.
Sleep in dugouts to-night.

Thu Sept 19
We are leaving to-day and going to assemble company at St. Bassaurd.45
Spent all night until 11 here then we moved to within 5 miles of St. Mihiel.46 It was wet and the worst thing I ever experienced yet. Sleep on wet ground until 11 A.M.

Friday Sept 20
Spent all day sleeping up and at 9 P.M. moved toward St. Mihiel but the Boche {German} bombed the town before we got there and so we slept in the hills.
It certainly is lonesome here and I am a bit depressed

Saturday Sept 21
Eat breakfast and we are off. hike without packs to a woods where we camp. Nice clean forest it is, owned by Govt {Government} of France. I suppose. But out we are pulled at 11 P.M just when we are

44 Area around Toul, France.
45 Saint-Bassaurt, France.
46 St. Mihiel, France.
"comfy". Ride in trucks all night until 4 A.M.

Verdun Sector
Sunday Sept 22
We got a bit of sleep here at Auzeville\footnote{Auzéville en Argonne.} and very little to eat, but Fox\footnote{Clyde P. Fox.} and I visited "Y" \{YMCA\} at another town and got some "canned" milk. Sleep Out we go to another camp a few miles off.

Mon. Sept 23
Slept on boards without anything but overcoat + slicker. Some mud it was too. Nothing to eat until 11 A.M. and now we are off to another camp again. Taken out from this camp at Auzeville to Engrs \{Engineers\} Dump\footnote{A supply or ammunition dump, or a place to store supplies.} at Dombasle\footnote{Dombasle-en-Argonne.} near Verdun.

Tuesday Sept 24
Take inventory of stock and unload 4" pipe until 8 P.M. We are chased to dug-out again by shells which hit pretty close. This is a great place for feed. I hear Co. \{Company\} F. has mail at Sorcy.

Wed Sept 25
Still at Dump but I am going back to Hdqrs. \{Headquarters\} at Auzeville. Reported and given job in office.
Almost hit by shell which landed about 100 ft from our trucks. There is lots of firing going on now, must be Amer. {American} barrage.51

Thrs. Sept 26
Barrage still on, wonder what it is. The Amers. {Americans} must be having a hard time getting over the top52 by the sound of things. Drive is on and the doughboys53 went over the top

Friday Sept 27
Moved from one barrack in Auzeville to other, we were chased out by some Frenchmen. Got requisition for sweater and sent it to C.M.E.

Sat Sept 28
Move to Recicourt a few miles more toward the front. Here I don’t do much of anything but fool around.

Recicourt Sec. Sept 29
Took a good hot bath and got a pair of socks54 from “dump” here. Last night I got soaked by rain from off the roof. too many holes. I moved into a dry spot afterwards.

51 Shelling which usually preceded an infantry attack.
52 The men are leaving the trenches to carry out the attack.
53 Slang for an American infantry soldier.
54 Hot baths were a luxury while serving in the army, as well as receiving new clothing such as socks.
Mon. Sept 30
Loafed about and tried
to keep warm. Wrote
letter to C.M.E. Drive55
on here on a large
front. The doughboys
are doing fine.

Tues Oct 1
Got put in kitchen
because I had nothing
to do. I wonder for
how long. Went to
Dombasle to "Y" and
got some cakes. I
wish our y {YMCA} here would
sell candy.

Wed Oct 2
The 37th Division must
have been by the amount
of troops in this town of
Recicourt56 The 89 + 91
divisions are on this front.
Wish I could see the
camp Meade57 boys.

Thu Oct 3
This K.P. {Kitchen Patrol} job is hard on
me, I eat too much for
the work I do. Am getting
fat on it too. Great Gods!
The Y has chocolate and
I get 4 bars of it too.

Fri Oct 4
To-day it is 4 months
since I enlisted in
the army. Also about 2
month since I saw C.M.E.
Been relieved from K.P. {Kitchen Patrol} and
doing nothing now.

55 Drive, meaning an infantry advance.
56 Recicourt, France.
57 Camp Meade, a recruiting camp in Gettysburg, PA.
Sat Oct 5
Didn’t work anything
to-day. Wrote letter
home to Sister. I am
pretty well under
the weather yet. I
suppose I shall soon
go out on detail.

Sun Oct 6
Got bombed last night
by airplanes. There is
a report out that the
central powers\(^58\) have
agreed to Pres. {President} Wilson’s
peace terms. Went up
to Dombasle to Y and
got candy

Mon. Oct 7
Sawed and chopped
wood for kitchen all day.
Last night I slept in
a dug out but Fritz {German airplane} didn’t
come over. Big Things
are happening in the
world at large. Wonder
if Pres. Wilson’s reply\(^59\) will
be favorable to Germany.

Tues. Oct 8
Some rain last night.
Believe me I am
doing some toasting
over that fire in our
delabitated {dilapidated} barracks.
Toast bread and butter
"a la Soldat". {toasted on a stick over a fire}

Wed Oct 9
No more bombing

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\(^{58}\) Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.

\(^{59}\) President Woodrow Wilson demanded that U-Boat submarine attacks be ended and that German forces withdraw from occupied territories before discussions of peace could begin.
lately. I hope there
wont be any either. I
moved over to another
"barracks" with Talty\textsuperscript{60}
Pacquotte\textsuperscript{61} etc. Have nice
warm fire this evening
and roll in about
1 A.M.

Thu. Oct 10
Nice warm morning, like
spring. Saw a peculiarly
shaped cloud and streaks
through it. Went to Commissary
at Dombasle and got
lots of chocolates + cakes,
how we did eat it. Bosche \{German\}
busy with his planes.

Recicourt, Friday Oct 11
Put on guard at water
tanks here from
12 to 8 A.M. Saw a mail
truck and thought
we were getting some, but
nothing doing. I am
expecting it though.

Sat Oct 12
My guard shift has
changed. I now stand
guard from 4 to 12 P.M.
Tonight is rainy and
cold. I understand
we have mail at
Void\textsuperscript{62} our Regimental Hdqrs. \{Headquarters\}

Sunday Oct 13
13 is no unlucky number
for me. I got 2 letters
each from Clara and
Sister. The best is I

\textsuperscript{60} Andrew F. Talty.
\textsuperscript{61} Harry W. Pacquotte.
\textsuperscript{62} Void-Vacon, France.
am sure we are soon
going to get more of
them soon. That one
of Clara’s was awful. I
hope she writes me better
ones.

Monday Oct 14
Been loafing this A.M.
Sgt {Sergeant} Ferguson\textsuperscript{63} ordered me
out to Ivoiry\textsuperscript{64} to do some
sterilizing water with chlorine
for Lieut\textsuperscript{65} Jewell. We got
out there at 11 P.M.
Spent a fine night.

Argonne Front
Ivoiry Oct 15
Spent the morning showing
guards here how to
chlorinate water and
test it for correct amount.\textsuperscript{66}
I run out of Chloride
of Lime as I am doing
nothing. Lieut {Lieutenant} Jewell
failed to show up as
he said he would. Guess
the roads must be bad.

Ivoiry, Wed Oct 16
Spent a wet night because
the roof leaked. Still
doing nothing. I moved
out to dug-out so I
may sleep to-night.
This cooking for yourself
is pretty fine.

Thu Oct 17
Slept well and as
usual I loaf all day.
Nothing unusual happns

\textsuperscript{63} Ray A. Ferguson.
\textsuperscript{64} Ivoiry, France.
\textsuperscript{65} Lieutenant, the lowest rank of officer in the U.S. Army, just below Captain.
\textsuperscript{66} Chlorine was used to sterilize drinking water from harmful bacteria.
here. I found a great
place to eat so its good
driving for mine from
now on until I
leave.

Ivoiry, Fri Oct 18
Reds Palmer\textsuperscript{67} went to
"Y" at Epinonville\textsuperscript{68} and
got beaucoup {many} eats condensed
milk etc. K.C. {Knights of Columbus} opened
here and I got several
bars of chocolate and chewing
gum. Lieut {Lieutenant} Jewell came out
with more chlorine.

Sat Oct 19
Broke my chlorine gauge
this A.M. so I can't dope {add chlorine to}
anymore water until I
get a new one. Capt\textsuperscript{69} Bierman
came out this P.M. and
gave me hell for not
coming in to Hqrs {headquarters} and
getting a new bottle.
Cleaned out tank.

Sun. Oct 20
Lieut {Lieutenant} Jewell did not
show up yet guess
he is stuck. We are
almost out of gas for
motor. I dope water
again. Get shelled for
fair to-night.

Mon Oct 21
Walked in to Hqrs {Headquarters} for
new measuring bottle
and got one. Also got
winter underwear and
socks. Mailed letter

\textsuperscript{67} Ralph R. Palmer, whose nickname was “Reds.”
\textsuperscript{68} Epinonville, France.
\textsuperscript{69} Captain, a rank of Officer in the U.S. Army between Lieutenant and Major.
to C.M.E. and expect
to write soon again.
Its lonesome out here
believe me.

Tues Oct 22
Am doping water again
We now have plant
for chorinating water
in but not set up yet.
Trucks from Hdqrs {headquarters} brot {brought}
me 8 liters of Javel {bleach}
They don’t seem to
realize how much water
we put out.

Wed. Oct 23
One day is much like
another here. We sit
by the fire, dope water,
and "chew the rag"{gossip}.
Its a clear night to-night
and this P.M. the Boche\(^70\)
brot {brought} down 4 of our
balloons.\(^71\)

Thu Oct 24
The bombed us last
night, for fair. Some
bombs landed pretty close
to our pumping station
where we sleep. Along
in morning shells came
over hot and heavy.

Fri Oct 25
Lots of shells last night
and some as close as
300 or 400 yds {yards}. We have a
nice bunch of rats + mice
here, they play hide-and-seek
on Trout’s\(^72\) face. Sent

---

\(^70\) Slang term for German soldiers.
\(^71\) Observation balloons, used to gain military intelligence from an aerial view.
\(^72\) Harvey E. Trout.
Reds Palmer to Hqrs {Headquarters} for dope. Hqrs {Headquarters} moved to Argies. No dope as Lab {Laboratory} is at Recicourt.

Sat Oct 26
Shelled again last night,
the lines must be out of range soon, however.
No doping this A.M.
Capt {Captain} Bierman gave me hell again for not going after dope.

Sun Oct 27
Nothing doing all day,
simply loaf. There’s more mail up at Hqrs {Headquarters}. Hope somebody brings it out soon. Got run off from 314 Supply Train no more feeding there.

Mon. Oct 28
A great day. Got paid.
got more javel {bleach} from Lieut {Lieutenant} Jewell, and got 5 letters, two from home and 3 from C.M.E. Spent evening answering them and missed supper reading them.

Tue. Oct 29
Business is good today.
We are now feeding at Hqrs. {Headquarters} of 314 Supply Train Its pretty rum {strange} grub too. Hit the boards early.
The Boche {Germans} hit down another balloon and two planes again.

Wed. Oct 30

---

73 Town in France.
74 George A. Bierman.
Coldest night I ever spent
in France and its
cold today too. Got letter
from C.M.E. + one from Sister.
Got 15 liters javel {bleach} today (A.M.)
Wrote to C.M.E. and
to sister.

Thu Oct 31
Capt {Captain} Bierman came
out and is now
going to put in Chlorin
tator. Wrote to C.M.E.
Tonight 3 yrs ago? What?
Halloween but no
masquerade Ball.
Drive {Advance} up Kaiser⁷⁵ due
to-night at 3 o'clock.

Fri. Nov 1
Went to Hdqrs {Headquarters} for spark
plug and shoes. Drive
started at 3.30 this AM.
and we put out lots of
water. Very cold to-day,
feels like snow soon.
Truck left some lumber
for roof over tanks.

Sat Nov. 2
White trucks hauling
water now. Not much
doing. Very cold and
rainy. Many German
prisoners captured in
this drive and taken
thru here. Great things
happening on Austrian
front.

Sunday Nov 3
Just 5 months since I
enlisted in the army and
two months on French

⁷⁵ Ruler of Germany, Kaiser Wilhelm II.
soil yesterday. Fine day
to-day. This place is
dead now, seems like
the S.O.S. {Services of Supply} now no guns
firing

Mon Nov. 4
Another sunny day and
no sound of guns either.
Wouldn’t know a war’s on
hardly. Orders to put
roof on tank arrive
from Hdqrs {Headquarters}. We are
feeding at 1st Division
Supply Train, Good grub.

Tues Nov 5
Start to put roof on tank
Met fellow from George School
friend of Jimmy Bogardus.
Finish roof and clean
out tanks. The lines {lines of attack}
are far from us now
doughboys chasing Boche {Germans}
in trenches. More javel {bleach}

Wed Nov 6
37th Engrs {Engineers} relieve
Trout76 as pump operator
Wonder if they will
relieve me and the
guards, hope not. I
hear that quite a
few organizations are
standing Reveille + Retreat77
Must be going home soon.

Thu Nov 7
Not much business today
Fixed me a place to bunk
Capt Bierman came out
at 10 P.M. said my water

76 Harvey E. Trout
77 Reveille and Retreat, two songs played on the bugle in military settings to signify morning roll call and the end of the day, respectively.
sample was poor. Word came from somewheres that Germany had surrendered.\textsuperscript{78}
Lots of noise and gun firing.

Fri Nov 8
Only more L. Bulletins\textsuperscript{79}
Germany is still in It \{the war\}. Our outfit moves out and we hunt another place to feed.
Got chocolate from Course he got it at 'Y'' by putting it on heavy about the 30 men detail.

Sat Nov 9
Visited nos \{Numbers\} 2 + 3 holes and tested water. Got several magazines to read from some of the fellows. News of the German peace not authentic.

Sun Nov 10
Capt Bierman didn't show up to-day as he said he would. Met Hoe a brother of Garland Hoe catcher for E.C.\textsuperscript{80} and we had a long talk about Manassas.\textsuperscript{81} Seems like I know lots of people over here.

Mon Nov 11
Yesterday was some cold day, ice 1/4 inches.
Capt \{Captain\} Bierman put in chlorinotor and showed

\textsuperscript{78} Germany would not officially surrender until the Armistice, November 11, 1918.
\textsuperscript{79} A publication created by the Committee on Public Information (CPI) under the direction of George Creel.
\textsuperscript{80} Possibly a baseball team, for which Garland Hoe was the catcher.
\textsuperscript{81} Either a discussion of the Civil War's 1861 Battle of Manassas, or a discussion of the town of Manassas, Virginia, where a number of F&M students at this time were from.
me how to operate it. I’m at Ivoiry for sure now. We watered a great many horses to-night. Many troops are moving from the front. We heard that peace was signed last this A.M. at 11.15. Looks like it by the number of troops that are moving. I am certain to stay here and either Palmer or Loughton82 with me. We began to build a house for the chlorinator to-day, and expect to have a stove in it. I am expecting mail, some of the fellows are going to bring ours along out from Hdqrs {Headquarters} about 30 kilometers distance

Tuesday Nov. 12
Up early for business is good. We are fixing up our house and we found some kerosene,83 a scarce article here. Capt {Captain} says he’s going to get us a lantern if we can rustle some oil, so we got the lantern. Everyone seems to believe the war’s over but I can’t hardly get it thru my head. Anyway we are bound to be here for some time,

---

82 Samuel H. Loughton.
83 Liquid used as fuel for lanterns.
guess till spring.

Wed Nov 13
The war is over. An armistice has been signed and now its merely stay here and wait. I understand that they are going to get us back quickly, hope so

Thurs Nov 14
Same old stuff nothing to do.

Fri Nov 15
Pulled us up from Ivoiry and went to Co. Hdqrs {Company Headquarters} at Nouart\textsuperscript{84} where we spent night. I hear we are going to move to the Aline. They had a piano at Hdqrs {Headquarters} and everything seemed like home.

Sat Nov. 16
Off on trucks this A.M. and go up to Co {Company} D’s Hdqrs {Headquarters} where we stay. Its very cold and we spend the night here I think Almost sure its Germany for us now.

Sunday Nov 17
Spent a warm night in the hay {in bed}, and after fooling around until dinner we came. The Company is divided

\textsuperscript{84} Nouart, France.
into two parts as is
Co {Company} "C". Each detail is
going with a division

into Germany where
we will be the Army
of Occupation. I think
we will be among the
first troops home.
Our detail is attached
to the 2nd Division
which includes the Marines
Spend night in Stenay.

Raunoncourt
Belgium
Oct {November} 18
Up and off early, we
meet the Second Division
and now we are going
with them. We are
not making very fast
time now for some
of the troops are hiking.
We have had pretty good
luck so far for billets.

We are now in
Belgium this town
Raunoncourt is
right on line between
France + Belgium.
Lots of "dum-dum" bullets
to be seen. First
snow of year, only
slight flurries.

Raunoncourt
Oct {November} 19
We were formed into
squadrs and after

---

85 Large unit of army, containing between 10,000 and 15,000 men.
86 Small town on border between France and Belgium.
87 Assigned place to sleep temporarily; a cot.
88 The expanding bullet, also known as the Dum-Dum, was designed to expand on impact to create a larger
wound on the target.
that I worked into the Orderly room. We stayed here all day and in the afternoon the fellows got squads "east + west" while I was sitting by a warm stove, pretty soft.

Wed Nov. 20
We left Raunoncourt and travelled about 15 miles passing thru the towns of Virton\(^99\) where St. Joseph's College was being used as a hospital for Boche, thru Dampacourt and Ethe and St. Leger\(^90\) all small towns. Virton is quite a little city with a water system and sewage. We stopped for night at Mieux-le-laine\(^91\) we are first Americans in area and the Germans left on Tuesday. Fine people these Belgians so grateful.

Thursday Nov 21
Today we travelled all day until night when we got lost. We finally found our way to a small town near Arlon.\(^92\) Arlon is a big city and the people looked quite swell. The illeg people of Luxembourg which is next to Belgium are German speaking so I got a fine room and lots to eat when

\(^99\) Virton, Belgium.
\(^90\) Dampicourt, Ethe, and St. Leger, Belgium.
\(^91\) Location in Belgium.
\(^92\) Arlon, Belgium.
I stayed. We left at about 9:30 AM on Nov 22 (Friday) and travel all day until 1 P.M. when we reached a little town near Mersch© where we spent the night. The people are friendly and treat us fine but they are much more gruff and not so accommodating as the Belgians. The scenery about this part of the country is great, there are old castles and great high rocks. The roads wind in and out of beautiful cultivated hills, must be like W. Va {West Virginia} from Clara's description. The Germans are only about a day ahead of us and we are almost the last of our division. I am working hard these days, there is lots to do in keeping tab of the men; rosters, lists, letters etc occupy much of my time.

Sat Nov. 23 Moved only a few miles today thru "Mersch" where Laurain© and I tried to get the jam for Lt. {Lieutenant} Ericsson. We have had fine quarters so far and

---

© Mersch, Luxembourg.
© Bertuf E. Laurain.
pretty good meals.

Rollingen\textsuperscript{95}
Sunday Nov 24
Not at all like
Sunday. Worked all
day we didn't move
to-day. Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart
was here to-day.
To-night is one month
from Xmas eve wish
I were home a month
from now.

Mon. Nov 25
One month to-day
is Xmas, wonder if I
will be home then
guess not. Censorship
rules are now relaxed
quite a bit.\textsuperscript{96} We can
say almost anything.
Mailed a letter to C.M.E.
to-day and more will follow.

Rollingen, Tues Nov 26.
Was up to Mersch and
got beaucoup {many} post cards
for officers and myself.
Lt. {Lieutenant} Donnelly was down to
Luxembourg says its some
little town. Working hard
for Lt. {Lieutenant} Levine getting out
reports. Sent some cards

Wed. Nov 27
Still here in this place
and working hard. I
wonder when we will
move.

Nov 28

\textsuperscript{95} Rollingen, Luxembourg.

\textsuperscript{96} Army censors blacked out words and phrases in letters and postcards written by soldiers that might reveal the locations of the troops and their movements.
Thanksgiving to-day, and
I wrote a letter to C.M.E.
We are soon going to
get chocolate as there
is a "y" established at
Mersch. Got papers {newspapers}
for first time since
on trip.

Nov 29
Nothing doing to-day
except loafing. Lt. {Lieutenant}
Donnelly and I made
some fudge from
chocolate he bought
at commissary. Great
fun we had and
the fudge was good.

Rollingen Nov 30
To-day worked in the
morning and read
stories in P.M. got some
chocolate today from
Lt. Donnelly who got it
at Y. Going to move
to-morrow. Wrote to
C.M.E. Wish we would get
mail.

Dec. 1st
To-day we move from
Rollingen Lux. {Luxembourg} to Lahr
Germany. I never saw such
wonderful illeg country
as we saw coming thru
Luxembourg. Germany
has not such nice land
as the wonderful hills
and valleys. We got
to Germany at 3.30
this P.M. The people
treat us pretty nice
for Germans and don’t
seem to be antagonistic.
but are not very friendly.

Dec. 2
The detachment moved from Lahr to Oberweiler.97
We passed thru town of newenburg which was in the deepest valley I have seen thus far. Wonderful hills and beautiful valleys remind me of what W. Va {West Virginia} must be like.
I got some mail to-night.
2 letters of Clara’s were not very optimistic and make me pretty blue {sad}.
Got letter from Sis also.
The people here are not very antagonistic but they are solemn and say little.

Dec. 3
To-day we moved from Oberweiler to Schonecken.98
It was some cold and rainy trip but I got a nice place to sleep anyway in a feather bed.

Dec 4
The people here at Schonecken treat us fine not at all like our enemies. Have met several who are in the army having returned only a few days ago. One had Iron Cross.99

---
97 Oberweier, Germany
98 Schönicken, Germany.
99 German military decoration.
We didn't move today
so I cleaned up my
rifle and loafed.

Dec. 5
Schönecken
Here we stay all day
and Lieut {Lieutenant} Donnelly
left us for some
detached work. I wrote
to Clara to-day and
I shall do so again
soon.

Dec 6
Geroldstein
We landed at this place
after travelling a slow
day behind the Artillery
of 2nd Division. Got
in Late about 8 PM
and we sleep to-night
on the board floor of
a German military
camp. Reminded me
of Camp Dix only here
we slept on the floor.
Gerolstein is a large
town and I wished
we could have stayed
a day or so here but
we won't.

Dec. 7
Dreis
We landed at this
town after a short and
fast ride. I have a
fine room and
Laurain and I got a
half dozen eggs and
ate them. Gosh! they
were good.

Dec 8
We moved to-day from
Dreis and after a hard muddy road we landed in a hunter’s lodge belonging to some German Duke. Had everything up to date all ready for us it seemed. The name is Aderfarhof\textsuperscript{100} and its a very small town.

Arweiler\textsuperscript{101} Dec 9
Moved from Aderfarhof and after going thru the worst mud I ever say and pushing the trucks several miles we finally got to Arweiler at about 10 P.M. went to bed without supper and slept like a log.

Rhine River, Remagen Dec 10
We moved from Arweiler to Remagen which is quite a little city. We got orders at noon to move and did so in a hurry. Was sorry to leave for the lady treated us swell gave us apples and drinks. She certainly had things fixed up swell. But now we are in some place too. The Orderly room is in a great big house and there are two very nice girls here.

Remagen Dec 11.

\textsuperscript{100} Very small town in Germany.
\textsuperscript{101} Ahrweiler, Germany.
Still in the above town.
Bought some post cards
and views. Send them
home and to Clara.
Loafed most of the day
and got a hair cut
from a German barber.
"Wonderful" work and rough.

Remagen Dec 12
Still here and
beginning to like this
place. The people of this
house are very nice.
Made cocoa to-night
and had cake. Lt. {Lieutenant}
Stewart was here to
see Lt. {Lieutenant} Levine, and

Officers held secret con-
ference. Wonder what
the significance is,
must be going home
I guess. Got a good
hot bath to-day and,
clean clothes on. Good-
by Cooties {lice} for a while at
least. Worked until 12 P.M.

Remagen Dec 13
Rained all day and
I worked all day too.
Went to Schneider's and
had some music
played for us by
Emma Herringhaus
Got the cooties {lice} again
so I am scratching.

Bendorf a Rh. {Rhine} Dec. 14
Left Remagen early
to-day and crossed
the Rhine\(^{102}\) a short
distance south of

\(^{102}\)The Rhine River.
Remagen on a ferry
raft. Was sorry to leave
our comfortable quarters
and those nice people.
The people are pretty kind
here but not near like
the Herringhaus's. They
were sorry to see me
go too. To-night at
Bendorf I got 8 letters
2 from Clara, Guess
we will go home
soon.

Dec 15
We stayed here all
day and in the
evening we got orders
to go to Neufied Nerundorf and
assemble our company
Great News.
We may go home
for the orders were
from the 1st Army
Hdqrs {Headquarters} and also 3 Army
Corps.

Neusendorf, Dec 16
We left our nice billets
at Berndorf and travelled
to Engers where part of
our company was. From
here we went to Neuendorf
and assembled our entire
Company. Nothing particular
happened except that
we got resquadded {divided into squads again}.
Went to bed in the
attick of an old house
after getting nothing
but bread and beans
to eat. We are right
on the banks of the

103 Bendorf, Germany.
104 Neuendorf, Germany
Rhine on West side.

Neuendorf Dec. 17
To-day I worked a bit but mostly loafed in the office. We have Reveille + Retreat and Drill but it won't be for long. We will leave this week probably tomorrow.

Neuendorf Dec. 18
Doesn't look like moving this A.M. but we may go at that. I fool around the orderly room all day and learn about order to move to Sorcy. We turned our trucks to-day and it sure looks like going now.

Dec 19
We leave Neuendorf early and go by foot to Coblenz\textsuperscript{105} where we take the trains for Sorcy I believe. We travelled all day and passed thru Luxembourg City\textsuperscript{106} and Metz\textsuperscript{107} in the night. We six men managed to get a little sleep in between seats and floor of this compartment. Have been issued rations for all day and we managed to get double portion.

\textsuperscript{105}Koblenz, Germany.
\textsuperscript{106}Luxembourg City, the capital of Luxembourg.
\textsuperscript{107}Metz, France.
Dec 20
What a headache and cramp I have from the cold floor. We are issued a days rations so I guess we will be on trains all day. I wonder if we are going to Sorcy afterall. We finally land at Sorcy and march to the same old barracks we slept in several months ago.

Dec 21
Spent the day in drilling and giving in our clothing requirements. We are going home as soon as we get equipped and the orders arrive to move. The rest of the Regiment are in the nearby vicinity. Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart said we are going home and its up to us to get ready soon.

Dec 22.
Issued clothes and take baths all but me, I think its useless as long as we have those blankets with the cooties {lice} in them. Norman Cooper\textsuperscript{108} shows up, had not seen him since we landed. Resquadded the company. No drill

\textsuperscript{108} Comrade, Norman M. Cooper.
whatever to-day.

Dec 23
Inspection in rain
in the morning
and then nothing
to do.
X'mas Mail came
Got letters from
Clara and the sweater
and socks. Got X'mas
package from home
and its great stuff. I
am hoping we leave
soon expect it to-morrow
Got paid at 12 P.M.
after a long wait.
Everything seems to
have happened
to-day and I am
as happy as a kid with
a new toy.

Dec 24
Did a little squads east
and west to-day and
went on a short hike.
Tried to write a letter
down at the "Y" but got
talking about Germany
and didn't get it finished.
Pretty ugly night snow
and rain but not
cold. It hasn't been
freezing not since we
got here but its terribly
damp and it rains
every day it seems. The
kitchen issued us lemon
drops for dinner and
the "y" had chocolate in
the evening.

Dec 25
X'mas day and snowy
and rainy. Wrote to
Clara and home in
the P.M. and went
up to Sorcy "void"\textsuperscript{109} in the
morning. Sgt. {Sergeant} McElwee\textsuperscript{110}
announced that we
might leave here to-day
so we had to come
to barracks at noon
and Retreat. But we
didn’t move and I
guess we won't for
some time.

Dec 26
Orders came to move
but we can’t get
transportation now
so it all depends
upon that. Got
mail, 1 letter from
Kitty Landes\textsuperscript{111} thats
all but many got packages.

Sorcy Dec 27
Everyone expected to
move but we still don’t
to-day. Our transportation
order still stands but
an order came out that
no more transportation
would be furnished.
Amer. {American} troops because -
two French Armies
are being demobilized.
When we get to states
Company will divide into
details each going to
the locality it belongs
to. No drill in P.M. and
the y was closed so
nothing to do but loaf.

\textsuperscript{109} Void-Vacon, France, the headquarters of the division.
\textsuperscript{110} Gilber L. McElwee
\textsuperscript{111} Kathryn Landes.
[X'mas greetings from Emmet Maz]

Sorcy Dec 28
Still here. No more
drills in P.M. now.
It rained all day so we
didn’t do anything
at all but loaf. Rumor
that we are leaving
to-morrow, but
its all Bull {worthless}, I guess

Dec 29
Short hike this A.M.
and sign payroll for
Nov. + Dec. in P.M.
We are to leave here
"on or about" the 30th.
I believe we will go
to-morrow and its
good we do. The company
are grouchy as hell and
no wonder. We have been
fooled so often and
we live in expectation
of going all the time.
God it sure gets on
my nerves and I
never was as home-
sick as I am now.
Word that we are going home

Dec 30
Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart announced
last night that we
are leaving "on or about
Dec. 30" and accordingly
we pack up this A.M.
and prepare to enter
those boxcars¹¹² that
are to take us from here.
We loafed about the
barracks all day and
at 4 P.M. we hike to

¹¹²Rail road car with no seats, usually intended to carry freight.
Sorcy Station where we stood in the rain and got soaked while we waited for the train. Finally at 7 PM she pulled in, at about 10 PM she pulled out and travelled fast all night. We were some wet and we all have colds. Hope our hospital list does not increase any.

Dec 31
"Somewhere on the road to Bordeaux" what a hell of a night we spent without any sleep we have 6 men in one box car and we are "some" crowded. We were issued cigarettes and chocolate in the A.M. and ate beaucoup {many} beans for breakfast. I am fast getting homesick. This PM quite a few of the fellows got packages. I got a letter from Clara and a card from Sister
We are making fast time and may get to Bordeaux sooner than we expected. New Year's eve to-night and this is some place to spend it too. Wish I would get those pictures Clara is sending me.
Jan 1, 1919
"Box-cars"
Fine day to-day no
rain but beautiful
sun shine. We may
get to Bordeaux by
to-night by the speed
we are making, anyway
don't suppose we will
spend more than
to-night on these
box-cars. We spend
the night on these
box-cars and although
I manage to sleep it
was terrible sleeping.

Plumet, France  Jan 2
Got off the train and
hiked to a little town
a few kilos from the
station. We are billeted
here in a schoolhouse.
I understand we are
quite a ways from
Bordeaux, about 30
kilometers, the camp
is full of men awaiting
transportation to the
states.
To-night Pvt {Private} Tanner
knifed Sgt. {Sergeant} Stevenson\(^{113}\)
in a fight. He is now
under arrest.
Am to work in office
on this trip Sgt {Sergeant} McElwee
says.

Plumet Jan 3
Stuck around office
all day typed a bit
and ran errands.
Lots of men arrested

\(^{113}\) Harry Stevenson.
for being drunk and disorderly.
We are going to leave on 26th from Bordeaux's Sgt {Sergeant} Quinette\textsuperscript{114} says. Also hear we are to leave Jan 15th. God I hope we get out of this country soon, too much rain for me here.

Plumet Jan 4
Nothing unusual happens to-day except that more men have been placed under arrest. We rounded up all the men who missed Formation this A.M. and put them in Guard Room. Spent P.M. in doing nothing and the night in writing to Clara and Dad. No orders to move and I suppose we are here for a while at least. Sam'l Burger\textsuperscript{115} came back after being lost since we were at Sorcy the first time.

Plumet Jan 5
Nothing unusual except that the weather was clear for half the day. Sunday and all the boys are promenading with the French chickens {girls} Some of them are pretty neat and make a fellow homesick at times. When we

\textsuperscript{114} Charles E. Quinette.
\textsuperscript{115} Samuel Berger.
are going to leave here
is all that worries
me now.

Plumet  Jan 6
Mail this A.M. got a
letter from Clara that
sure was a peach {good}
and I am happy. Wrote
to Clara to-night or
rather part of the one
I wrote night before
last. Got a bed sack {sleeping bag}
and expect to sleep
swell to-night.
Things are dear {expensive} here
butter is about 8 Fr.\textsuperscript{116} a
pound and cookies 10 F. \{Francs\}
Bread is fairly cheap though.

Plumet Jan 7
Same old thing
nothing to do but loaf
around the Orderly Room
At that its better than
drilling. We managed
to get enough wood to
start a fire to-night so
we are somewhat "comfy".

Plumet Jan 8
S.O.S. nothing to do
except work nothing
unusual happened.
Yes, I went to Hdqrs \{Headquarters\}
and got some licorice
on the way back. Am
hoping there's mail here
soon.

Plumet Jan 9
Our passes \{leave\} to Bordeaux
all shot to pieces. No
officers even allowed there

\textsuperscript{116}Francs, French currency.
so we can’t go. The [barrack] passed in Review before Capt. Horton at Bourq.\textsuperscript{117} in P.M. I didn’t go. Hear we are getting mail + chocolate.

Plumet Jan 10
Got a bath at Bourq \{Bourg\} to-day with Company. Got issued chocolate (Hershey’s\textsuperscript{118}) for dinner. Wrote Clara this P.M. and read a little. Got mail, letter from Sis. dad’s business not very prosperous at present.

Plumet Jan 11
Went up to St. Andre\textsuperscript{119} and saw the town. Big “y” up there and two American Y girls. came home at 8.30 with a bad headache.

Jan 12
Got the cooties \{lice\} again, can’t seem to get rid of them. Hear there is mail up at Regt Hdqrs. \{Regiment Headquarters\} for us. Got headache and my eyes ache to-day. Loaf all day and roll in early.

Plumet Jan. 13
Nice bright day and a lucky one too not at all a “13”th. Mail again, one letter from Clara and a peach \{a good one\} too.

Jan 14

\textsuperscript{117} Bourg, France.
\textsuperscript{118} The U.S. Army bought significant amounts of chocolate from the Hershey company to include in rations sent to the soldiers.
\textsuperscript{119} St. Andre, France.
Company went to Bourq {Bourg} for Battalion drill but I stayed here and wrote to Clara. Made a Pv't 1 Cl.\textsuperscript{120} effective Jan 13th. Wrote to Clara. Nothing more unusual.

Jan 15
Wed and a holiday for all King + I went to Bourq {Bourg} in P.M. + saw movies “The Dollar and the Law”. Mail is at Hdqrs {Headquarters} and we may get it to-morrow.

Jan 16
Got mail last night and I got a letter from Harry this morning.

Friday Jan 17
Got lot of A. M. C.\textsuperscript{121} supplies this afternoon and a grate for Orderly Room. Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart says he heard that 30,000 men would be taken out of here in next two weeks.

Saturday Jan 18
Went up to Bourq {Bourg} and saw Co {Company} F got beaten at BasketBall by Co {Company} B. also was evidence against Ryan.\textsuperscript{122} Got mail and I got letter from Harry.

Sunday Jan 19
Washed up my belt and

\textsuperscript{120} Promoted to Private First Class, the rank above Private and below Corporal.
\textsuperscript{121} Armed Merchant Cruiser, a ship transporting cargo that is also equipped with guns for protection against Germans.
\textsuperscript{122} Thomas J. Ryan, Jr.
cleaned gun. Didn’t
go anywhere except
about town here. Had
fine meal of veal for
dinner.

Monday Jan 20
Worked on Service
Records in morning
preparing for the
Inspector of Port of Embark
ation. Lt. {Lieutenants} Stewart
and Ericsson gone
on passes of 7 or 8 days.
Lt. Levine Acting Co. O {Commanding Officer}

Tuesday Jan 21
Worked on Service Records
and loafed. King,123 Laurain
+ I had eggs + potatoes
for supper down at
cafe. Got "A" insignias
and they will be sold
tomorrow. Got 1 Cl. Pvt {Private First Class}
chevrons124 from Hersche.125

Wed Jan 22
Cold and raining so I
didn’t go anywhere.
Wrote a letter to
Clara to-night.
21 Engrs {Engineers} beat in Basketball
and football.

Thu Jan 23
Coldest day I have
seen here, hug the
fire closely to-day.
Great Scott Lieut {Lieutenant} Fletcher
lived at Elkins so
guess I won’t let him
censor any more of

123 Earl A. King.
124 Chevron, a stripe applied to the sleeve of a uniform to indicate the soldier’s rank.
125 George G. Hersche
my letters to Clara.

Friday Jan 24
Nothing unusual to-day.

Sat. Jan 25
Went to St. Andre with Laurain. Got quite a few eggs and post cards which I sent to Clara and home. Got chocolate too at "y" there.

Sunday Jan 26
Stayed in Orderly Room all day got magazines from Chaplin Seabrett. Heard him talk in morning. Lt. {Lieutenant} Fletcher left for S.O.S. to do some valuation work.

Monday Jan 27
Capt. {Captain} Pritchard was here yesterday and was saying we would leave about 5 Feb. He seemed to be in quite a good humor.

Tuesday Jan 28
Worked all day on service records and pay books. By all indications we will leave here around Feb. 5th. Wrote Clara and sis each a letter.

Wed Jan 29
Went to St. Andre with Laurain. Got quite a few eggs to eat and got some knives for Harry and Dad.
Thursday Jan 30
Nothing new. Expect
to leave about 5 or 7th
of Feb. Lieut {Lieutenant} Levine
left for parts unknown.
Went to Bourq {Bourg} as
messenger and got
cakes and milk Lt. {Lieutenant}
Stewart not back yet.

Friday Jan 31
Nothing happened to-day.
Things look more
like we might be
going at last.
Rumor out that we
turn in Rifles.

Sat. Feb 1st
Took our decootying {delousing}
to-day and that
bath sure was fine.
But I wonder if it
got rid of the cooties.
Sent a card to Harry
and Art Hyle.

Sunday Feb 2
"Ground Hog Day" and
he saw his shadow
just maybe not in
the States. Stayed in
the office all day while
most of the "office force"
was on pass {on leave}.

Mon. Feb 3
Seems settled that
we are leaving on
the 6th but the
sick men in Bourq {Bourg}
may hold us here.
Potts says medical
advice is "not to leave."

Tuesday Feb 4
Commission going to
Rommania {Romania} and some
of the fellows are trying
to go. Brewer\textsuperscript{126}, Rucker\textsuperscript{127}, +
Braunsdorf\textsuperscript{128} are among
them.

Wed. Feb 5
Rucker and some of
the would be interpreters
were cross-examined by
Colonel\textsuperscript{129} Schneiderhelm.
Rained all day so I
stayed at "home". Wrote
Clara a big letter in
the evening.

Thurs Feb 6
Went as witness against
Ryan to Bourq {Bourg} and
Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart bought chocolate
which we carried back
to Plume and issued
at Retreat.\textsuperscript{130} Somewhat
warmer and seems
like springtime this P.M.

Friday Feb 7
Very spring like and
warm this morning
and afternoon but its
colder to-night.

Saturday Feb 8
Went to Bourq {Bourg} and took
a bath with Laurain,
got some eggs, and
candy at y {YMCA} and went
home. Wrote to Clara
and sister.

\textsuperscript{126} Addison P. Brewer.
\textsuperscript{127} Leonard A. Rucker.
\textsuperscript{128} Robert O. Braunsdorf.
\textsuperscript{129} Colonel, a rank between Lieutenant colonel and Brigadier General in the U.S. Army.
\textsuperscript{130} Tune played on bugle to signal the end of a day.
Sunday Feb 9
Cold all day so that
I didn't go anywheres.
Seems like we might
get to go to the Embarkation
camp this week.

Mon. Feb 10
Made a 6 mile practice
march with packs
in afternoon. Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart
says we leave sometime
after Wednesday, but
we may have to stay
at the Embarkation
Camp for two weeks.

Tue. Feb. 11th
Everybody seems to
think we will leave
Thursday A.M. I do
the usual stint of
working in the
Orderly Room. Laurain
and I stay out until
about 12 P.M. as the
boys are drunk, just
got paid to-day.

Wed Feb 12th
Went on about an
8 mile hike with
full 12 blanket pack
this AM. and Laurain
and I went to Bourq
in P.M. I am
pretty sick to-night
with a slight fever.
Well we won't leave
to-morrow as all
sailings are off for
6 days pending outcome
of situation in Germany
and the peace compense
Armistice Expiration is
Feb 17th. Outlook
is gloomy.

Thursday Feb 13th
Braunsdorf was
ordered to Paris to
report to General McKinstry\textsuperscript{131}
for the Romanian (Romanian)
commission. Left this
P.M. Sorry to see him
go too. Pretty sick all
day, headache + fever.
Had the picture taken
of the "office bunch" and
I believe it will be
a good one. Still
under the weather.

Friday Feb 14
Valentine Day but no
valentines. Sick all
day and so I "fall
in" early and feel
very little better the
following day.

Saturday Feb 15
Still pretty sick but
I work all the same.
Rainy day and no
inspection. Got
official notice to be
ready to move by
Tuesday A.M.

Sun. Feb 16
Still sick but I
am better psychally (psychologically)
for I believe we will
move by Tues. or Wed.
Worked hard all day
lots to do and there
will be more tomorrow.

Mon Feb 17

\textsuperscript{131} Brigadier General C.H. McKinstry of the Transportation Department.
Worked all day making final adjustments to service Records and assigning men to detachments. We will leave here Wed A.M.

Tuesday Feb. 18
Lots of work and everything is a hustle this morning and P.M. have Embarkation Orders now so its pretty sure we leave. Everybody in great spirits. Lieut {Lieutenant} Levine back.

Wednesday Feb 19
Genicart
132
Left Plumet at 7.45 this Am. {A.M.} and hiked until 3 P.M. when we got to this camp where we spend the night. I have terribly sore feet and I hope they get well soon. Company split up in Detachments.

Thurs. Feb 20
Spent a good night in sleep and my feet are somewhat better this A.M. Work this morning getting men transferred to different detachments. Went there "Mill" in P.M. after a big hike to the "Permanent Camp"

Genicart Friday Feb 21
Went thru an inspection this morning and a check-up at I acted as messenger down at Regt.

132 Genicart, France.
Hq. {Regimental Headquarters} until 11 P.M. Got
two letters from C.M.E.
and the one had those
long delayed pictures.
Sure was a great day.

Saturday Feb 22
Washington's birthday but
of course we work all the
same. King and I did
some work at Officer's Quarters
making out lists etc.
Passenger lists are being
made out at Hq. {Headquarters} so thats
a relief to us.

Sunday Feb 23
Not a Sunday to me. Made
up Feb. payroll with
King. Got Sailing List
for Co {Company} F and checked
it off and returned it.
Doesn't look like we are
going for a few days
at least, about Wed. {Wednesday} I
guess.

Genicart Feb. 24
Rechecked Passenger
Lists and Lt. {Lieutenant} Stewart
took it down to Embk. {Embankation}
Office to "check it out".
Waiting for boat now,
we are all ready. Payroll
signed at Retreat to-night
and expect to turn it in soon.

Genicart Feb 25
Not very much work except
in afternoon. Made up several
Rosters. No news as to
leaving. I hope we don't
stay here much longer.

133 U.S. holiday preceding the establishment of Presidents' Day.
Genicart Feb 26
Lots of work to-day also
a "rumor" that we
leave on Saturday and
the rest leave Sunday.
Visited "Salvation Army" and
got some Peter's Chocolate.

Feb 27
Didn't work in office
to-day but went out
"soldiering" and
was to pass in review
before Pershing\textsuperscript{134} but he
didn't come. Stood up
with packs for 3 hrs. Some
hard work I'd say. Got
Hershey Almond Bars Wrote
to C.M.E.

Friday Feb 28
Loafed about the Orderly Room
in the morning and
the same in the afternoon.
I heard tonight that we
leave Sunday A.M. Gen. {General}
Pershing is going to
review us to-morrow.

Sat. Mar 1.
Up at 3.45 and roll packs
Leave came for Entrance
Camp Review field and
stand 5 hrs with packs
while Gen {General} Pershing went
thru ranks on the run.
We got rations \{food\} and
are leaving to-morrow A.M.
Hurrah! Hurrah!

Sunday Mar 2
Left Permanent Camp at 8 AM.
and hiked 4 miles to
docks at Bassens. Load

\textsuperscript{134} Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of American Expeditionary Forces.
on boat at 11 and
left docks for U.S.A. at
5.30. It was some
thrilling moment and
one long to be remembered.

Mon. Mar 3.
Seasick for fair and
after losing all I had
I fasted most of the
day.

Tue. Mar 4
Nine months since I
came into the army and
I am terribly sick today.
Sea is very rough and
I spent the day on deck
doing nothing and
eating very little. Very
rough sea to-night.

Wed. Mar 5
Somewhat better this
A.M. sea not so rough
and the sun shining.
Shall be well in a
day or two now. Are
making good time I
hear.

Thurs. Mar 6
Sea pretty calm and
I am almost well
and am eating again.
Gosh! the time does
seem long and this
ship can't go fast at
all, at least it seems
so.

Friday Mar. 7
Nothing unusual happens
on board ship but I
sure am anxious for
this ship to run, seems
like it only crawls to me.

Sat. Mar 8
Hear we will be mustered out in about 2 days after reaching Camp Dix. So by this time next week. Useless to add am more and more anxious if this is possible.

Sun. Mar 9
Same old stuff nothing to do but sleep and loaf on deck and of course, get hearded {herded} about like cattle. Sea is great and moon out to-night. Gee! How I am homesick.

Monday Mar 10
Loafed about as usual and went on guard at 4 P.M. for 24 hours. Was a long night and a stormy one too. Did little sleeping but lots of thinking.

Tuesday Mar 11
Final cootie {lice} inspection to-day. Are getting close to land. This evening the sea is very calm and we are just off Sandy Hook.135

Wed. Mar 12
After looking for land all morning we finally

135 Sandy Hook, NJ.
saw it all at 11 AM.
Sailed up harbor and
got quarantined and
inspected and finally
docked at 3 P.M. and
landed at 4 P.M. Were
given supper by Red
Cross and are now
billeted near the Pier
#8 at Hoboken.136 Expect
to go to Camp Dix in
the morning. Send
Clara a wire and
card also dad and
a card to Harry.
"Feeling Great Now"

Thu. Mar 13
Our lucky day. We left
Hoboken and went by
train to Camp Dix getting
there at 3 P.M. and
am now in barracks.
Red Cross + YMCA treated
us great.137 Lots of cheering, etc.

Fri. Mar 14
Went thru delouser and
our clothes are all
wrinkly and burnt.
Called up Harry and
said I am coming home
on a pass. Hope to
make it early too.
Ate at Hostess House.138

Saturday Mar 15
Working at mustering out
67 Coast Artillery. We will
be the next to be out.
Expect to say goodbye to
army on Thursday.

136 Hoboken, NJ.
137 Likely a party with snacks and cigarettes.
138 Sponsored by the YMCA, Salvation Army, or a college, the Hostess House offered food and wholesome entertainment.
Late getting my pass
but I got home anyway
and some time!

Sun. Mar 16
Home and great
eats all the time.
Harry Bassler came
out in P.M. Missed
connections and so spent
night out at College {Swarthmore}
and got down here
10 A.M. Monday.

Monday Mar 17
Got down at 10 A.M.
and loaf all the day.
Saw Mae March\textsuperscript{139} in
The Great Love\textsuperscript{140} at "Y"!
Expect to get out of the
army on Friday now.
Wrote to Sis for money
to buy some clothes.

Tues. Mar 18
Spent A.M. in getting
raincoat and new
coat at one of the
Supply Rooms. We
went thru the "mustering
out" work and signed
payroll. Will be out Friday
now I am sure. Letter
from Clara.

Wed. Mar 19
Wrote to Clara this A.M.
and do nothing now
except loaf and wait
until Friday. Lots of the
fellows get passes until
Friday A.M.

\textsuperscript{139}Mae Marsh, a silent film star.
\textsuperscript{140}The Great Love, a 1918 silent film starring Mae Marsh and Robert Harron, directed by D.W. Griffith.
Thursday Mar 20
Put me on guard and it was some awful guard too. Got only 5 hours sleep and walked post for 2 two hour shifts.

Friday Mar 21
My last day in the army. Got my discharge at 9 AM. this PM and left camp at 12.45. Got home at 6 PM. Well I am out and I can't hardly believe it. God! Its great to be home.

Finis {End}
End of this soldiers' Diary. I'm a civilian now.