

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.
Wilkinsburg, 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 W^m H. Withington
Leeds, Ala. {Alabama}

[METRIC SYSTEM reference]

July 30/ 18
Camp Dix²
Final "overseas" inspection
looks like France now.
Yesterday had inspection
with tents in rain.
Some mud! Saw
Vaudeville at Liberty³ 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 Commission 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.

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
+ Elverson¹³ Bet I will
surprise Clara.¹⁴

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. Springs¹⁵ 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 amnot 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

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"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.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 Banks¹⁸
and the water is light
blue. On detail to-day.

¹⁶ Victrola, a brand of phonograph machine.

¹⁷ "For fair," slang for "for sure."

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 zone¹⁹
now 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 Liverpool²⁰
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 "Tommys."²¹ at 2.15
we left camp and at
7 PM are put on board

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.

²⁰ Liverpool, England.

²¹ A slang term for British soldiers.

transport for Havre, Fr.²²
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.²³

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.

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
Neufchateau²⁴ 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 Sorcy²⁵ 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

Detail²⁶ on light R.R. {railroad}
handling ties²⁷ and
supplies. I am pretty
sick, the altitude
and climate is the
cause I suppose.
We expect to leave
Sorcy soon for parts

²⁴ Neufchateau, France.

²⁵ Sorcy-Saint-Martin, France.

²⁶ Detail, when a unit of men is sent to work.

²⁷ Railroad ties.

unknown.²⁸

Tues Aug {September} 10
Visited Salvation Army²⁹
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 Montsec³⁰
and saw the taking
of it, the beginning
of the fall of Metz,³¹ I
believe it to be.
We are on the Lorraine
Section of the Hindenberg
Line.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 Bernecourt³³ close
to Mont Seck. Here I
meet Walter, Michael,
Yarnall, Holmes, Hunt.³⁴

²⁸ Soldiers were given limited information in the interest of maintaining secrecy.

²⁹ Similar to the YMCA, the Salvation Army offered a recreational haven for soldiers to eat and enjoy.

³⁰ Montsec, France.

³¹ Metz, France.

³² The Hindenburg Line, German's defensive position along the Aisne River.

³³ Bernécourt, France.

Some talks we had
about Swarthmore.³⁵
They are in French
Mortar Battery.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 Pannes³⁷
We leave our quarters
in German buildings
I am office orderly³⁸ and
serve in Officer's mess.³⁹

Monday Sept 16
My duties as orderly
consist mainly in
serving Officer's Mess, I
get lots to eat. Got shelled⁴⁰
for fair this evening
hope it doesn't last
long.

Tuesday Sept 17
Sgt. {Sergeant} Barton⁴¹ and Corp⁴²
DeWalt hurt by shell that
killed one of our mules,⁴³ we

³⁴ Likely classmates from Landis's time at Swarthmore.

³⁵ Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA, where David Landis attended and graduated from.

³⁶ Men who volunteered to fight with the French before the United States entered the war.

³⁷ Pannes, France (although Germany occupied at this time).

³⁸ A soldier who works for the Officers.

³⁹ A mess hall is a dining hall, where soldiers eat.

⁴⁰ Shot at by artillery.

⁴¹ Possibly Frank D. Barton.

⁴² Corporal, a rank between Private and Specialist in the U.S. Army.

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 Hdqrs {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 Auzeville⁴⁷ and very little to eat, but Fox⁴⁸ 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} Dump⁴⁹ at Dombasle⁵⁰ 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.

⁴⁷ Auzéville en Argonne.

⁴⁸ Clyde P. Fox.

⁴⁹ A supply or ammunition dump, or a place to store supplies.

⁵⁰ Dombasle-en-Argonne.

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 powers⁵⁸ 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 reply⁵⁹ 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

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 Talty⁶⁰
Pacquotte⁶¹ 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
Void⁶² 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

⁶⁰ Andrew F. Talty.

⁶¹ Harry W. Pacquotte.

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} Ferguson⁶³ ordered me
out to Ivoir⁶⁴ to do some
sterilizing water with chlorine
for Lieut⁶⁵ Jewell. We got
out there at 11 P.M.
Spent a fine night.

Argonne Front
Ivoir Oct 15
Spent the morning showing
guards here how to
chlorinate water and
test it for correct amount.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.

Ivoir. 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

⁶³ Ray A. Ferguson.

⁶⁴ Ivoir, France.

⁶⁵ Lieutenant, the lowest rank of officer in the U.S. Army, just below Captain.

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.

Ivoir, Fri Oct 18
Reds Palmer⁶⁷ went to
"Y" at Epinonville⁶⁸ 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. Capt⁶⁹ Bierman
came out this P.M. and
gave me hell for not
coming in to Hdqrs {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 Hdqrs {Headquarters} for
new measuring bottle
and got one. Also got
winter underwear and
socks. Mailed letter

⁶⁷ Ralph R. Palmer, whose nickname was "Reds."

⁶⁸ Epinonville, France.

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 chlorinating 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 Boche⁷⁰
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's⁷² 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 Hdqrs {Headquarters} for
dope. Hdqrs {Headquarters} moved to Argies.⁷³
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} Bierman⁷⁴ gave me
hell again for not going
after dope.

Sun Oct 27

Nothing doing all day,
simply loaf. There's more
mail up at Hdqrs {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 Hdqrs. {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
ator. 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.⁷⁸
Lots of noise and gun firing.

Fri Nov 8
Only more L. Bulletins⁷⁹
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.⁸⁰ and
we had a long talk
about Manassas.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
chlorinator and showed

⁷⁸ Germany would not officially surrender until the Armistice, November 11, 1918.

⁷⁹ A publication created by the Committee on Public Information (CPI) under the direction of George Creel.

⁸⁰ Possibly a baseball team, for which Garland Hoe was the catcher.

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 Ivoir 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 Nouart⁸⁴ 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

⁸⁴ Nouart, France.

into two parts as is
Co {Company} "C". Each detail is
going with a division⁸⁵

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.

Raunoncourt⁸⁶
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.⁸⁷

We are now in
Belgium this town
Raunoncourt is
right on line between
France + Belgium.
Lots of "dum-dum" bullets⁸⁸
to be seen. First
snow of year, only
slight flurries.

Raunoncourt
Oct {November} 19
We were formed into
squads 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 Virton⁸⁹ where St. Joseph's
College was being used
as a hospital for Boche,
thru Dampacourt and
Ethe and St. Leger⁹⁰ all
small towns. Virton
is quite a little city
with a water system and
sewage. We stopped for
night at Mieux-le-laine⁹¹
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

⁸⁹ 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
Mersch⁹³ 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
Laurain⁹⁴ and I tried to
get the jam for Lt. {Lieutenant} Ericsson.
We have had fine
quarters so far and

⁹³ Mersch, Luxembourg.

⁹⁴ Bertuf E. Laurain.

pretty good meals.

Rollingen⁹⁵

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.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

⁹⁵ Rollingen, Luxembourg.

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 ~~ille~~g 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 Oberweiler, Germany

⁹⁸ Schönecken, Germany.

⁹⁹ German military decoration.

We didnt 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.
Geroldstein 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

Aderfarhof¹⁰⁰ and its a
very small town.

Arweiler¹⁰¹ 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.

¹⁰⁰ Very small town in Germany.

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 Scneider'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 Rhine¹⁰² 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
Bendorf¹⁰³ 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~~ Nerundorf¹⁰⁴ 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 Coblenz¹⁰⁵ where we take the trains for Sorcy I believe. We travelled all day and passed thru Luxembourg City¹⁰⁶ and Metz¹⁰⁷ 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.

¹⁰⁵ Koblenz, Germany.

¹⁰⁶ Luxembourg City, the capital of Luxembourg.

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 Cooper¹⁰⁸ shows
up, had not seen
him since we
landed. Resquadded
the company. No drill

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"¹⁰⁹ in the
morning. Sgt. {Sergeant} McElwee¹¹⁰
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 Landes¹¹¹ that's
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.

¹⁰⁹ Void-Vacon, France, the headquarters of the division.

¹¹⁰ Gilber L. McElwee

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

¹¹² Rail 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} Stevenson¹¹³
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}
Quinette¹¹⁴ 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 Burger¹¹⁵ 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

¹¹⁴ Charles E. Quinette.

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.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

¹¹⁶ Francs, French currency.

so we can't go. The [barrack]
passed in Review before
Capt. Horton at Bourq.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's¹¹⁸) 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. Andre¹¹⁹
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

¹¹⁷ Bourg, France.

¹¹⁸ The U.S. Army bought significant amounts of chocolate from the Hershey company to include in rations sent to the soldiers.

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.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.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.¹²² Got mail and
I got letter from Harry.

Sunday Jan 19
Washed up my belt and

¹²⁰ Promoted to Private First Class, the rank above Private and below Corporal.

¹²¹ Armed Merchant Cruiser, a ship transporting cargo that is also equipped with guns for protection against Germans.

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 Embarkation. 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. Brewer¹²⁶, Rucker¹²⁷, +
Braunsdorf¹²⁸ are among
them.

Wed. Feb 5
Rucker and some of
the would be interpreters
were cross-examined by
Colonel¹²⁹ 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 Plumet and issued
at Retreat.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.

¹²⁶ Addison P. Brewer.

¹²⁷ Leonard A. Rucker.

¹²⁸ Robert O. Braunsdorf.

¹²⁹ Colonel, a rank between Lieutenant colonel and Brigadier General in the U.S. Army.

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 McKinstry¹³¹
for the Rommanian {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

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
Genicart¹³²
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 birthday¹³³ 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. {Embarkation} 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 Pershing¹³⁴ 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

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 an
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 herded {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 March¹³⁹ in
The Great Love¹⁴⁰ 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.

¹³⁹ Mae Marsh, a silent film star.

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.