

1918-1919

Aug. 25—Noon—leave Camp Cody. El Paso – three o'clock

Aug. 26—San Antonio 6 o'clock PM Exercised—Got wet. Aeroplanes.

Aug. 27—Beaumont Texas in morning. All day thru Louisiana—past swamp rice & cotton fields—sugar cane & niggers—Moss covered trees etc. Rain. New Orleans at 7 o'clock. Arrived across river—Fed by R.C. in a warehouse & later marched to YMCA & swim—Entramed [?] at midnight.

Aug. 28—Passed thru Mississippi during night. At Flomatin Ala. in morning. Montgomery – Ala – about noon—we paraded—Atlanta that night but did not detrain.

Aug. 29—Reached Charlotte N. C. about one o'clock & stayed there 2 hrs. & were given liberty

Aug. 30—Washington D. C. no stop except for Red Cross breakfast Baltimore, Maryland Wilmington Delaware and Philadelphia Penn. Big welcome all along the line. Reached Camp Dix at 6 o'clock—

Sept. 7—1:30 P.M. Left Camp Dix on trip to N. Y.

Sept. 9—5:AM—returned to camp.

Sept. 16—Leave Camp Dix for post. Made our get-away about midnight & had a long tiresome march down to the station—Piled into the coaches & slept into New York—jammed in between backs & rifles

Left camp Dix early Monday morning—left 16—3 AM. Marched with heavy equipment to the train—slept into New York—Took ferry from Jersey City around the end of Manhattan & over to Brooklyn. The sight of the skyscrapers in the silvery mist of early morning was one of the loveliest sights I have ever seen.

We were fed by the Red Cross on the dock & then boarded the transport at 10:30 A. M. We were assigned to Deck C—a ventilated & dark place—Late that night banked for the night on the promised deck was Lea. Allen adq. Slept fine—in sight of N. Y. lighted skyscrapers & the illumined statue of Liberty.

Sailed from Brooklyn Left 17 Early in the morning (Tuesday). Had about the greatest part of Monday on the boat at dock. Six aeroplanes—a dryable balloon & a destroyer joined us just outside the bay of N. Y. & accompanied us for half a day. The aeroplanes circled round the boat—back & forth—between the balloon. The destroyer is still with us steaming ahead first on one side & then on another. First sight of porpoises the first day out.

Our new assigned to U Deck near the ships center.

Sept. 18—Wednesday. After a somewhat restless night I awoke in my hammock stiff—only 2 ft. from the ceiling overly warm. Water an intense blue. Our time is spent in over the rail & sleeping.

Along in the middle of the afternoon a fine mist & rain started making it quite disagreeable on deck. Boat drill is held twice a day—at nine & at 4—for the 4 o'clock drill, the eight of us who go up to our fosh beside life boat 9 A on the top deck, won rain coat.

On the evening the rain ceased & we sat on the top deck, listened to the band & sang. "Where do we go from here, boys" proved the most popular song. Played by the band. For quite a while our destroyer was lost to our view in the fog but we finally located it by its light signals. The boat by night is quite a mysterious place with all lights extinguished—Even this it is cloudy, the sea surface shined with a sort of subtle glow—most fascinating to me.

The English crew of H. M. S. Neston is an interesting bunch. Two red headed fries who chase around the ship boys posted attract lots of attention.

Sept. 19—Thurs__

I was on duty in the office of the commanding officer all day. Listed near a frost hole where I could get the air & incidentally a good view of the sea, I took complaints from all parts of the ship. Loft Jof. Boat drill at 10 & 4—Not feeling particularly well. Late in the afternoon we sighted two hydroplanes to the west—indicating our nearness to the coast. Later in the evening the flash of a lighthouse could be seen.

Sept. 20—Not feeling well—Spanish fever breaking out among the men. About ten o'clock we sighted land & just at noon we steamed into the harbor of Sidney, Nova Scotia. The harbor was screened with nets & we entered thru an opening in this screen. There were many boats of all kinds in the harbor most of them flying the English flag.

I was in the office a greater part of the day altho I was far from well.

Sept 21.—All day at anchor in the harbor of Sidney. Sick all day Int did not give in—The hospital was crowded.

Sept. 22—Better—still at anchor. During the morning the boats began leaving. I hear that 64 ships will leave today. At noon they transferred the sick men to a hospital at Sidney. Our lose Jack & Worth.

At 2:30 P. M. our left, picking up a convoy when will outside the harbor. There are three boats ahead of us & one behind. These are not troop ships but serve as destroyers. There is one tiny sub chaser way up ahead which from our boat looks like a submarine.

Sept. 23—(Monday)

A fine Morning—I am feeling much better. The ship is flowing three big waves—at least the largest so far. & the water is an intense green. Yesterday we saw dolphins. We sailed all day long in the Gulf of St. Lawrence—The shores of Newfoundland were on our right all of the day.

Sept. 24—Woke up to find that we had gone thru the Belle Isle Straits & were now outside in the Atlantic. We have our full convoy now—15 ships all told and they make quite a splendid sight. Our troop ship is in the center & the other 14 boats are all around it. We got the benefit of the ocean swell for the first time & my stomach is not feeling good.

Sighted several icebergs and the ships fired up them. Very interesting. The bergs showed up dazzling white in the sun. At night, search lights were thrown upon air

Sept. 25—Wednesday—I left C. R. for Camp Cody. A month ago today left Camp Cody for Camp Dix. Not feeling good all day.

Sept. 26—Still on the blink

Sept. 27—Better—but am having trouble with feet.

Sept. 28—Feet still bothering me but seasickness good. Sea much calmer & the boat is riding much more steady. The nurses from the hospital ship just ahead of us signal to us. Will be glad when we land.

Oct. 2-- Landed at Liverpool at 10:30—Took train to Nottyash camp.

Oct. 6—Left Nottyash in the morning for an all day ride across England—Went to Southampton—Hard march at night & bed at

Oct. 7—Left Southampton after dinner—marched to docks—Left for France at 5 P.M.—a rough ride—alarm in night

Oct. 8—Landed in France at 7 AM. Marched to nest camp at Le Havre—My feet bothering me considerably—

Oct. 10—Left Le Havre—destination unknown. 2 days & 2 nights brought us to St. Medard.

Oct. 12—St Medard in afternoon—raining—Quartered in old chanson which interests me immensely—a circular stone one of its chief attractions—old black walnut & mahogany furniture enormous trees & trees covered with ivy in long hanging ropes—garden once a lovely place—old gardener at work, tiny cottages at gateway forming part of wall. If the chateau is not haunted it ought to be as it seems to me an ideal place for ghosts.

October 19—(Sat) Campbell & I go to Bordeaux—a wonderful city—good time

Oct. 21--- My birthday—to Bordeaux again—this time with Lieuts. Arnold & Wilsm

Oct. 25—To Bordeaux until Lt. Berry—as interpreter, we took in the Roman remains.

Oct. 26—Visited Chateau de Montesquieu with Maj. Robbins & Lt. Arnold—As I think of it now it seems like a dream. Such splendor I had believed existed only in books. We saw the room in which Montesquieu worked & lived—saw his magnificent library of 10000 volumes—his old paintings etc. The arrangement of rooms & passageways was most bewildering & alluring. The oak paneled dining room was especially attractive—Golden tapestries—5 magnificent specimens—worn stone floors—tarnished pillars to support ceiling in hallway—passageway in wall itself—moat around Chateau.
..... a visit I shall never forget. One of the doors of Montesquieu was with Lafayette in America. Over the mammoth hearth in the library was a strange archaic decoration that confused me greatly.

Lon Diem surtout aime d'amour extreme
Et ton proclaim anise comme tor meme

An inscription to the left of the chimney in the Chateau de Montesquieu

Oct. 29—Visited the Chateau again—this time with Lt. Nevy & the detachment. We marched to La Brede—ate dinner at open air cap & then proceeded to the Chateau. The countess received us very graciously. This time we were permitted to ascend the old tower up one of the most narrow staircases imaginable. At two different landings there were fireplaces.

Also we saw the entrance in the wall from Montesquieu chamber that led down to the dungeon & still farther away underground to another chateau.

Nov. 6—Left St. Medard—rainy—Destination unknown. All the village down to see us off.

Nov. 7—About 5 P.M.

Reached Le Mana & marched three miles to the American forwarding camp. Pitch damp rain & mud__ all tired out. Pitched shelter tents in darkness—two nights in this camp—conditions very bad. Rumor that we were going to front every hour or so.

Nov. 9—The afternoon left the camp for Gen. Allen quarters in a chateau on the other side of Town. Loitered in haymow.

Nov. 10—Went to Cathedral of Le Mans with Lt. Berry. A very lovely building of imposing proportions. Service very elaborate & impressive

Nov. 11—The Armistice signed! The whole town was on the streets at night. Thousands of French & allied flags everywhere. I have never seen such a demonstration. Pfaff, I & Lt. Berry were down town late. The population, delirious, the cafes jammed with enthusiasts.

Sky rockets made the night gay & wine made the people gayer. Parades of arm-locked enthusiasts crossed the big public square in all directions—singing patriotic airs. France certainly celebrated her victory in the grand style. And her debt's America, was shown in the homage paid to American soldiers.

Nov. 15—(Fri) Left Le Mans in auto with Gen. Allen. Lt. Arnold & Eslgin to travel to Langres. Stopped at Montargis the first night out—a city of 12000—129 bridges—stopped at Hotel de France. A fine sleep in a regular bed. Second night was spent at Loyes. Stayed at Hotel de Commerce.—Reached Langer about 2 o'clock of the 17th. Eslgin & I are quartered in the attic of a barracks building, formerly used as training quarters for the French army. A cold night without a bed tick.

The first day out from Le Mans we passed thru Orleans—memorable on account of Joan of Arc association. We stopped long enough to buy posh cards & get gasoline. Altogether, the trip overland across Central France was a delight in every respect. The roads were like boulevards—Only in the of army camps were thru bad roads. Many of the towns thru which we passed were the places for French troops. The second day out we met a group of seven aeroplanes flying in formation.

The quality of the soil in this section of France around Langres is very poor—filled with rocks & not cultivated to any extent. The land is very high & our road for several miles followed the tops of the hills, affording a wonderful view—the winding white roads of France stretched in all directions but the country is not so thickly villaged as that around Bordeaux. Langres is built on the top of a high plateau overlooking the valley of the Marne for miles & miles. The city is very strongly fortified, not ruly with walls but with extensive outer forts & moats. A cog railway leads from the R.R. station to the town. Inside the walls a perfect maze of streets inlaid out—quite confusing at time but extremely interesting. The cathedral is especially lovely inside.

At Loyes—on the night of the sixteenth, attended a French vaudeville & moving-picture show. Stayed in a circular theatre or circus—Everyone leaves his hat on—Smoking permitted—Hundreds of French soldier in attendance.

At Le Mans—we lived at Chateau les Ormeaux, Reu St—Oblin, beyond the place de Jacobin

Nov. 17—Reached Langres.

Nov.—Day before Thanksgiving. Gen. Allen & Eslgin with the general's baggage left Langres—the general having been assigned to the 28th div. With Hq. At Haudecourt in the St. Nuhel Sector. The day was rainy & misty & the ride was not pleasant. Army camps became thicker as we neared the front—the road was camouflaged in several places—At length we began to pass three villages showing the effect of shell fire--& finally into the fighting zone—there villages in ruins & finally into the trenches—first the American trenches—There across no mans land & across the German trenches near Mt. Sec. It grew dark rapidly & it was difficult to see—but the water—filled shell holes were in evidence everywhere—also the German dig outs. Reached Heudecourt about 6 o'clock—the town is in ruins—Got supper at an office mess—Eslgin & I are sleeping in a deserted room—on the floor—the general very kindly let us use his bed-rol as he is in a bed in a room that had been occupied by German offices for nearly 4 yrs. I talked with an old lady who had lived here all that time. She says that the Bosche fear the Americans.

Thanksgiving—A rather cheerless day. Ate dinner in the rain—standing up—with my mens kit resting on the windowsill of the ruins of a house—very cold & disagreeable after dinner we drove to Pannes—the Hq of the 56th Brigade to which Gen. Allen is now assigned. Are quite comfortable quartered in buildings that had been used by German officers for over 3 yrs.—Plenty to do—build fires, clean rooms etc.

Nov. 29—Took auto trip with the general—on a tour of some of the near by ruined Towns—all of them absolutely wrecked—everything in confusion & disorder. Equipment of every description scattered about throughout the ruins—very muddy. We pick up souvenirs—go thru German bomb-proof shelters on the hillside—deep under ground—constructed of concrete—sleeping quarters for men, now for rats. Fields fitted all over with shell craters.

Dec. 8—Took auto trip to Gorg in Lorraine—Across the fighting area, where everything was in ruins into Lorraine where the towns were untouched by shell fire—The inhabitants of Gorg speak both French & German. We secured several Hun helmets from immense piles of them in the streets—Also I bought some German decorations & buttons from some other people they would rather have Tobacco than money. On our return trip we passed many German graves of the war of 1870—also German monuments. One of them represented a German officer with arm outstretched & in the hand some enterprising person had stuck a big French flag!

Dec. 11—Trip to Loul. A rainy day, Lt. Arnold I, Esigin, & one of the other men here made the trip by auto. I secured an Italian star & a new French button. Loul an interesting town—surrounded by forts, moats, gates, etc. Dinner at YMCA. 3 Francs. Back at Pannes at 6 P.M. Passed scores of cemeteries en route—Negro troops repairing roads.

Dec. 13—Friday__ Like all recent days, it is raining & the wind is blowing the fine rain in sheets across the valley. One can barely make out the ruined buildings across the creek—The roads are even more muddy than ever & the stream below us is well on its way to become a river. What an event—should the sun break thru for 5 minutes!

Dec. 18—Still raining & the little creek still running high.

Dec. 21—Sat—The general is at Loul & Nancy all day & I spend the greater part of the time counting up experiences. Am only 2 episodes behind my schedule of one every day since Dec. 1st. Weather still cloudy.

Dec. 25—Xmas—An auto ride until the general to Braumont to see Lt. Col. Sterricker who is stationed there. Back at Pannes just in time for dinner at 3 o'clock—big feed—wrote letters by evening.

Jan 1st—At the interval between Xmas & New Years I spent much time in working New Years Day—Still at Pannes.

Jan. 6—We leave Pannes at 8 AM in trucks—moving to some point south of Loul. The whole division is moving. I rode in the general's car the first day—with Coguette the new dog—first night at Jouey ... le Cotes—a small village—Eslgin & I slept on the wooden floor behind Message Center which was in the curate house. Bed warm but hard. The general is very comfortably quartered about a block away—

Jan. 7—We moved at 7:45 A.M. Rode in big truck with dog. A splendid day—enjoyed ride over very beautiful country not materially damaged by the war—Reached Ourches at 10:30 A.M. Road for a great way covered by water. The general isin a very fine room. People are refugees from Heudecourt. Ate dinner with a family of refugees from St. Miniel—Eggs—jollators French food, salad milk & coffee. Old man warms shoes with live coals. Aviatim field nearby—air filled with Machines—Le movie show at aviatim you can in evening then an hour with French people talking French. Eslgin & I have a good bed--

Jan. 8—Left at 8:30—fine ride—valley flooded in many places—route there Vaucouleurs. Reached Lailloncourt at 10:30. Quartered in the magnificent Chateau de Mont bras.

Jan. 12—Sunday—a cold raw day—rainy & a little snow—Rec'd. a bunch of mail from America—also a couple of letters from Franne—wrote these letters myself—also some episodes—worked in general's room most of the day as he was over at the “Club”.

Jan. 15—An auto ride over to the old fort de Pagny & about 4 miles from the chateau. Prowled about the fort & late watched the troops pass in review—all in the raw & mist—bands etc. Unforgettable picture of the hundreds of soldiers in the mist. Walked back to Lilloncourt with the general. Pay day—271 & Francs!

Jan. 19—Walk to Manay su with general—in morning.

Jan. 20—Auto to Colombey le Idle

Jan. 22—Finished reading John Galsworthy “The Freelanders” characters of Neddu, Derek & Felex I shall never forget—a good book—Cold cloudy day.

27—Snow—about an inch & a quarter of it! Weather quite cold. We kick football. VBalley of indeed a delight in its white covering.

Feb. 7—An all-day trip to Contrexeville to getFord Car—blizzard—cold—ate dinner at Neufemateau at Red Cross Hat near depot. Fine winding road—tree-lined from Neufchateau to Contrexeville—Beautiful country. Coming back roads were badly covered by drifts & car skidded a good deal. Very cold.

Feb. 9—(Sunday)—Very cold—

Sunday, Feb. 23—Received order to go to Montpellier to University. Genl. Allen still away on his trip into Germany. Arrived that night.

Monday Feb. 24—Left late in afternoon by auto for Loul. Ate supper there with Lt. Morris who is on his way to Paris & Nice, French Lt. Alto ac—compained us. Left at 7:44 for Paris—Rode first class. Arrived Paris—

Feb. 25—at 6A.M. Raining. Too taxi for having arrived atchecked pack—Had from 6AM to 2:10 to “do” the big city. Walked all the time. I ate breakfast at Red Cross Canteen—Crossed river, walked along quais to quai Voltaiu where I discovered that Monique had moved. Found here on Rue Megierls after a little difficulty. Her mother remembered me but Monique not up yet. So I walked over to Luxembourg gardens—Museum closed—Went to Pantheon—also closed—enjoyed Latin quails—Back to see Monique—a delightful little visit with a delightful girl—was there about ¾ hr. Walked across river by Pont Royal through Louvre—(also closed) Down the Rue de Revoli—across Pont—visited Notre Dame Cathedral—then a slow “stroll” in the rain back to station. Met Vaughn of Art Institute & ate dinner with him at Red Cross Canteen. Boarded train for Nice at 2:10—Very crowded.

Feb. 26—Arrived in Asrignon 3 AM after a long tiresome ride—most of the way standing up. Stayed in depot with a bunch of French soldiers until 8:40—convoyed antics of a drunken soldier. Train late in leaving. Character of the county entirely different—Mountains – flowering trees etc. – Blue Sky! Passed three mines—a very beautiful city—Arrived in Montpellier exactly at noon- that room I was assigned to was taken—was then sent to 4 Rue Rambaud—everything satisfactory. Ate at Restaurant that night.

Feb. 27-28—Spent all the time looking up rooms for officer in charge.

Mch. 1st & 2nd—Cloudy weather: spent both days looking at rooms.

Mch. 3—Monday—tramped the town over—still hunting rooms—finished at noon. After dinner went with clough to Medical Museum—very instructor. In the evening took in the big Symphony Concert at the Grand Theatre—Seats 2f. 50. downstairs very good. Program fine & enjoyable. Home at midnight.

Tuesday, Mch. 4—Took a tub bath! Plenty of hot water! After dinner purchased French grammars & spent afternoon in my room.

Mch. 5—Worked in morning for Capt. Morgan—to Y.M.C.A. in afternoon & my room.

Mch. 6—Saw Prof. Plaisarce regarding attended Art School in morning model failed to appear. In afternoon at 4:45 went to Prof. Delcourts class in Eng. Lit. Enjoyable hour. French girls did not like translating French into English when Americans were around.

Mch. 7—Friday—Small boy model at the art class—very good. I get a fairly good start. Like the teacher—Mossier Boisson. Clear weather—very agreeable after 5 days of rain & cloud.

Sunday, Mch. 9—Ate dinner with Stoessel & family__ good meal which I enjoyed. At two oclock went to Music Fabre where I passed two pleasant hours. The excellent drawings of Cabanel delighted me. He is a superb draughtsman. At 4:15 met Stoessel & Noel & we went to visitBouisson, painter whom I had met the Sunday before— Coffee served—very enjoyable time. With little “France”—a jolly & beautiful youngsters sing at Home in evening.

Wed. Mch. 11—On guard from 8 till 12:20—ate hurried dinner. Bath in afternoon- On duty at Petel Lyue in evening.

Mch. 13—Ate dinner with de Cartelman

Mch. 15—Ate dinner again with the de Cartelmans—met father—in afternoon after class, went to their cousins “Lerre”—French party, to a etc. Music—in evening went to theatre with the family—“English” as she is spoke”—Good.

Mch. 19—In afternoon went to pay my “Visit de digestem” to Yronna Borleau de Cortelman. A walk into the country was readily assented to & in company with the two girls I walked leisurely out along the road to Palavas. We gathered as many as we could carry. Tea served on return.

Sunday Mch. 23—Toin afternoon and then with 3 others to Mr. Boissons home where we enjoyed his pictures, had tea & cakes, listened to music & in general had a fine time.

Sat. Mch 29—To M. Leenhardt for dinner—with Van landing her a very fine meal with a fine family

Sunday 30—To Museum & then to cinema with Stoessel & Noelle

April 2nd—To Cartelman & Mt Plaisen with M. Bouisson—“Painted the town”

Sunday April 6—Review on the Esplanade & Service in Cathedral which I escaped.

April 7—In afternoon to Celleneuve with Bouisson—Gay day—Have bad cold & feel grippy

April 9—To Cartelman again—finally good sketch

April 11—To Celleneuve—got sketch of bridges with fishes

April 13—Sunday—To church with Noelle—in afternoon we went to Rimbraud with Jules Rowed on the river a while – very enjoyable

April 14—To Celleneuve again in afternoon—weather bad. We were unable to get anything. Boisson's father & little France went along.

April 16—To Rimbraud with B—along river—bad windy day—sketch not good.

April 17—On guard.

April 18—Wrote letters in morning. In afternoon went alone out to Celleneuve along river & got good sketch of poplars.

April 19—Again to Celleneuve. Better sketch of poplars—

April 21—To _____ East of town.with Boisson, Stoessel & Bonpey. Whole day—

April 22—Out near Montpirela with B.....

April 23—Same place alone—

April 24—Left for Nimes at 7:15—arrived 9:30—Visited gardens Tower at 1:30 took train for Ponst du Gard. Returned at 5:00 to Cinema in evening—

April 25—Visited Arina & museum—Back to Mont at noon—Good trip

April 27—Sunday—To museum with Noelle—then long walk to Lodive Octroi & back

April 30—To U.M. tea & dance with faculty—to dinner at noon at Castelnaus

May 3—Sat. To Castelnaus again—this time with Neuller

May 4—Sunday—To Aigues—Mont with Stoessel & Noelle

Monday, May 5—To Palevas in afternoon with Boisson

May 15—To Cette—

June 13—To Palavas L.....

June 8-9—To Clermont & M.....

June 18-21—3 days to Bordeaux

June 30—Leave Montpellier for St. Nozaine

July 3—Reach St Nazaire

July 9—Leave late in evening for boat—Board at 1 o'clock morning of July 10

July 23—Reach U.S. Camp Stewart V.....

July 27—Left New post news for Camp Dodge—Late in afternoon

July 28—Then Cumberland and Gof & into west Va. & Kentucky Cincinnati Ohio

July 29—In Chicago—In morning —Camp Dodge late in afternoon

July 30—Demobilized at noon. Home at midnight.

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