I shall start once more to keep a diary of some sort. When last we were here I had kept up to that time, but I became discouraged and gave it up. I shall record the more interesting things from now on however. I hope for better luck. First to recollect I write a sketch of the last few months for my own pleasure.

Our last weeks in Belgium were not very exciting but were interesting. Woluwe seemed to be taking the place of Elverdun, in the eye of the French. The town got a dozen or more good shells each day. The church was badly wrecked, the houses in some of the a sad bloom of ruins. About the usual amount of shelling went on on the roads.

To neglect to speak of my hours in jail would be to press a most entertaining row with...
the Mud chief of 1/89. Kenya. Hinder were very active assistants
with Sponges in the back ground any one to break the back head. Useless to write details. He
was abusing the ambulance service
for his own personal sides and arrived
here because I feared to give him a
car. He learned later than he was
removed from the post so that ends
it. Better luck to them next time.
About this time we were very
much relied by the rather way Balbi
was found very protected but that new
and change matters, for Balbi a
tree fellow has been a squad leader.
Salsbury took charge, turned out
to be a very efficient man. About
Dec 17th we were finally relieved
from me for a day after shopping in
moment at Bussulun to say
good buy to Mrs Turner back to
Sings who had just recovered from
his accident and went on to Dublin.
where we stayed (at Rosendale) for several days. I occupied the time in going about saying good-bye to the 11 months in that part of the world had made some pleasant through simple acquaintances. The 1 should not forget to maintain the terms used in Copenhagen by our rusty Hotel friends. Little Elder was quite unhappy. I shall certainly have to get back there some day.

Blanche, the patron-Mario, Alice, Virginia, the family, and of course, the red-headed Schoellkopf. Good hearts, they all have. At last the 21st or 22nd of off we started. Via Bologna-Calais we went to Abbeville where we spent the first night in the caserne. Half the time could not go up the hills and about all of us had forgotten how to drive on hills but on the went. I had here our first taste of mountaine, and as we had to leave our cars in the public sq. We took turns of an hour each and as there fell well toward morning it was not so bad.
Never the less we prefer to work a sleep but not to play watchman. Next morning we were off at a fine hour and due to reach Beaumain by lunch but fortune turned her face, for the circumstances for aside from a little trouble which I soon found to be the mixture - of having the pads - I was along splendidly and as we had a rule of passing on the hills rather than going into fields I wound up at St. Castor. Not having started out the 12th hour was due to good work but about three places were gained because of car ahead having the trouble. About every half hour the line, who was leading would stop behind him and would draw up five or six of the 300 people while gradually the others would trail in. Up Chateau Mon all would finally come along but somewhere between 11 & 12 o'clock some of us stopped on a beautiful hill overlooking a splendid valley and the town of Poit. It was easy to see that Beaumain was out of the question for lunch so we the
René & Salutary went ahead to see what hopes Poly held forth while we waited on the hill. And we enjoyed the view. It was indeed a pleasure to see hills & valleys - some trees & all the attractive things that would go with such country. Many times on the trip my throat felt just a bit hot, but this was an unusually beautiful view. Springing into our horizons Cleber suggested to Belgium & northern France that made us unused to other thymes, but the enjoyment was all the more keen. Dams & canals are free and I cannot say that I ever felt the monotony of a whole town which froze & glistened with frost - but the views made me realize that often all the more varied beauty are the best.

Our was proved to be a long one from contemplating the scenery we began a more serious one of wandering about lunch. Eating is reduced to very simple proportions but we look to it...
with more interest than I can recall in civil life. Some one bought an a
boy of bully bug a tongue or some such stuff from other "cache" crackers
came with us we were thus able to calm the three of our growlings. So a car
here a car there dropped in. All sorts
of trouble seemed to be in the air. Then
at last the supply car came the whole
story was told and found Enos traced
back with a burnt bearing. Enos and I
came along with the whole story of an
entire car gone. We'd been cheer as
an example to a new heating apparatus
and it over heated. Then he finally realized
that there was something amiss it was
too late practically the entire car
was aflame. He lost everything. Read
stories of souvenirs, cigarettes and all his
clothing. At last we all got on to Poix
except Enos. At lunch it was decided
to send back the "mech" to fix up Enos
and send him on them to continue on to
take what ever was worth taking of
Foursands car (the motor seemed to be cuculent) + then on to Toberville where I stopped to say. Browns car had been left as unfit for service. Then they were to fix it up with Foursands motor at best they could come on to B. So we started off from A. v arrived at B. about dusk without further accident of moment. One night we spent in the casern. Dinner we have in the same place that we stopped on the occasion that we went through on Jan 1915. Of that squad I was the only remaking one. Four new cars met us on our arrival. They were quite a contrast to our old ones + were wrecked machines. Electric lights + doors of a new + improved model. In fact quite Ford de luxe. The following day (the 23rd) we moved to a cantonment in the suburb of Massénil. Here we were lodged in a school building + for dining room Le Blanc found us a splendid hall used for weddings etc.
Xmas we celebrated here and had a splendid dinner the gift of Joe Hyde's wife. The following days were all busy, working on the cars and getting into shape to go out with a real action. New Year's we also celebrated, very merry.

The heads the next day. Our work did not prevent us walking within a few minutes of the cathedral and old interesting streets of the town received their due attention.

Jan. 21 I started off for Paris with my Cold 92 and Robert Blevin with Croux in their car. Friendly with the staff car an Townsend with the Renault. No incident on the way of note. It had been nearly seven months since my last trip to Paris and I had been about as depressed as low tide for weeks. The sight of L'oiseau as we turned the corner coming in from the direction of St. Germain gave me a momentary lift which unfortunately did not last very long—why go back over such trouble? However, I only stayed one
day the next started (Jan. 1st) back with a new car & kind of. The
work went on as usual until ships for a regular "ferry" on Jan.
Last day of my term. I heard the section had moved and got orders to return to
as Pont St. Maxence. Arrived there about
9 p.m. The town was black as midnight
no one seemed to know much. Finally,
I found the Zouave who had also been
returning from a "fermi" total
provided about a franc which was supposed
to be our section only to find it to be
an English one. By knockin' on the doors
facing the park we found a good woman
who informed us that our 85 had gone
off that same morning so we knew we
had only to find a place to sleep a wait
for daylight. We located a hotel near
the gang where by good chance we found
our man had stayed. They could not
offer us any hospitality however for
the Eng. arrived that afternoon and
filled the house to overflowing. The
The station was there and we accepted it as the best offer. It was cold without blankets and snow came all the same. The next day we located the Subs Base and received an order to rejoin our section by means of the postal service. We had time to wander about the town a bit and see the sights, which consisted largely in the ruined bridges blown up by the Germans. On a chateau.

After lunch we started off by a road which took in half of France. It seemed we finally reached Choisy au Bac. To the embarrassment I found the section located in the chateau of the Marquis de Villeneuve. The chateau was the property of the Marquis de Chatelet, which was just back of the chateau made ideal surroundings with the house just a short distance away. The building itself was most unhappy and all the effect the tenants had left. From an upper window I saw a small yard to the town.

The stream was covered with a blanket of pink mist that was all but theatrical in its effect. The idea of...
barg in a chateau was quite refreshing
but the actual comfort was small. We
were lodged up 112 steps in the servants'
quartres & half a subd several kilometers
away for water even for washing
purparts. I only lasted a couple of days
and I did not regret it when about Jan 28th
we were ordered to Janjovy. Here we were
attached to the 121st Div - 35 Corps G. A. M.
Our billet was more like a tent than an
improvement over the chateau. Even if it
was a dirty sort of a town hall, Janjovy, is
just 18 1/2 kilom from Compiegne & the
same distance from Rosnows. The part
of the village we were in was on the main
road & just on the border of the Nuns. An
extent part of the village are covered
high up on the hills & separated and from
the lower part & from each other. They
are more picturesque. The Boch passed
through in the early days but did little
damage. Stole a lot of small things &
broke windows and shot a Tommy
who trailed behind the British
was caught. The valley and surrounding hills of the Acquitaine district were beautiful. Our work took us on the right bank of the river to our main post Vic-le-Mer, where we kept three cars which changed every six hours. This work was the most interesting.

We had a multitude of posts most of which were dangerous enough to keep in touch with the roads while far we had hard work. From Blaye to Sarsco at one end of our district a fortunado at the other we had a number of places.

Vingré was perhaps the nicest. Here the post was only with the staff and splendidly sheltered though it was located as one had to pass a bit of dangerous road and a stretch after where trucks were abandoned. Sarsco was almost a complete wreck. The post at Labargue was in the barn of a château. A splendid old place it was and certainly the château was fond of horses. to go for the tennis was well arranged. It is a splendid little town. We were lodged in the barn of a château and all along that stretch we
chateaux of splendid style. Lovely parks
7
through view over the trees to make
them lose the streak in feeling. Every thing
was still except but almost nothing
demolished. Lights at night were usually
flag 9 of course. Many pleasant hours
I passed at Vic a Shope to see it again.
The shelling was an every day affair but
though our stable yard got much, the
barn itself on a two on one. And the
incendiary
Once they got really gay & foul on about 1200
shells but killed very few & gave us
plenty of work however and in the
evacuation of the sugar model of Roche we
earned or at least became the following
very nice letter.

2nd Feb. 1916

Le Medecin ete major 1re cl. Rochefourt
Med. Chef du 3. B. D.

A. M. le Lend Courra S. S. D. A. 1

J'ai l'honneur de vous
fais connaître que pendant toute la
Derniere du dernier bombardement
votre pre
prendre des blessés qu'il a aie a charger avec
plus grande calme donnant ans faire de courage
et de sang fond.
When we arrived at St. Vith, we were very disheartened. One
of the lift boards was discovered to be a furnace, and we had to
proceed with no assistance. The country was superbly beautiful,
with the rolling plains of Coevres
when the ambulance was in a
fine old château. On to St. Vith,
where the beautiful village
view was to be seen. Back to
Ville-Couture a house with certain
charm—a French château.
Viviers another attractive chateau.

Another run took us to Rezons-Sainte-Clotilde. Entry while there was little of note but the surroundings were always worth the looking at. The best view was by Mortfontain from top. Sainte-Clotilde, St. Nicholas, and Perronfonds. The chateau of St. Nicholas is the most imposing chateau seen. Restored it is true but one comes up over the hill from Rezons and sees the vast pile rise out of the barren left a sight well worth going to see. From here we took one badly wounded men to the presbytery where one hospital was in the grand chateau and the other, that of Dr. Carroll, in a hotel. The run through the forest was superb and itself is a little city well worth the visit.

For eye cases we were evacuated to the Chateau of the Comte Bette Well, "L'Obervot." Beautiful park & view but the building itself too ordinary a copy of something.

Mrs. Carroll carries the gratitude.
of a lot of us on one very cold night by
having coffee served to us all.
It was a very thoughtful thing and at
3 a.m. after long cold drives it was
very welcome. About March 1st we
began to notice good signs of activity. Mops
were coming from all sides, heavy
guns rolling up from every direction.
Both F's Bush were making thicker
attacks (coup de main) and it seemed
to fulfill an attack for the following
months.

On one day in March we took
walks. One through the brush over the
hill back of that town was very fine.
The view down the town is very
encompassing.

The New Look Gourmand - White
+ 2 men to the Hatsing commanded by
a friend Capt. Carroll. He had his
guns placed on a sharp hill side
facing between his + his officers quarters.
They were almost catastrophic. The stone
hole is very easily excavated and they
profiles by the face to dry into the face of the hill (it is almost a cliff) and then extend the affair by building out. Thus the channel is cut in the living rock - part of the above is cave while the front is a house. The effect outside is very ugly and outside quite like a Swiss chalet. The roofs are planted with rose bushes to make them2 invisible and one can little gardens - such arrangements as men will make to occupy their idle hours. Benches - gardens alike. The Capt. took us to visit one of the famous quarries which have become famous from the fighting they have been. One wonders how they can ever be taken. Large enough to hide regiments a deep enough to protect them they go for miles. Hundreds of men can comfortably lodge in them. We went in one side of the hill and came out the other. From there we saw the famous "Avenue de Betu" Capt. C. when he arrived decided to establish an observation post in a certain tree.
which, situated on the edge of the hill commanded a splendid view of the Boche positions for kilometers. It featured a dummy with fusiles in its hands on the tree. The Boche were very aware and soon started shelling very heavily. Days passed. The hill was "smashed" the tree with several times and once even a shell passed clean through the dummy. At last the Boche caught one and were quiet. Then the Café had a tree constructed the exact replica of the new shell tower, except only with the difference that its face was hollow and contained shells and connectors. On a favorable night the change was made, in perfect secrecy. They never received them attempts the observer watches all that goes on. Phubes in the observatory told the 4th we were ordered to get Fandy and bill in Canterbury. In our first letter the less said the better. It only lasted two days when we received
in a Dutch class. I'm learning Dutch at the same time.

In the Dutch class, we learn about Dutch culture.

We also learn about Dutch history and language.

After class, we have a snack and a discussion.
The chimney with holes in the wall.
The yard contained a large puddle & the
garden was filthy. Rat we were soon to
learn were in perfect abundance. Only
one bright ray the dining room was excellent.
Our first day we were inspected by the Med.
Air. Cassel. He made a very fine
impression & was very cordial but francophile.
My 2nd Colonial Corps of which the 3rd now
is past Made no mention. Housing has
will take care of that. He left his
impression on us however. We differ.
They are a tough lot. The lower officers
mostly have risen from the ranks and are
have always been professional soldiers. As
soldiers they cannot have equals but as
men they are very satisfactory. The
higher officers are all good can be
described. Among the men now are many
who in ordinary times would never fit
in the Colonials but as a rule they are the
rough & tough element. Rotten proud of the
horrible - work quite tame. Cappie was
the advanced fort when we kept cars
always on duty & there was a good deal of shelling & danger here. The town was a total wreck. Up to the time of the attack on Krier at 20.4 it seemed the town had been immune but when the Germans made their little advance they pretty well seemed Condy or Con since it has been subject to daily flurries of shells. I saw its impact very clearly one night and thought for a while very time had come. About two weeks after we were awakened by a tremendous crashing. I lay a long while but it was hard to understand to sleep. As it seemed very little, we would have been. I got up and went from the door then from the open view port of the window of our room. I watched through a wildly thrilling sight. Several hundreds of shells must have come in and the crashing & whistling was continuous. After just an hour it ceased and going out in the dawn of second next unnatural calm. All the noise only got one man everyone else having been
sheltered. The cause of it all was a "cong de main" the Boche pulled off — successfully unfortunately to the extent of taking about 50 prisoners. Soon the wounded of the front got in. Trouppes were busy. The night before it had been gay also those three nights got us the following.

"Camps' d'armée Civil"
2 Div. — 6 Mai 1916

Au nom du Directeur du Service de Santé du 2nd Corp. d'armée Colonial et à son nom personnel le M. D. du 2nd Corp. d'armée Colonial et à
son nom lui-même le M. D. du 2nd Corp. d'armée Colonial et à

l'emprisonnement dans le Corps avec lequel

Dans la nuit du 27 et 5 Mai 1916 ils ont

Assuré l'écoulement des blessés depuis

de meurtre de Cappy et de l'Ecusson

Emely. Med. Dru du

Prem. Corps du 2nd Div.

Our work at this time was

Avoided between the 3rd and 2nd Divs.

Lasted had been promoted to

Directeur de S.A. du Corps had been
replaced as Div Ch of 3rd by Allan who became our firm friend. He is a splendid type. Has been through the campaign in Cameroun.

These days were rich in inspections. General Baddell of the 3rd came. It was really an honor to be proud of. So far as I know it is the first time a section in the field has been so inspected.

He was able after a few days to largely extend our farm and with me had some very close up to the find trenches. Our little ears were properly able we were confident to do the land v after a little instruction the authorities allowed us to go well up. This was very satisfactory as I felt we were not doing to a small part of what we could do.

Ishmaely has a few good meals tasted some beef which we are about to make and the meat he has been doing we were very successful this week. In Elmswe I got some good pictures.
That fort was a bad one & why some
one did not go in the canal & fail to
see.

Passing by a concrene about 20
lakes, the air, I asked & obtained permission
to take pictures & obtained many good
ones.

The took on "grub" [first] only
Castellin in the receiving room [Cabin]
with the crew off. in train. Castellin
was a very nice chap. Here. At the New
C. r works at St. Vincen. it shell came
right through his frame one day but
exploded in the head so he was not
touched. I always thought I was lucky
not to have. Ever there for as far as
we could we shall passed the place I
usually sat by very few inches.

The S. off. miss was in a
cellar as about every thing else in
the town. There we were safe from all
but firemen. Most of the men were very
nice. Bushel who ministered to us
wants we shall not soon forget. He was
always gay & always scared. I saw a shell fall near he would come back from the kitchen which was above ground with great speed.

The marvin in which we slept was hit every few days but the shells never hurt anybody. The room being on the back was never reached indeed. The church only received two. The second on striking the tower exploding and a hail of shot all over the street & place.

One or two interesting stories can here be here. This is the first time I heard of the fact that the 30 days after the shelling used blank shells for the guns. They had no others. Just to keep up the bluff they off the practice ammunition. This story I have heard since from too many good & varied sources to doubt. One man told of conditions hard to believe now when it was forbidden to fire on the enemy except man
attack. All day we could come and go in plain sight as his shots was fired. Only at night when attacks were made. Frequently the German came off with the month the same. The necessary acts of bad faith which are too familiar to need writing down. Some brought about the present pitiful warfare where to show oneself is to be shot at.

One good story about the Germans absolute blind obedience to duty is interesting. In a "post de coutte" a "carapul" joined by listening to the stories in the German post that he knew one of the men. He called out the answer showed him to be right. In front of him was a German who had worked in Paris with whom they had been very friendly. They came up the parapet had a long talk. They returned the third report to the Colonel who was ordered to try to get the Sr. to dismiss so information could be got. Charged with that mission, he in the following week called on
to his friend who answered that he had reported the incident and was not to hold any more conversation to shoot on sight. The Lt. said you should not shoot an old friend. You are coming over to see you. He said, "called back and show your self I must shoot. The gentleman not believe it possible or get upon the process was killed at once. Even Ferman then remarking on the road, said he would have discharged and that that his friend. This is a bit on this story.

About this time the croix de gare began to come in. We got two to done in the following terms.

2nd Div. Col. G rep. 9 May

Cité à l'Ordre du 1er. Vel. V. White, chef de la 3ème. A. M. No. 1. Le 3 Mai 1916

Charge d'évacuer des blessés d'un village violentement bombardé; a fait preuve de sang-froid, de courage et du plus beau dévouement en chargeant rapidement sa voiture et en la mettant aussitôt en marche ne se souciant guère
poursuivis ses blessis à de nouveaux coups de l'ennemi

1er Corps d'Armée Col. Directeur du Snc de S.
8 mai 1916
Cité à l'Ordre de la 1ère de Snc de S.

White Victor Conducteur
Engagé volontaire à la Snc de S. au
depuis avril 1915. A montré en tout
circumstances beaucoup d'entrain, de
courage et de sang-froid. Ses particularités,
distincte lors de l'attaque allemande par
les gaz de 22 avril, des bombardements de
Dunkerque et pendant les évacuations
des ports de la section de Capit. Dep-
May - 1916

Campbell Joshua conducteur
Engagé volontaire à la Snc de S. au
depuis Jan 1915. A montré en tout
circumstances une calme imperturbable
et d'un absolue dévouement. A assuré
le service des évacuations depuis
le poste de secours de l'Ecluse.
Dous plusieurs bombardements dans les conditions de rapide perpétuité dans un extrême souci du confort des blessés.

Moncours became after a lot of work on part the kind assistance officer of the division in the form of a lot of men one of our bed places. He was really comfortable. I also installed a little flower garden on profile taken from Cappelle la fossé with real skill that led to it early in June to go to the molinets. The beds were also quite well so all pulled on. The preparations for a big offensive while there had been going on the works now assumed a really intense activity. Not a woods but covered vast area of shells flying which it seems as a proof very hard to be reached by the many shells became a vast ammunition depot. In regular rows by all direction shells from 120 to 360 were placed. Some the towns could no
Longer held to their tents in the fields, the roads were one long stream of carriages carrying every possible material. The ambulance cars are interesting, many very clever. Each section of automobiles in the army has a right to its ambulance. Elephants, oxen, donkeys, and oxen are favorites. One unusually fine one, is a monkey on a circle. It is suspended from the upper part of the hat. A man about ten or twelve years old is painted red and blue. He was a noble sight as he moved along the road. Perhaps the most impressive evidence of the fight to come is the dug construction. The trenches are lines of narrow gaps, going the entire front, down to the very front.
Churhues & Gonzadores they go.
Wide gaps terminals are made at several
points & dozens of shells & preparum
of carry and for the wounded. The
entire country is in a fever into a
well ordered one. Huge guns move up.
Several batteries are in B - 220 - 250
waiting for their emplacements to be
finished & it won't be long. The Boer
aeroplanes which used to come over
with little trouble are kept strictly in
bounds now. The seldom dare to cross
the lines. One I saw brought to earth.
It was a cruel & splendid sight. Just
like a hawk after a bird. Down developed
the Boer the gun just behind firing his
miss. They swept toward earth at a
tremendous rate. It was impossible to
return a yell of accusation & no
one wanted to listen.

Aviens was a never large city
in the Comm. Had passed through it before
in 1915 but this is the first time I had had
an opportunity to visit the cathedral. Mrs. Know
is extensively protected so managed by
pipes of sand bags & wires for the machines
given once a while & drop their nasty
bombs. I never had a really satisfactory look
along the ancient Picard town for on each
of the several occasions that took me in I
was busy shopping or getting a bath the greater
part of the time. The towns we worked through
were frequent little interest. Our town
Monroccoit is a cheapy hill & unattractive
farmy village the same can be said of
Monroccoit & Cerisy. The chuch in Cappy
was largely ruins though the almost unharnessed
church is really a place looking edgy. Bray
we scarce saw. It was occupied by the Eng.
the greater part of the time & so except for
burned steps at the canton one got no
sight of it. Propar is scarce with the
mention. Chenequelles another Monroccoit
& Cheneque another Cappy. This part of
the Somme is generally very uninteresting.
From the plateau on the forbidden road - whic
we always used - of Propar Trooey a rather wide
view could be had which look in the Somme
positions & Dompierre. Gray & the
ruined sugar mill. Our supremely
beautiful view is to be seen on the short
cut over the hill from Grassy to Cappy. The
road skirts the top of the cliff thus paralleling
the canal road. This view I saw first one
morning just at sunrise and it was most
impressive. The extensive interlacing of
the Somme's many streams & the canal
formed a various mirror which on the
morning, shimmies - these canals - throw
back the image of the hills in softly
tinted radience. Of woods that break
enough to accentuate peaks and along
the edges of the plattnues the broad, blue
hues then stand bold & sentinel, as though
they too were enchanted by the mornings
feast of beauty. This is I must say the
only really splendid sight I saw in this
part of the country. Merricourt from a
distance presents an attractive picture which
is very deceptive. The chateau of Nor-
is not bad though except for a few town
& portal scene worthy of note. The ruined
Château at a mere Fontain le Gappy might have been worth while but there is not enough left now to give even a hint of its style. At Beaucourt the building is really attractive though very much renewed.

This is my first visit to Harbonnières and probably the last as the 3rd move to Bayeux will tomorrow. There seems to be nothing of note in the town and the only interesting thing I saw is a very attractive garden next door.

Mon Camel decorated red today.

There are many interesting changes in the troops. General Temperance who is in command of the 10th Ech has moved up to the north a bit. The famous 20th Corps (Sir. Balfourist) which covered itself with glory at Y has come in to take the sector just the other side of the Somme held by the English. Evidently it is felt best not to leave such a dividing line between the allies and one cannot but think it is right. This time I really believe this
British will prove true but so many of them have been the exceptions that the S.w. are justified in taking every precaution. The famous Senegalese have come up. Each now is to have a battalion. Fine soldiers looking blacks they are. Real savages — no man. The various clashes on their faces are Ike marks & some show their bravery also. Each carries his knapsack (cape corps) which they know how to use. Marvelous men they are. The conversation with one of them showed I learned a little of them. They are recruited from the villages. The head man simply supplying as many as necessary. There is an army of about 60,000. This regular army has been terribly cut up but keeps filling in & even increasing. As a language they have almost none. About 200 words is all they use and for every thing such as gun — horse — wagon etc. in fact every object which they do not know of except from civilization they use the French words. The particular battalion attached to
the 2nd are largely veterans some having
been in the early fighting in Belgian-
the farm & later in Tobaggo. D'N My
informant tells me that like all savage troops
they are active under shell fire of held
inactive - in other words for defensive
purposes but held as attackers. Once given
they can not be recalled or held. They would
kill their own officers if they attempted
not to play them.

Several battles 920-1-30
came through into the village some
stay. Every thing seems almost ready.
The rifles are packed around at incredible
speed.

9:00 am about the most interesting
of the new troops are the Grenier Class
of the 42nd 4 in 2 companies of each.
From young chaps they are. Having been
with their regiments in Belgium, I was able to
kill them a lot of interest. It seemed so odd
to thus reverse the usual order of things.
These chaps had never been to the front &
were as eager to hear all about it as we
used to be. For me to join as a veteran and tell them about things quite amused me.

"Off for Paris with a car. Made a very good trip. Stopped off a few moments in Beauvais. Into our favorite patisserie just for luck & the girls remembered our uniform if not our faces. On by Ponts au Chien through Bagneux to Nogent."

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"June 20"

"Back to Amiens the night of July 20 at the hotel & take the train to Guilmancourt tomorrow."  

"Back to Bayonne. Off all into the most terrible news. It is hard to realize & more hard to understand. We have received orders to go to Bar le Duc. No more delayed train would be hard to find. For weeks we have been watching the tremendous preparations go on. We are all sure of being on the eve of a great & victorious offensive & here comes this order to chill all our..."
enthusiasm and make us feel it is scarce worth while. Every possible idea is expressed. Every opinion has its
backer & most of us shift from one to another.
The most gloomy is that the army does not want us to be there in the big drive. Some feel it is the final realization
of Andrews desire to have all the sections in the same army. That seems most likely though why it should come to a
point just at this moment is hard to realize. At least we have encouraging proof that neither the Col. nor the Corps
want to see us go. Again I hope all can
Telegraph S. C. So far Sadleer even gives
us an order not to move while he makes an attempt to have the order changed.
The Svc. Detachment is however as we
learn with sorrow quite independent.
They can give + take as well. Their duty
is to furnish agents where & when needed and the General of an army
can not control the coming or going.
This is of course wise wish as it permits
the service to be appreciated to the best advantage but, just now we wish it could be otherwise. Another interesting thing I learn is that the 5 C S, from where come all orders, does not officially know the exact location of the sections. From the 5 C S we are as an example sent to the 6 th division. There the 5 C S of the army addresses us to a corps, the corps to a division for the 5 C S we might be doing evacuating work at Shuang or Vial Brut. That seems to go along with the kind service attempts of the corps to keep us away from any harm. I realize that our precious skills are being stretched and so gradually we are reduced to fate and there is less talk of quitting at once. Personally I have determined to wait and see. Having the disease we felt we were being badly used but in the end were pleased perhaps some such good luck may again smile on us. D C D means Vade dem probably. Nothing we can do will repay
the offensive we might have followed had but if we have given ports we will not at least feel we are not trusted when it comes to the pinch. I don't believe that anyway. My memories of Cremersburg are too fond. All is brittle getting frayed.

If we get under way, Major Allan will then to bid us farewell and we are sincerely sorry to pass with him. May some good stroke of luck throw us together once again. The country was as far as the fort of the St Quentin a monadnock roads o're there we waited for the Lens to come back from the back with orders. One more look at the Panoramic Cathedral. Parched is most beautiful but will be regretted all the same. By the good luck of having the Blond ride with me I was detached from the convoy to drive ahead with him as to arrange meals etc. I have all ready by the time the convoy arrived. We stopped off a moment at Merville to have
A glass of coffee in the cafe and to pray Bob John to the ladies. They are really very charming these ladies. So as call them is no abuse of the term. Their conversation is most refreshing and shall always feel grateful for the pleasure they were presence gave me in March when I was rather sick. So we were on the route again. At many places we saw large preparations for wounded material. It was just an added bit of sadness to think of all we were leaving behind. At Montdidier we stopped for lunch and had it in the same hotel we stopped at on our way from Jankey to Revin in March. Revin was to be our stop for the night. Leaving Montdidier our first place of importance was Post St. Maxence. Then we took the wrong road and went toward Verboie instead of direct route to Senlis. It was not a good detour however and soon we got back on the main route into Senlis. The pain of this unhappy town I had
already seen in the Crete days, but after all three months I had heard the sights still held its elements of novelty. Bombardeed villages and cities I am used to but this beautiful and wealthy town systematically burned to avenge a fancied wrong is a very terrible proof of the fact that Nimes is no neutral. Down the long streets with ruin's décolletage on either hand. Not far beyond Sains les Glyons where we arrived well ahead of our convoy that had all arranged. The town is very attractive. A Francois 4 chateau now the property of the Legen d't Family used as a home for its inhabitants. The place very picturesque, perched on the hillside below the chateau with many ancient attraction buildings. Seeing the + I walked up to see as much as we could of the chateau. Not much to be seen. Nice town is evidently strictly excluded.

For the first time in months + months we got billeted in rooms. Mine in a
very decent though old hotel.

Jun 23rd

Off from Ecoeim just before 8 o'clock. At one time not far at the route we were only 12 Kilom from Paris and it was not before I did not want to that I did not turn the wheel + even it nie for a few moments. From the 12 kilom point we soon turned on road down on good old Paris + bowling quickly along the Neers route. Just a glimpse at the Cathedral in passing + without stop on we went toward an arranged luncheon stop Chateau Thierry. At Ferbe Grasse we came well into the valley of the Oise rive into the beautiful country that at almost every turn in the road gave me the happiest emotions. Vines on the hill sides flowers at every cottage. Truly this is a country blessed + cursed. Blessed by nature + cursed by the Germans. So get to Chateau F. was like home coming for me though that only been there once before. (Mean them with a civil malade from Cutry once) we searched out the same
little hotel where I lunched as well
on the previous occasion but could
not make arrangements. We soon
found a place just outside town however.
The hour at 9 I had to wait I spent in
wandering through the market etc. Soon
the others began to wander in & then
lunch & off once more. Chalon's S St.
was our next stopping place & that for the
night. We came fast ahead with only a
momentary stop at Epernay. The country
is perhaps less beautiful here than still fine. At Chalons not far off the
town down by the river. Between the town &
the river and we are very well fixed. Even if
it rains we are safe. A fine swim in
the river - and dinner now for
bed. The cathedral is very interesting
looking with a most unusual facade.
I shall have to read up on it to find
the reason for this apparent ambiguity.

June 24th

Off once more on the road by 8. Stopped
at Vitry le Francois for a coffee on a
cape on the place where the Conqueror was making his famous address to the troops when news came of the defeat of the French & he stopped the oration to rush back as fast as possible & just escaped capture. The cathedral here is somewhat the same as that of Chartres. Sam much interested in the type. Here the façade terminates in a most monumental arch broken at its inception. A few moments of by stretching & we went to St. Dizier we made for lunch & had time to wander about the town a bit. largely a manufacturing place now though of Roman origin & has an honorable history. "Bazas" is the name of the natives from "Barba gas" as they were called when they fought so lustily for the French King against Charles V. A very fine statue decorates the place & is emblematic of the siege.

Din to Bar-le-Duc after lunch.
Here we waited just at the entrance of the town for a long while & at last decided...
orders to proceed here to Ville. We have a really very picturesque encampment. Our big tent. Two marabou tents & the kitchen tent also the abode of the French men. We are in a state of wonderment as to what we are to do. See 2 of hatted & rather scorned men as we drive on towards our fate. Oh well —

Well we have started off shooting any way. Last night about 11. an order came to get under way. I had was the bustle for a half an hour. The Efficient nothing so little as a call at in spite of that a half hour saw us all on the road. The road knew only the destination & he being quit new to the sect did not know just what kind of road it was. To me the impression was very interesting. It felt really good to be off evidently on an important mission. Though he D - m - o - n we went. Our only clue was the illuminated signs.
of Verdun & an arrow pointing up. On & on we went seeming to be climbing even up for miles & miles. It was very interesting really thus going on through the night not knowing whether it was to be a part of danger or a quiet one but always river drawing closer to that vague place Verdun. The guns were distant, drew closer & closer several times huge red flames flickering & burning. One appeared to be destroyed by a huge explosion but never came. It was probably the reflection of the liquid full of the German & the beginning of a depot of powder. At last we reached a post which turned out to be Gemona a distant enough one from the front & a very tame demarcation to the long & interesting ride. Just about day break we were all loaded with "gassed" men. The Germans had been using this their favorite method of murder very frequently & in spite of the masks many were the victims. I only spoke to a few
and they seemed to have either received a bad burn before they could fit the masts on or the eye places were pierced or defective. That latter seems to be a real danger. Back over the same road by day light was more uneventful but scarcer more interesting. We found that we were on the famous Via Sacra. Plenty of traffic there was but nothing like the exaggerated descriptions one reads. It was very inspiring all the same. Sure to on this route one which really the best v heroes of France had gone many never to return to prove to be brought back maimed or dead. The officer in charge of the transport told the Gibbs that he had transported to the front one million and a half of troops since the offensive began in July and had brought back one million. The other third either stayed or presumed or have come back in the ambulance or wounded. This sounds tremendous but when one knows the rule that a
division stay at the front until
60 to 50% of its effect on
but it is said to be very probable.
he got back without mishap &
discharged our burdens & the hand
received very nice praise for the
promptness with which the work was
done. Also he informed him that he was
very to call on us for such work as he knew
it was our type but that a good report
the front would soon be ours. Now that we are
much pleased & filled with hope. Our camp
is really very fine here—

Once again we were called out last night.
This time to Dugy. He first downrend the
information which Andrew & So bros
spread about that place. They visited us
yesterday and had spent the previous
night with them & at Dugy. Both
were all fine and because the German
curtain fire of 380's just outside the village
made sleep impossible. The village itself
was subject to fire. Several of the girls of
No & were shattered and in fact
Krug was as near hell as any earthly
place could be.

When we drew in this a. m.
about 5 o'clock we were expecting near
any thing but only found a typical "back
of the front village." full of ambulances
& wounded & sick. I a guy who is at the
No 8 said he knew of none of the French
Andries spot if. Every day 15,000 shells
320 a 80 fell just outside of him near
the station but is seemed to be a very safe
place. The new section was a sad wreck.
Half the cars have been in accidents in one
or two are totally destroyed. It makes no
maid to think of pulling out all those new
cars with a crew of green men. Just a waste
of material. However. We did not have
very long before we loaded up & started
back. I had to be doing this work while
see & had just went but we had no assurance
of swallowed the pill. See 8 on the
other hand were really healthy and some
for relief. They have a statement full
No wonder, a lot of green men with a green leader can not expect to have the ability and spirit needed. One or two had to go back. One was a Sussex surgeon who should not be blamed though with the other as far as I know it was pure yellow. Our Sussex man Culbertson seems to have as good a nervous system as any one on earth.

June 28th

Finders today were to move tomorrow then a new order to move again. Half the division had gone in two days for a bath and a heavy call was needed for them. Great activity and an early cold lunch we were off. Here at Burgoy we find we are to replace a F.S.S. 3 week with our own No 8 which does not please us. I feel that they aregreen very badly organized and unable to do the work they should so we will suffer from their faults. On the other hand if they do earn any pay we do not want to share in it preferring to make our own.
The stretcher seems easy to use.

Got my first glimpse of Verdun last night & this morning. During the night four of us, Nordwall, Lewis, Bayliss & myself got a call for wounded at the crossroad of Moulin-Delle & the Est Etain road. I had a general idea of the place & so the others had none of. I started immediately to that Verdun. By going two cars, however I lost the way into the Port Kemence through the city & one of the Port Clamance where we were on the Old route. All was dark going through & so saw almost nothing. Then started the hunt for the next road & I found a hard one. And so we went asking questions until at last we came to the Cabard where several soldiers were. They did not know the place at all & one even assumed there was "no such animal." He assumed we did not want death or almost to go ahead that the road was dangerous & all sorts of stuff. Telling us help from them I got my
as the map and saw I must be right a
went on proceeded by my misinformed
who evidently had been at work. I
passed plenty of dead horses & shell
holes. I began to think he was right but
the order was there. Stopped at a cross
road to consult Woody & B. (News
by this time had disappeared and I
decided was useless to wait for lunch)
and then a big one landed at the feet
from by & confused with the misinformers
creakings it seemed a good warning so
we decided to consult further at another
point & went on. Soon we met the
chaps again who had reached his limit
& was going back. Once more he crouched
about "full moon & tech" & rendez
ahead & what not. It was a grand day.
Our solution was to leave the author &
go ahead on foot which I did finding
the indicated cross roads not 300
yards ahead. There were however no
wounded & after waiting a while &
yelling my brains out went back to the
machines we all started back. The day was now quite well advanced and showed the ravages of the shelling. Shells on both sides stripped stark to their frames. Narrow judge my destroyed about every 30 feet was very bad with a punctuation of bad-smelling dead horses. We spoke out on the way back to Raven and without incident. Here we found Kers had not yet shown up so sending it & A back the first way by the north we should have come down back through the with the chance of seeing the place by day light. I found some accidents to crows & was hit. Happily not a shell only a piece of wood. German presents an aspect in some street little sheet of glass. In fact I find it hard not to call it glass. Our streets for several hundred feet is a complete wreck or beyond that some of the houses have received something but on the whole the city has suffered less that I expected but how ably. It is of no importance and
the troops can't do so around a balloon
than through it to reach the front. Just
another case of the German philosophy of
warfare.

Last night was one of the most interesting of
my life though not very exciting. I was just
twenty in when a call came to get a
crowd at the famous Montenell bord;
Bowman's turn it was but he did not know
it as I went with him. Everything was
gentle enough through Bellary but when
we got into the Casarres region the
Gambourg Pass the noise started up.
It was stupendous. The train was sending
a "Ti de Ferrari" charge across over the
hill. From every point of the landscape the
sharp stabs of light jumped forth. From
the near came the flashes. crashes. We
got into just beyond Cabane where
we were stopped and had to await the
battery of 75's which happened to be
shooting just over the road. I ran ahead
into the battery to find how long would
have to wait & got there just about line is stopped. Back to the machine & on. The next battle seemed as bad but a team of horses was passing & no one was on the road to warn us so we went. The air displacement positively bouncing over the house cannot be measured. 8 guns firing at head neck speed about 12 ft away can be counted on to raise some row. We arrived at the place after going in on horse & getting pushed out. We found but the wounded had not arrived. For half an hour we were able to watch & listen! It was supposed that even moment signals flew up. At the which burst into triangle of great red balls. I had seen said "I suppose this is cease fire when though it would have seemed impossible this could have lasted. The our thin head was one long scream of the big shells coming from about a below back. They made a queer ripping noise as they passed over the crest of the hill at what must have been a very low level. Now our
Charges came. The 4 salvo had had his leg cut off by a 77. It had been before exploding and by a guess confidence at the very place we were wanting to take him—confusing. I began to think of the German reply to all this which would come as soon as the guns ceased and wondered if we would go out. There did not seem much chance of it, yet I fell back happy. Have been feeling quite endure ever since the 19th. Before then for several weeks I had a prediction of death—perhaps my life would have been bad in the danger. Now I am my old self and certainly I would get it. So spite of that I am all of us neglect some where the ground has been made where the ground we know so well has become the map of the world for the moment.

On the way back we were treated to a very impressive display of fireworks. Evidently the depot of
signal rockets of a regiment had been
his for in a blizzard flashed the hill
by form it shot in all directions the
signals that would have called
down about all the shells on earth on
the heads of the Germans. As much as I
could keep my head turned from the
road I watched this display but soon the
descending road gave us other things to think of.

That same battalion was giving rightangled
rigid across the road and it didn't look
good. I walked ahead a mile and got blown down.
Could we well enough that the guns were
pointed to high right side but the blasts
of air v the sparks about ended me any
day. Alas! I saw the powder standing
in the road between the guns v to him
made my way. No passing for 6 mm. and
as his post was safe I borrowed some
cotton v watched the gun. Thoughts of
shells that explode prematurely as they
leave the cannon's mouth v exploding
pieces were in my mind but nothing
happened v soon I was told ok. Off we
wind. The poor Comet died on the way. Poor fellow, I saw a fine chap he looked. No sooner in than a call came for me to get off. At Cabaret I found several of the fellows in a serious mood looking at Edwards car which seemed to have been hit by two shells. Many were his friend whose was smashed and punctured. Plenty of holes in his side by a shrapnel through the body. He had a lucky escape through a bit shaky even in fine shape. Tried to arrange for him to get the first call in help I went off myself to Belluna. While I was going along the hill came a car which proved to be Edw. At this time plenty of shrapnel were falling about the farm. I admired Edw's control. Shall certainly tell the men to hope he gets a citation.

July 24

A call came for Cabans with advice to stop some 20 miles away as the place was being shelled. Cabans.
got the call. As I drew near could see no signs of a house or any travelers on the road as one of our cars was before the Carents it seemed to be the thing to do to go on. On we went. Shelling they were but nothing very terrible. 165° were coming in on the hills both back front & some men had been killed but the reason for the message did not appear.

July 3rd

Today for the first time I learned the true meaning of the phrase one reads at times that "Devils have horns de mulema on la desin de se meille soucra." It seems to me exaggerated before but now I have seen it felt & understood. The remains of a regiment came through Duguy. For devils rush from the front positions. Their mudd'ed & dead & dead tired but with a really sublime air about them. From they went & many were slightly wounded but unbeaten. A few had dare expressions seemed still to be seeing the horrors they had
lived through. Now, they are too. Here are no well-organized positions. Shelled by the enemy and prodded by gas. The front line is simply a series of shell holes. Into them the men go at night or after from one to another organizing each hole as best they can. The really terrible two de human get them often going on to make the food and water supplies when it's very, very dubious the evacuation of the wounded personnel after it's impossible. I have cared for men who have been wounded 6 days. Isolated in some hole covered by the enemy they have had to lay there. There's been a change in the positions to release them. Most men are hungry because they had nothing but the canned stuff they carried on to eat. Often having eaten three times to eat that a day is unable to go back of water. Smoke has been an unknown place even now those who would cannot buy tobacco for there are no cigarettes. I have had 50 kilos. The joy, I had
in distributing all I had of cigarettes to these fellows was one of the finest things I have enjoyed. We longed to give them the immense good his soup would do. Only too soon all were gone & no more to be had - then with more of his generous gift I bought chocolate & with the help of the other fellows distributed to all that passed. The eagerness with which they took it & the abounding courtesies, thanks & smiles we received were pathetic & truly what we can put ourselves on, in times before these men. I look about me & feel almost ashamed of my ease & life. How can a young gentleman, who from his safe embattled post look on these passing tragedies, feel like a cow. May the rewards of martyrs go to these men - they deserve it.

July 4th

Lest night took me on our most interesting post - Fort Savannah. The road I knew but not the first it is really good luck that nothing happened. The
Germans were giving the place a little
attention in the shape of shrapnel and I
was on it. Arrived at the first we found
the pill was in sight. In I went across
a bridge that seemed more to run onto
the tunnel and then started a hunt for the
favor. The two boys who came up with me
to rejoin their post were as much off as
I for they had been about 10 days in
the tunnel and had seen great changes
in the shape of wreckage in the falls. They
started off to find someone who they had
not returned after about 30 min. I started
off on a hunt of my own. The rather
lovely shellings now were interesting all
falling outside the move where my path
mostly lay so I was ok. At last found a
man a man who however seemed very
dismayed to go find the "Major" but he
indicated my route which lay through
the tunnel and then over a hange earth
hole and was still ten. It looked like a
bad place to walk and I half expected
to go over the crest into Germany to
found instead a hole in the earth.
which led into subterranean workings.
Here I wandered about & last found a
francardier who directed me back on my
path & down a trench, stairway which
made me think of the Princess in the Tower
& across the moat to into another part of
the fort where I found the man who told
that there were wounded to take so
back off. I went with no further inquiries
regarding Cabinard about dinner.

Tavernier again today, it though it
was darker I was so busy work several
photos & hope for the best.
Carnival artilleryman estes is
the only survivor of his gun equp, a 350
having fallen sq. on his piece.

July 7th

Fork the Mid Div (4 Salms) St. Pt. of the
127 & Mid Chief of S.S. D & a Chaffelle on to
Bar Island today. Then the Div treated
us to an excellent lunch & then on to
Fannin where the div a part of it is
7/8/6

It is a charmingly located village.

Off on my first run just about sun down & going down the hill into Belray was turned to a splendid sight. All the commanding hills from Neon to Vanu & the main road was enveloped in black clouds of really stormy aspect. Verdun itself on the edge of which was taken in the last glow of the setting sun. Its radiance was supernatural set off and was by the thunderous background. It seemed to be symbolic and could not but be highly impressive. The mornings walk took me to the Battalion of Mars Esplanade of the outskirts of Paris. From it a full view of Launfai is to be had. What desolation! Against the rising sun these for bare clumps of trees seen the very essence of desolation.
A 5:30 call for Caserio Channel started off
28 hours very interesting work. The gun
were going at about neck speed.-frame who
called me asked if I did not notice gas in the
air. I noticed a smell but thought it only
the powder odor held over carried by the fog.
Once on the hill climbing past belongs
a wonderful, inspiring spectacle wet
the eyes. The crags of Sanville's secondary
were covered with a dense cloud smoke
& the flashing of the shells ahead was
continuous. One would have said a
long volcano. Men passed wearing
their masks & a gas light then new
masks are. Our Chief called to me to
put mine on. I stopped the car & di
tectly bo me out of the seat but common
sense told me that as I had left the
canyon & was going up the hill there was
less danger ahead than behind. Soon
I saw an officer unmasted & so felt
comfortable. It was I as sure as a
guine feeling. Patches of fog here &
there made one wonder if perhaps they
did not contain the deadly mustard. Some time was in the air and I saw a few & eyes felt it but the smoke had gone and the wind was blowing softly toward the Bosch. Releving one mind of all danger. Easily found the post. While waiting saw a tank autumn have a close shave & when I laughingly called out to him as he passed that he had not been missed by much he yelled back something unrecognizable but was no very gay mood.

The Germans have been attacking fiercely against Sounder all day about. We have been brought in steadily. Hundreds are killed slightly. The SS working last night lost one man upon the Savannah road. He walked ahead when his car got stalled & has never been heard of. In the carnage on Sounder (apparently of Campell) one man told me about 50 men were caught in the caves by the gas while asleep & could not be awakened. In addition to the
drum waves the Germans are using. they have a new shell which exploding with very slight force in the air allows the gas to descend to earth. By this means last night they in the absence of any breeze put up big clouds in the valley around Catan. The air had to work for 6 hours with wind on. It seems to be a very effective weapon. On calm nights and may rain cause cloud marks best of apparent danger. It has little time to date the last major air war is surely becoming complicated. Several of the fellow are experiencing the same feelings of disgust towards of such cruel methods as I that last year in April at the start of it all. Now I am adding to being hardened. It does not raise the resentment as it did so spontaneously. I have to think of it. I see some poor boy choking to death as I did today before I can get mad. Poor chap a stupid looking peasant, built like an ox of but who will be dead in a few hours.
from a most horrible death by suffocation. Several of the cars for peppers in the Night's work had no one but through Government got a little piece which did not have the force to penetrate his legging.

The post as 5 1/2 in the church was a busy place these past 24 hours. Our section carried good the other sections from other parts probably as many and to church never saw these suffocation.

May it help to ease it.

Tomorrow we follow the division in purs. Would be sent to war, I did not feel that it may mean the Commie for us. The war is a good one and will surely not be long idle.

On the whole our days at have been very interesting and if in the end we reach the Commie I for we will not regret the trip. It has been fine to see all these places that have been to names to this time. From the end of Bingen one evening I saw the entire
panorama. From the Col de Porron to Dambois. This is an impression
never to be forgotten about these hills. One stands + sees + hears + is aware of
it all. Then go the guns. These fired the shells on these very hills that have
seen these past four months the
greatest fight of all time. Our fury
do small before it all + yet before one
also feels it is small. Surely our
greatness but smallness have produced
this awful crime.

Before leaving this period I
must not forget to record the pleasant swimming
in the Meuse. Pleasant + necessary for
it was the only swimming medium we had.
Swift current made it hard to do much more
than plunge in a upstream + then paddle back
for there were but one channel + that was the
great thing.

Writing so much I forgot whether
a no I have written of the village. There is
little to write except of the church where
the ambulance was installed. Dating back
to Roman times or at least Roman
influences as shown by the wooden town
according to Faridun Jamkar the
senator has a chateau also in the village.
very beautiful grounds but in itself not
remarkable.

One thing about the rock
which seems to be good in these times
its habit of absorbing shells. The fact
one I saw fell near the front where the
Etom road I drained expecting to usual
shower but none came. Since then I have
noticed that seldom were the any of these
ugly whirring of the air. Unlike the
hundreds of Belgia the shell appears to
hold back the piece. On the slopes of
the Rice sugar are many 380
holes. They are among the most picturesque
I have seen. Apparently the shell was
turned to penetrate to great depth before
exploding so that they did not throw
up vast amounts of clay which is spread
for smaller particles into a great radius.

in the holes huge masses of it which at
first glance would seem to be

Goodbye to Djemy for how long one
does not know. There is always the these
parting some little sadness. No matter
how uncomfortable or unhappy or busy
or what not one has been there is always
a regret. These villages are subject to so
many happening. One can still turned
it may never be seen the same way.
However, we are of in the train and
which is indeed so fitting to the dust.
Just as the last is taken while indeed
drawn up in convoy waiting for the
whistle the street cars able to gladden
these hearts of a company. The train with
the crippled women. P. I had sent in
the mail to me. Go back to over
the "boy scared" through it strongly
on to Garners the same charming
little village where the road may of
the 127 to still wait. Since we had
in a farm cold lunch provided by
our own cook. Here we had much food with a little girl who became really enamoured of Paulie. I am sorry to see things. She is a bright little good little girl. Paul lending himself to the game with just enough reluctance to make it fun. We had a wedding and a feast to all sorts of things. Soon after we moved just out of town, hit one of the nicest charming valleys that we have seen. What a joy to see such a place. Small enough to be intimate, large enough to give scope for fun for a cold rainy flower book. We can stay here forever it seems without boredom. All are so joyed to have found such a gem of an uncampaigned area. We shall probably muse for only day either for the days are very short soon receive its reinforcements. Try on the more — so far.

Source: [156]
Shopping town & met a chap just back from V. who had bad news of German advances & part of Somville taken - life seems damned up little pistols etc. all sorts of calamity. We all hope it is not serious as it seems.

Call to Herstelle - with a treat to climb the long hill outside from one side of our valley & see the road to the beautiful hilltop country. Impossible to realize one is so close to town while going on all this calm beauty of a long road from the hill my eye roaming a constant down grade & a continuous turning. The forest is thick & low so as to an abundant opening of new trees with open cultivable spots at rare intervals. It is beautiful-

Orders to move first with the div & then to another. He are disregarded. The list of the Wandering Jews seems ours now. There at Eron we find ourselves attached to the 164th corps 32 div. The towns
is dull & drily. For me its only interest is that it is on Argonne where I have never been before. The splendid sight we passed on the way — The village of Sommeilles. Burned by the Bres in 1914. Here a woman had her ear cut off and nailed to her door by her children murdered. The dead were drunk & savage. Now amid the ruins are tall wooden structures. Part of the war of the old home farms part. of the new. A pile of stones being all that is left of some homes the new is allaigned and here still close to the street are the inhabitants returning to live up their tasks again now except hard by death & tragedy. It is an inspiring & symbol of France this.

Left Evry just after lunch & now have film enclosure in part of chateau. Not up to G. but still very fine. Our table is beneath a really majestic alley of pines. The town has a church which...
To all appearances it very old boasts a
van depth. Very or less original I presumed as
the Boche were here 8 days. Our first of
the town is a complete wreck with marks of
shells about the port etc. The remaining houses
have not suffered however. The flanks into
who were the grave does not understand to urge
his way is it seems the heroine of the village.
During the bombardment she was severely
wounded in the arm and her baby mother
who stood by her side was killed. Her
head being taken off. Mme. woman seems
not to have suffered no worse. However
for the dispensers husband of papers daily
with a bright smile to this picture of health.
She recounts theGerman occupation very
interestingly. Nuit the night the father was
forced to order the town to cry that all
the inhabitants would be shot if any of
them fired on the 3. soldiers etc. There
were 3 seems no atrocities. The medical
attention they gave her was of the best
kinded only act that was not quite
honest was then finding her in her
wear condition to sign a paper. The purpose of which she was too ill to know but does due to this day.

Last night the division gave a performance for the officers and men from the front. Alone it was quite interesting them being among the soldiers many times of mind. The victor and a couple of comics were excellent. The singing of the old song La Foulonaise was good. The best of the monitors and each cornerLoad of the British troops of the nuclei might find in the trenches that they slowly end their singing. We were forced to make a contribution which was very poor. One of the men pulled up, danced a jig and sang Tippa rey while we back of the stage sang the chorus. The gun almost mistaken on that as they think of the Eng. patriotic air or do no difference between the Eng. and ourselves. The funniest thing about our contribution was this morning when a soldier came
and clapped me on the back, grinned
of it was I who had appeared "disguised
as an American." When I thought of that black
clown face it seems rich. I shall here
also record that other would be compliment.
A Frenchman gave Americans. He was
remarking on our fine equipment etc. I
told him if he would to be real it to datine
it less on the should write the Ex-secion
in the same village. At the morning I see
convinc or not and plus to remember close
you yours another. Ce qui vous est as plus to
americain. Ils sont trop americain je les a un
flower leurs droits. I see much hard less
joux. I should like to repeat that to some
Eng men but perhaps they would not see
the funny when I that a place. One
must be to a lot of their men.
But to get back to the show.
After all perhaps the greatest interest was
before and behind the foot light. The
admirer all soldiers. Seat for the officers,
the man sitting a laying all about on
the grass. Possibly 2000 in all. The corner
of the park chosen to stage the affair formed a sort of natural show place. The three sides were surrounded by trees. The stage—a wooden platform raised high up on four huge pinned tress. The lights were of acetylene & good. Selling a flying about every avenue all with up all the trees. That gave a most picturesque touch for each time one of the dozen drawn by a perambulator lit his face with a taper, they all were lit by odd the effect of fire like slow worms moving about among the branches might have been put there to offset. The trees themselves were beautiful. Those far back at this stood by contrast with the lighter stage as dark & gloomy cliffs. Mysterious they seemed a contrasting with the close were thrown into such clear relief that they seemed to out do nature in delicate tracerie. Perhaps however it was in great part the sentiment. The thought of it all. Of seeing soldiers to them the front & companies
all the mummy with the home
regular soon to be thrust upon them.
The band is owned by a son
by a brother of Priest Poincare.

Day 7

Left Trianglina about noon + instead of
going into the Aracima as we all thought
and has been expected the day of going in
the other direction + we will stay many
days we don't be in V. once more. The
last days as I have all the same story.
No incident save a visit over to Lassitta
where we expected to go. The town is about all
gone + as subject to daily bombardments.
A house was shelled directly as we went
through. One was back + went on along the
famous Bely. Paris route to St. Mendelshu-
Allyor a Route XVI + much of the victory
of Cranie flashed through my mind as we
hurried along. Poor Conis he might have
escaped but he has an auto - but possibly
to greater misery + crime. Now that it is
all over we go perhaps best as it is. Back
we came through Passanant yesterday morning. In 1870, 4,900 French prisoners of war were murdered by the Prussians because a shot was fired at them—noon. A statue was erected to their memory and this time when the Prussians passed in 1914 they mutilated the statue. Off they smashed his head. I was told the inscription on the statue states more than ever. A few years ago, there was no work here. The town is quite completely wrecked. We saw the station, the old mills, and all the town is now than half in ruins. Rev. shows however, green vegetables. Signs from the way through fields of ruts to little stone buildings.
Good courage for they need it now for they deserve it. They have stopped by mostly women who go on and on.

Our house here is very fine. I have a little station up against a pile of wood where I am very cozy. Our kitchen is installed at the house of the Kegster. Sangliers there are in plenty & those who have had the energy have turned out at night to get them but though they have been plenty, have had no luck at bringing them in. In a few days of fine weather I go –

Jane Mckay: when she is back I hope to find the section of a rail.

And I did what first to write of coming back.

Last night got to the Sen d I Est about 11:40 only to find the midnight had been stopped so I went back home r up early this a.m. to get the 8 o'clock. arrived at Bar Latoc without incident & then had to hunt for a way to get back to the section. At the barn was told that the
section was at Billemont instead of Sandrecourt as had been directed from Paris. An auto projection was going up my way so they put me on and by great good luck when we reached their destination Colberton came by with Le Blond & so I got back. We are in a so called chelian which is really a very fine house with huge dining room kitchen & plenty of room for us all. It was good good luck getting it really. An Etal Major was here a week or so ago it seems but was pulled out. Several hits were made in the yard so as a result there are no windows left. The house has also been partially destroyed but the house except for above said windows is intact. He has solemnly promised the authorities to keep our cars hidden under the trees and not to run out in convoy so the place is ours. It seems to have a German tats for though its inhabitant was a Frenchman he was the managing director of the Sire d'Anonyme des Forêt à Chedy de Billemont a German
turned affair. It seems remarkable that an enterprise owned by Germans should have been allowed in such a place. Commands a perfect view of Verdun and all the surrounding hills; might very conceivably have been used under many circumstances to help an invader. When one thinks of that house in Coyq de with its solid concrete foundation, supposed to be the work of a hardening crew but found to be a gun emplacement and in the unique form command of Dunkery, one is very leery about such things. All these vast concrete and allied items counts about Paris also.

The house is sad. More so than a battle-wrecked one in some ways. The rooms contain little signs of a happy family life—children's toys and books. Child articles & so on. It makes one feel blue in seeing the present devotion—garden gone wild but still filled with flowers among them a few of my favorite montbretia. The squad has only been
working here one day so I have missed
the little. Went up to see the post tonight
though fortunately am not on duty. To
go through Porte Vienne and Port Chamur
& to the Caserne Marequan just back of
Sonneville getting the evacuating from
Steny. Rather a lovely place. No shell
destruction is just the same old story.
Trees stripped - not a foot of cart
untouched. One old shell unexploded
is really remarkable. The Germans got
the range a few weeks ago & simply
smashed them. The enemy got off with
the guns after great a great lot of
material. It seems to have been left but
yesterday with rifle blanks nailed to
shells prepared to load. A good many
men were buried here as usual in the
shell holes surrounded by the shells or buried
again. While at the post the Germans
evitably made an attack for the "mites"
started followed by the grenades & then a
very lively tirde but which hurt very
lows coming as I do from 6 days quiet
in Paris.

No one has yet hit through some had funny experiences. Matthys was misleading by the guardsmen on his first try & got through a perilous road no one knows how. John, who followed was his fortunate. I spent the night in a shell hole. He says, "The shells were coming in, not very close, but I did not know how close. The kept it up and I was not ashamed to admit it. I pray they can keep the hole for shelter, but there was none so I thought if I was to be found dead it had better be in my early grave back. He was killingly funny but all the same for a new green (it was his first taste of shell fire) it must have been very rough.

An old Chassan & X - who was "keen" I presume in one of the regiments of the 37th Div came in slightly wounded & with a great story. He was in a shell hole &
days ago which was captured by the
Sicilians & there he stayed they not
offering him any thing to eat at all.

Thought the Ge advanced & took the
hole. Just before the Ge left two came
back to kill him but he managed to
despatch them with his knife. The
Ge caught him un. He was quite
shrewd & in going off called &

Francisco - a la prochaine

505 called last night away &
as a result of that little attack. Only made
two trips. Last me Ge shall blank
a Ge powder and loose) some
where near the road & I went up with
a plan that made every thing as
distinct as day. Thought at first it was
ignite fire. According to report the Ge
attacked the Bara & killed but the Ge
welcomed them with such a good show
of grenades that the lost about 6oo a
Gialda. Ge lost 168.

A very pleasant trip.
here or hear the row. They put a few shells over our way once a while but not too near for enjoyment. The view across the valley of C. T. Sambre & the casemates is fine. Have taken picture & only hope it turns out.