

Oct 31 - (Continued)

Labels were pasted on blank ~~stages~~ ^{the baggage} by indicating number of checks + destination as "Toul" - 217 - in large letters - Each check was made up on ^{the spot} + then attached to the ~~detail~~ ^{or trunk} - one of the many reasons it is wise to have plenty of time ^{in France} before the train leaves - Tickets are similar to our

smallest sized local tickets - Round trip tickets are of the same size - ~~that~~ ^{divided into two} ~~separating~~ the little squares representing the to + from sections. - The station was quite dark except for lights in the A.P.M.'s office where registering is necessary for incoming + outgoing officers + the ticket office + an occasional flash light. There was unfeebly

duty + Poilus, lying + sleeping everywhere even on the floor. No place to sit except on a few baggage trucks. ^{after chocolate +} ~~stewed~~ pears at the R.C. Canteen we marshalled our forces on the platform or Quai of the Nancy train - + waited - 10.45 P.M. - Numerous Poilus followed ^{us} as we dropped themselves over the few benches - ^{at train}

Came in & lay to in the station & its steps were promptly occupied by most of our party - Two or three French curled up on the platform & slept, just as in the R.C. men were lying everywhere asleep on concrete floors as on wooden benches & counters with their numerous haversacks for pillows. A few trains came & left but not ours. A chill damp wind blew through the station & sitting still wasn't possible for long - we walked up & down the platform ~~got~~ get warm. Then dozed for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. by turns when the "Frogs" would vacate their places.

Finally at 2. A.M. the train pulled in & with no lights, except a dim headlight - crowded to the roofs - Biss looked out for the baggage so I had to carry his bag bristling with food & clothes through one car so filled that men were sleeping as close as they could be packed in the aisles & corridors - There was a little room in the aisle of the second 1st class car & we packed ourselves in - Every compartment filled & in the aisle we were huddled almost elbow to elbow - We all lay down some way - I loosened my belt, used my ^{over}coat as a blanket; put the gas mask in my helmet & it made a very effective & fairly comfortable low seat. I jammed myself against the sides of the corridor & lunched in with a sip of champagne from Biss at about 2.30 & slept fairly well until 6.15 A.M. - No sudden jolts - a very quiet session except for an intrusion of an officer or two in an already crowded ~~aisle~~ at Bar C. Three - we made room for them somehow -

wasted. - We reported at ^{Boys} 45 - next to our
old Evai. 3 ~~Bombas~~ washed up + then
had a wonderful breakfast of 6 eggs a piece
jam - Bread + coffee = all very good. then
a rest + loaf by a good fire in the officer's
rooms. - at 11 AM - transportation was
ready to take us out to Poyanvix. our
bags in one ambulance, our bed rolls had
already gone - off we went. - The breakfast
was a "gift from 45-4777"

We kept straight to the right at the station
+ out over a new road - which we hadn't
travelled before to the Meul la Tam road.
reaching it about a mile + a half from Meul
on through Meul to the right on the good
road to Andilly + then just beyond the
baracks in which the Hospital is. - We
arrived just in time for lunch + were given
wonderful quarters with a cement floor + stove -
right opposite the mess hall. - Evacuation

Wonderful meals. best mess in the Army
we've struck so far. Green vegetables +
apple sauce. - We settled ourselves + unpacked
only to have 5 more officers put in our
20 x 20 compartment - giving us just enough
room for the cots + us now. Re-arranged our
cots + clothes to everyone's satisfaction, including
Col. Crawford. - The 51st Pioneer band
appeared - gave a concert + entertainment

Scientific but very good + funny - a
wild word book gave an imitation of a
Frenchman reciting a poem that was a
wonder. The Major + I then wandered
over to Ardilly with our wash - a "Blanchouse"
finally accepted our wares - on Purdy's
recommendation. - Major Stebney, Gordon, +
he are here. Purdy is a damn nice boy.
We played around with them in the evening
until the Col in command, Colonel Blumbergh,
sent for me. Heard I was from Bethlehem
he was from Easton, Lafayette, + Hopkins +
still much interested in all of them,
received the Easton True Press regularly. We
had a very nice little session. Also had
always heard of Dad + I judge wanted to
know what I was like - I demonstrated -

The Hospital is very clean + well run
big number of barracks for wards -
several overflow tents - seems well arranged
It is within a half mile of Ardilly + a
mile of Royanmax off along a cut off
of the main road to the East - Ardilly
is on a stream - ^{Terron} a tiny single street duly hamlet
never occupied by the Germans - Royanmax
represents the farthest South of the German
patrols in this area in 1914 - We are
about 20 kilometers from the line here
The Colonel is said to be a Jew - doesn't look like one
+ seems to be a very efficient + capable + a
bully officer.

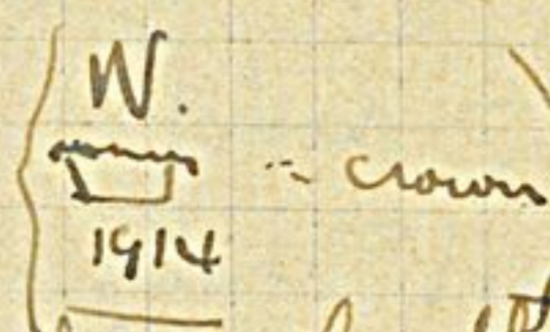
Nov. 2 - slept blue a log - woke + shaved before breakfast - Wonderful corn cakes for breakfast - a dream of Eden or Amanda's best -
lawny day again - delightful bath + papers of yesterday - a session with the old diary with 4 days behind - inspected the operating rooms - stretchers on horses for tables - looked very well organized. More diary + then I learned from an ~~infantry~~ day that the 28th Div is in ahead of us + used a Q.M. Depot just above us on the road. off I went to find the plagued thing + after wandering all over the cars dumps + warehouse sheds + tents + sidings packed with cars, swarming with negro soldier stereotypes + devoid of all 28th division gear. Their Q.M. Depot had just been moved to Berneant 5 K. away - More papers + Diary + maps to night.

Nov. 3 - after breakfast with more delicious cakes + a letter I started out to find the 28th Div - caught a truck above Ardilly going through Rayanneix - M. Morville - Manonville over a recently improved road, still quite muddy in spite of the sunny day - lovely rolling country + miserable dirty villages - billets for men + officers of the Q.M. + signal corps + an occasional civilian - at Manonville I mounted another truck over the main road to Berneant - Q.M.

Supplies - going up - an occasional truck
with troops - no sign of great activity nor
ammunition nor guns - little traffic ^{arms full of shell casing} ^{literally} ^{back}
Discovered at Beaumont the 28th ^(ammunition) ^{the road} ^{had been} ^{very} ^{bad}
Salvage officer - he was just having lunch
in an old tumbled down house + invited
me to share it with him + a 2nd lieutenant
who had been gassed + was going back
to his Mach. Gun. Co. - The latter told me
that Ed had been wounded in the foot before
he had left - about Oct 1st - + that the Regiment
was a ~~dash~~ - Ed was considered the best ^{able} officer
in the Brigade - Regiment had not done as well when
he left. - the 28th was a wonderful division
had had a personal letter from Gen Pershing,
had taken 12K of the 15K advance +
Gen Murr had been made 4th Corps
commander - The 92nd negro Division
can not stand shell fire; have not shown up
well - will probably be used as pioneer
regiments + taken out of the line.
We had an excellent lunch of fried dried potatoes
beef steak - bread - jam + apple - dried apple sauce pie
from a low shelf in a little 2x4 kitchen

area spread across the country but
not nearly as wide or as shell thin as the
^{Champagne} well overgrown with untouched grass - Wild
barren patches + woods, shelched out to the
horizon hills. Mont Sec now loomed up
5 miles away like the mesa hills above
Toul - probably 300 ft ^{above} the surrounding country
+ 3 miles in advance of the ^{higher} range of hills
that extend from St Michel well up to
Vignelles. ~~that is higher~~ - The road
was narrow, muddy, + still very rough +
narrow from the hastily repaired shell holes.
I saw for the first time in the German
wire - large hoops used like chevrons de fuses
to string the wire upon - numerous graves
German + French, ~~no American~~, - + a few
negro soldiers wandering through the town +
over the battlefield. Trenches ramifying
in every direction along the road + across
the low country the lengths of wire following
closely - Seicheprey, a mere hamlet, has
barely a heap of stones to make it recognizable
I must have caught the full weight of the
albed barrage - We turned left toward
Mont Sec over the same sort of muddy
narrow rough road + the German shelters
into + dugouts, graves + trenches. - Quite

deserted save for the colored rambler.
Over head hung 3 observation balloons
4 or 5 1/2 diameters away - indicating roughly
the allied artillery line along the front.
The balloons are especially valuable to detect
troop ^{+ transport} movements close to the lines or any
concentration with powerful glasses satisfactory
vision for 12 miles is obtained + rapid notification
to the artillery is possible - only an
occasional gun was firing + nowhere
near us. We went on through Richecourt
another town - in a veritable ~~heap~~ heap of
broken bricks + stone - to Mont See, the
village that rests at the foot of the
mountain quite barren on all sides to its
very top - only 50 ft wide at its summit.

The 51st pioneers were billeted in the village
+ in some German dugouts or really ~~carefully~~
~~constructed~~ stone + concrete rooms built into the hillside
over the door of one was cut into the
stone, an iron cross with  in its
centre - supposedly the Headquarters of the Crown
Prince at one time - built by Hessians + Bavarian
+ so inscribed - The present American designation
is "Cooke Inn" - a more too large room
10 x 8 + a small one 6 ft square comprise
these quarters now used by a Lt as his
office - We watched an aeroplane

barage being placed about a lot of
German planes. 3 or 4 who tried to get one
of the balloons which was pulled down in
haste & they ran back to their own lines
chased by some Americans apparently.

I had no time to inspect the dugouts
or their extent. The hill is apparently
honeycombed with them & is said to be
able to garrison 2 German divisions underground.
One corridor has been found 3 miles long
leading back into woods in the valley
behind the hill - now flooded but a pistol
shot at one end can be heard at the
other. The rear of the hill is studded
with dugout openings & dotted with the
eyes inquisitive American soldier. We
went on over a better road to Wournille, then
turned right to Busserelles, Busseres &
Hendricourt - all swarming with American
soldiers of the 28th Div. & a few civilians -
an occasional Negro pioneer - or in gangs
along the road. Towns seemed cleaner &
better kept than usual. We turned off
the way to his Mach. Gun - acquired
mail at the Post office - I interviewed the Div.
adjutant's office at Hendricourt & discovered
that Ed was in Flanders in a new Division, that
he had come back from the Hospital in 3 days
on crutches refusing to stay longer & had only
been shot in the foot a through & through wound.

+ was almost 0.14 when last seen. -
We then turned back to Buxieres - discovered
the salvage crew we were searching, were
upon the mountain top we climbed ^{out of the}
our ~~up~~ ^{up a} ~~steep~~ ^{old wood road} trail or [^] No hint, until the very top,
of the densely strewed huts forming a
veritable village among the trees. Huts
+ low dugouts huddled together heterogeneously
with duck-board + plain trails leading ^{up}
through them. Numerous German carts
& caulkers, gas-masks equipment + in one
small pile a bicycle wheel made of two
concentric cast iron hoops - separated by small
springs ^{of 3rd} - with a raw hide tire - ~~attempting~~
^{in lieu of} rubber. Rubbish + junk of all
sorts scattered through the huts - some 7 room
affairs with electric light wire + fixture - light
^{brown} burlap walls - well furnished interiors + stores.
Still quite intact - one I was told had a
shower bath - protected ^{after} by rocks ^{mass covered}
embankments covered with ^{mass} - ^{Signis}
of platoon leaders - Captains - dumps - kitchens
all were still there as the Germans had left
them. Ammunition of all sorts, the Captain
we met, told us, was scattered + hidden over
the Mountain, one new dump of "100,000 worth
he had just discovered - a road for trucks
led up the other side of the mountain +
camouflaged by ^{high} penitents' barricades built half

way across the road to break the white
line to airters - The 28th Division
is evidently salvaging all the German stores
in the area of its front - Many guns can
be used + the ammunition shot back at the
Boche rather than carrying it away or
destroying it - shell casings are recycled
+ used. Everything is used in some
way - The negroes are used for this
work - The view over the valley toward
Montsee + the Ridge beyond Serchejey +
North to the front was a lovely tall
Woodland sprinkled with a few fields +
towns - at the foot of the hill
where we left the car was a German
repair shop - blacksmith shop, + a store
of shovels - grenades + rifles - some quite
new. ~~It~~ It was then 4 P.M. + the Lt.
drove back in Toul so we stood down the
road as fast as possible. Held up by
trucks on the narrow road being repaired
but we came back through Wernville -
Barnville + Apremont - behind it around
Montsee + then turned East through Bouconville
Ramboucourt, to Beaumont along the high
Ridge that divides the plain - Montsee is
thus revealed as an exceptionally strong

position, only approachable from the south
~~east~~ because its West + South West exposure
is protected by mountains above + lower down
are numerous lakes, ponds, + marshes, that
would seriously interfere with any consistent
advance. It was getting dark. we
then rode rapidly through Beaumont, Berriacourt,
Manonville. Homeville, to Tremblacourt. turned
right here to Manoncourt - the old Q.M. siding
+ the Hospital here - arrived at 5.30 P.M.
to find my name being called + to discover
a dozen or more cases had been admitted.
We did 3 - little fellows. I gave the
anesthetics - apparently the casualties
were the result of a minor raid. The
operating room is crowded but noisy from
the noisy engine but we cleaned up 3 cases
in an hour. Late dinner - letters
Newspapers - a call on the Colonel who
had given me copies of the Daily + the
Easton papers - Bed.

Nov 4 - Several bulky breakfast. a bit
lowery day. clearing & colder in P.M.
letters + Drury most of day - until 3 P.M.
when the Major, Biss, + I set out for
Toul to celebrate Biss' 30th Birthday

We caught a Food truck at Meuil la Tou.
+ found Paul under the same. a little
sprightlier. the shop windows gayer +
more buildings at Evocation No 1. - I
found the little Tailor Shop at the foot of
the Hill closed + finally after raising a racket
I left for a Shop in town much more
convenient where my trousers buttons could
be altered - To the "Y" for chocolate +
Soap + a rest; while there we came the
little lieutenant off the salvage Dept +
I invited him to dine with us. at the
café on the square with the Headwaitress
that reminded me of "Trotter" Randolph.
we had a wonderful dinner - Pot
+ Potatoes - Salad - + Omelette au Blum ^{coffee} with
a delightful champagne - The lieutenant came
in late + ordered his own dinner but he
was quite an addition - went Fahy + came
from Rochester, N.Y. - I had some
Roses + Juliet cigars saved for the occasion
from Paris + altogether it was quite a
party though several ~~friends~~ ^{staff} at
a neighbouring table outranked us with
the Headwaitress - The lieutenant took us
all the way home in his car. a great lift

+ I signed a certificate for physical fitness for promotion for him - He is to be promoted to a Captain + now he moves to Wainville + our chances of seeing the country must wander elsewhere.

A few cases to-day, small fellows none for us however - + some in to-night as well.

Met a boy in Toul of the 28th who knew Ed, said he thought he was hurt by a piece of shell + in the leg - but the whole area had been thoroughly mined + he might have been wounded by one - Roads particularly had been mined by weight-fuses i.e. requiring a heavy wagon or lumber like a gun to set it off + there numerous others were timed to follow at several minute intervals - at one point fortunately the Salvage officer had discovered a case of German papers + the intelligence left to whom he turned ^{them} over, found a ~~map~~ of the entire mined area + was able to save a great many casualties - our total casualties to date are 600,000 is rumored - that the Americans have lost 10-1 in the Argonne front + that the Kaiser has ~~already~~ fled from Germany -

On the way home we saw a search light, apparently hunting a plane - then a signal flashed in the sky - the lights of the

Summer they may be used as the
only foot gear - usually there is no heel at
all ^{light} ~~thin~~ up at the heel -

Back again in P.M. for laundry &
it was not sent as promised - Fairly
well done not up to La Chéffe though
a great hot bath - Dinner - a little
Reading - Bed - Rumor this
evening that Americans have entered Sedan
thus effectively cutting the main Southern
German Railroad.

Nov-6 - No cables for breakfast - spent
most of morning writing letters or preparing
Christmas presents for their little trip
across - lunch - a little reading &
then work all afternoon. Bess' Appendix,
a book, & several little hand cases. S.I.W.
Nothing more but papers - maps - bed.

Nov-7 - Cables again this a.m. - letters -
then a walk to the village with the
Major's laundry. Lowery day & a little
drizzle - Very hospitable laundry lady, who
showed us her house & its arrangement? Stone-
flashed floor, low corridors leading to second
rooms - Kitchen - bed room - dining room, ^{is one} ~~is one~~
windows, stone floor, clean - dark - front rooms
of same size. - windows front - side

trousers were to be finished yesterday -
off we went in the ambulance at 8.30 AM -
Low trip - a little more shopping - maps -
new watch fastening on clip - commissary for
cigarettes, candy, + handkerchiefs - no difficulty
about entering city - flags on public buildings
waving vigorously - rich luxurious but
not prosperous - they declare an armistice
has been signed, no confirmation in the
papers; errors from Germany admitted
through the lines at sunrise at 8 P.M., + to
meet Koch at Seulo - Hdqrs - Huge
advances everywhere - Sedan taken by the
Americans - Train lunch at the cafe -
dazzling dances - not in evidence - caught
the Bus by Laguerre + Bouquet for the Hospital,
Belly Fisher's brother on the Bus - Eng. Major - +
a P.C. Philis girl - Phyllis Walden - now
at Nancy but looking for salvation at Meul-
la Tour - had driven for French as well
as American Army - R.C. cars -
lovely ride - new country rotten roads -
Back to find more rumors of peace -
armistice to go into effect tomorrow noon -
Bells + Whistles at 4-4.5 seemed to confirm
it but several cases in to night
+ cannonading to night - one case

then a little Bridge.
all preparations for an attack at
front; - guns, ammunition, + traps, in way
to - Gen Muir's Headquarters are at Boulogne
lovely Chateau on Hill. 4th Army Hdqrs.
Bostling activity in Paul as usual: no
change apparent on surface.

Nov 9. No bath. repairing bath house. No
cases for breakfast. Busy day - No trip to the
front as we may work to day + we have
beginning at 11 AM - Several cases myself
an anterior + posterior tibial ligament - in which
^{compensatory} circulation seems to be good. a little Bridge late
in afternoon + in evening, after a case or two -
small fellows -

Great news to day - Sedan fell yesterday
American advance - British + French also
Envoys came through the line at Suisse
arrived at 5 P.M. - not permitted to come
through until 8 P.M. - given 72 hrs to
decide, met by Toeh, Wemyss + Weygand
at Rothomel on Toeh's special train
fighting to go on as usual. Bavaria
is said to have set up a republic - 1/2 the
German Army is said to have surrendered
unconditionally - Germans evacuating Metz
- we going forward to occupy it + several

Head Quarters are to be established there.
The Germans think the armistice terms
will be 160,000,000,000 marks indemnity;
occupation of fleet + coast by British
also to be done by French. - Some towns
by Americans - Papers to-night show
that the Germans are almost entirely
out of France -

Nov 10 :: all our ambulances were sent up
to Beaumont early this a.m. - Expect many
casualties apparently - only lunch for
breakfast - Maps, letters + one case this
a.m. - We had to amputate the double
third legations leg - on account of gas
to-day - antena + deep posterior groups
both involved. - Excellent lunch - a little
Budge - Lt. Jones again to see the Major
+ reports lines advancing everywhere. - his
This ordered to Verdun, then back to Void to
wait - He is working out morbidity
statistics for the Army - Bath I then
Col. Baer brought us some instruments -
at the end of the war - said the M.O.W.
was a dead issue - said the advance was
steadily progressing - Germans retreating

Nov 11 - all our cases O.K. - The road

Forearm - quite O.K. - Cases for breakfast

Kaiser really has abdicated + in Holland
according to French morning papers -

German troops were met at a certain cross-
roads by allied automobiles - handcuffed +
were taken in closed cars to the Forest of Compeigne
+ to the station of Rothondes - near which Foch's ~~private~~
private train was moored - They entered the car - Foch
introduced the ^{allied} men present which included representatives
of England + Erzberger the German. Foch read
the armistice terms. then handed it to the German
Erzberger - He asked for immediate cessation of hostilities
Foch refused - He then asked for time to communi-
cate with the German Gov. - He was granted 72 hrs
The Germans with drew to a chateau - reserved
for them and a courier despatched to Spa. S.H.A.
of the Germans - ~~Wallo~~

~~and~~ We walked to Ardilly, found no laundry
was furnished + rumor from the Eng. head quarters
in Bayonne; that the armistice would be signed
at 9 AM to take effect at 11 AM this morning
Heavy barrage all night + still this
morning incessant firing - nearest to a barrage
since we have been here - Rumbling along
steadily - at 11 promptly - 3 or 4 hours

Salvoes from the direction of T'out.
all firing ceased - in the ^{North} ~~North~~ news in
audibly - the cloths, ~~shells~~ ^{shells} as usual.
Half way back the bells of chimes of Royan
about 11:15 began to ring, sing, + bang,
kept up for 1/2 hr. Official telegram has
been received that it all is true - armistice
signed at 9 AM. Hostilities cease at 11 AM
French line

Report brought down front front that
last gun was fired at 10:56 AM in
the presence of 10,000 soldiers + to the
trains of a negro band. The negroes
especially are excited.

Nothing but gas shells were brought up the
night before to inundate the Boche lines if
they hadn't signed the armistice + to
precede a general attack.

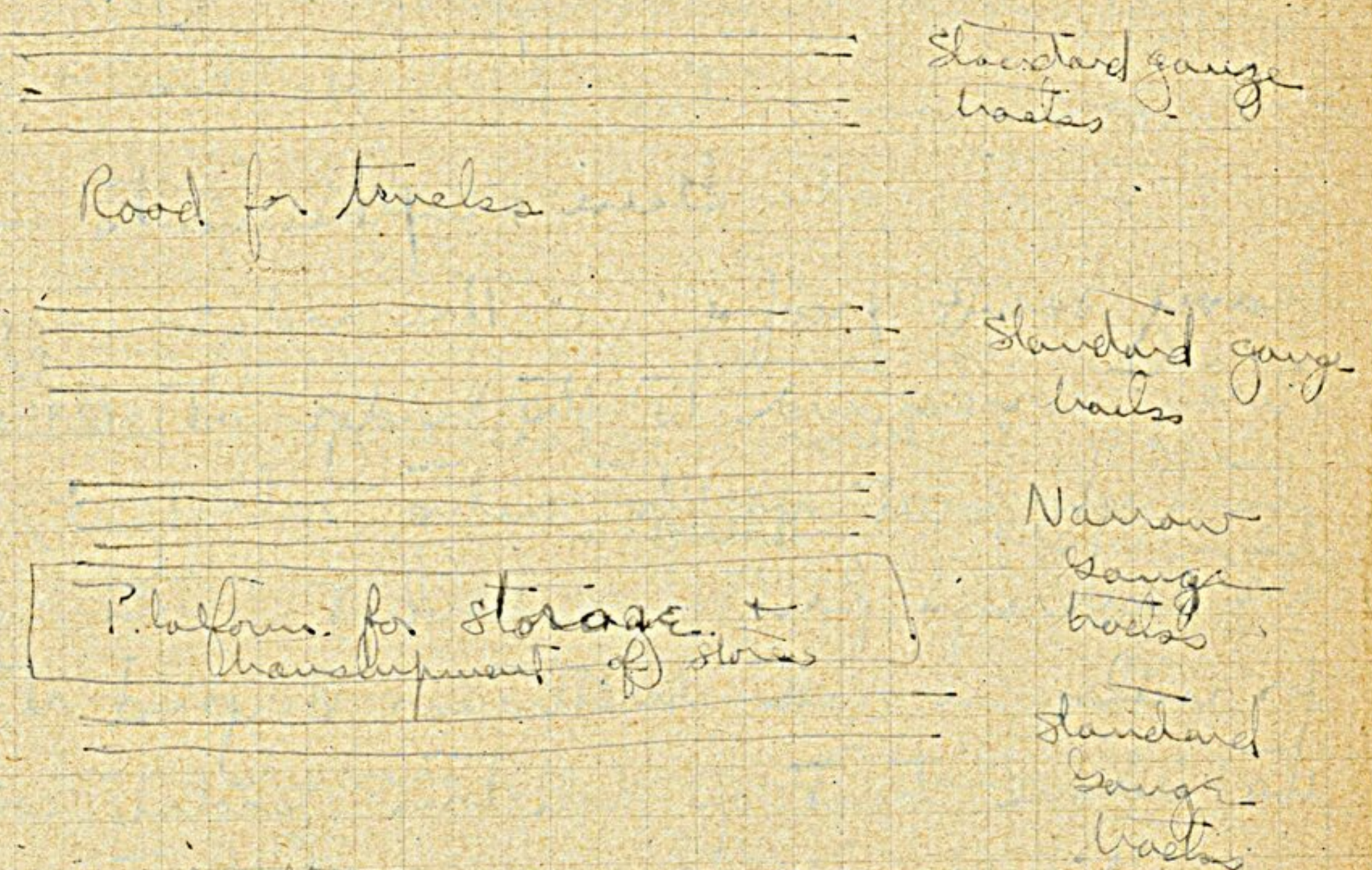
From 2 P.M. - we worked steadily
had gas cases - evacuated from field
Hospitals or picked up late + a few Foreign
Body shell cases - one button case I did.
Dinner after 7. But it was a great
day for me because a lovely lot of
letters have into sight this evening -
I had another great session.

the men as far as Audilly - hunted up
Major Cowan but he had not been at the
3rd Hdqts. Had a long talk with
the banding lady - finally returned in
time for dinner. Plenty of mud
still, especially in miserable little Audilly.
Just before we started on our walk
we saw the Red Cross ladies - 2 rather gay
looking ones - one dark the other light, ^{both into pretty} all
be rouged + made up + discovered
they were part of a Movie, being enacted,
the convalescent officer - ministered to by
the fair damsels but it began to rain
+ it was temporarily called off + we ate
some of the Tidge designed to be a
bit but for him. The director was
a 2nd lieutenant in the signal corps. The
hers also - the camera man was an
enlisted man in same corps. They
are getting up this movie for government
propaganda 'tis said. The Director
though young has apparently had some
experience in the game. The scene
was enacted right outside our barracks.
after dinner Budge's then later + Bed

Interesting dope on what happened at
the front yesterday - after the first
gun - in one place the Germans sent over
a few more shells + promptly moved
about 50 in thru - but the usual
scene was quite different. - at 11 sharp
handkerchiefs - ~~much~~ on rifles appeared over
the German trenches then the men followed
yellow flamed + walking over to the
American lines - great confusion + firelines
toward evening - bonfires lit up the trench
lines for miles. - the Germans brought
over all the kegs of beer they could find
+ a great celebration ~~by~~ + wonderful
party followed - This is attested to by
many independent informants. also ~~at~~
~~night~~ from both sides was a rival fireworks
display that rivalled any Fourth of July
celebration - rockets, star shells, signal lights
of all colors + descriptions - a marvelous
sight.

Nov 13 - a beautiful day - letters - calasfr
breakfast - a secondary address in a
case the Mayor had done I opened + other
messengers occupied most of the morning - an

Early trucks + then we started for the front. a delay at Menil la Tour until finally a Q.M. Major came by - a Chicago Robert "Big" who had seen Louis Mudge recently. He took us through the Railhead at Benecourt - supposedly an ideally arranged one.



Being in this way - double lines for direct loading into trucks - (from standard gauge) + also for loading the narrow gauge with a platform for storage if yard became congested. The standard gauge being the source of supply - transshipment to trucks + narrow gauge to reach the front.

We went on after an inspection of this
Railhead through Thiry - ~~first~~ usual, battered &
destroyed by bombardment deserted ballage
of the old first line - ~~perhaps~~ perhaps
Preceded by the usual trench lines - wire
entanglement & ditches - at intervals most
of the way from Beaumont, a gentle rise
up to Thiry along a road winding in
a shallow ravine - The Chevans de Fus
I discovered are used for the barbed wire
across the road. Gun emplacements under
heavy bomb proofs. The ridge beyond
Thiry corresponds to the ridge at Beaumont
the high point in the entire valley & here
the German's first line held it - with observation
for miles in both directions. Beyond it
the same tract of shell torn desolate country
a scant half mile, seamed with trenches, &
then a worded use of their old artillery
sites; ~~Not~~ used for extensive American
ammunition dumps - a Rough shell
holed road over a rolling country well
fought over toward Essey. a few trucks
& Staff cars passed but not many on the

road - a company or two of nigger
troops going up - use pioneers probably
for road, salvage & repair work. - Major
Shepherd + I had a great Map + Sig college
chat; He had been in Bethlehem + was a
Hobart man + knew Doc Eddy very well.

Essey is badly shot up + is at the
opening of another, winding deep ravine
North + South at first but curving over to the
East - great defensive country for the Germans
well-trenched + fortified - the road leads up
+ over the edge of the Ravine + on toward
Thiencourt - Ramifications from it are
filled with tiny huts built into the hill side
Very little of the cast offs + riff raff of
war to be seen - M.P.'s + soldiers in
the ruins of Essey - worse battered than
Thiency - but a small reservoir on its
north side - concrete - double indicates
that it is probably a water point - We
turned right beyond Essey over toward Bouillon-
ville + Thiencourt leaving the edge of the
ravine behind + following the road along
more open rolling country to another

cards - came right back - by way of
dudilly - laundry - Bath - Triner - Bridge²

Papers - Bed -
Went into Toul with a lieutenant in a
house - his chauffeur told us before the
non fraternizing order had gone out. He had
been over for a kilometer or two into the
German lines, that he had traded his U.S.
+ N.G. buttons for an Iron Cross - which he
proudly displayed - a great many boys had
been over + traded for a lot of plunder -

at Toul we saw two long piles of concrete
blocks about 2ft x 1/2ft along the narrow
gauge tracks evidently used to build dugout
proof huts + gun shelters.

Rumor to night that the casual officers
of No 1 + No 13 Evac Hosp. have been
ordered to their bases - The troops do
not move into Germany before the 16th or
17th - 5 days of grace - Frenchmans hold the
line up to Metz - the French from Metz to
Cologne - the British from Cologne to the
Sea -

Nov. 15 - Dressed cases until 11 - Trays + letters
+ Bridge until 2 P.M. - then a long walk with
the Major to Maroncourt + across country
home again - a skumish line sham

battle was being waged on the low ground
by a Battalion of the 89th Div. against Machine
gun nests - drawing back as the skirmishers
advanced. Blank cartridges but nevertheless
real intermittent spanking of the explosion &
the long separated lines advancing in
rushes against it & then "retreat" -
march home - It was a cold clear day,
Eastern breeze, stiff, - & we had a bully
walk of an hour or so - beautiful rose
sunset at 4 P.M. - just as we got back. - on
first call but no cases for us -
Letters & Budget to night.

Nov. 16. . . a short letter this a.m. & then
off with the Major to Pont - a Monsoon
another lovely clear but very cold windy
day - We walked over to the main road
beyond Ruyansweix & caught a truck to
Barnecourt & then another to Tilney -
news a little hazy - & extremely cold while
riding - started to walk on the Pont an
Monsoon road & had a long hard

drive against the wind to Luney without
a rest. There we met Col Crawford & Capt
coming up behind us in a truck that
turned off ~~at~~ Luney. We strolled along
the neighbouring benches - as the road
all across followed the old front line
American benches & caught 2 trucks
going within a mile of Pont au Mousson
Bully road - paralleling the line dipping into
ravines the North side of which were
honeycombed with dugouts & huts - like a
cliff dweller's rock - In fact the general
aspect of the rolling plain - occasional ^{barren} mesa
like bluff & steep sided ravine ~~opposed~~ wooded
~~some~~ all resemble the Western foothills or
prairie edge. Men with packs marching in
groups or singly along the road apparently
moving up to their units as stragglers
we took on quite a number in ~~the~~ trucks.
We passed right over the road from which
Angus & I turned off to go into the
front line benches in September & which

formed our 2nd line trench then - didn't
stop; down a long deepening valley into
Montaunille - passing 2 huge 8" guns
still protected by lathered camouflage + built
on roller wheels so that tractors could pull
them - a huge number of 5 mile an hour
Holt Caterpillar ~~tractors~~ were lined up on the
opposite side of the road - [a similar
outfit to those we had seen in Toul
in the Barracks the day of the St.
Michel drive] - at Montaunille we
found ourselves almost at the end of
the valley in a small town - no civilians
used for billets + a mile from Pont-
an-Maisson - We caught another truck
into the town which to my surprise is
quite large 15-20,000 ^{inhabitants} in peace times but
not a civilian now, - filled with the
"fighting" 92nd negro division - but white
M.P.'s + a few Engineer units - one English
or gas expert crew of about 1000 -

on a stick over the shoulders - or
muddled or anything from a baby carriage
to an improvised wheelbarrow - a few
were carried on the hand or on ^{the} head.
all seemed happy - not very hilarious
but smiling & stepping out busily.
We walked through the well sand bagged
square where real signs of bombardment
began ~~to~~ on to the Bridge across the
Moselle ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~other~~ ^{other} banks.
Town up at the near end by an arched
well ~~placed~~ ^{shell} ~~or~~ ^{or} a shell. No one was allowed to
pass over ^{the single plank forming the log} ^{12 ft} but we spied a foot bridge
a quarter mile farther down stream &
started out to find our way thither. Through
another deserted square, shell holed, a few
American soldiers billeted in one of the houses
& finally by a narrow winding street back
into the stream of returning prisoners - as
far as the eye could see groups & throngs
of on-coming straggling ~~straggling~~ ^{straggling} prisoners -
a motley kaleidoscope of color - Happy
often new found friends or fellow sufferers helping
the weaker & ~~padding~~ ^{carrying} their bundles in
in their wheelbarrows - The Magos took

up from the village on the opposite
side - an old church with a metal
statue of Jeanne d'arc ^{with poised sword} surmounts the very summit - can
~~overlook~~ be seen for miles + miles in
all sides. The highest point in all that
region - readily visible from the hills near
Toul + undoubtedly from Metz - a
broken stone wall encircles the top of
the mountain [250 ft square], ~~recently~~ ^{recently} ~~trays~~
many rifts but still holding well to all
sides but the North which the little church
fills - ^{Deep} Trenches ramified ^{all} over the enclosure
some leading to points of look out vantage
on the ~~ridges~~ ^{ridges} of one to a Southern ~~community~~
trench down to the village ~~below~~, + one
straight up to the door of the church - Two
deep dugouts lead down from this deep into
the earth - probably to a house in the
subjacent village - it was too dark to
explore - The church was built of old white
plaster slabs - yellow with age - splattered with

small shot but fairly intact except
for a direct hit that carried away the
centre of the small belfry, leaving the
tower as firmly ensconced as ever.

We entered the church only about 30 x 40 ft in
size + barricaded to the last nich - a narrow
passage buttressed + staggered like a trench -
dark led back to two tiny rear rooms - used
for sleeping quarters of the observers or garrison -
tiny side rooms also used for quarters + through
windy loop holes, for observation of the enemy
lines - We finally discovered the steps to the
lower began sharp to the left of the
entrance - winding ^{spiral} narrow but still very
firm with a rickety loose guide rail - The
wind was blowing a great gale whistling
+ howling but that little lower hadn't a
particle of sway - The broken portion had left
the stair way intact + the bells in position -
From the top a magnificent prospect of
the surrounding mountains + valleys + rivers

presented itself - To the North - the
first line trenches of the Americans - the
Boche's beyond on the second high mountain top
away - (3 miles) - The valley of the
Moselle stretching out to the north & curling
behind the Boche Mountains - Far to the
North, the outskirts of Metz could just
be distinguished - nearer the Seille & its
valley to the East with Vailly & numerous
villages in its winding marshy path.

Rolling hills & Mountains for ever into horizon
pale green + gray brown with the dark patches
of clouds flying before the sun - The contours
of the valleys were well obliterated by the
height from which we viewed them - all
well wooded with large areas of brown
weedy stubble fields - To the South the
meandering Moselle wound its way
out of the land beyond the horizon between
low mountains - Far beyond the mesa
hills of Toul could just be seen in
the rapidly growing Western haze &

on the West at our feet lay Maussion with
its Bridges to Pant an Maussion - Maulanville
beyond + the ^{side} valley reaching up to the top
of the Hills forming the Western skyline
Nony + one or two other villages nesting
at their feet - Near at hand an orchard
or two + just below us to the East a
road from the ^{shallow} valley coursing up to the
little village - encircling the high summit ~~from~~
three sides - possibly ^{detached} 20 houses along this
road - deserted save for a few soldiers a
café showing signs of life + a company of
spies + span French Infantry marching up
to it. - We descended + took more detailed
view from terra firma - Col Crawford +
Capt ~~son~~ joined us at this point
+ having no lunch we fed them with
hard tarts, sardines, + cakes that we had.
The Major took some pictures - The
descent was easy down the stony straight
road to Maussion - rather steep grade.

though, by the old cemetery + orchard
We passed by the church of Marsoon
a bit missed but not seriously damaged
by shells + across the forbidden bridge
arching high over the river with a
double flanks only, closing the 10 ft
gap still remaining near the Western bank -
No interfering colored guard this time
still the stream of returning prisoners -
the same motley crew - more voluble in
conversation if possible - a few being
transported in trucks to Nancy - We
had a long wait for a lift but finally
caught a Ford truck running right to
Toul by way of Tienloup + we made
wonderful time - less than an hour but a
thrilling swaying ride I wouldn't care to
duplicate - I collected my pay, checks in
Toul - had a warming up drink +
got here in time for a late dinner - a
little Budge + Bed ^{retains} care of over a
hundred prisoners there tonight

Nov 17 - on first call to-day. Thigh
man going to bed. Several gas infection
after he had done very well for three or 4 days.
Nothing doing until P.M. when one thigh
case. grenade injury - from an exploded
grenade hurled at a stream to kill the
fish!!! - another man lost his eye in
same accident - crazy youth. The
Major left for Newfoundland with selected
team who have been ordered back to
their bases + Boss + I held the Port.
Read - wrote played. Bridge - Bed -

We are not likely to go into the
occupied territory - The advance begins to-day
several evacuation hospitals are going and
no one permitted through the lines.

The thigh-old case died late to-night.

Nov 18 - Discovered a lot of released
American Prisoners in a ward this
A.M. - most interesting - one from the
28th Div. captured at Chateau Thierry in

July - had been a travelling salesman +
Vanderbilt artist - a Scranton boy - very
amusing - was wounded in the leg + forearm;
l. hand was very weak as a result - He said
~~he~~ had been kept under shellfire for two or
three days after being captured - had been
offered food he could scarcely eat & refused it.
Then brought before the Captain who spoke
English - he was asked how he liked the food
& he said it was rotten we wouldn't feed
a pig that stuff - "Would you like to have some
sausage + sauerkraut?" - "yes sir" - thought
he was going to be poisoned but his
forearm hurt so, that he didn't care
much - Two plates of sausage + cabbage
were brought + the Captain ate with
him - "Would you like some beer?" - "Does a
calf like milk?" - "Well, you shall have some"
2 Big steins of beer appeared + the Captain drank
with him - "Now you seem to be a bright fellow
an unusually clever man, perhaps you can tell me
about your platoon - how many men were there?"

for = He said "For my country just as
you are for your country." - "I'm fighting
for the Kaiser" - "To hell with the Kaiser
I'm fighting for President Wilson" - He
was promptly hurled out by a punch on
the jaw + would have been killed so he
was let but an officer interfered.

He was a member of a machine gun co.
shot through the forearm - when the rest of
his crew were disabled, ~~and~~ ^{fell} crawled with
his gun to a shell hole where a Frenchman
managed the cartridges + he fired the gun
for over an hour until finally they were
captured. He tried to escape, was shot
twice - slain waind - for ^{the} attempting to - was
to be killed at any further attempts. He
was kept under shell fire for 3 days + then
sent back - marched 20 K. in one day at
almost double time until about ready to drop - finally incar-
ated at Hamburg - one of the worst prisons
in Germany. Very good doctor here - very kind
to Americans - Americans were treated

much better than any others. - The food
consisted of bread made of bran, sawdust?
occasionally marmalade - soup of ^{stew of} mushrooms
grass, - cow humps - bay leaves - + coffee of
dried barley + ground acorns - Practically un-
edible but the Red cross boxes came in
about a month after arrival at camp + though
permitted to have one only once in 3 wks.
two in 3 wks per man was arranged - though
one per wk per man is always sent. These
boxes contained bully beef - hard tacks, or biscuit
canned vegetables + soup - jam - enough to
last each man nearly a week - with tobacco
in some form - In the hospitals the food
was possible - ^{the} unfit for work got the above
menu - the workers nothing but the stew
3 times a day - they were required to work
10 1/2 hr q d either in the mines, workshops or
fields - Work was gauged by the work a
Russian could do - perfect oxen for work -
if by the end of a day the American boy
had not done as much as his Russian
neighbor he worked overtime until he had.

Each received a ^{blanks} book + for every day of work were given a yellow stamp indicating the worker was entitled to a mark - posted in the book & exchangeable for anything that could be bought. Other prisoners received a pink stamp - a mark a day to represent their allowance or pay. Work in the fields was by far the best, as good meals could be eked out from produce of the land.

They were herded in barracks in double deck bunks piled close together - alive with cots + straw mattresses - Roll call in the morning - designated "appel" by the Boche, was an affair that brooked no delay - the guards came in with clubbed muskets + "Raus, Raus" + no belid any body within range - the Russians especially suffered + were beaten unmercifully - one day the guard as he appeared to "Raus" was slipped a box of tobacco by an American - He came back to unnumbered "American" good sleep - Nix "Raus" - Nix "appel" + thus immunity was acquired.

The food conditions in Germany have been so bad that Men have died of weakness going to work - a German German, too, certified as sound by a Doctor, are known to die - one about dying from tuberculosis + crankton continually passed as O.K. by the Doctor appeared one day with a pistol + shot him

doubtful but it will be broken up ^{the Personnel} or may be sent home or to base or camp. Hospitals when an order can be expected is doubtful probably not until end of week. - No orders for anybody so far. Budget letters. Bed

Saw a youngster in Paul in 28th Div who had been gassed. Couldn't talk above a whisper. Laryngeal affection for 3 wks. - no cough. 28th Div now wears a Keystone - red on sleeve to identify it. - Divisions have been changed 1st + 2nd Div in 1st class - 28th, 4th, 5th 32 - 42 + one or two others in 2nd class. What the 28th is to do is not known. -

Nov 19. - Received a great letter + answered it instantly. Arouse with firm resolve for exercise. Day - bath + then set out for the front - caught a truck at Rayanmes for Bennescourt, then one to T. Grey - long way! here. Red Cross canteen busily feeding persons still filling the Tont au Mousson road as far as the eye could see. - More English than usual + another Belgian clutching his faded colors. still through it all. - The English said that they were worked very hard - badly treated beaten often but food was not impossible. They looked pale + dull + tired - no enthusiasm or pep. - 20-30 men are said to have fallen by the

wayside + died before reaching Pant-an-
Marsson - a truck came along + the
went. should "Tummy, want a ride?" a general
scramble ensued in which the Poilus as well as
Tummies pushed + tugged each other aboard.
bag + baggage + sailed off - either
trucks carried the rest. few had to walk
far from here - at Toul I believe, they are
housed on the hills - where they are detained
~~at~~ more recently, at Meuil-la-Tour where
spite of the new issue of clothing they had received
still the same, mostly a way of misfit
clothing - coat + trousers seldom matching
usually one red the other black or blue

I caught a Ford truck then, going straight
to Metz, it was a great temptation. They
all had passes through the lines - we went
up through Jélancourt + Jaulny to Rembercourt
following the Railroad + the valley that winds
up toward the Moselle below Metz - Jaulny
the usual peppered town is aside + above the
road - the Bridges, are all numbered with German
signs + numbers. just before Rembercourt we
were stopped by a guard - who demanded
passes, the men in the front seat had them
+ we passed through - I had heard of

a Medical officer who had been court-
martialled for going in without a pass so
I dropped out & went back to the guard
barrack there were strict orders against ^{anyone}
without a pass from regimental Headquarters,
interviewed Reg. Hdqrs. but found the adjutant
unable to issue a pass so as I was
then late almost 2 P.M. I ^{gave up the German line} wandered back over
the hills ^{from} by shells with a railroad
winding around the side & up over the
top - evidently to gun emplacements & over
a steep ^{double packed} ravine as an incline plane &
old windows indicated where shells or bags of
concrete had been hauled up. The brush was
very thick & had few paths. I picked up
another bit of German airplane bomb propaganda
on "Early Peace" & a book of Post cards &
Field letters - showing how they were passed
A lot of shells filled with American
seemed interesting so I turned back over
an old concrete gun emplacement & the brow
of the hill through the tangle of head high
bushes to the very end of the ridge
Here the usual machine gun pits & a
concrete dug out or two & Barbed & plain
wire so cleverly placed & hidden in the brown
autumn softing. I mistook their color that

I stumbled twice luckily on smooth
wire braings hidden at a height half
way to the trees - luckily didn't fall - or
catch on barbed wire - across an open area
of 20 or 30 ft to shallow trenches piled about
with the inevitable litter of papers + tin cans
that beloken American occupation. I scared
up a Belgian hare + a covey of quail.
but the area had been well salvaged
all the sordid refuse none of interest or
interesting emplacements so I shotted on
back to the Main road - a lovely day +
doors open out of doors - caught a
truck by several salvage piles to Thraumont
picked up two defuncty ^{to} ^{entendants} one with
a Mauser + an eye for more - which consisted
of a ^{benyan} device for firing a heavy gun, which they
had captured - by a picture wire lamer - so that
as he said, they could be down in a dugout
playing cards + pull the wire + the gun would
roll out the bullets just the same. We
walked along to Bouillonville where we
caught a Salvation Army truck right into
Mard la Tour. Two S.A. dames were
on the front seat + stopped at every town

is for lunch - He has been detailed for special
sampling work - is now overseeing the ^{special} ~~Delaney~~
+ care of the prisoners - is investigating the
reports of death amongst them - The C.O.
was in bad damage - made a general mess
of Mobile 4 - so he asked for his
transfer -

after lunch we walked out
the broad gauge to Minonville - my flannel old
trousers chafed me so that I had to grab my
right side elevation not unlike a lady
her skirts in this manner I could walk
comfortably - We caught a ride half of
the way - found the Salvage dump - in
an old mill + an accommodating Sergeant
who supplied a couple of one pound shells
for us ^{very good looking little fellows} + fired + removed the powder from
two types of dum dum bullets the Germans
used + of which there are thousands captured
as proof - Purdy + Gordon acquired some
75 - - Back we come by virtue of a
ride in a sumptuous Cadillac to the
sidings above Payson where we found
the team of 10" trench guns that the
Americans have been using - Naval
guns made into a kind of howitzer by cutting
off ^{half} the barrel on a flat car with 2 trucks
of six wheels - beautifully camouflaged.

had come over the first of any heavy
artillery - We came home by way
of the Meudon Paris road + the 75 Engineers
where the shells were left + the Major +
I had a nice house. - A lovely deep old
rose red sunset with golden tipped - deep
pink clouds + a clear, crisp, tangy in
the air.

Majors Stoney + Bullock
came back in time for dinner - had been
to Metz - no passes now required - great trip
they said - Train - Bridge - Bed.

On the sabotage pile we saw several
packages of dirty "coats" garments - made in
the form of 2 piece underclothes + rendered un-
fit for "coats" by dipping them in a gasoline solution
of naphthalene + Sulphur - + allowing them to
dry - No marked odor + they can be "re-charged"
if their efficacy becomes questionable -

on the blood gauge track we followed
two, to day, which was American built + we
found Bethlehem Steel Rails - made by Maryland
Steel Co at Sparrow's Point - Baltimore - +
joints not at same spot to cause the bump like a
flat wheel as the French have.

buried in the Hill side. His thought we had
him persuaded to go to Metz but he was under
orders to move + finally decided against us. We
walked on to Tont an Mousson about a mile -
Major Barton + Holmes had meanwhile caught a truck
going straight to Metz. At the main Square we
discovered a French caisson starting for the Mecca
of all Americans now apparently, + climbed aboard.
The Bridge had been repaired + we rumbled across
+ out along a rough shell swashed road - trying
to eat a lunch of Sardines + crockers + chocolate
while journeyed almost to the top of the car.

A mile outside the town we bumped across the
old American front line - still quite intact, peppered
a bit with the ubiquitous shell holes; dugouts +
barbed wire + no man's land showing little
evidence of active fighting - then the German
lines + benches trailing up the Hill - concreted
near the road - also quite intact. The barbed wire barricades
chevaux de frise thrown back in a tangle on the
sides of the road - a few handlets on the
mountain side, masses of ruins, an occasional
house along the road a regular well sieved with
holes - country side deserted save for the

trench lines + dots of shell. last bushing
face wheel negro soldiers were searching for
spoils of war - The road follows the river
right into Metz through the lovely soft ^{Nile} green
+ brown fielded valley with its long sloping hills
crowned with brown forests blotched with the
dark green of the Evergreens, a village scattered
here + there where hill + dale meet; + through
it all winds the fast flowing clear blue
river - the prettiest in France - Two miles
beyond the German lines the wide smooth
Macadam in perfect repair carried us on
through Carnot with the unmistakable stamp
of German Beer garden - signs + advertisements +
wine cellars even the buildings had a Palzette
Teutsche caste - American soldiers still
straggling along the road + French trucks
lumbering along or staff cars with glittering
officers whizzing by. our truck suddenly
stopped + declared it was turning up the Mountain.
We had found no guard so far - no difficulty
in passing the lines + quickly mounted the
left truck in the Convoy behind us. The Pailer
beside us was quite jubilant + hilarious - the

oozing on every hand - Numerous good looking
banjos + a Parade Platz - with a large
barracks - drill ground + an enclosed athletic
field with a small American "bleachers".

at the first intersection of car lines we
jumped out - at the Friedrich III Platz - was
a huge station or Bahnhof of which there are
three in Mcty, very large, to facilitate the
rapid loading of troops I believe - good looking
well built brick + stone - the entire bustling
with German signs + advertisement + is quite

typically German - We walked down the
wide Platz with its ^{stone} walks + paved areas -
to the overthrown ^{equestrian} statue of bronze of Kaiser
Friedrich down, resting upon his ruffled head
completely upside down - The Germans left
on Saturday - Saturday night the statues were
pulled down - Sunday the French entered - March
took on Tuesday + this is Thursday - The
Majors took a picture of the over-turned "Benckmann" as
it was called + We strolled on into the centre
of the city - narrow winding streets - lined
with the allied flags especially French, things

Americans had not occupied Metz as they had heard they would - We were ushered out the back door & on we went down through the crowded shopping area to the Cathedral Metz must have between 150,000 - 200,000 inhabitants gives the impression of great prosperity, quite an American air & seems absolutely untouched by war except for certain food stuffs. We bought a few post cards - Christmas gifts, toys dolls - candies used fill the windows - as much German as French is heard. Numerous little banners not as dirty or unscrupulous as the French rambling everywhere begging "bisquit" & "souvenirs" or chocolate - ^{all speaking German - unable to} a woman ^{understand} French selling a French newspaper - "Messager" - but only army vehicles on the streets - On the Haupt Platz is the Cathedral & the Hotel de Ville the latter with its drapery of flags & painted lined stairway - the Cathedral even with one or two French flags is a magnificent edifice its tall towers & roof are stately Gothic - gargoyles - with a frieze of ^{heavily} sculptured figures over the Portal - a wonderfully impressive interior beautiful long ^{tall} aisles & arches to the roof - handsome windows - excellent paintings -

a shrine loaded with candles + surrounded by
lurching devotees + over all the distant chant
of praying priests - a satisfying tone in
semblance. I lending itself admirably to duty
communication with the Almighty, the
subsections impression of grandeur +
greatness of a house that ~~is unjustly~~ ^{really seems} a
would serve as ~~an~~ ^{common} ground
~~house~~ ^{with} powerful deity; can ~~be~~
admirable for a church with which hard power
for the ignorant - Impressionable + Superstitious
Next to Rheims + the Madeleine I place the
Notre Dame cathedral - it has atmosphere.

In the centre of the comparatively small
square were parked a line of French +
American cars + caissons - about them
groups of men with more German trophies
the man with a sack of helmets - officers
+ spiked. We learned that the arsenal
was across the Bridge over the Seine +
down a street or two along the car line.
We found it + a guard at the gate -
Barriers around a large quadrangle -
No admission - but for 10 francs spiked
helmets would be produced by one of the
guard's friends - also a sword on demand.
The Major + I each bought a helmet +

from a bystander I bought two belt
buckles. ^{for a friend's} ~~He~~ ^{He} hustled back to his home &
returned with them when he heard I
wanted them. But just Yankee
intuition, by subterranean channels I was
learned there was a back door or broken
war into the Casern, this was quickly
discovered & enlisted men were streaming
through it & up into the store rooms & picking
up what & as much as they wanted quite
gratis. - Even a Lt. Col sent messengers by
this route. - The trucks & cars went back
literally loaded with plunder. I
squeezed the helmets into my knapsack & we
strolled back along the Seille & the Theatre. Cafe,
Post office & Square along ^{Modern stone - dark yellow & blue - same} the banks, ^{then} ^{hagles}
to the Haupt Platz to find a car leaving
Metz the night but none found or rather no
seat or room in any procurable. - Back we
wandered in the happy crowd to the Imperial or
Place Royale - a lovely park with fountains
several blocks square at the West end - the
statue of the Kaiser's grandfather Wilhelm I
also overturned & in ignominious reversal -
standing on its head. - Behind a wide promenade

below to a lovely driveway & esplanade &
for below the dear blue Pines winding by
in the gray-rose dusk, the velvet pale
green blue haze over the dark hills ruffled
by the line of fortification surmounting them
& standing out in relief against the
rose tinted, fleecy clouds. a beautiful
prospect. - We turned our backs on
the profuse photographs with pictures of
~~the~~ over-tuned & upset royalty. - [Even the
statue of the Kaiser in the Church was
hand cuffed] - & arrived at the far
end of the square to witness the
arrival of a Squadron or two of Spies-
Spor. French cavalry - trotting toward the
Hotel de Ville - We followed them to the
Metzer Hof where we looked up a Captain
for a possible ride back but none available
from anyone of 15 or 20 American
officers that wandered in. The Cafe
Dining room was fat L shaped -
an excited German party at one end.
Bar along one side that served as
Lunch counter as well as a drinks

turnover - 1/2 moleum on the floor.
a "Zwei Bier" - German barmaid - sitting
us in typical fashion - tables + a few
"Men of the Mountains" decorations + German
Bar signs. Clean - plenty of room - high
ceiling - excellent modern plumbing.
Even the bar warts ^{with} really dressed
at la Princesse in black ^{with} Marcelled hair
all in German - French money accepted of
course but German Rate in marks still
quoted - The Maitre d'Hotel - spoke
English, a small pleasing boy, who had
been interned in London for 3 yrs. - His family
still there but he had just come from
Hessen to Metz - thought he would probably
be sent back to Germany - after some
beer - we had "Kaffee + Kuchen" - Barley ^{stout}
coffee quite palatable + looking like real coffee.
+ a Pê - coconut cake - Tasteless - unarrested +
practically unsweetened - miserable stuff. - By
6 o'clock a Red Cross crew that promised a
possible ride back appeared - decided to
spend the night - So did we quite promptly
engaged two bare little rooms at 4 francs
a piece on the 3d floor + then had

dinner - How I ^{loved} of Kipperd Hermy.
pebbled beet - cauliflower + potatoes - Excellent
Roast Pork potatoes + cabbage - Brown
bread - of bran + barley - possible but not
lasty + Beer fairly good but not real
German Beer - more like a fresh Bocha
beer - all for about 10 F a piece - We
wandered across the street to the
Hotel Europa for a possible late ride to
to find other rooms but all were taken.
We did find a lieutenant in the Quartermaster
Dept. who had discovered some Benz
Cars discarded by the Germans, + wanted
us to drive them back to Nancy for him.
He had hard orders ^{for his own car} + could get gasoline
+ we were to be his chauffeurs. ^{getting by the guards} ^{of this} ^{would be} ^{easy}
Does the resourceful American acquire any-
body's property !!! -

Summed up all idea of leaving town until
the next day. We went to a Marie - a
Hall quite similar to our small city more
palaces - crowded with Poles who had delighted
time programming the German interpolations
thrown on the screen + interpreting them. We

stood most of the time + saw an
excellent detective "Sherlock Holmes" play.
Back to the Hotel + bed. The arc lights on
the streets - most of the crowd vanished -
no cafe's open - No key to the door of
my room + barricaded it with a chair
off with my shoes + puttees, placed my trousers
beside me. The room was cold as blazes
tucked myself under the sheet + Eider down
quilt + Gals coverlet + slept soundly.

Nov 22 - I woke to hear the church clock
strike 1 + 4 + 6 - slept well in-
between - Up + down for a breakfast in
the cafe in the midst of the daily cropping
of the floor + chairs on tables. Coffee.
Barley Bran Bread + cranberry jelly - Then
off we started at about 7 for the road to
Pont au Mousson - At the Friedrich Platz, a
long line of camouflaged armored motor cars
passed - no two are pounders in their turrets
2 men in the turret ~~at the~~ the tower -
half again as high as the usual car + a driver
peeping through a narrow slit in the front slope.

We caught the car to the edge of town -
strolled out under the arch + along the
road quite unharmed by guards or gendarmes
M.P.'s - + then we walked. It was another
lovely clear day with a nip in the air but
not a vehicle going our way only a
hay cart - the slow moving load. - We
walked for an hour fully 10 Kilometers / nearly
5 miles to join ^{passed a French train = potatoes - hay - cottons} les Arches ^{here bound for Metz}
discovered two good looking nuns watching
us in front of their old stone convent.
They confirmed our suspicions about the
old Viaduct - told us they too were sorry
that the Americans had not come into
Lorraine - that wanted to know all about
us + proudly pointed to the American flag
they had made themselves if you please
wanted to know about the stars. It was
a pathetic little thing of 11 stripes only and
about a dozen scattered stars. We ~~told~~ them
ought about 'old Glory' - they intimated that
Lorraine would be glad to be let alone + not
fought over + it suggested that the German
suggestion was not falling on stony ground

after seeing our baggage safely in under
guard + had a great meal for 5⁰⁰ + we were
hungry - a little Chateau D'Yquem + then
I discovered Col. Rusty Russell of the General
Staff of the 3rd Army Corps - + we had a little
liquor - then Steel, up. No III + we had a
very pleasant evening. - at 10 P.M. we were
pretty tired + hunted up the Red Cross Rest
Rooms as the Club was full. the R.C. beds
were all engaged but we were too tired to
care + tumbled into 3, only to be tumbled
out again in 15 min by their rightful

owners - The Mayo + I borrowed a blanket
+ a fur coat. a piece + curled up on the floor - Bis
dressed after ^{being} convinced that he was ^{rightfully} dispossessed
+ went back to the station + slept there. We

did very well on the floor. I slept soundly
except when I woke to turn over + for a floor is
hard even to my well padded frame + to re-cover

up. We woke betimes - found Bis at the station

^{Nov 23} permanenced in the train, our baggage checked
We stopped on the way though for an excellent
breakfast of omelette Toast + coffee - a painful
wait for an hour + an equal painful

Headquarters of the M.O.W. - No letters, No news. except that Col Jones has said that we were to return to the States as soon as he could send us. No baggage. no functions of any sort. ^{No cents or quarters} ^{very few men here of our} organization. ^{Major} Smith is Col Jones' Adjutant. ^{Major} Matt is acting C.O. of M.O.W. The Billing officer is Whitcraft. old Hopkins main- we were escorted up steep alleys down the same dark muddy lanes. around curves of chucks finally into an alley that turned sharply to left then right & ended blindly in a sort of Y M C A Bldg with a balcony on second floor. Here we selected beds & mattresses & awaited our bed rolls. Finally about 10 they were dumped down at the door covered with mud & on inspection with the exception of Gordon we turned them down to a man & slept under our over coats. I with the aid of 2 pairs of socks, a sweater, pajamas over under clothes & an extra flannel shirt tied around my neck. shoes & trousers off.

Billiard table - glasses - cards - paper -
not other members of M.O.W. resting -
finally assigned to houses - ours - Boss
mine is 8 Rue des Ursulines - at the
foot of the Hill + beyond the "Y" place -
one large room with a stove + comfortable
chairs + another smaller room with
old Mahogany beds in each - low board ceiling
old religious ^{and} unattractive ^{and} prints on the walls,
all wood or papered, - a big writing table in
our sitting room - all on the second
floor of a large old house - reached by ^{outside} ~~an~~
winding ^{stone} stair - + the side yard street door -
The rear yard is large + copious - small
lawn fruit trees evergreens - walls +
a small birds terrace for afternoon tea
facing the North - a small aviary
for canaries - + red + blue birds of about
same size in one corner - all quite
unheated + the adjunct of an old manor
or a recent double house of a formerly prosperous
family. We were admitted by an old lady
with a farmer's straw hat pulled down 'way over
her eyes + a halting manner. The rooms

+ prospect were so much better than we had anticipated from the gray delapidated appearance of the town that we thoroughly enthused over the billeting idea. It seems the U.S. pays a franc a day for us + we are supposed in tips etc to increase this to not more than a franc + a half a day. We have to furnish our own fuel + light i.e. wood + candles.

I wandered off to send a cable to Joel + Bess to get our baggage into our quarters which the old dame said would not be ready before 2 P.M. as the "Temme de Chambie" did not come until 1 P.M. - It had

been drizzling but by noon it was fairly clear. Juville is a town of 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants on the South ^{or West} Bank of the Marne. [a shallow weedy stream a little bigger than the M. Anacacy] with a big broad canal; + in the centre of town another power canal to run the flour mill. ^{in a narrow valley between low ~~to~~ steep hills} It spreads ~~at the~~ ^{to} the ~~Hills~~ wooded Hills - up which the town spreads + down a small lateral valley. It has an imposing church spire - two

broad main st. one running at right
angles the other parallel to the Maine part
of the main highway. Between the two
is a network of the usual narrow winding
alleys that serve as streets + a heterogeneous
collection of old wood + stone ^{streets} buildings +
an occasional Modern or school Building
We are just above the Foot of the Hill - near
the outskirts of town.

Major. Huletins invited ^{us} to mess with
col. Bell + himself which we did - had a bully
lunch + signed up to eat there permanently.

Over a cafe - straight across + in town from
us about a 5 min. walk. We settled +
unpacked most of the afternoon - started a
fire in the stove - met Major. Robey of Portland
+ then read + rested at our ease. Bully stove
very warm + comfortable - Dinner at 6.

then an impromptu show for the "Blind of the War"
army orchestra + vocal talent - One young stout
pretty blond sang well + an army Sergeant
produced some Rag time that was wonderful
2. but noise French shots rather a mess
Horse-play - but amusing as demonstrating
a view-point - have drawn out - Bed at
midnight

Nov 27 - Left hotel after 9. awfully
comfortable bed. met Timman Schmalder
a Major on the street. came over with
Evacuation 22. ^{quite a number} There are apparently
3 or 4 Evacuation Hospitals here - bits of
the M.O.W. all awaiting orders to be sent
home - ~~leaf~~ absolutely nothing to do.
& billeted. No barracks or quarters anywhere.
Met Thompson of Portland. class mate of
Major Bancroft. Read Paper - lunch -
then inspection of quarters - Gordon's & ours.
& a tour of the town - for beer - coffee &
supplies for Breakfast - Found a lovely
huge old Chateau along the Marne -
a French Hospital where baths may be had.
bought wood - a cane for 18 cents - 95 cents
& finally inspected the church - a marvelously
good looking evidently of modern renovation
in an old structure - the interior resembling
St. Thomas in New York - beautiful windows
old broken figured lunies - but a bully organ
& lovely interior lines - surprisingly large
for so small a town - Reading Writing Chair
Bed.

Nov 28 - Wolsse I am hot from the
confounded pillow thing full of
feathers that serves as a quilt - jumped
into clothes, a bit damp from the out of
doors + started the fire in our living room!
coaxed it into genial coals finally +
discovered that buttered bread - toasted to
melt the butter first then the plain side
was a delicious morsel. Bess dubbed
it Toast à la Wolsse in honor of
our abode - The stout femme de chambre
appeared on time with our coffee + we had
a delightful breakfast of coffee - toast + apple
sauce. We have discovered that the old
body who runs or owns the house near
the old stam hat before she does her business
in the morning - afterward she discards
any head covering though the end result of
the arrangement is not startling - a judicious
rouge pot may be implicated - our
femme de chambre comes every day at 1 PM
+ scrubs the floor ^{and does the beds} under the watchful

eye of "Madame" - "Inspector" as she says - We shared + sallied forth to greet the

world - Thanksgiving Day - Met De Ieyo

Kirby Dwight + Major Van Buren, had just

come in - chaperoned them around town + took them to the Mess - Bully dinner of

Goose - Chestnut dressing - 4 vegetables - jam + Pumpkin + Peach tart - Candy - a Bath

in the early afternoon - Bridge - + then Major

Bancroft's M.O.W. dinner at Madame Benne's

Soup - Fish - Hors D'oeuvres - Peas - Chicken -

a Goose - Cheese Salad - Pastry - Coffee - Nuts -

very slow service but wonderfully good.

a little Chablis on the side - Home by

10 P.M. - Reading - Bed :

Nov 29 | Quite too hot - woke early - couldn't

sleep - a little of the "second phase" then

up - fire - Toast a la W. routine - Breakfast

letter + Dairy - walk - lunch - The youngsters

here have a funny Marble game in

which triangular pyramids of marbles are

arranged usually 4 in each - 4 pyramids

about 8 x 4 ft square with steps leading
down to it + a frame work over it + an
inlet spigot + outlet pipe - evidently used for
an open air bath - the usual candelabra
fruit trees along the high side wall +
shrubs along their bases - The old lady
lives in an outhouse or old stable (one ground
floor room) - evidently to avoid heating the
old huge house which we will see in a
day or two - Papers + Diary this P.M.
then a hunt for petrol or coal oil - as the
old lady produced a kerosene lamp to day
+ was all for having it rigged like a
chandelier from the ceiling - had a man +
ladder in our room to do it until we
stopped ^{the proceedings} - our wood came to day + we
filed it ourselves in the barn - Rumor
at supper to night that we sail about the
12th - that our organization is to remain
in tact + probably will soon be sent home -
Great dope - The old lady is going to give
us trench lessons every evening at 8 P.M.

double windows - niches between the 1st
story windows or recesses in the walls -
a bit crumbly at the corners - very
imposing mansion but not very old -
probably late 1600 or early 1700 - It had
been used as a Hospital ^{was now being}
cleaned. I didn't ^{stay} see its interior - ^{circumspectly outside} The
lawns were comparatively well kept &
the paths wound around the house to
the rear where little lagoons & ponds
with a stream came out of the small
stretch of dark woods at the foot of
the hill. The stream was bridged
by old stone arches hidden & green with
moss & vines & ~~wended~~ its way by slow
moving or semi stagnant pools ~~about~~
the ~~grounds~~ ^{park} to a small outlet weir ^{near the bridge} ~~in front~~
The woods were being judiciously forested -
Paths buried in & out amongst the trees &
near the rear ~~falls~~ was a clear stone gut
pool with steps leading down to it on all
sides which served as ~~drains~~ ^{drives} for the stream

Through the scrubs + trees on the lower slope
near of the Chateau was quite fascinating
with its old gray mottled ^{gables} + broad
double stair ^{with half turn} from its wide portal but no
terrace - a wonderful place for a House Party
but I wonder whether I hadn't been at
one time a Hunting Lodge "!!"

I walked back up the valley behind
the Hill behind the Chateau + took the first
road that turned to the left. The sun was
just ~~stealing~~ the hoar frost in the deeper
dells + the old Gays were squawking their
way to the warm summit of the Hill -
It is a short fairly steep meandering old
road ^{between two ridges} a breathless ^{short} climb but a glorious
view from the pine grove on the top -
far down the valley toward Chammant - the
River swollen by the rains on the far
side - with the canal; - the power canal
turning sharply in toward the ^{close} clusters of
houses that is Juville - massed ^{in front} between
the River + the Hill + curling up onto it.

The long reach of valley north toward
St Dizier. The villages flanked along to the
wide demarcation toward Reman court - with the
spur of railway tracks & brown ribbons of
road. The dull rumble of carts, &
out from the far end of town could be seen
the steel gray head of a trench column
trudgery toward the Reman court valley &
behind ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ the ~~train~~ ^{remembering} street its wagon
train. A conveyance of trucks glided
down over the hill to the left on the
gray shingle that leads to the North. School
is over & the shrill yowls of the gnomes that
pour out of its doors rises up. The opposite
hill & the lovely far slopes of the valley -
the near ~~the~~ spire of the church & the
steep ruffled hillside right below - complete
the feast of the ^{long} ~~the~~ ^{eye} ~~eye~~ in the glorious
clear air of a sunny day. I found
a path down the steep face of the hill.
Coming out in a lane leading down to the

little square by the church - I acquired
the petrol - then back to collect - Biss
+ on to lunch - a Bath - Bridge
Major Trout + Turner + Flood - Speed - Hunkley +
most of the M.O.W. are now here - persistent
rumors that we are to be sent back
soon - Turner - a chat with Phil
Turner - the Monies - French - but good -
a little "second phase" - Bed.

Dec 1 - left until 8.30 - dressed just in
time to receive breakfast - No toast -
Wrote Diary + letters all a.m. - lunch -
Major Bailey + Stewart now here - also our
trunks + baggage from Paris - went down
to Warehouse No 4 + identified my baggage
hunted high + low + also in Warehouse "2"
because one box partially opened. showed Med. off. equipment + was
sent over to the Med. Store. I have a list of things M.O.W. +
never the fact for the box with our Canon
bag + medical equipment but none here -
evidently some baggage + most of the
letters are still in Paris - Many
of the smaller boxes have been broken into +

white stone or concrete railroad bridge
which framed fascinating vistas of further
reaches of the canal + hillside - with trees
+ their ^{reflected} ^{inverted} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{water} ^{of} ^{the} ^{canal}
+ their ^{inverted} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{water} ^{of} ^{the} ^{canal}
+ all mirrored ^{accurately} in the water of the canal
sprinkled here + there ^{an} ^{imposing} ^{modern}
mansion with ^{white} ^{o.} ^{is}
Red tiled roofs ^{blue} ^{stone} ^{design} ⁱⁿ ^{walls}
bordered one side of the canal - a iron
foundry on the other. A reverberating
echo of the most intense sort drummed
up from beneath our feet as we passed
under the arch whose stones were all
placed on the bias to conform to the
curve in the Bridge. ^{weird} ^{construction}
The ^{reflected} ^{inverted} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{water} ^{of} ^{the} ^{canal} ^{boat} ^{passed}, laden with
wine ^{carries} - doubled ^{under} ^{foot} + drawn
by 2 mules - ^{very} ^{muddy} ^{under} ^{foot}
lovely sunset + we hurried back as
darkness settled over the land. Delicious
chestnuts I procured more of - Supper
to the "Y" for the new supply of jam - cookies
cigarettes + a bit of candy. + another long

She writes at the window of the front
Hall at a huge table - a little diary
Bed -

Dec 4. Woke early - read a little History
Breakfast - wrote a letter to Dad - started letters
to Langes at the office every one seems reluctant
to write it - but I want to start a tracer
or inquiry about the cable by which I
was touched for 1000 francs - More chestnut
& provisions from the "Y" & the papers -
Lunch - an orgy of Bridge with Purdy
Stout, the Major & Bis all afternoon -
Supper - met Balthazar, the boy who has taken
the position at Palmerston, in Evacuation
Hospital 37 - now seems too much
Hofmanns but other wise O.K. - Truels
with Madame Chaudignon - very amusing
She brought us some jam for breakfast -
we evidently amuse her a great deal reading
Fabbes de la Fontaine - I also have
put us for bare for 10 days as we were

instructed that we could. - Christmas at home seems very doubtful.

Dec 5. - another fuzzy day - excellent Breakfast - matches very wet but fire finally started - sewed on my workbox all morning - gloves - buttons - + plain clothes - discovered that Lambert + Mayo Sutures do very well for gloves - My letters have finally been written + are sent - lunch - walked over with It to acquire clean clothes for Bath - back for letters - none present - learned of the real life of Mrs Riegel from It - some story on with the Bath in the little trench Hospital - buildings arranged like rays from a centre - bath a tiny little room with 8 small needle showers from the same pipe + two linen dressing rooms - The "frog" manager has to carry in pails for 30 or 40 ft every day of water that is used in the little tanks - 3 gal capacity from which

it is pumped to the heater by hand - his hand.
It is a real days work to run it. The
entire Medical force has only this little
outfit for bathing facilities. The line of exstated
men was 50 yds long to day - 12 at a time
crowd in. Bridge after Sand Bath
Suffer. forwarding, mileage + signum, my
leave application at the office - back to the
Mess for the Bread I'd forgotten - Paper -
letters - Tramp

The washing bath at the River
below the Bridge I just discovered to day
a Boat House open structure with roof
extending out into the water. washing
is done from both sides of the slip.
The power canal in town is a fruitful
source for laundrying for the fortunate
dwellers on to baulos but the customary
roofed - semi stagnant pool right in the
centre of town serves as the public
laundry for the majority, actually a,

filthy dirty pool of soap suds $\frac{3}{4}$ of the
line with 5-10 stottery jabbering
women as constant attendants, a continuous
clatter of lugol mitrailleuse & with the
flashing of beating of the clothes - the
substitute for a mixer - ["This is all
done by a machine in America isn't it?"
said Mue Laurent, "at least their knowledge
is modern even if they fail to escape
from the primitive customs & precedents of
their century old ancestors"] a

funeral yesterday produced the
astounding appearance of tall top hats
banded in black - full dress shirt fronts
surrounded by black ties - exposed to all
the elements - wind & rain without an
umbrella or rain coat - The black hearse
are draped with white & the driver
wears a white Napoleonic cape.

Dec 6 | after usual delicious breakfast
started out to turn the wheels necessary
to be able to proceed to Langres - made
application to Col. Jones for leave through McNab
then had a great packing + unpacking of
trunks + bed roll - all German relics in trunk
non-valuable ones in bed roll - after lunch
fed up with indoors - interviewed Col. Jones
who was most interested + authorized an
order for me to proceed to Langres - then
set out with Turner for a long walk - crossed
the Bridge, straight along the road to Poisson,
took the first turn to the right over the
fields toward the valley + the road to Sandre^{court}
It was very warm + muggy but fairly
clear - The opposite hills stood scarred +
gray, washed clean of autumn foliage by
rain + blotched by the dark green-black evergreens
[With all the rain + cloudy damp weather, there are
practically no storms with winds in France - either
at this time - either
drizzles or gentle down-pour - and penetrating damp.]
at its first wooden rise we ~~trudged~~ ^{climbed} sharply up

around a wide wooded ravine to the
left that made a deep rift into the
mountain side. We wandered along
the edge of this - more + more of the
lonely valleys + hills unfolding before
~~us~~ ^{us} as we ^{drew nearer the top} paused to ~~look~~ ^{soak} a bit in
the warm sunshine. I even peeled
off my coat. - off to the left, a farm
house with about + several large rambling
buildings seemed inviting in its American
suggestion. ^{but} we found it with the usual
^{surrounded by houses. no fences} full farm yard + thronged with chickens
but "Pas des beufs; Pas du tout" - we were
rather surely told by a stately woman
the first, not ~~starkly~~ ^{starkly} polite dame we have
seen in France - but Timmer ventured a drink
of water but the general exterior in which
cows, cats, + chickens were heterogeneously
mixed was a bit too forbidding - We
followed the ^{farm house} ~~other side of the~~ ^{road} to the
ravine which seemed inviting + we struck
a path at its bottom which carried us rapidly

down the mountain to the road
coming out near Te's billet on the
canal near the Bridge. - We learned
later that there were 3 menages in those
farm houses. No sign of fences even
in the fields - a solid partnership or an easy
source for dispute. Behind Te's house
was a very surprising formal garden. fairly
well kept walks + rows of candelabra trained
apple trees - flanked by a deserted + forlorn
tennis court on the other side -

We hined down the canal, on a
search for musketee but brought up at the
canal locks - passing the glorious "intendant"
house to which the glorious garden undoubtedly
belonged - II Into the locks a tiny dandye
of 9 summers + an equally diminutive uncle
were tugging a well laden canal boat -
neither of them a boast as a good sized
pony - though the uncle stood a hand or two
higher - their dinner was a good-looking

husky
youngster of 15 or 16 who seemed to
recognize their tasks for he had a string
which he fastened to the tow-rope & then over
his shoulder & threw his ^{weight} strength into the job
tills all the while shoving the beasts ahead
of him in the rear or twisting their tails for
their supreme effort - a wildly ludicrous
sight - a spring equalized the pull on the rope
to prevent the surging & jerks of each tug being
transmitted to it. The boat crawled into
the locks. ^{to pass under a bridge at the rear end} The rope was detached from
the mast - where a simple hook & ring
joined it up within easy reach from the
deck - & fastened to a short forward stay -
The mast was stepped ^{at the rear end of a large slit in the deck}
~~to mast being~~ misstepped by ^{simply pulling} rope attached to it by
its flat bars against the deck - a heavy
counter balance & weight at its base coming
into view - ^{the whole contrivance} not unlike a ^{pivot} centre board. ^{like the}
for side of the Bridge the mast was released
~~and~~ swung back by its own weight into place
& the tow rope again attached to its cable -

thus making it easier to drag the boat for
~~the depth~~ ^{down in} the locks - The ^{can} gates were closed
a well wall two feet behind ~~in~~ the upper gates
protects them from injury by a too hard pull.
~~uncontrolled~~ or unbraked momentum of
a canal boat entering the lock from below.
The lock is filled by lateral subterranean
~~tubs~~ This well with channels protected by gates
which carry the water from above around
beneath the upper gates - (similarly gates ^{for the lower} below)
The doors closing them are lifted by a
simple geared muller - the water pours
into the lock - canaway which falls
during water above the gates ^{is} ~~is~~ ¹ ~~1~~ ^{miles}
~~is~~ ~~cut~~ through to the lower level -

The canal boat rises rapidly - the entire
process of raising the level - taking
gears - 8 minutes - [The speed of
these boats as pulled by horses and mules
is barely a mile an hour, they simply
crawl along - really tough work for animals.
It is interesting that the French government has

tired out the army doctors & tents &
finds that with these no motion power
fully twice the speed is obtained - a great
civilian use for what might have been given
to the quills heap; the canal banks will not be
the quiet peaceful spot of romance in the
future when the real invasion of the ^{clanking} Gauls
begins]

at dusk we were back at the Headquarters
office I sent a telegram to Walter Baeyer to
find out if he was still at No 18 - as a
possible deviation of my trip included Bazelle -
& secured my orders for Langers - a bit
of Reading & Writing & Budget - Bed.

Dec. 7! W.p. promptly at 8 - breakfast as
usual - packed my bag - shaved - dressed & off
by 10 - No return telegram from Walter
Ths. a. P.M. wanted to know about my trip
so I gave him the details - he seemed interested
in starting from the Paris end, so I encouraged
him - he gave me the practical point of taking

for 3.50 F. - Parts de Poie seas - "entrails" or
skewed life - a skew of
members or hollow viscera - which the French
gobble with great relish but which debrievy
needs.

I must forego, with fleeting recognition.

Beefsteak + potatoes - Cheese - Bread - No Butter
No Sugar

The run to Langes by express takes a

bare 30 min. The first man I saw when

I jumped out of the train was Tommy Halliday

now an Artillery Colonel + hunting for a wayward

bit of baggage. He had arrived a day or two

ago to attend the Artillery School, at whose head

~~was~~ Col. Locke - the Capt. Locke of Tabyharra

faune - He took me under his wing. didn't

wait for the little narrow gauge steam + gravity

railroad that runs from the station to the

town. + or 500 ft higher + on top of a hill

commanding all the surrounding knolls +

country but walked me up the road leading

straight up the steep grade. It is a scant

mile by road - possibly very half mile as the

crow flies from station at its foot to town at the

casernes + public buildings on its periphery
an unfinished ^{old} cathedral + iron fenced
parks in its centre with the usual maze
of narrow winding streets that make
up the usual French city. The stores are
surprisingly good + abundant: two hotels
^{a statue or two} + numerous cafes with the inevitable
throng of soldiers + officers lend quite a
Metropolitan air. We made straight for
the central square. crossed the parks +
deposited my impediments in Col. Waelke's
house where Tammy was staying + where he
later arranged for me to stay. I then
sought out the A.P.M. + had my papers
stamped + registered: a fat old unshaven
captain seemed little interested in my mission
but suggested reporting to General Headquarters
+ inquiring at the Telegraph office. Still
under Tammy's chaperonage I meandered
by the customary devious path to the
Chateau opposite the staff school across the wall.

which served as Army Headquarters. Here I found a most interested & accommodating adjutant. Capt Sumner; who suggested that I take the official interpreters & hunt up the cobbegram & he would learn the facts concerning the 3 Estes he found on the rolls of the Army Candidate's School.

This we accordingly did - Tammy dropping out to get a bath - at the Telegraph office I found the interpreter was indispensable - as the telegraph, telephone, & mail & post office services are all government owned in France they are inevitably found together & all mixed up in the same big central room. We inaugurated a search that was quickly stopped but it was learned I was not the sender of said telegram as French law forbids any information with regard to telegrams being given to anybody but the sender except by order of the Court. In my case an order from the Commanding General would

on reflection seemed an excellent thing
+ I entrusted it to him + ~~readily~~ filled in
the half hour before dinner myself by
having a delightful bath in the basement
of the Staff School opposite - + strolled
back to meet Tommy, who had invited me
for dinner, at the little cafe on the
small square (Tiberot) - realizing that
all the wheels possible had been put in
motion. at our table was a Col. Horowitz
a. Marie W. Col, Col. Koelbe, + a Col. Colmery
who had been stationed at San Houston with
Col. Isible + Lanew all the "family" We had
a very pleasant party + returned to Col.
Koelbe's for dinner. - served by a French maid
with a little written menu for our inspection
Delicious pea-soup - Roast beef + potatoes
salad - Prune Pie - coffee - We had
a very jocular party. Col. Koelbe in fine
fettle. Col. Horowitz though probably a few, a
bon amies + a little confab around the

fire + then early to bed. I was given a large fair poster mahogany in a wonderful large ~~log~~ ^{log} fire in the grate. In spite of which I was cold in the outdoors.

The 8th Except for a stiffness, that woke me early to open a window - sleep was a glorious thing in that large bed - the French slave produced piping hot water before I had my eye-~~wash~~ + a very comfortable scrubbing + shaving session ensued. Breakfast at nine - Delicious ^{had the key ring meant for me at Ed's wedding + an unbalanced one so we packed} Tommy's coffee. toast + jam. + at 10 I repaired once more to the Lord High Adjutant to find the mystery was solved - the William O. Estes was from Texas, - no relatives Lawrence + Ralph also on name were ruled out. The copy of the telegram showed that I had been addressed to Mrs William Esty Bethlehem Pa + was signed Bill Esty + then it was all as plain as day.

Mrs Prof. Esty's son had cabled her for
the 1000 francs + it had been remitted to
Aime - I emphasized my thanks to
both the adjutant + the interpreter + then
set out for a walk around the walls
+ to find the "V." + the A.P.O. Most

of the Army Schools are grouped near
Headquarters - opposite is the staff
school - around the corner is the artillery
school + school of the line - a scant half
block to the wall which has a wide
walk along its rampart - Bastions placed
every 100 to 200 ft - the intermediary
height of rampart about 3 ft - raised
to 4 or 5 ft at the bastions - ^{where it was} loopholed.

with tapering slits to the front + to both
sides, ^{the latter} paralleling the ^{line of the} wall + giving opportunity
to the defenders to lay down an enfilading
fire - Many of the bastions are
surmounted by towers especially at the gates
of which there are 7 or 8 - The new form

The rampart walls include the length +
breadth of the surrounding valleys + roads +
the neighboring hills (~~which are all lower~~) - but
~~each~~ with their little villages - all emerging
from the damp haze that a struggling
sun sought to dissipate. Every gate
had to right angle turn before entrance
to the city streets + were usually therefore
entered on the bias - no direct path even
here through the walls. At the South West
extreme an unusually fat massive bastion
black + gray with ^{each stone rounded} ~~age~~ ^{squared} ponderously
on the brink - a survival of an outpost of
Roman civilization I was told - whose ports +
loopholes had been desecratingly sealed by
modern bricks - West beyond the ground
fell away quite gently to the South +
a park ^{well waded} ~~with~~ an occasional house + a
formidable citadel had its own separate
wall. The only vulnerable point of the
entire summit. In this area just within

to main wall I found the A.P.O. & Y. side by side. Straighten out the forwarding of mail & bought matches & cigarettes of which there is quite a famine at Jouville. The main part of the business section & the main entrance of the town is in this neighborhood. I picked up the wall behind a new officer's club that is in the process of construction & on the far side of the main gate on the North Eastern side ~~by~~ the candidate school & the Base Hospital filled the valley from the Railroad to the foot of the Hill with their long lines of barracks. Half way down this ~~surface~~ which was indescribably filthy - a small collection of houses on a wide grassy ridge, one hundred feet below - designated a Tambang - had its own small protecting wall - connecting it with the main fortification above - for which it served as an outwork. - I completed the circumnavigation

of the city - behind the School of Infanterie -
the "Crematoire" or narrow gauge railroad station -
the gate nearest the station - wandered back
to Col. Locke's House - found Tommy had
gone out - hunted up Col. Locke, though
at his office + said farewell - still no
Tommy, ~~discovered~~ some packets of hangings
at a nearby store - all stores are open
on Sunday morning + many even on
Sunday afternoon in France - still no
Tommy, it was then about 12.30 + I
could not find it no longer as my train
left at 1.30 or rather was due to leave then
so I wrote a note + left it with the
faithful slave + strolled leisurely down
to the station - passing the little puffing
train + engine on its trip up. Had
a meal at the station Buffet the exact
counterpart of the one at Chammont - found
a special train for Paris in due time as the
regular one was late but we didn't leave.

until two sat opposite a French padre
who ostentatiously muttered + mumbled
prayers from his book or recited them by
heart all the way to Chammont, a most
ridiculously hypocritical looking bird anyway.
at Chammont I still had 2 1/2 hours to
dispose of - had to register + be stamped
at the A.P.M.'s booths even for so short
a sojourn + wandered out to find a
man^{nearby} + stumbled finally upon a thrilling
course ^{was} melodrama "Les Deux Poches" -
seated in a 2nd balcony box with a crowd
of eager playful youngsters bunning over with
rough house it was great fun - The
play though fairly commonplace as to plot
was very well done - The beautiful Lady
was quite wonderful, though under difficulties
to disprove Semite blood - her diction
delightful to me for I could ^{distinguish} ~~hear~~ every
word ^{she said} + understand a surprisingly lot - the
hero was a regular maitre d'hotel but

is discovered by the two Parkes within
the lines but escapes them. They in
turn play spies enter the old precinct
of the Mill, save the lady from the
foul fiend at the proper moment &
the French consequently recapture the
town a few minutes later. The Colonel
the old owner of the Mill, as a reward
for the Handsome one's prowess
Commissioner. Then a Lieutenant on
the spot & throws him over to his
daughter's embraces, which may quite
properly now be exhibited. The little
Parkes kills the villain. ~~Madame~~ Belle

The crowd was much pleased with the
little Parkes - the comedian & shadow of his
handsome confederate, did not fail to hail
him with shouts ~~though~~ even when he
descended to ^{the} vulgarities - constant
comments were being murmured, very
audibly requiring many admonishing

"shushes" from the more serious element.

I had almost to run for my train but sat down in a crowded car opposite a strapping negro captain for an hour & a half before I left. The rest of the compartment was French - a French doctor & a restless wife, who when I attempted to give her my seat almost refused - a great big fat thing with a dress so light it came up to her knees when she sat down - She was studying English & we had quite a conversation chiefly in French. I was about to be impressed as an English teacher when luckily we reached Jurnille. The negro captain had after a nap - walked out into the corridor - The French officer sitting next to him said nothing but looked significantly ^{at his nose} & held his nose. Their fondness for negroes is being well taxed by our chesty dusky commissioned men.

as I signed in at the A.P.M.'s office -
I learned that rumor has it, half the
men in Jounville may expect orders by
the end of the week - The old lady
Madame Chassignon left me in the
lodge as Biss was out - we had a
long chat about my trip - My ^{French} fluency
astounded me until I ran down
for the air - Biss came in
at 10:30 after I had supped on chestnuts
cookes + beer - No news.

Dec 9 - Woke on time - Breakfast then
a long letter to Mrs Estes - Lunch
Reporting to Headquarters - inquiry as to
pay - Mail - Papers - Diary - Dinner
+ a long session with Madame Chassignon
+ French until almost 10 o'clock - more
letters to my hosts - Bed -
Raining drizzly day -

Dec 10 - Woke quite late - excellent breakfast
Diary - a walk for papers + provisions

to much - still no mail for me - had
my pay voucher corrected, another session
with Tracy + Papers - Dinner - Bridge

with De + Purdy - letters - + "Toch"
until after midnight - a very interesting
little book -

Another rainy muddy
day - Hair cut, + a good one by a barberess -
a good looking type, ^{garret - rugged - tall - woman - quick - deft - clean -}
^{cute little kid - only barber since the war}
^{shaves well, too. but not me}
~~Dec 11~~ - More + steady rain - hate

Breakfast - Tracy - list of articles -
lost ~~due~~ numerous transfers of baggage -
turned in to Adjutant - News that all
requests for boxes can be handled by
local organizations - I'll change mine to
cover Christmas - Lunch - Pay checks
really are here to the "Y" on a vain search
for bath paste - a letter at last from
the First Lady of the land - almost a
week of silence is a disturbing thing
but ^{is} dated ~~on~~ Nov-19 - most comforting
to have it but I have gone astray
Somewhere - Bridge at De's - Major +
I won a dinner - Dinner - quiet

evening. Reading Whitney - Tracy. Clear
moonlight night. Mouse in the
fire place. I can get a base
for Bazouilles this week end.

The 12th] Breakfast Belines. wonderful
jelled Pavlet that was sent to
Bisso - wrote 3 sympathy letters - rather
depressing job - cashed checks O.K. - found
base all tied up. - not going away
until 17th - no extra time for Bazouilles.
Bisso leaves tomorrow - lunch - base
now straightened out - No Mail. Damn it
had a delightful bath - sent a cable for cash
to Mrs Estes - a little Bridge until Thue.

Pollen stormy day - called upon Colonel
Bell - interesting time - about Ed Martin's passing
at Oglathoye - + the attitude of the British
before the War - Huge sapot seems a
lasting impression the war has made on
Col. Bell - early days must have been Hell
Back just in time for Bed - No Beer awfully dry

queues of men - as the British like to say -
disappearing into the dismal recesses of a
deleapidated barn - stripped to the waist their
shirts + undershirts on their arms ready to
be surveyed - and re-appearing again
by the same wide door clothed for public
inspection - plenty of the gay American
bantering back + forth, that is never devoid
of infinite amusement. The mud-lake
road took a bend out through soggy fields
across the railroad + under the overhead
fill beyond - I turned off over the
swampy ground just over the railroad to
the willows + poplars along
the smaller stream. The entire area
was filled with mole borrows appearing
to gassy surface in myriad + networks of
ridges with here + there a little raised
mud-heap that I thought might betoken a
nest or house - but no opening above the surface
of the surrounding earth could be found even
after carefully demolishing them. - I followed
the stream for possibly a mile under the

they go scurrying about the streets, often with
loaded baskets in their hands or under their
arms & the still striking lustre in their
eyes still betokens the indomitable undiminished
spirit that has ^{persisted against} driven their failing
physical hardiness to submit to the ^{steadfast} steady
naval that has for its end result this
gnarled deformity of the ^{one time} easy sturdy oak.
Particularly their younger women with their
high coloring - jet black hair - strong features,
broad shoulders - sinewy, supple, stride
~~give the impression of supreme~~ suggest the early stage of their long life
of labor & give the impression of exceptional
physical stamina & huskiness that will
long with stand the inroads of age & will
but slowly yield to its inevitable mastery.
The same type exists in the French Canadian
who live to an unusually ripe old age.

The town crier is another pleasing
institution - he wears a dark blue uniform & cap
- vestige of the civil war - & bears proudly

a trap drum, which he beats & "rolls"
for a minute or two & then ~~announces~~ ^{shouts} the
proclamation or announcement with "Euludez
Messieurs." He wanders about the
main streets of town, stopping to shout about every second block
followed by the
invariable cluster of admiring gamin.

Dec 14) Breakfast "Tante Sene" Delicious
toast, however. - polished shoes - shoe
short walk for papers & to mail letters - back
to arrange & find loose boxes of Tracy -
laundry lady appeared to argue about
short but I kept, having identified everyone
all of them - she insisted I had one too
many - she had kept the laundry almost
2. who - so I don't wonder she was confused?
Lunch - Two excellent letters - a little more
jam at the "Y" - Bath - Pasting loose
leaves in Tracy - Tidrow's job - worse
trick in neck. Dinner - finished Tracy
T. B. - a little Eldorado - fair Movie
& finished Eldorado - a real thriller. scald
Pumpkin - Bed after midnight -

Weird light days - scudding dark clouds -
no sun no rain - very light night as
well - no moon or stars but suggestion
of a full moon struggling to pierce the
locks of clouds at times.

a Holiday to day on account of
President Wilson's arrival in Paris - but
little different from other days - ^{only a few} stores
are closed at noon. No flags - no
celebration - a few kids beating tin pans
or old rain pipe, shrieking bits of the
Marseillaise + always falling down at
the low notes.

The old market place near the mess
is unique - it is a wide open air
busy square - with concrete floors -
tough large old square pillars - rounded
with age + repaired with plaster - just
up through it to support rafters + cross
beams - a comparatively new tile
roof. No market is held now +

one half is used as a basket ball
floor. regular baskets + back board
being installed - It is continuously
thruaged all afternoon long. The French
are amused + keenly interested.

The old pillars date from 1500
it is said + looks good for another
4 or 500 years - big husky 6 x 6" s.

Dec. 15. hardly clear day. ^{M. A. M.} Meeting was
held there yesterday which I forgot to narrate
at which Major Bailey read a ~~constitution~~
from Gen. Hays relative to the desire of
all officers whether to remain in service, to be
promptly dismissed but remain in the reserve
to be absolutely dismissed from service - after
a little argument particularly from Major Trout
we unanimously voted for the second alternative
i.e. to be promptly released from active service but
kept on the reserve roll. It seemed the
only patriotic thing to do. This + the inquiry
for a complete list of officers of the Unit, + orders

into the hill fully a mile ^{up} by
gradual ascent it lifts itself up ^{through dark woods} to meet the
full level of the crest. Its sides are but
sparsely wooded, lined by orchards, ^{stony} fields,
doubtless vineyards with tiny ^{or stone} ^{red tiled} huts
perched halfway up - hanging by a hair
not unlike a miniature ^{snowed} Switzerland ^{and its chablis}
~~is~~ to

The old lumber road curls up out
of the vale to divide into numerous branches
through the young ^{open} forest on the summit - all
the brush has been cut away probably for
"fueyols" - dried small branches & twigs used as
kindling - Neat piles of wood of all sizes
scattered here & there - wide round areas of
old fires or charcoal burning with a bit ^{of charcoal} left -
Scarcely a chip that has not been gathered or used -
The young trees only are left but of ample
height & profusion - the pruning of the mountain
produce has been well done - The forest ^{with} wide
open ^{range of vision} ^{a number of} remains - with still a few trees
bearing the black ring around their trunks

~~number~~ indicating that they are doomed
to add their might for winter heat.

The forested area extends back down into
the next little valley + up to the top of the
nearest hill - I turned toward the town

after a stroll through the wood + skirted

the edge of the vale I had come up. The

woods rapidly gave way to a wide stretch

^{old ploughed} fields covering the level top, with a

bare fringe of ~~trees~~ at the ~~edges~~ of the

~~slow~~ descent ^{and a little way down the hill} a short distance on

an old stone towered farm house - backed

by the usual sloppy fields and a scatteringly

scragged haired old woman pitching

hay, that commanding a view that

was most fascinating. The little

valley opened out to enclose a bit of

Journville + join the great valley beyond

whose pale blue river wound its way

toward the ^{faint base of the} Southern mountains through

a misty brown land raised in soft

green + brown ^{smears +} smudges to cover the far
hills. dotted + studded with the blue black
masses of evergreens - the sharp russet
brown of the near mountain side in
lovely clear contrast - + the canopy of
gathering clouds spread over it all. - The
old dame said she had "Pos. D'cauff" - gabbered
quite loud + constantly to her self with only
the chuckles for auditors - ^{such expedients} tis ^{days} that ^{entertain}
our feminine friends obtain the practice that
makes us marvel oft at their fluency.
at the next little level a dog barked but
unmolested I wended my way still following
the upper edge of the hillside - ^{more + more} of the great
valley. ~~spread out~~ in view - as I approached the
heights behind the town. - a little chalet like
hut perched on the very top. I tried to investigate
but it was locked - a pile of rocks pulled out
from it + from this vantage point I filled
my lungs with ozone - had a last look at
the ever fascinating Kaleidoscope of this Marne

country when I was suddenly struck by
a queer noise - not the chirp of the myriad
of little gold finches or red-bellies in the trees
nor the ^{squawk or cry of} crows or magpies or hawks but
the aforementioned echo of perfect reproduction
of footfalls - fall below - at least 500ft -

particularly plain when immediately below.
It was about lunch time & I swung down
the ladder like steep & stony hillside where
apple trees were apparently thriving - to that
reverberating path - The midday street began
in a few strides & it was Jenville again
an excellent lunch - No 49 with Major Hudson
is going to Mentan & a new outfit takes
over the Mess - it has been deteriorating
recently - it may be an excellent thing the
change - a telephone message from
Lairges after lunch apprised me of the
fact that the cable for 4000 francs had
never been paid & my sanction to pay or
not pay was requested - I promptly said

refuse payment now + forever. + I'll
cable my bank to stop payment on it.
I was very grateful to that adjutant for
settling me know - this should end the
matter. - Papers - letters - ^{visit from a Capt about handling} ^{house of his sister} ^{a. visit to her}

Tea - Supper - Very scanty, supplemented in
my apartments by roasted chestnuts - real
marrows + delicious. - More letters - action
Trout - Bed.

Dec. 16. 18 / Breakfast promptly - down
town - just missed transportation
to Binarcaut - mailed letters - sent cable
to Trust Co + telegram to Ed + signed cable
to Anne - Papers - call from clerk explained
opportunities in Bethlehem - lunch - Milage
again to adjust - a brief session with Madame
Chasagnans - the conversation - gave her a
little professional advice about her wrist - old fracture.

Diary - Reading - letters - Dinner - Interview
with Major Bancroft - Major Barclay + Trout
an list of 100 men to be sent home immediately

humor that Gen. March has cabled for
doctors to return. We were slated to seem
to be broken up into camp hospitals but
Col Jones interviewed Charnant & persuaded
authorities, we were not proper personnel for them
all our men are to be called in & it
seems very much like an early start for
us. Col Jones has gone to Paris, too,
to have us listed for travel homeward -
great hope - will have in 3 who probably
be mustered out very soon after arrival.

Many - more delicious chestnuts - better
Bed. -

Dec 17-18 / Up early. Breakfast, shower.
shoes shined & off with little "unbelt"
for Bozalles. No transportation, waited
along Charnant road; finally caught after a
wait in drizzle - French car for Mussey -
clearing up - then showers all day. Transferred
to little Ford that speeded into Doujean on
Purancourt road - after a kilometer walk - picked

the black patches of evergreens relieved
the dull masses of the hills + an occasional
"yard system" of the railroad which circles
back + forth across the highway but
a little variation to the general prospect.
I had left Jourdville at 10:15 A.M. - Fairmont
at 11 - Pinconnet at 11 P.M. - no lunch
but some delicious cookies en route of "Y"
again - at one thirty I jumped off
the old English Leland just above the
Bozailles road that the old sundgy faced
"Tog" helped me find - + walked in the thin
blowing drizzle across on the fields + along
the edge of the scrub growth amidst all
the shining mud of a country road.
It was chilly riding + equally warm
walking - Found Walter Baeyer in the
midst of an X Ray conference - discovered
in his room was Pincoffi a boy who
had been in charge of the 2nd Div ambulance
personnel + we had very exciting time over

packed out the goods - left through most
of our confab - Turner - all the old
guard here - Beenhems - Heuer - Cy Gultine
Monty Boyd - + the others - L. away session
after dinner on old time stuff.

No 18 had been an Evacuation Hoop
practically since St. Michel drive - Pre-operative
trains sent down here directly - No surgical
work now scarcely at all - A dejected
spiritless crowd - Walter the most
subdued I have ever seen him - all of
them down on their luck; most of
them have been promoted but they feel
it means nothing, felt they have not
been given a square deal or showing -
are fed up with War - want to get back
+ see no prospect of moving - Tried to
put a little enthusiasm in their souls
but with but little success - The Army
means nothing but big disappointment to
them. Medical Service is fairly active.

family of pneumonia cases - saw
Harvey Stone do an Emphysema - under
local - 1st operation he had done in 2 wks -
Pabent squirmed only when bone was drilled
Don't believe it is possible to anesthetize a
bone completely by local ~~7~~ - Put a tube -
long - in & leaves it in 2 wks - then begins
Darius - Stet in officer's ward
with Monty Boyd.

Dec 18th - Dizziness hanging storm to day -
didn't venture to try to heat my
way back - a little late for breakfast - no
eggs. Paper - sat around for an hour on
sp then to the Commissary for cigars &
S.W. coffee - Driving rain - mud - galore
looked into Base 60 for Miss Telehanly - not
there - Motor transport office - A.M. have
doubled in size since the Fall - no
transportation toward Ruanisont - Stayed
bar to day - Billy Bath - lunch - there
a long talk with Wall about an Internist

Wolcott - English B.C. man back from Paris with Communist
 for Bethlehem - Jerry - Walter - June
 Wild "Confederate" Secret Service Movie at
 "Y" - crowded to roof - sea of mud &
 storms raging outside - sat with Marly,
 very drinking. Boris Barwick - Nurse
 certainly must better type - but I
 Walter absent - never sees movie - found
 him at office - barablos afterward
 & we had a wild game of "Hearts"
 Plenty of pep - then a long jammer
 unless long after midnight - Harry Lane
 & abas Surge. May man from
 Greensburg Pa - & Marly - Walter
 & Harry dit meaning Captain Morgan
 & feel very bitter about their recognition
 the promotion at this time - I believe
 they refused & at first finally when
 practically everyone was made a Major
 they all accepted - his said they held out
 until Burns the dentist received his
 Except for the chalcans & Walter & Marly

surrounded on sheets if one of the ladies present was not among
 the gentlemen & looks like not even

the usual base. barracks compose
the Hospital - including operating Room
which is exceptionally large; however, the
wards are joined by a wide covered
but open passageway.

Dec. 19/

Woke betimes at 8 AM - + woke

Monty Boyd - we just did make
breakfast in time to have eggs - the first for me
in many moons - Saw Perry Wroth do
a "Hofkins" hernia under local anesthesia - then
had to leave - picked up Monty, collected
my belongings including George Washington
coffee + finally found Walter - It was
quite warm, blowing, great guns + had
cleared off beautifully with a strong North
wind - Walter escorted me to the
top of the Hill, by a path through the
woods - seemed a bit more like himself
but still certainly a depressed youth -
Very muddy + wet under foot - hot walk
over to the Chautauq road - wind now from

cozily in our room - roasted chestnuts
milk. I picked up the Major & Purdy
for dinner - Excellent dinner - Chimed
with the Major a bit after dinner - back
to more roast chestnuts, packing,
cleaning up & locking up my belongings
against my departure & the arrival
of the two members of the Cast of
Base - No 15's - plan to be imported on
the morrow by the Major & which two
lovely ladies were to occupy Base's &
my apartment for their brief sojourn.

Dec 20 - I woke quite readily at 6 o'clock
though very sleepy as I was to
take a 7:30 train for Paris - Shaved &
breakfasted very successfully - S. W. Coffee
not up to usual standard - Packed the
old "Musette" & off in a pouring rain -
Train late - 1/2 hr. - as usual - Poked along
to Vitrey la Francaise where I changed to
the Paris Express, caught a special train

made up to fill the scheduled time without
a diner - (wagon-restaurant) - Luchely. ^{bought a ticket + newspaper - here to have} ^{a ticket} ^{going} ^{to} ^{Paris}

Everyway there was a big counter filled
with sandwiches on the station platform +
a huge roast beef sandwich was a possession
readily acquired before the train left + was
a luscious meal - though I found it difficult
to identify my voyage since I had left
it. However - I accomplished a safe return
to my seat beside a French nurse who
had discovered a new found friend in
a vis a vis office. The train was filled
with animated French Colonels + other
officers - very few Americans + we made
good time over the long familiar route
through Chateau Thierry + Meaux +
arrived in Paris on time - was given
exactly 24 hrs to leave Paris by the A.P.M.
a special card had to be filled out + a special
identification card given in return -
finally reached a taxi - stopped at the Evreux

Trust - found I couldn't cash my checks
on Cox + Co + the Societe Generale, very readily
So went on to the Hotel du Louvre (now
run by the Red Cross) + had no difficulty
in getting a very spicily 4th floor corner
room with bath - The Hotel was in the
process of being renovated, was dirty +
unattractive - the rooms however very clean.
No meals procurable - I walked down
the Avenue de l'Opera after fussing up
after the journey, hunting Cox's, Mr Poland, +
Colgate's Drug Store - missed them all. The
Paris crowd is much better looking - more
numerous + less of the disagreeable element.
after a roundabout hunt for the Rue Hansmann
I finally discovered the Foreign office of the
Societe Generale just before 4 P.M. the closing
hour. + after about 20 min. of French
lack of system + business methods, received
a check which entitled me to draw cash.
when finally the Cashier was presented
with a mysterious prescribed slip that

erudently came from the seventh column
by slow freight. I had to sign in 3 or
4 places besides endorse the checks - then
the worthy Society felt justified in
separating itself from 21 faces -
The arrangement was interesting a
huge ground floor like a Grand Central
or Pennsylvania waiting room - was
filled occupied by a huge circular ^{+ containing}
procession of counters in its middle ^{a unbroken information line}
with millions of clerks behind each all
directing the occasional venturesome customer
to the counters along the 4 walls where
the mysterious high finance held sway -
On a desperate chance I sought Cash
though it was well after 4 - I found an
accommodating young English boy in the
American department who though after
hours saw to it that my checks were
cashed - a Midland R.R. Agency across
the street produced a tiny table for Chateaux.

a ticket agency refused to sell me a
ticket to the opera tonight unless I
bought two - or if some one else would
buy two - I tentatively reserved one -
then went on to Pinner's reserved a
table for 7-30 none available before - back
to the Hotel via a Book store + drug store
for both parts - Unable to locate
Mr. Poland - at 36 his - found my ticket
sold - no more procurable finally decided
to risk the "Circle" - a Vanderbilt thing
+ sought Pinner - at the appointed time
fewer soldiers on the streets but Pinner
well populated - Had an excellent cocktail
traced the system to find out how they
lasted + everything that is rumored about
them is true + then it is but a mere
suggestion of the actual brown sewer
taste with a strange persistent metallic
resemblance that known drink but does not
completely drown - No odor - no discouraging
appearance - just plain filthy taste that is

really an after-meat, a second thought
of the oyster after the usual pleasant
dipping consistency has tickled the
gourmet palate = To control any
possible over-encouragement for said
oysters a boiled lobster rapidly followed -
really delicious - a little Barsac -
a juicy steak with fried potatoes -
asparagus - strawberry ice: coffee
+ a cigar - a delightful dinner
after the false start - The "circle" was
a disappointment that I didn't meet until
well after 9 - second class vanderbilt
To bed though belated at 11 P.M. - Paris
even now is not a well lighted city
a few electric signs here + there on the
Boulevards - but the street lights are
more too frequent, are gas, not
especially hummers - except the Champs
Elysees where electric effulgence
reigns - crowd thin -

overflowing the banks. fields & lakes
of water covering the fields especially near
the railroad embankment. I managed
to get lunch in the "3rd service" - & sat beside
a boy I found was bound for the Base
Hospital at Chateauroux-too. I afterward found
out he was the Dentist - a much better
meal can be served by the French method
of "services" in a dining car - The car
is filled to capacity - served & emptied - this
is one service - the second is like unto it
but no one is served until the entire
seating capacity is filled - nor is a new comer
taken on after serving has begun. He has
to wait for the next service - usually;
because too there is no seat for him.
Hot & cold (3 cold dishes), ^{curried rice} an entree
a stew + 2 vegetables - Fruit - Beer -
coffee - bread - cigar - all for 10 francs -
There is usually quite a rush to secure
seats for the ^{in fact, the 1st two} premiere services - little ships are

issued with a color for each ^{in the dining car only} service, so
only ticket holders are admitted + then only
for their designated "service" - 2 or 3 waitresses
feed a crowd of about 60 very quickly -
probably $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour from the beginning of
one service to the beginning of the next.

Through Verzon quite a Railroad centre -
Issoudon where American soldiers first
came into evidence + finally Chateauroux
about 3 P.M. - My V.M.C. friend took
me in tow so I missed the M.P.'s - found
a Hotel but had to hunt up the A.P.M. + receive
a permit before I could have a room - + then
had to make out a regular pedigree - finally
encouraged in a bare but clean unheated
room + started out to find the Hospital.
It was Saturday + the Market is full blast
on the square + the holiday crowd of
American soldiers + country people - I first
walked the few blocks to the Station to have
my baggage properly stamped + then made for the

edge of town where the Hospital was
reported to be - I picked up an old Frenchman
who insisted upon walking most of the
way to insure my finding it - Chateauroux
is the usual large sized French town of ^{gray}
stone, smooth painted, or stuccoed - with
the usual patch work of heterogeneously
matched sheets - winding & short - The
Hospital must be a mile & a half from the
centre of town in ^{new} buildings formerly used
for an Insane Hospital by the French -
turned over to the Americans for the
duration of the War - a walled quadrangle
with ^{low single story} buildings on all sides - joined by a
covered open corridor upon which all the
wards & offices opened - Temporary shoals
for enlisted personnel - a P.O. etc. filled the
centre - I was referred to the Chief of
the Surgical Service by the adjutant's
office, but in the meantime heard that
Biss had been wounded - last Wednesday

3 days ago - & was living in town - a
wild surprise - The acting Surgical Chief
knew Biss told me the particulars - a
friendly Chaplain had arranged all the
details in a day & a half & having long
contemplated it Biss & a lovely nurse
were married - civil & chapel. I
stayed for dinner at the Hospital, met
Stephens, head of the Tracture Service, &
Major Erskine, C.O., both of whom were
exceedingly nice & almost insisted that
I stay at the Hospital but as I had
signed & certified for the room at the
Hotel & felt it would be ruining it on the
Tiger, I decided to stick to my original
arrangement but I did accept an
invitation to a reception the French
officers were giving to the Americans at
the Prefecture, since Biss was still
honeymooning out in the country at
Nabery. We went in the Major's

+ amators + a waltz, throng of other officers
scarcely one but could show at least one
decoration - a good looking English aviator
pennant featured youngster - + a
goodly crowd of American officers -
one colonel, a few majors, + the rest of us. It was
a bit stiff at first - it was the return
party to a Thaulogung celebration to which
the Americans had invited the French -
a violin virtuoso opened the proceedings with
a well executed unspeaking bit - sitting with
impassive expression - long hair + black beard
in the young thirties - frock coat - In
spite of all lack of animation his polite
applause stimulated him to a Nocturne of
 Chopin, for which he stood, + made it
mean something ^{really lovely}. Then the invitation
to cognac was passed + adjournment
to the dining room was had + a supply
of food + drinks was eagerly sought - by
the musicians as well. This gave the

American youngsters their chance -
The padre seated himself at the Piano &
away we went into "Beautiful Kate" -
"all around" "over there" + like trueful
selections - Then a little dapper Frenchman
on the shady side of 40 became Master of
Ceremonies + mounting a chair looking +
dancing like a veritable monkey, led the
"Marseillaise" from the French then the
"Star Spangled Banner" from us - then
"God Save the King" for the English Boy -
"Sambre et Meuse" + "Madelon" from the
French. Then ^{adjournment for} food + drinks + a
Red Cross lady + several French ^{dames} had
appeared. The latter with the high brow
violinist kept up the fussy program
with a few staid bandful of older devotes.
The crowd was essentially hilarious
in the dining room with white wine +
finally champagne urging became
quite barbarous. Vire. P. Amerique - Vire.

the Anglaises were drums + given -
With the suggestion of the Navy were
a new wrinkle was introduced. The
crowd assumed a ^{squatting} posture then
jumped swiftly to tip toe the while
yawning "Vive" with such crescendo - the
little Frenchman still leader in all the ribald
raucous hilarity that this style of "Vive"
was vastly popular - soon it became a
habit. The English boys ably abetted
They danced together between Vives - they
jolly good-fellowed each other - Then
the little French boy was hoisted upon
willing shoulders - the parade began to
"Hail Hail the Bangs all here" around the
room + then burst with a roar into
the Salon where Madame ^{at the page} with flying
archpeggios was executing a pyrotechnic
maneuver up + down the keys to the bushes
high bows. To the icy atmosphere + the
thunderous gances of official dignity for a

few brief seconds, the jovial parading
chorus was quite oblivious. It drew
the feminine feet with its wave of loud
mouthed abandon. + then as the state
of the atmosphere was sensed a rapid
man was executed + the party rolled back
to its original haunts as though it flourished
+ could flourish only in congenial temperatures
without giving any evidence by diminution
of volume that its growth or presence in itself
had been blasted.

The action in
the "Vine's" + the Tournament of the Racket
+ the marshalling of the little Frenchman
were the most ludicrous, funny, + ^{improving} ~~id~~
splitting casual evolutions imaginable.
The spectators roared + literally held their
sides. The Colonel soon departed + left
word that he expected all the American
officers to do likewise + with a few final
+ a poetic reading by the Frenchman
lines, the party broke up. I don't think
the Eulents between French, English, + Americans
is any less cordial for this great old good time.

Dec 23 - Colled at 4.30 am had shared
the night before easily made the
6 o'clock train - stamped out O.K.
+ was cursed roundly as I climbed
through a crowded compartment to
join the corridor in which I stood
an hour - to the next stop ^{Verzon} where I
changed with an hour to spare to the
Lyon Express - I had both a French
a Red Cross breakfast in that hour
both fairly dirty surroundings +
found the Lyon train - stuffy close
but with one compartment almost
empty - I had but one Frenchman to
bluff + down went the windows with a
Sergeant's aid who happened in to make
it 2 to 1. - We started over toward
Bourges through the same flat
unmolested country but derangement
ahead re-routed the train by Montfaucon
+ Saumont to St Germain des Trosses +

then on to Lyon. Wide intensely
cultivated ^{unfenced} prairie - the Cher river making
a mere dent in it until at Montluçon
the railroad & canal enter a shallow
valley - Beyond Montluçon the Railroad
crosses the Cher ^{with} ⁺ ^{struggles} upward ^{along}
a rising mountain toward ^{is} a
miniature pass whose father might have
been a mighty gorge & ~~whose~~ mother
a deep ravine. The leaping dashing
stream courses back & forth between
high hills blotched with a pink heather
& covered with the deep rich russet
of trees whose leaves though winter
in line are loath to part with the
sopless twigs & still cling in complete
profusion ^{array} where they budded. We
puffed our way to the mountain
top & found ourselves in another land -
where the plain before was dotted with
red tiled or blue slate villages with a

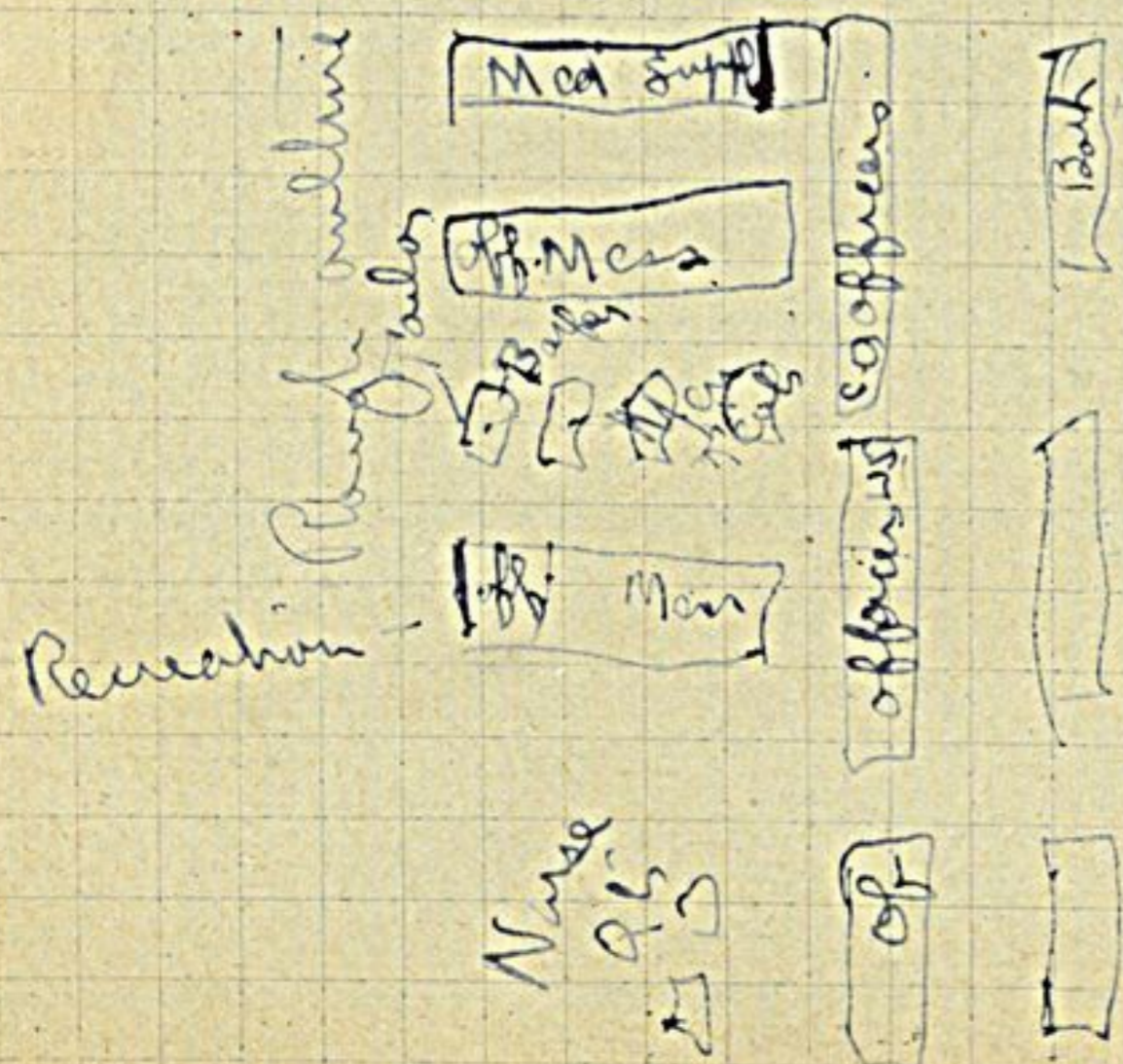
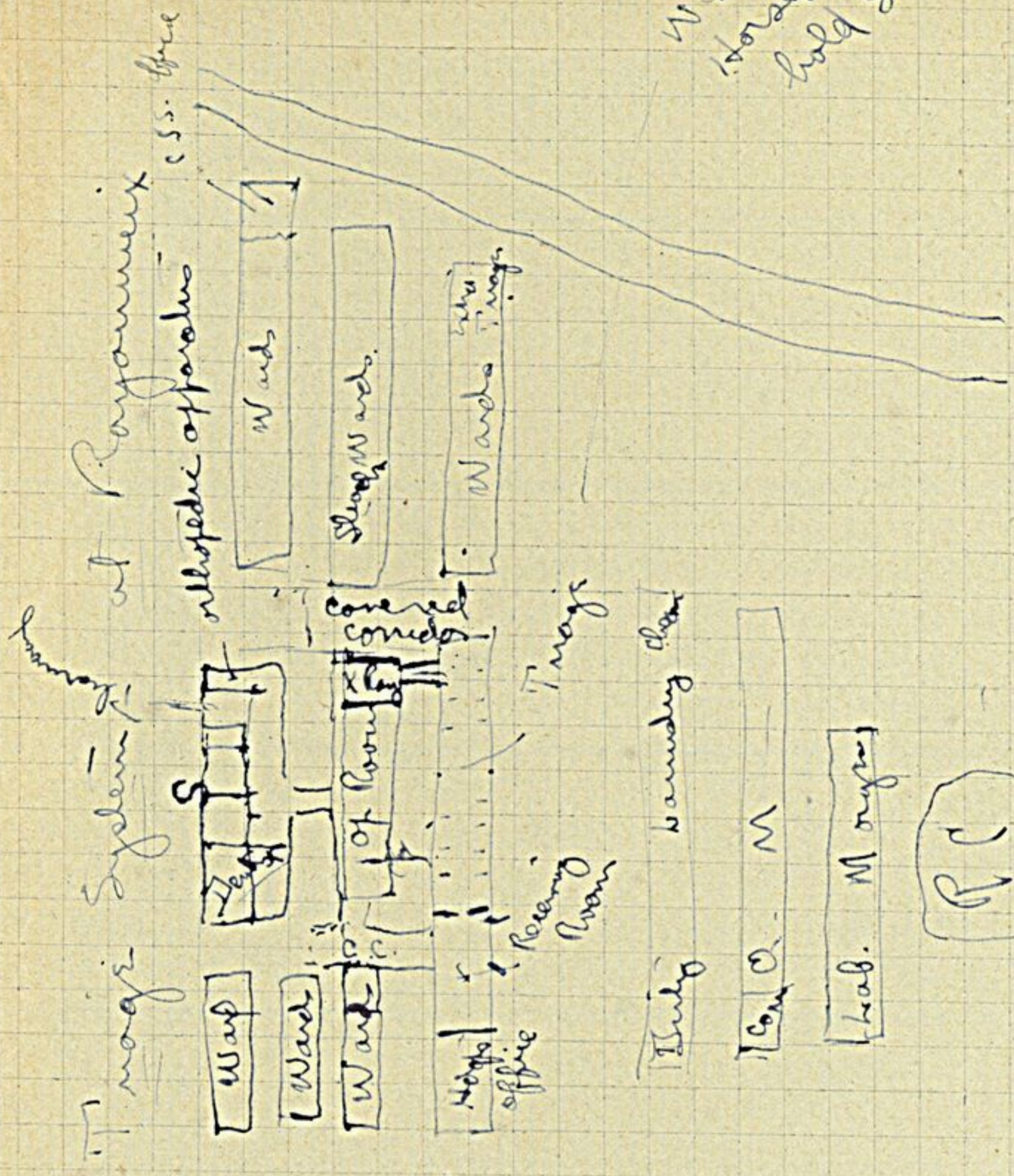
modern ^{yellow} bricks, blue bordered house
shining in glaring glonousness on the outskirts
of the larger towns - now rolling
valleys stretched out to the neighbouring
hills with farm houses - Normans ⁱⁿ
east, towered + ^{grouped in tiny hamlets} thatched - scattered ^{scattered} all
through the fields - which were divided
into little patch work squares by ^{overgrown}
bristling hedges, an English type of
landscape suddenly unfolding - Even
the sun tried to struggle through -
on we went through these lovely valleys
up ^{across} ^{the} ^{hills} ^{crossing} ^{the} ^{streams} ^{here} ^{well} ^{meeting} ^{their} ^{banks}
winding down narrow valleys
with just room for the railroad, river, +
a field or house or two to Samat.
Wonderful country worth re considering
in a motor. at Samat we had 15
minutes for lunch + engines were changed
excellent Travel fare - at St Germain
des Tasses we met the other, crossed

it, a new engine lashed to our other
end. + ~~my~~ ~~was~~ a ~~no~~ duly lieutenant
shaved + put on his outer sports
garment, looking a well-dressed officer
+ left me with the compartment to
myself. I wrote my diary ~~when~~ ^{when} the
train stopped but still am days behind.
We climbed steadily up over the divide
between the alpes + the Loire - the
near summits of the Madeleine Mountains
+ the far away reaches of the alpes
valley ~~ending~~ ^{ending} into the storm cloud
that rapidly came out of the South
East. Dark was upon us + as we
drew into Roanne - it was almost
dark. Here the cheerful news met us
that as we were an hour late, we were
to wait an hour more + run on
the next train's schedule - an 'arrived'
or local, that didn't arrive in Lyon
until 8.30 P.M. - a bourgeois bourgeois.

When husband entered the compartment
as we drew finally out of Roanne.

crossed the Loire here as wide as
the Delaware at Easton & went on into
the night - Roanne is a large town
75,000, a huge arsenal & numerous
mills - on both banks of the River -

Two engines pushed us up the mountain
a long long haul stopping painfully
at each little town at least five
minutes - The French lady & I gabbered
away - I saving all my conversational
love until I was weary after an hour's
steady session I lapsed into vague silence
By that time we had passed through
the mountain in a 5 minute tunnel & were
now rushing down to find the
valley of the Rhone. at Tournay my
vis a vis after bumping me with an
odorous batch of rain water left me again
in solitary confinement. With a last



* included
Men
Baths

S enlarged clean instruments
enlarged clean instruments
Pack garage
sterilizer room
Surge
dent.

Table with
stents
an arrayed
orderly to harness
that as needed

stents
instruments
number secured
dent.

8 317
29
5
195

44.50

44

14

1

7.50

~~2~~

66.50

30 10

8

5

6

1.50