

Corporal Lee Reuter's personal war journal describing daily life at Camp Logan, Texas in 1917-1918, War time entries, Post-War life and duties, and his 1919 return to the United States.

These personal journal extracts were written by Corporal Lee Reuter, Company L clerk. During the war he served both as the company clerk in the Headquarters platoon, but also as a rifleman assigned to other platoons. His comments provide insight into the daily life of the soldiers. Transcribed by his daughter, Barbara Metzger, and used by permission with editing for clarity.

Sun. Nov 18, 1917. No roll call because of rain, everything is wet. Sergeant Kirsack came and told me I was a corporal now (at last) . 14 others were made and I sure am glad. Am now aiming at Sergeant job. Went in target pits .<editor: Rifle practice target area> On telephone all day. Fair supper. No chances to wash unless from canteen. All want to go back to a real camp. Not much against it now.

Mon. Nov 19, 1917

The other Battalion finished shooting. I was in the pits till 10:30. Cleaned up camp and after dinner (boiled onions and potatoes) marched home. 8 miles. fixed up camp and gee it sure was great to sleep in anything like a bed and get a real meal and wash and everything else.

Tues. Nov. 20, 1917

Drill same as usual. Downs now sergeant. Wrote letters all evening.

Wed. Nov 21, 1917

Right after breakfast we were issued 1 jam, 1 cheese, 1 corn beef sandwich, and 4 hard tack, 5 lbs. prunes and marched without rifles to a field about 3 miles from camp. There under French officers we dug in trenches being built. Had a squad of draft men. 1/2 hour shifts. Swell stuff. Did a little extra. Back at 4 PM. 2 hours at noon. Very tired. Wrote letter and to bed.

Thurs. Nov 22, 1917

I now drill a squad of draft men but keep my own squad. Fitch drills them as he is also a corp. Bayonet work at PM. 5 letters read but none from home. Rec'd chevrons and some equipment. Wrote letters. Mrs. Krause's brother came with me. He's in Machine gun Co.

Editors NOTE: Company L departed for France on May 16, 1918.

Oct 24, 1918 At Dommartin, <Germany> a destroyed village, we made breakfast and dinner. Then we went that nite with the kitchens . . . slept in a dug out 5x5x5 . 3 feet deep in a very thick woods. A few hours over very very hilly roads lead us to a camp. Once owned by the Jerries. The huts were simply like palaces when compared with where I live with Beem, Dad Hahn, Werner and Dick.— in a house with 4 bunks, 1 double bed, 1 stove, tables, chairs etc. Dugout in the rear. The whole hill is covered with houses and barracks and some are surely comfortable. They had elect(ic) lights, showers, kitchens, dining halls, a dance hall, bowling alley, concert stand, "Kantine" etc. of which we are making such use as we can tho lights, showers and kantine —rest of entry is unreadable due to age of paper.

The German house below is an example of houses discussed above.



The elaborate home the Germans constructed shows that they had no intention of leaving the territory. Sixty-Sixth Brigade, Thirty-Third Division.

Deuxembord (?spelling), Meuse, France, November 6, 1918

Mon. Nov 18, 1918

This day found us still in Doncourt. From all signs we would not advance but would here stay about 3 weeks. We were even once ready to move. Did not happen Our drilling schedule here was 5 hours but Lt. Adams said it was one or more, —up to us. A model first platoon was formed. I was not in it. No word from home and I was a little worried about the Flu. Very nice letter from Izzie . Not much new, but snappy drill was a pleasure these days.

Nov 29, 1918

We got clear of drill quite well and did a lot of policing <cleaning the area> . During our week here we have found 3 dead Frenchmen and we buried them. Everything was comfortable. Our main arguments were about when we go home. Mail came regularly and we anxiously waited for the letters telling how the armistice was received at home. I did get a paper from mother which told how Chicago had received the false news on the 8th. Moved into Woel this AM. <Woel is a small village just to the south of Doncourt.- B.Metzger>

Our billet here was quite home like and I expected we would move shortly to the (not readable) tho we were not all sure about that. Our main food was as usual Bully Beef tho now and then we did get a little fresh beef. There was a great shortage of our own rations and we found out that there were a lot of thieves between the Port and us. More dirty work of the fighting Quartermasters. Yesterday was Thanksgiving. I had much to be thankful for you may be sure. Stayed in and wrote home rather than go to the Band Concert. Our eats were good. Doughnuts, Roast beef, mashed spuds, gravy, and coffee. A real meal.

Dec. 2, 1918

Dec arrived. We had Lt. Stnich (?), Leslie and Watson with us now. On this AM the Co was organized into 4 Platoons. I was made left guide of the second. Louie was in the first. From the looks of things we would — move tomorrow to billets in front of P.C. Com. First and Second Platoons drilled this AM. Third and Fourth in PM. They took turns at policing quarters. A very rotten dirty job— many dirty moldy clothes etc. I was afraid a siege of the Flu had hit the outfit for the boys were all getting sick and had the symptoms. The mail that I've been waiting for (written around the 11th Nov) arrived. Gee it was great. From mother, Sophie, Nell, Izzie, and Gladys. The pictures were great. Answered a bunch of letters before turning in — short letters just to catch up for I was way behind.

Dec 7, 1918

We moved to a large building where the whole platoon was. Drilled in the mornings and worked in the PM. Lots of Jerry flares left there. Mail came in on time. Got a couple of Christmas cards from Gladys and Issy. We received an Army kitchen in the morning on this day.. We were up at 5 AM. Rolled our packs, policed the camp and then lined up. The rest of the Regiment arrived an hour late or more. We were 34th Batt. in line. The roads were fair. Crossed the old line into Jerry's territory. Saw many sights.. The first town was Joinville and it had been strongly defended and so was smashed. Our guns had made some good hits. As we advanced the damage became less and less. Not much mud but the whole road was camouflaged. (sic) Some Engineers from the 12th occupied a few of the towns. We had dinner at a small narrow gauge rail head. Marched right on in the water. Before the march ended I was all in. I felt rather horrible. My shoes were worn out and I felt every stone in the road. My feet were awfully sore and I truly did not expect to make it to wherever we were going. Passed thru Jarny and it had electric lights in the streets. Went to the right of Conflans. Then in a loop around to Labry. It was the waiting game and near killed us. At last our Batt. was put in a Barracks on the 2nd floor. Each platoon had a room. Ours had excelisior (sic) so Louie and I slept in my section. My feet were some sore. We went between 23 and 25 Kilometers —about 15 miles with full packs, 70 rounds of ammo. \$1 from Mrs M (can't read)..very thoughtful.

Dec 8, 1918 - Sunday

Laid over in Labry in the barracks. I was too tired to go to Conflans so satisfied myself to look at the town by long distance. These Barracks here were old French. Two story in a rectangular area. The Germans must have used them for a Hospital from what I saw.. We use the downstairs as stables. I helped the cooks. Had a fine dinner & supper. Visited the German cemetery with Louie . Found this very interesting.

Prisoners were buried in bunches of about 30 to a grave. A complete tombstone marking their outfit etc. We got new shoes today. I had to take an 8 1/2 E. I wear an 8 EE, but I had to have shoes. Louie bunked at my place again. No blankets, but we had overcoats and half shelters. Letters came from Nell. Great stuff.

Dec 9, 1918

We policed up and hiked out about 9 AM. Made good time and passed thru some towns with only a few people. We circled around the town of Briey which was in a valley. It surely was a beautiful place. One part fairly modern. The other walled and ancient. Had dinner on the roadside and then resumed the march. 1 1/2 K brought us to Mance. (Now called Val de Briey) We went down a long hill, passed under a RR bridge and into the town which filled the valley - populated. Our Platoon had a barn. Louie was in a mill so I went and bunked there with him. The owner, a widow, gave us fellows a room upstairs but five of us were invited down to eat there and then stayed down.. Ate mess there, played with the two kids, a boy & girl. They were a little afraid of us but we had a good time. In mixed French and German we swapped tales, showed them pictures. Slept on the floor by the stove. They gave us blankets. Lou, I and another bunked on the floor. (13 Kilometers done today)

Dec 10, 1918

We left about 8 AM. My feet were on the bum. We marched over a few hills.

For a while the road was very bad. This was a mining district. A few Italians were in it and the towns were half peopled. Every place was decorated in some fashion with Evergreen trees and boughs, flags and colored papers. Some towns had arches of Evergreen over the streets. The American flags were all home made and varied in ways from 5 to 15 stripes of different width and any number of stars from 4 to 50 and 3-4-5-& 6 points. Some stars were shaped like daisies. The mines were modern and all working.

People all happy. Just before noon we passed into Lorraine and at 12 noon we entered Lommeringen. Our company was billeted near a church. Again our platoon was in a barn so I went to bunk with Louie in a second floor room he had found. Slept on the floor. It rained for the first time since the hike began - just as we finished getting settled in. I helped once again in the kitchen. Wine was obtainable & we had a bunch of drunks. My feet were so sore. The people here all spoke French or German. The kids were a little wild and foods not so plentiful. Some ill due to too much of the same diet. (14 Kilometer)

Dec 11,1918

Today was quite a hike. Good roads but up and down hills. Passed many mines and miners. Also a few towns. Already we saw the touch of German science. The towns, trains and everything showed signs of usefulness and modernity. It was a comfort to see it. We passed thru Fentisch and Tressingen. It began to rain, so we put on slickers. Before dinner we passed into the Duchy of Luxemburg and had dinner in Oettingen. We could really see a difference. More kilos after dinner brot (sic) us to Esch. I was nearly dead. Esch we entered after passing down a long hill, thru the outskirts and thru the main section to a large schoolhouse. Here we were billeted. Steam heat & elect lights. Slept on floors. All the transport was in the yards. I was tired, wet and my feet were not good so turned in - but those who went to town had a great time. We could buy quite a bit here and some did, but I had no money. (22 Kilometer)

Dec 12, 1918

Off about 9 AM. Went back over the hill and thru the country. Here there were not so much hills but more that the road was like a snake. We passed lots and lots of towns but no large ones. We kept hoping to reach our objective but on we went. Rain at the start so we again wore slickers & helmets . Holler at M.P.s Passed towns where artillery of the 90th and 5th Div were. They belonged to the 1st Army of occupation. My feet gave out ,but I kept walking., Dinner was near Brandburg. Then 6 Kilometer more of hairpin bends and we reached Altzingen. Here we were again billeted in a barn. I went to Louie in the 1st Plat and slept in with him up in the attic. Lots of straw. Renken in with us . Not a particular good sleep - 3 in a bed. So far we hiked around 90 Kilometer or about 60 miles which was some walk for

bum feet. There was some candy here to buy. Louie did and he shared with me.

Dec 13, 1918

Stayed over night in Alzingen 5.9 K from Luxemburg City. I rested and cleaned my rifle. Rained most of the day. Alzingen was a fair town with train service to Lux. City. Last night O'Brien was killed there - fell out of window. We had fair eats. A bunch of our Sargs were in Luxemburg (ed.City) and got pinched. Checked roll call. We did not think that we would move tomorrow but at the last minute orders came changing that idea. I was paid tonight. Got 102 Francs. Had a little taffy and sugar candy of some

kind. My feet feel better for the rest. B --- (not clear) Rogers was back with us again. Louie's feet were crooked now. My hope was that the march would be not so long tomorrow.

Dec 14, 1918

We were on our way at 8:30. Headed away from Luxemburg. Our march was over hills but the pace was good. Made 14 kilos before dinner. The scenery was most beautiful and the road like a hair pin and cork screw. Passed thru Hassel, Weldberdimus, Assel, and landed in Remich.

Remich was quite a town. It was on the Mosle (Mosel) Across from it — Germany. The weather was most beautiful and tho the trees were bare it was hard to realize it was December. No rain today. Cashed my 100 Franc in Remich and we bought 20 cookies for 5 Franc. I spent in all 15 Franc. Our band gave a concert supper. Rec'd mail 1 each from mother, Gladys, Esther, N. Inman, 2 from Bob. We were billeted in an attic of a large house. Tomorrow we go into Germany. The soldiers of Luxemburg were dressed like officers. It was sure some swell stunt. A little candy. (18 Kilometers)

Sunday, Dec 15, 1918

At 8 we left Remich and with only a little delay we reached the bridge and marched across the Mosle (Mosel). Our Company lead the Regiment. The roads were very poor and the hills were steep. We passed thru several towns. Saw many people and they surely were in good humor. What opposition we expected we did not get. The hike was one of the hardest I

have made due to hills and bad roads. We reached Weiten and were billeted scattered around among the houses. Our section again got a barn and we made a kick. Then Trost (George Trost) got four of us a billet in a house. Feather beds etc, 2 to a bed. the family was quite sociable. They invited us in and we managed to talk and to show pictures. Kitchens were stalled due to too steep a hill and we got no dinner. Hiked 20 Kilometer today.

Passed thru Nennig, Kirf, Collesluken (?) Freudenberg. (editor's note - they are in the Saarland and Rheinland/Pfalz.

Monday, Dec 16, 1918

Stayed in Weiten today. Ate late, had two check roll calls. Rain all day. At Louie's billet #23 I spent the day. There were two girls there and we had a fine time. Ordered a supper and Louie, Ref, and I ate at this home - 20 mark. Potatoes, salad, eggs, bacon, coffee, bread, butter and sugar. Sure was fine. All we could hold. After supper we chatted and then Rhodes, Louie and I went into the kitchen where we had great fun and danced until 10 PM. They could not dance or learn the U.S. stuff so we learned and danced the German dances. My little feather bed sure felt fine. These people surely treated us fine. Letter from D. Knight.

Tues., Dec 17, 1918

Slept until 7:15 AM Breakfast was over and we learned we were to move at 8 AM. Washed up as the people had warm water ready for us. As usual it was raining as we marched away. The people were at the windows and doors waving good-bye to us. At Louie's billet they were all there. The trip was quite a fast one and all the steep hills were avoided. The road back was only 12 kilometers and we entered Remich at noon and marched to our old billet in the factory on the banks of the Mosel River. We all took our old places. Bummed all over the town and bought cards and gum drops. Louie and I bunked on hay, our half shelters and overcoats. Sure missed our feather beds.

Wed, Dec 18, 1918

Did not move. All kinds of storys (sic) of where we were going but my guess was that they were holding us for shoes. To town and laid around. It rained most of the time and was cold. Bought and mailed 12 New Year cards, 6 Christmas. Later mailed 5 views of Remich thru the Luxemburg P.O. Cream puffs and gum drops 10 Franc. Wrote letter home. Lt. Lavalie now C.O. of L Co.

Thursday, Dec 19, 1918

We were still in Remich today. Shoes arrived and all men were now equipped with a good pair. Late breakfast. Quite good meals. It rained most of the day (and) for a short time snowed. A strong wind. The sun peeped thru at irregular intervals. The hill tops in German were snow covered. Louie and I hiked around the town then over the river and thru Wies and Nennig. Some of the people smiled and spoke. Others made faces and we could feel the hate. The little ones were equally divided, some walked up to us. Others spit at us. One group shook their fists at one of our planes and were wishing him to fall and break his neck. Built a fire again and are fairly comfortable. Retreated back to town. Wrote a letter to Nell.

Friday, Dec 20, 1918

Left Remich at 8 AM. It rained hard all morning until we left, Followed the River Mosel some 12 Kilometers and at Wormeldange turned into the interior of Luxemburg. The hills were ----(can't read). Grape vineyards everywhere especially on hillsides. Dinner at noon. Rain last 5 Kilometers. At Flaxweiler we were billeted 8 of us in a room in a house. Fair mess. 10 of us had a meal at our billet.prepared by the "Land Lady", 7 Francs. (20 Kilometer hike)

Saturday, Dec 21, 1918

Up in bright moonlight at 6:00. Lt woke us. At * we were on our way. The hills were very steep and the roads were some crooked. We reached Burglinster at 11. It was 11 Kilometers. A town set on a ledge like formation and built in a hillside. A very pretty place. We were billeted in a foul smelling house high up on the hill across from an old prison built in 1021 AD. Beautiful scenery on trip. Louie found a room for 4 of us and Nesbit, Halverson. He and I slept on the floor. It was warm and we had tables and chairs. The family mingled with us. Met Jack Flieschman. NCO meeting - morale of company is low, must be raised. Bobbie was sick and the girl

where we were staying gave up her bed. A very intelligent girl. She was learning English. Louie was the

teacher and in exchanged she gave us German lessons. My guess - we stay here 2 weeks or more. Felt fair. Cold & leg aches. 11 Kilomenter. Wrote letter to Gunner Nichol)

Sun. Dec 22, 1918 Louise's birthday

Up at 6:30 after a real good night's sleep. The people had given us a blanket and 5 pillows. Being Sunday no formations but mess. They used our mess kits. We got milk and Jam. Because they can get no white bread we gave them ours for the brown stuff they call bread. Read a little in a Colliers I found here. Lots of fun. Matilda was quite a girl and very interesting. We were all getting along better with our languages. She in English and we in German. Eats very good.

Mon. Dec 23, 1918

The day was fairly warm. We spent our time in writing, reading and resting as a mail came in. Made arrangements with a man here to buy plates and he said he will let us use his camera. (Blankets arrived. 1 each.)

Tues. Dec 24, 1918

Christmas Eve we had the day off to get our equipment in shape. Meals fair. We got food and milk from the people here. They washed our mess kits after every meal. Received 13 letters. 3 mother, 2 dad, 1 Julia, 2 Nell, 1 Bob, 1 Ed, 1 Esther, 1 Francis B, and 1 his granddad. Nell sent me her pictures and a \$2.00 MO for me to buy a little Christmas memory. Wrote to Ed. It snowed. I received another blanket.

Wed. Dec 25, 1918 Mother's Birthday

A good late breakfast. But our dinner was a failure, no flesh, all fat. Potatoes sour and the rest tasteless. From the K.C. we received 1 gum drop and a pkg of gum. I thought —— a line Co. gets stung. In the evening we got more tasteless stuff. But then that seems our life. After supper I wrote home. Then we played "Black Peter" (Hal, Louie, Matilda and I) and it sure was real fun when the old man handed out the forfeits. It was about

10:30 PM before we had our “cootie” hunt and even it was a failure. The old woman here asked for my washing so you may be sure she received it.

Thurs. Dec. 26, 1918

We had revellie (sic) and it was fairly cold. Then after a good breakfast we fell in at 9 AM. We sure had lots of time and so life was easy. We marched into the valley and for an hour and half we had exercises and drill. then a practice hike thru and past Imbringen, returning by 12 noon. In the PM we fell in without arms and were to play games but hiked an hour instead. I received 5 letters at retreat. 1 from Gladys, 1 with my July pay \$18.74, 1 old casual from mother, 1 B. Miller and 1 from George. I wrote a letter to Gladys and 1 to Ruth. Bob Nesbit has been very unpleasant to live with and was quite disagreeable unless all went his way. It was getting colder. Hal rec'd some papers and we had beaucoup reading.

Fri. Dec 27, 1918

This morning was very cold. We drilled and marched until 12 o'clock and tho warm in body we were cold at extremities. In the PM I was sent after some men and arrived too late to hike so spent the afternoon cleaning my rifle. In the evening, Bob, Louis, and I tried to find an eats house but no success..so we laid around. I wrote another letter. A girl friend of Matilda's came and told us she heard we move in the morning. I hoped not for we had such a good place here. I wished I could rid myself of cooties for it was most unpleasant to have them always crawling on you. Especially crawling and biting when you cannot get at them because of so many persons around. But it was a part of life so—— Turned in tired and hoped not to move in the morning.

Sat. Dec 28, 1918

Revellie (sic) was late. So was breakfast and orders were given that we move at 8:20 so it was with a rush we made ready. Settled up with our “landlady” for the milk, etc. Bob rec'd much extra and was kicking on the price. This made our leaving quite uncomfortable for they understood him. It was only our Co. going and we marched in rain over the hill on slippery roads to the town of Gonderange, 3 Kilometer away. Our moving was due to unsanitary billets. We were now all in houses. I was placed with 6 in a small, unclean room, which had stove, table and chairs. But a boy about 17 years old came to me and ask me to come to his home and stay. I did not

jump but thot it over. Louis was fixed and no chance to double up and I figured Fate had sent him. In the PM

I agreed. That night I spent around a small table with them., The son could speak English so it was not hard. The father, an teacher, seemed quite well to do and well educated. The mother was very motherly, an older boy, Eugene, and a small sister. I was to have bunked on the floor and at bed time a big mattress, two pillows and a comforter were brot. (sic) .Oh, boy! this was the life. A basin of water and a towel so I could wash in the morning. And we had some apples. What luck!!!!!!!

Sun. Dec 29, 1918

Rainy but nothing to do. I stayed in most of the day. After each meal they would ask me if I had had enough to eat. They would not believe me that I did. At noon they invited me to coffee, sugar & apple pie. I did not like to accept it, figuring the food shortage here. But they were insistent and I sure relished it. The Y gave us 1 pkg of camels, 2 S. caf, and 2 bars of chocolate. So I was able to give them cigarettes and let them taste chocolate even if I did have to cut off the mold. That evening it -----(covered with stamps) Visited the boys a while. ---- (another stamp)—— Julia.

Mon. Dec 30, 1918

I manage to shave (stamps covering writing) --- then make up my bed. --- (stamps again) --blankets etc. and then went to breakfast. We drilled from 9-12, spent our time along the roads. Hiked to Rodenburg. In the afternoon we policed the town, much to the surprise, delight, and pleasure of the people. Got a hair cut, too. Spent the evening in talking with the boys and having some fun. The mother brot in many apples so we feasted. They continued to put themselves out to help. It certainly was good of them. In every little way they did things for my comfort and it was so unexpected I hardly knew what to say. Wrote to Myra Chamberlein in St. Louis.

Tues. Dec 31, 1918 New Year's Eve

Was out drilling when the Capt ordered me to Junglinster to help Wogsted. Ate at HQ Co. Was back by 2:30. It was only 2.2 Kilometers. We worked on service records and we may soon be "homeward bound." Read a letter from Don and Esther (11-13 & 10-1) wrote in Dad and Mothers, sent cards of France etc. It was New Year's Eve. I was with the family answering

questions of American's New Year's Eves. We had apples. Later schnapps and cookies and from 10-11 we ate ham, bread, butter, wine, pickles and coffee. I ate til I thought I

would bust. They kept filling my plate. At last I had to quit. But it was a swell meal and when pork is 22 Franc a pound I figure they sure were doing something. Turned in at 11:30.. was sound asleep by 12. Goodbye old year and may your successor see me home.

Wed. Jan 1, 1919 New Year's Day

Breakfast at 8..nothing to do so I visited and saw most of the boys. Was to have gone on guard but because of my clerk work the Co., Kenoth took my place. Brought in my dinner to let Mrs. Schaus try it. It was half cooked spuds, dry beef steak and bum coffee. At 1 PM I had dinner with this family. After a big feed of roast pork and its side dishes, I began on roast veal and applesauce, apple pie , coffee, etc. The afternoon passed and I supped with the Company, then with these people. They continue to put themselves out for me. Had apples and schnapps in evening, wrote to mother, enclosed some souvenirs. Answered Bob's letters. Thought — I must get a camera. To Burglinster with "Gene". Got my wash for 5 Franc and it felt fine.

Postscript from Corporal Reuter's daughter.

Dad lived well in Gonderange and came to care deeply for the Schaus family. He kept contact with them by letter until the outbreak of WW II and then located them late in 1945. Eugen (Eugene), the oldest son, became an engineer and in the 1950s on lived in Brussels.

Arthur was the younger son. He became a lawyer and was very active in Luxembourg politics. The daughter Irma married and had two sons.

Fast forward to 1974 — I had taken a Easter Vacation trip to Germany – Austria – Switzerland with about 14 of my German students. The bus we had for this trip was chartered from Luxembourg. Got talking to the driver one afternoon and ask if he knew the Schaus family. Of course he did. The bus company we were using was owned and operated by Irma's husband. Our driver, of course, knew all about the family as he lived just a town or two away. It truly is a small, small world.

Thursday, January 9, 1919 At first call I got ready (around 9 AM) and at assembly I went to Junglinster <Luxembourg>. Fine cool brisk morning. Wrote a "blue" letter to Don before going. Helped with service records.

Saturday, Jan 18, 1919 Again I slept until 7 AM. To Junglinster <Luxembourg>. Put in a good bit of work and returned.

Monday, Jan 27, 1919 Put much work on the pay roll and had to make out a charge of AWOL against <soldier>. The machine was heavy going back. Hope to finish the Pay Roll tomorrow. We are now to have a school from 6-7 each eve. HCO's at the R.R. station. Ran 4 wild women out of town.

Monday, Feb 10, 1919 Hurried to office to clean it up. But today is not my day. Read story, fixed s/r's Someone lost my morning report and I was out of luck. Had to make a new one for all of February. Got a Courts Martial to make for <soldier>. More work.....

Now I find I can again speak German quite well. Have permission for a pass for Louie <Corporal Kovitz> and I for next Sunday to Diekirch <Luxembourg>.

Wednesday, Feb 12, 1919 Am trying hard to fix the jobs. Am gaining on time.

Tues. Feb 18, 1919 Began payroll and made up three charge sheets on (name scratched out). Back about 4 PM. No trucks for 4 days. Bad roads. Ate good at Regimental Headquarters. Company <L> is out of luck. -

Monday, Feb 24, 1919 Well! Had payroll signed and then <soldier> came back. I'm helping him still for a while, fixing up the paybooks and such work.

Thursday, Feb 27, 1919 Cold and snow. Horse show. Fine club meeting. Holiday. Marched to Bourglinster <Luxembourg> with some 26 others. Got a new blouse <military shirt> which fit fine. A 36" #4. Before I could only take #1 or #2. I'm sure getting fat. Watson tells me I am to be back as Company Clerk - again... .. Capt Wise's orders

Friday, Feb 28, 1919 Here goes February. Where it went, I don't know. Worked on pay books However, now I'm under orders to take on the Company's <clerk> work

Wed. Mar 5, 1919 Cleaned up Pay books. Signed school sheet.

April 30, 1919. Just had it easy. Lived in tents and duckboards were everywhere. Worked along with Wogsted. Lots of Yms and S.A. canteens. We could buy anything. Got some mail. Eats fine.

May 1, 1919 Just laid around, Had a pack inspection. Rain. Went to shows.

May 2, 1919 Company on detail, I got off quite easy. not much doing.

May 3, 1919 Now all cleared for sailing <Return to U.S.> No rain for first time here.

May 4, 1919 Got pass for Brest <France>. Went with Datin and Kuratko. Quite a place. Saw ships, a carnival and market place were full of interest. Fine warm day.

May 5, 1919 not much doing. In PM Louie had pass. I changed the date on mine and went again. Got well into city this time and surely did enjoy ourselves. Quite a city.

May 6, 1919 Laid around. Fine weather, good eats. Little work for us NCOs but the men hard on details at ships and other places.

May 7, 1919 Lots of talk of moving. Saw swell show. Heard talk by Canadian Chaplain. Met Ed Pickering and we (Louie and I) went to his show at 8th Infantry YMCA.*

The **YMCA gave soldiers a place where they could get away from the harsh realities of the war. They organized canteens at the front lines in **France**. The huts or tents at the front lines were run by "Secretaries," who provided writing materials, stock libraries, and sometimes, a gramophone and records.*

<https://berkshistorymysteries.wordpress.com/2017/10/25/home-over-there-the-role-of-the-ymca-ywca-in-the-great-war/>

May 8, 1919 We were all confined to quarters, as we move soon. Was to YMCA again.

May 9, 1919 Up early. Cleaned tents, We're to move at 11:30 but left at 10 AM. Reached harbor and went right on ship <USS Mount Vernon>. Were loaded via single boat then on to the Mt. Vernon. We were 55 <soldiers> on upper deck and we sailed out at 4 PM --first day was fine.

May 10, 1919 Rough weather, was sick.

May 11, 1919 Sick all day did not leave bunk.

May 12, 1919 Sick all day. Up in evening. Went down for mess. Feel better.

May 13, 1919 Got around some. Found a book and spent long time on hurricane deck <A deck open to the weather>. Made every meal. Passed small steamer and later a 75 foot (garbled entry). Slept in my bunk.

May 14, 1919 All well now. A little light headed. Eats were fine. Sure some world with all this water. Movie at night on after well deck.

May 15, 1919 Still going. Fine weather, movies. Slept on deck.

May 16, 1919 Sailed year ago today. We were restless all day. Ship slowed down. Anchored at 11:54. in sight of land.

May 17, 1919 Up early before daylight. At 8 Am we started out under our own steam. I was way up on the top of gunners' observation tower in stern. Great welcome from ferries and welcome boat, whilstles (sic) everywhere. "Miss Liberty" never looked better. We pulled in at pier #-- (blurred) last Company <to get> off. Got in 2 pictures, went out pier #4 then thru Red Cross. Got pie, coffee, candy, gum, tobacco, handkerchief etc. from every known organization. On ferry. A New Jersey bunch came in. Got real welcome. Off at L.I. City <Long Island, New York> on Elect. <street car> then to sweet Camp Mills <Military installation; demobilization center>. Wonderful sensation. Got our barracks etc. Good eats.

May 18, 1919 Slept fine. At noon speech by Col & Gov Lawden. Were dismissed but stood fast. Call for Garrity & got him. After noon bummed around camp. Ice cream, pie, and fruit, candy and everything. Movies at nite at recreation hall. Clothes deloused and all ready to move. Worked along with <Corporal> Wogsted.

May 19, 1919 Neubiser and I got pass to NY City. <Corporal> Gainer & <Sergeant> Kassel with us. Fine time. Free eats at 44th Street Theater. "Take it from me" <A popular play that opened 31 March 1919> Good eats. lots of fun, Slept in house 5th Ave and 64th free. A rich lady kept it for service men. She lost two sons. A Corporal directed us.

Last journal entry: May 20, 1919 Ret'd on 10 AM train from Penn Station. Auto to camp. Saw show at recreation hall. May 21. Rain today. Two trips to canteen. Lost our men from other states. Have 101 of 207 men left in Company. 44 are NCOs. Sure a hard parting. To the show and more eats and fruit-- at nite fine movies. Read some.

END NOTES:

1. While stationed at Gonderingen, Luxembourg, the Company L soldiers formed a fraternal organization and met weekly (usually on Thursday evening). This organization became the *Men of L* which continued meeting until 1974.

2. Corporal Reuter departed New York by train to Chicago, Illinois and discharge out-processing from the Army on May 31, 1919 at Camp Grant, Illinois.