

WWI personal journal extracts written by Corporal Lee Reuter, Company L, 132nd Infantry; edited by his daughter.

Time period: Federal activation on 28 August 1917 from his assignment with the Illinois National Guard, Second Infantry, and arrival at Camp Logan, Houston, Texas on 11 September 1917.

Monday, August 28, 1917

Am in the army now. We were mustered in Federal service on August 3, having been called out July 25. (Ed. note: Lee Reuter was a member of the Illinois National Guard)

Our regular routine was Roll Call at 8 AM, drill on a hike 9 AM. Off from 11:30 AM -2 PM. Drill or hike until 5:00 PM. Roll call again at 5:30 and then we went home unless we are on guard. Then we were on duty for 4 hours 9 AM until 9 PM on post 2 hours and off 4 hours. So far I have been on duty as guard 3 times, once as tele(phone) orderly.

Synopsis of a couple of (past) months.

Our company was down on riot duty in E. St. Louis for two weeks. (ed. note: the writer is referring to the St. Louis Race Riots which happened in 1917). We were considered the crack company of the 2nd. (ed. note: Before WW I the Illinois National Guard was the 2nd Infantry Regiment better know affectionately as the Old Illinois Second.) and had been putting on fancy drills and Butts Manuel at ball games and meetings nearly every other night being transported by "L". Have been a first class private for a while ---. \$33 per month.

Twice to the Sox Park and tonight to White City (ed. note : White City was an amusement park on the lakefront) marched in the rain from 60th and Stony Island to White City in the rain, We all got wet, too.

About 1 AM I got cramps and had considerable pains and this morning was rather week (sic). All the rest of me was OK. I bought this book for a diary and will try to record all events regularly.

Tuesday, August 28, 1917.

Was weak. Company went to drill at Altgeld Park but was so muddy we watched our men trying for BB team to play F Co. In the P.M. we hiked to Logan Square, Sgt. Markinson commanding. Kelly, Pettit and Williams fell out. Had a headache but lost it on the hike. Went with Izzy (his girlfriend at the time) to Grant Park where the 2nd Artillery received a stand of colors from the people of Chicago, then to the movies where we saw pictures for two and a half hours, after which we had to go home, tho the show was not yet completed. Home at 1 AM. Have very nice water blisters on my feet. Proofs of my pictures arrived. They are fairly good.

Wednesday August 29, 1917

We were all lined up today and the Drs. gave us our regular inspection. Our company then marched to Altgeld for drill. In the PM we marched to Logan Square in 65 minutes (9 mile trip) under Sgt. Marckinsen. At 6:30 the regiment marched to the Kedzie Avenue barns (ed. note :“barn” was the term used for the storage, beginning and end of various streetcar lines. -- Streetcars were kept in the “car barn.”) where 27 cars took us downtown via Van Buren Street to Grant Park for presentation of colors and Chicago Goodbye. Home via cars 11:30.

Thursday August 30, 1917

Drill in AM at Altgeld. PM hike to Our Lady of Sorrows for a chance to see our C.O. team practicing BB. Out with Izzy to Cort. (?) Saw “Upstairs and Down”. Bum eats but the best we could expect. Signed payroll after roll call.

Friday August 31, 1917

We were mustered in this AM by Major Genard “I” Co. First we had our men by rank and alphabetically only about 5 minutes. Other companies were from 20 to 40 with the same number of men. (ed. note : I think he means his company lined up in 5 minutes but it took the other companies from 20 to 40 minutes to line up correctly.)

Drill in Altgeld . To Douglas Park with Lt. Goodwin in PM for skirmish drill as we are to have sham battle at Forest Park Sunday. I acted as Corporal.

To Elms with Dad, Mother, and Louise. To bed at 9:15.

Saturday, Sept 1, 1917

Marched to Altgeld for Inspection. My gun and bayonett (sic) OK. Rested until 11:00. Off till 5:30 roll call. Slept at home a couple hours, then walked to Jackson Blvd and got an auto ride downtown. Bought candy and films. Bummed round and caught auto home. Downtown with Izzy. Saw a movie "Under Handicap" at the Orpheum. Suppose it will rain tomorrow because we go out.

Sunday Sept 2, 1917

Went to church and to the Armory at 1 PM. Took the L to Forest Park. Issy and her mother were there. We made a failure of our Butts Manuel as the music of the Navy Band was too slow. Co. G was just about to give sham battle when we were ordered back to the Armory at once. All men were sent for. No civilians were allowed to enter and we couldn't go out. A riot was feared and Gen'l Carter ordered us ready. Mayor Thompson allowed a meeting against Gov. Lowden's orders. 3rd Batt'l or 9th I.N.G. was sent here. We were allowed to go home at 11:30 PM.

Labor Day, Sept 3, 1917

Trouble feared so we drilled in Altgeld Pk in AM. California and the Drainage Canal in PM sighting and rifle work. To Riverview with Izzy. (would have been off but for the Peace meeting.)

Tuesday, Sept 4, 1917

Altgeld Pk in the A.M. (had swell dinner at home) Douglas Park in PM. Skirmish work. Out with Ed (ed. note :Ed Stoddard who was one of his best friends) to movies and ice cream. Have nearly cured my feet which have been bothering me for two weeks.

Wednesday, Sept 5, 1917

Drill in Altgeld Pk AM. Our team played the M.G. Co winning 8 to 2. Visited Dr. Horstman at McKinley during noon hour. In the P.M. Lt. Goodwin took us for a hike thru the NW side about 7 miles. Had supper at a restaurant with Sgt. Cornwall and "Pete". We stayed at the Armory till 10 PM as per orders fearing trouble but OK. Co. I, K, L stayed. Both ----- (thought unfinished)

Thursday, Sept 6, 1917.

Permanent squads formed this AM. Corp Lynn was absent. Geo and Kassel are on the sick list. Louie was given the 15 squad and I was given the 16th at Lt. Hansen's request. Drill in the PM and then out with Izzy.

Friday, Sept 7, 1917

Rain all day so we had to clean our guns. I got my whole squad in condition then we hung round to get paid but got stung. Ed took me to the Loop. Some heap acting.

Saturday, Sept. 8, 1917.

Inspection, off till 12:30 down town. Just before getting to go we rec'd orders to leave Monday at 9 AM. Sox won 2-0. Out to movies with Izzy. Home at 7:30.

Sunday, Sept 9, 1917.

Roll call at 9 AM. Made up roll and pack. Off til 5:30. Said good-bye at church. Uncle Frank, Ruths, Flo and Nell, Bob. Izzy and Ed over for PM and supper. Paul Kiefer for the PM. Nell brot (sic) stuff for me to take ----- unreadable. Roll call 5:30 home, nice evening.

This is the end of Book 1.

Monday, Sept 10, 1917

Said goodbye to Dad and Grandma. We left the armory at 9:30 and marched to Grant Park. There we stayed a couple of hours. Had mess. Said our last goodbyes. Ed, Bob, W. Martin, La Crosses, Colbys, Julia, Izzy and mother. Brot (sic) some lunch. We marched to the Union Depot. Streets filled. Had to enter the station one at a time. Had chair car. Bade folks goodbye and out we went.

Synopsis Sept 11 - Oct 19 1917.

Two days and nights on trains. Arrived in Camp Logan at 11:30 PM. The next morning was very cold. Since then our weather has been very warm in the daytime and some nights were warm while some quite cold. We made our camp, day pickets, cleared parade grounds, fixed the road, etc. The 7th came next to us and later the first. For about two weeks we drilled them. We started cleaning again and last Sun. (sic) the 14th we had to move and put up our tents. It took all day. Monday we had to reline them. Now we seem

settled. I got into the 1st Pres. church here and belong to the choir and SS. Very nice people. I can't go sometimes but when I can I do. Our eats are fair and often very good. My squad is hard at times and at other times easy. Some of them get indolent now and then and a couple want to get out of the army but all in all they are OK.