

Field

Notes

Arthur W Craig

Oct. 17 1917

to



Arthur W. Craig
3rd Aviation Inst Det.
of Provisional School Co 5
American Exped. Force
France

Being the events of
interest from leaving New
York bound for 'over seas'
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1. Ambuster, H. O.K.
2. Albert, P.B. B.A. - Insane
3. Bean, H.E. Killed Issoudun June 18 1913
4. Bennett, D.C. Quit Ground Officer
5. Bradford, B. Killed Tours Aug 12 1913
6. Biggs, J.B. Killed front
7. Bailey, J.W. Orly
8. Bishop, R. Killed Issoudun Jun 29
9. Bossard, W.M. O.K. Flew Capronis
10. Corliss, S. Quit
11. Coffin, J.R.
12. Coolidge, R. Quit
13. Crocker, C.T.
14. Eastfield, S.C. Quit O.K.
15. Carr, M.K. Orly
16. Cox, C.E. Front
17. Craig, A.W. Orly
18. Carr, W.C. Orly
19. Dulak, R.M. Quit
20. Figg, L. Standby Orly
21. Eisenbach, C.H. Drowned in Channel
22. Francis, P.J. O.K. monitor Issoudun
23. Foster, E.
24. Flynn, J.T.
25. Farnsworth, C.H. Orly Quit

Oct 17th Ft. Wood

A bugle call for assembly - Foreign Detachment No 5 Outcycle - Roll Call - A new lieutenant is to talk to us. In a few brief sentences we are informed that he is to be in charge of us on our trip overseas and that the detachment will leave very soon -

No one is allowed to leave the island, and all are to hold themselves ready to leave at any time.

After dismissal there is a hurried rush to write a few last letters before leaving and to collect one's belongings - Every one is in the best of spirits for this is the real beginning of the time that all have waited and worked so long for.

Evening - Our last night in New York - It is spent writing letters, singing and talking in our tents, and making a few last purchases at the canteen -

Then to a "movie" - Roney at the Bat - with a hot dog roast at

the foot of the statue of liberty as
a grand finale of our last devilish
time in New York.

Oct 18th

A wonderfully bright clear day,
in contrast to the damp cold
weather we have been having for
the last week here —

The detachment anxiously
awaits orders for leaving. Finally
all are told to carry their jackets
suits and blankets to the pier.

A long wait on the pier and at
last a lighter steams up.

A final roll call and Foreign Det
No 5 of Aviation Cadets at 10:25 AM
embarks for Hoboken to take a transport
from there.

The trip up the river is uneventful.
Each man speculating as to which
of the many transports we will sail on.
Slowly we steam past these
ships, painted the grim dark grey
of the U.S.N. Past a monster
boat appropriately named

Leviathan — It is the interned German
liner Vaterland taken over by our
government and now bristling with
guns — apparently ready to sail.

At last the lighter stops at a
pier and all march off to the
U.S.S. Livingston where quarters are
assigned. Through mismanagement
of some sort, instead of having
first class passage as our rank
provides, quarters are given out
below decks with infected men
of several different branches of
the service —

At 6:15 P.M. our ship was towed
down the river past Fort Wood
and anchored till 3:30 the next
morning when we sailed —

Oct 19th

Our first day on ship board — We
were out of sight of land when we
awoke this morning and all were
surprised at the number of ships in
our convoy.

There are seven transports, two

destroyers and one battle cruiser.

Our commanding officer sent Weatherly and Major Russel have arranged with the management that we may have the privilege of the upper deck with the officers - Still use the same quarters under deck though.

The day was uneventful - Ocean calm, and at five o'clock all lights are ordered out - No smoking on the decks at all, and all port holes covered - Inside the cabin dark blue lights give one a faint idea of direction -

A wind and glare at the side of our ship, coupled with the cry "Man overboard" wakes the men from their lethargy - Our ship changes its course and all rush to the rail - A patented life buoy that lights as soon as it is released from the ship is floating on the water. A life boat is manned and just about to be lowered when we find out that

the buoy was accidentally released by some seaman who pulled the releasing mechanism without knowing what it was.

Oct 20th

Another wonderfully warm day. It is very comfortable on deck with out overcoats.

The day passes uneventfully. The stateroom chairs on the deck are all filled and every one seems quiet and sober - Not on account of any submarine scare or thoughts of war but because of the moderately heavy sea that is running causing the boat to pitch and roll considerably. A state of affairs not conducive to much jollity on the part of us would be sailors -

Baily, one of our men offered everything he had - just to see an Indiana bay stack instead of so much ocean.

Oct 21st Sunday

How unlike most other Sunday

this is - Every one is on deck as usual - with very little to do except read, play cards, smoke and try to learn a few smattering of French.

We had a little diversion today being assigned life boats in case of any emergency that may arise.

Early this morning our attention was called to the absence of one of our troop ships and a destroyer.

At about nine o'clock they were sighted far ahead of us and now they are back in their regular formation.

Oct 22

Numerous drills for abandoning ship break the monotony of the day. Night comes - or rather darkness we watch and read messages flashed by signal lights from one ship to another - We sit on the deck, close off to sleep or sing a few songs and talk - Then back under deck to sleep for the night.

Oct 23

Target practice was started today by several of our ships - One of the ships the President Grant had to turn back and head for the states on account of leaky borders.

Oct 24 -

More target practice today by several of the ships and more drills for abandoning ship. The drills coming at very inopportune times, breaking up two different games of penny ante and bridge! -

Three ships were sighted on the horizon about noon one of the destroyers went over to investigate and returned to our fleet at about three o'clock.

Oct 25th

A rough sea and a steady drizzling rain helped break the monotony. We are now on the extreme outskirts of the danger zone - More target practice and

abandon ship drill - For target practice a ship drops out of formation and does its shooting generally in the rear of the formation - Then using extra speed to catch up with the convoy before darkness.

Oct 26

Rough sea - Today we sighted a vessel which proved to be a tanker sent to replenish the supply of fuel oil on our destroyers.

Heard many "lat" rumors today among them were "Kaiser committed suicide". And that New York papers reported our whole flotilla sunk.

Oct 27

Rather uninteresting and dull today - We played poker and almost all day.

Orders were given out today to carry life preservers at all times and to sleep in our bunks fully clothed.

The spirit aboard is splendid. No one seems to fear submarines. But the whole detachment is anxious for the trip to be over and to get to flying and fighting.

Oct 28 - Sunday -

Our second Sunday aboard this ship. The precaution of having all men wear life preservers and sleeping fully clothed is sort of inconvenient - This is the only thing about the danger zone to remind one that there is such a zone.

Pinckley, Shook, Kieffer and myself stayed up till about midnight talking - At just that time we were walking the deck and from the crow's nest came the lookout's cry "Ship dead ahead" - In the moonlight one could discern a big dark hull of a ship - The cruiser immediately steamed ahead and we waited for some sort

of action, even hoping that the strange ship would open fire. We knowing well that the cruiser would be more than a match for the stranger. Nothing happened though and soon we passed quite close to it. It was evidently a liner or freighter on its way back to America.

Oct 29th

There has been a persistent rumor that a large convoy of destroyers are to meet us and escort us through this zone - As yet we have not sighted them.

In the evening lights were sighted which afterwards proved to be the convoy that we had expected.

Oct 30

The convoy that met us last night was absorbed by all the morning. It consists of about eleven destroyers. They continually circle around the troop ships.

All are camouflaged with various bright stripes and dabs of paint and present a very striking picture, their vivid colors contrasting greatly with the blue of the ocean and the dark grey of our ships.

Oct 31

At about three o'clock this morning lighthouses were sighted. Our ships at this hour were pursuing a very odd course and came near running down one boat as it crossed our bow.

A rumor is about that we were chased by submarines -

Our first view of France were the little islands in the bay at the mouth of the Loire River.

Little fishing smacks were out early and the men all stopped in their work to cheer us as our convoy passed.

At ten thirty five we dropped anchor and waited for a pilot.

to board and take us up the river. Several of the ships drew too much water so the convoy waited till high tide to sail in.

Nov. 1

St Nazaire France -

Every one was on deck early this morning to get a first glimpse of the little town where we have stopped -

It is a quaint place with typical french architecture and odd vehicles

American troops are seen ashore acting as military police

Boys and girls in little boats sailed around us offering apples and chocolate for sale.

No one has been allowed off the boat so all spend their time restlessly aboard -

~~Nov. 2.~~

Our first impression of France has not been very bright.

The last two days it has rained

and a heavy fog hangs over the town.

Nov 3

Still on board ship - Nothing much to do - We can now see the names of some of the ships in our convoy -

One is the old german interned raider Prince Eitel Friedrich - Mallery - Grand President Lincoln

Nov 3.

Today we were given passes to go ashore - There are all sorts of American and French soldiers around - German prisoners working on the streets - Quaint little wine rooms are located all over the town -

To celebrate our first day ashore we incidentally washed up a Major General.

Nov 4 - Sunday -

Through a misunderstanding the entire aviation section went

ashore today thinking that all
had a pass to go.

A hundred Artillery men were
sent out to round the crowd
up and all were placed under
arrest - No one is worried about
it though and consider it more
of a joke than anything else.

Nov 5

Today we leave by train for
Issoudun where we will learn
to fly.

We all march to the train
and board - The trains here are
very odd when compared to the
American trains -

Living & Matthews march to their
surprise. ride first class -
The remainder of the crowd are
all assigned to second class
compartments.

Nov 6

Now these clinky little French
trains - No Pullmans and
also very little to sleep.

We carry our own rations
so our meals consisted of
canned corned beef. baked
beans - ship crackers and at
the towns where we stopped
we were served with some
coffee - too cold and too rank
to drink.

Nov. 87

Still on the train and still
no sleep. At noon we
arrived at Issoudun and were
transported by trucks to our
camp.

Mud in great quantities
and considerable construction
work here at camp.

Nov 8

After a very cold night in
a still colder barracks we all
awoke to the stern realization
that ahead of us there is all
sorts of hard manual labor,
digging roads, shoveling earth,
carrying lumber etc before

we learn to fly.

The day is spent working hard around our barracks and making things comfortable for eating and sleeping.

Nov ~~10~~ 9

Worked all day. Construction work here must be rushed so all the cadets in camp are kept busy with picks and shovels at hard labor -

Nov 10

Same as yesterday, hard work all day - The roads here in camp are in very poor condition mud over a foot deep - Trucks loaded with material and supplies are continually getting stuck - We are for the most part unloading crushed stone and cinders on the roads

Nov 11 Sunday.

At last part of a day of rest at least.

The management here has

decided that we spend an hour today in infantry drill.

This is the first day that we have had any time to ourselves so most of the men are spending their time writing letters back home - and exploring the little villages that are near the camp.

Nov 12

More work and more mud - Nothing to write about -

Nov 13

Same thing -

Nov 14

Still more work and besides we are to move today to different barracks. We, very thoughtfully are allowed a half an hour off from work to shower.

Nov 15

We are now quartered with men that have been with us to the ground schools - Our

baracks here are comfortable and warm with at least a few conveniences such as drinking water and water to wash in.

Nov 16-

We had good news today - we are to be relieved of this monotonous labor after today and do guard duty instead.

Nov 17

Guard duty today is quite a change for us - We stand duty two hours and are off four hours then on again. A quiet time except that several shots were fired by some of our men, and no one will admit firing -

Nov 18 Sunday -

Our post here is quarantined and we are not allowed off the post - A new detachment arrived this morning or rather part of one for some of the men have gone direct to town to receive their flying.

There are a large number of ambulance men here and we hear some strange stories from them - about the front.

Nov. 19

Several games of poker and crap kept the crowd busy during the hours we were off guard duty - We had a quiet night on guard - One drunk was arrested by a commanding officer of one of the flying squadrons and turned over to us -

Nov. 20

After a days guard duty we are all relieved from all work for the next day.

Today Jay, Mattie & myself walked about four miles to a little village and had ordered a regular meal - Just as it was being served Military Police came in and informed us that we would have to leave

immediately - so without our meal we walked back to camp here and had our supper - which consisted of several beans and some scorched bread pudding.

The camp is under quarantine on account of German measles. At least none of the soldiers are allowed off the post.

The sanitary conditions here are very unfavourable. no place to take a bath and none are allowed to town to take one -

Nov 21

Mail arrived today for the first time since we've been in France - Only about half of our men received mail though. The rest hoping that tomorrow will bring them theirs -

On guard again today. It's a wet muddy day which makes duck duty

some what inconvenient to say the least -

Nov 22

Today we found out that while doing guard duty, Miles was injured. A noise was heard in a haragur where ammunition and explosives were kept. Miles went in to investigate - Two shots were heard inside. Another of the guard went inside and found him prone on the ground - with a bump on his head where some one had hit him.

We played poker about all the afternoon today - In the evening wrote letters - For the first time since I've been here I was not of homesome -

Nov 23

More guard duty and more mud and rain today -

General Pershing was expected in camp today - so the whole

guard had to stay at the hangar the whole day -

The evenings while on duty pass fairly fast - The cooks in all the different squadrons are pretty friendly to us and always have a feed of some kind for the fellows. We manage to sneak off our posts and spend a large part of our time talking with them. Contrary to my general belief a great large percentage of the regulars, privates most of them leaving good positions to enter the service -

So far all the work they do is mostly fatigue work -

Nov 24.

There were rumors around that we were to get paid today - But like the majority of such rumors this was false! On our bulletin board today a notice was posted to the effect that the cadets would

not be required to do any more fatigue work - And would attend classes, drill, and stand guard only - This is somewhat of a relief for us. For all are tired and disgusted with this damnable idea of working us like a crowd of laborers.

Nov. 25 - Sunday.

Today was a wonderful bright clear day - somewhat cold but altogether a pleasant day.

I was on guard at the guard house - The prisoners there are soldiers under arrest for minor charges and they seem to have quite a good time in there -

It is a clear moon light night - stars and moon showing for the first time for over a week -

NOV 26

Played poker about all day
just to kill time -

As yet I've received no mail or
word from anyone in America.
There must be some that has
gone astray over here for ~~as~~
only a few have received any.

In the evening Charlie M., Jay,
Ellis, and myself walked to
Purdy, a little village about
six kilometers from here.

We indulged in a ~~light~~ light
meal there and made a few
purchases at one of the few
little stores the town boasted of.

Near this town is an old
castle - Some day when I
have time I want to go
thru the place -

As usual, while in the midst
of our meal, we were interrupted
by the Military police - This
time they finally condescended
to let us finish our repast before

we were kicked out by them.

NOV 27

Guard duty again today -
Wet, cold, and muddy -

This morning when we awoke
we were surprised to find
the ground covered with
snow - The first snow we've
had this year - It soon
disappeared when it commenced
to rain though, and made
walking ones foot sort of a
hardship - in the mud with
no boots.

NOV 28

Today more rumors have
been consistently circulating
around - Concerning our leaving
here soon to some place where
weather conditions will permit
more flying. Some of these
rumors are that we'll be all
sent back to the states -
Some of the ones today
brought in some bunches of

miseltoe - Such things surely
remind one of home and
Christmas but it is very improb-
able that any of us will have
our wishes fulfilled about being
back home again that day.

Nov. 29th

- Thanksgiving Day -

Guard duty again today -

We had a turkey dinner today,
then to offset that we spent our
time walking posts around the
barracks, trucks and guard house.

One of the Military Police was
arrested today - He has been treating
the soldiers very poorly and has
been beating some of them & unmercifully.

Nov. 30.

Still on guard till one thirty
this afternoon. Thus the same
inefficient management that has
characterized most of the work of
this army since we left the states,
we were relieved from guard duty
three and one half hours late -

Such things coupled with
other treatment we have had
puts somewhat of a damper on
our patriotism to say the least.

Dec 1

Back once more on guard duty
again today -

Rumors are circulating all thru
the camp that we are to go
back to the states for our flying.

Dec. 2 Sunday -

Today we were relieved from guard
duty three and a half hours
late again - Late in the
afternoon we walked to Pandey
where we had dinner and
numerous drinks of French liquor.

Dec. 3

Today we walked to Vatan, Don
Bennett, Kieffu, and myself.

It is a fairly large town with
several hotels - We managed to
dodge the Military Police and
stayed there the whole afternoon.

We visited an old church

today - Built in the early fourteenth century. This is the first church I have been in since I left Columbus.

We also visited a little school house - Talked to the teachers and had a very enjoyable time -

Dec 4.

Dec. 5

Dec. 6

Nothing of any interest going on here except wild rumors of going back to America - to Egypt or to Italy to train for flying.

Dec 7

More rumors about moving - On guard today - nothing of any interest -

Received an issue of 50 Fatimas and Velvet Tobaccos today -

Dec. 8

In the afternoon Jay & I walked to Pandey and stayed there - Will asked by the Military Police to come back to camp.

Everywhere the little French girls &

boys follow the American soldier around and many of them are quite adept at picking up American slang -

Dec 9th Sunday -

For the first time since I left home I attended Catholic services today - They were held in the Y. M. C. A. building and two French priests conducted the service which consisted of mass and a sermon.

At the Red Cross Cafeteria today Jay and I spent about half an hour wiping tin cups - The ~~warmer~~ ^{men} there were very busy so we were asked to help for a while -

Dec 10th M

On guard again today at the guard house - Every one in camp is contracting bad colds - And receiving very little medical attention from the officers at the so called Hospital -

Today Jay and ¹⁴ myself received passes for Issoudun -

We rode down with some officers and then at Issoudun took the first real "honest to god" bath we have had since we were on the troop ship coming over —

On account of the paymaster still sleeping — consequently no pay — we went broke in Issoudun and much to our sorrow we had to leave two french women and hurry back to camp —

— Dec 11th —

Caught a bad cold due to the fact of the unusual happening of yesterday — My first bath!

Dec 12th

Confined to quarters with a cold — These last two days I have been musing and thinking — Of my chances of getting back home — Of home and — Also the inefficiency of different branches of this army of ours —

When our reports for sick call

he has to wait outside in the cold generally about half an hour before he is looked over by a medical officer —

Dec 13th

Still in quarters — Played poker almost all day — Pay day is expected any time now and gambling is getting to be our only indoor sport —

Dec 14th

Today I wagered five hundred francs that I would be home a year from now —

Not that I think this war will be over then. But because I'll make every effort to be home for next Christmas —

Dec 15th

Money very scarce — Went to a "party" at the R.T. tonight — Roger bought coffee and Hamlet — Nabaiscoy.

we had a few Ramen
cigaretts - quite a delicacy
over here - Keffer, Mattheus
and myself completed the
party -

Afterwards we went to
the X.M.C.A. to a picture show -
which did not materialize
something being wrong with
the machine and operator

— Dec 16th Sunday —

Went to church this morning
After dinner played poker and
now am going on guard -

Today I'm Sgt of the guard
at the Hangers -

It is snowing outside now -
The ground is covered -

Walking down to the mess I
felt lonely and homesick couldn't
Wish in a way that this was
over and I were back in the
States once more -

Dec 17th

Payday Beaucoup fumes

Dec 19th

Back to guard duty today
again - One of the prisoners
escaped tonight. Another
prisoner thought he knew
where the other could be found.
So he and I started what
afterward proved to be a
futile hunt for the man

Dec 20th

Today I was a member of
a firing squad at the
funeral of Lieut Paul, an aviator
who dropped four hundred
feet the day before -

The service brought to my
mind more clearly the fact
that so many of us will
never return.

This is the first American
killed at this school -

He was buried on a little
knoll not far from here -
Such things I think are

good for a man, I mean it makes
one think of the more somber
and sober things of life - And
also that we all are here to
count death and if need be, have
"that rare privilege of dying well."

Dec 21st

It is very cold here these
days - Temperature around
20°F. These damp foggy nights
covers the windows with frost.
The ground is now covered
with snow - The green of
the numerous pine forests
and the hoar frost on all
other foliage make quite
a beautiful sight in the sun
light of early morning.

Dec 22nd

On guard duty once more -
These days that I am
on guard I am weary of
the guard - So I am
relieved of the monotonous
duty of walking post.

Dec 23rd Sunday.

On account of being on
guard, I was unable to go
to church today.

After guard Bill Henick,
Jay Kuffer and myself walked
to a little town near here
on the pretext of wanting to
get some laundry -

In reality we bought
french liquors and had it
wrapped up like laundry -
Talking to the M.P. afterward
we were informed by him
that one of our bottles was
showing & And we had
the erroneous idea that we
were "getting by" with quite
a coup -

This evening I shall write
a few letters I think -

Also I may start two
letters that I shall have
one of the men here post
if anything should happen

to me -

I do not fear death in the least - But I do want to have my parents and one know a few of my thoughts.

Dec 24

Today that all of us receive Christmas presents from the Red Cross Association -

In these little packets were cigarettes, tobacco, shoe laces, candy, a sewing kit and a wash cloth - They were very much appreciated by all of us.

In the evening a party of six of us presented to the Red Cross Women little gold broach pins - Just as an appreciation from the cadets for their wonderful work here -

In the evening quite a party was held in the barracks. Much champagne and cognac was consumed. to celebrate what? -

Dec 25

- Christmas Day -

Dawned bright, clear and cold in camp. Contrary to all general opinions it was not the gloomy day that all expected it to be.

Motion pictures were taken of the cadets from Barracks #3 and the red cross women also of our kitchen police & cooks -

I wanted to go to church this morning but for some reason or other the priests did not come out here -

Much drinking was done today -

At three o'clock we fell out for guard duty - A poor way to end a happy Christmas.

Dec 26th

On guard till three o'clock today - A detail of prisoners are out digging a grave for

a soldier that died the day before
They worked all thru the night
and the dull boom of the
dynamite as the hard stony
ground was blasted reminded
one that although ~~it~~ ^{there} were
was not big guns we were
hearing, nevertheless that was
was not all fighting and being
killed in action

Dec 27

Just loafing around today
We also heard that we are
to be a regular military
unit from now on - No flying
but just strict discipline and a
system of demerits for the men
that break any of the rules -

Dec 28

I received a package from my
mother today that was posted
before I left Fort Wood - Sort
of poor mail service but
nevertheless it was very
much appreciated

In the afternoon we went on
guard duty again - We were
about thirty men short as
a lot of the posts had to be left
vacant - All night I worried
about the guard but any fears
of mine were unfounded -

How

Dec 29th

After a busy day on guard
with more graves being blasted
I am now back in our barracks
resting and getting warm.

We are going to make some
hot chocolate and toast some
bread for a little feast just
before bed - Such things are
prohibited but nearly all of us
do not pay much attention
to the majority of the rules
here

Dec 30th

Things around here are sort of
quiet all day - preparing no
doubt for a celebration tonight
We go on guard at the usual

so quite a number of us will watch the old year out while on post guarding the camp.

At twelve o'clock, midnight a single rifle shot was heard. It seemed to be sort of a signal - for immediately from all over camp, inside the barracks and outside arose such a din as one would only hear on a battle field.

The crack of the rifle shots and automatics lasted for about five minutes then all was quiet.

Maj. Spatts, acting commandant was aroused by the noise and by the time he came to our barracks, the noise was over.

Jan 1st - 1918 -

New Year day - One sort of wonders what world wide events will take place during this new year - and what it has in store for us soldiers and flyers in particular.

The grand today was called

to headquarters - Maj Spatts was very much put out on account of the noisy celebration and censured the guard severely for not quelling the disturbance.

He read in an article of war all about a death penalty for creating a false alarm in time of war - We are to be recommended for No Commis- etc.

The lecture was taken seriously by no one but the major - In fact, we cadets looked on it as a huge joke.

Jan 2nd
loafing - playing poker etc

Jan 3rd
After losing all my money yesterday - Junk Harroth and myself started on gambling syndicate -

Our first day was very disastrous

we losing about six hundred
francs of borrowed money -
On guard again today at
three o'clock.

One of the prisoners Krohn
escaped from a guard while out
to supper -

The young sergeant of guard walked
about five miles looking for
him - Then came back and
started for Vatan in a Ford with
a provost sergeant to find our
man. At Vatan at a cafe we
learned that a man answering
the description of K - was trying
to get a room for the night

For a ruse we sent our
machine out of town and looked
around in the dark for about
two hours - Hoping that he
would be walking around after
seeing our machine leave -

After chasing several peaceful
French men we decided that
nothing could be gained at

night in that dark little town
looking for him - The provost
sergeant and one of the M.P.s
agreed to stay in town and
find him in the morning - So the
rest of us went back to camp
Jan 4th

Krohn our escaped prisoner
brought in this morning - He was
put to work with Patterson
and Klein carrying bags of stone
for punishment.

Jan 5-6-7

Quiet - Gambling syndicate going
good now - We've paid off all our
debts - Besides buying such
luxuries as hair cuts, wash basins,
and a can of peaches with our
winnings -

Jan 8th

Twenty Five of the P.F.L. leave today
for Cazaux for training in machine
gun fire - I am one of the lucky men
At noon we left camp for
Issoudun where we shall meet

to take a train for Lazaux -

I was more loathly leaving camp today than leaving home to come to France - I'll miss Jay Kieffer more than anyone -

He gave me one hundred and twenty francs to buy a cigarette case for myself.

When we arrived in Espoulen the officer that was to have charge of us left for Paris and we were without orders transportation etc.

Our train left was due to leave at about ten thirty, that night for so the "powers" at camp had us all taken back to camp in an auto truck for supper then back at nine thirty for our train -

Naturally we received quite a laugh when we returned to camp - Every one thinking that we had left -

Gambling syndicate

was dissolved today we each won one hundred and thirty francs not counting what we spent from time to time from our strong box -

When we left for our train the second time, I did not feel so badly as at noon - Being glad to get away from the inefficiency of our camp -

The Cadet M.P.s were at the station where we left -

Aboard the train we were in a compartment with two french soldiers a civilian and an actress from Paris -

McCarthy had quite a time with the Parisian - In fact we all had a very fine journey

Jan 9th

We were on the train till about one o'clock - A very enjoyable trip for all - It was interesting to note not only the change in climate but also a very different country

At several of the towns we stopped, bought apples, wines, etc -

Bordeaux - At about one o'clock we arrived - Our train ran along the bank of the river and one could see vessels of all description -

After getting off the train we tried to get permission to stay all night here but the officers in charge could not view the situation from the same light as we and would not give us permission - We decided to stay over night anyway -

The wide streets were lined with soldiers in the many different colored uniforms worn by the French.

The women here are all very chic and stylishly dressed as well as good looking -

We roamed around the streets made some purchases and then had a very good dinner - The best I have had in France -

At the cafe where we dined I saw Captain Knight or man I used to

work for. - I talked to him for a while and finally left him with a very fine looking woman that he was dining with -

For a change that night we spent at a moving picture show - I found a girl and went out with her afterwards - She could speak very little English and I as much French so I soon left her and went to our hotel for the night.

We had a very nice room two big soft beds and a big fireplace in the room -

Jan 10th

We were all to leave early in the morning but most of us overslept and missed our train - We waited till ten o'clock for the next one.

Mae + I walked thru the poorer business district to the market place - Here were old women and girls at their stalls selling their wares - Provençale women carrying great loads on their heads

Other driving or leading small donkey carts loaded with fish, oysters, vegetables etc.

Near here was an old church the high steeple of which was being used for wireless telegraphy work.

Inside the church was a quaint little crib - with the infant Babe Mary and Joseph and shepherds -

We stayed for the last of a children's mass - School was held afterwards in the main part of the church in little ~~red~~ shrines devoted to the different saints.

At ten we took a train and came to La Teste where we spent the night -

It is a little seaport town very pretty with all the fishing boats in a little bay - and for a background the little white cottages and red and green tile roofs -

We walked to Arcachon that day a very wonderful summer resort

This place also is on the sea with big piers built out into it -

Here are modern hotels, cafes, shops and wonderful houses - Back of all hills covered with pine and cedar trees -

At La Teste that evening at dinner was a French officer and a wonderful French girl - We sang songs for them and had a very enjoyable evening.

Jan 11th

A truck was to meet us at seven o'clock and take us to our camp - Again all overslept but luckily no truck came - We roamed around the town talking to the inhabitants who are all very friendly to us

We finally telephoned to camp and were told to stay over night again here and leave by train the next morning

At each little shop we talked to the people and once more walked all around the town sightseeing -

An old cemetery was a very interesting place near the church

little stone chapels in the cemetery seemed to be in memory of the more wealthy citizens long since dead - Inside these chapels were little altars where I suppose masses for the dead were said -

One of these chapels had the windows and doors broken and the altar partly wrecked -

Then in the evening after dinner we went to the different little cafes - All the people in there were soldiers sitting in groups talking and drinking wine -

Jan 12th

We left this morning for Pozanac where our school is - We had some misgivings as to what would happen to us for not getting there several days ago on schedule time -

We were pleasantly surprised to find that unlike the other camps we had seen in France - this place was more like a summer resort than a training camp to teach men to kill human beings.

Situated on a lake with hills on all sides, green with pines and cedars, the school is on one side of the lake - Here are Aeroplanes - Flying boat, and Hydroplane barges. Pretty stone buildings for officers' quarters and shooting stands protected from the elements by green and white awnings. In a lagoon were trim motor boats and hydroplanes - Everything here gives one the impression of a big country club -

My first day's work -

Shooting with French carbines at targets in the water, lecture on the Lewis machine gun - Shooting the Lewis - but in the lake in a fast motor boat shooting at targets. A lecture on deflection - and then shooting at outlines of aeroplanes with a carbine from a hydroaeroplane -

This was the first trip I have made in the air - The sensation was -

well there was not much sensation
The exhilaration of speeding thru
the air was such that I was not
able to keep my mind on shooting
and missed my targets completely

At three thirty^{two} left by motor truck
for Larnoux where our barracks are -
Here we are quartered in French Officers
barracks two men to a room and
eat breakfast and supper at the
mess house of a company of infantry
that are here -

Jan 13th Sunday

We leave here at six thirty in
the morning for Larnoux - One
can not help but admire the
efficiency in this French school
compared to the absolute lack
of the same at Jerusalem - Here
the first day in camp we did more
to accomplish our aim than in the
two months we were in Jerusalem
doing absolutely nothing

We went thru practically the
same work today till noon

when we were given a half holiday
The officers and instructors
here are gentlemen and treat
us in a manner that we never
before have received since we
left ground school -

At noon we eat in a large
building with all the other
students -

Here after school one can see
all sorts of different nationalities
French, Russian, Americans
Sengalese, and Annamites from
the orient - surely a melting pot
of different nationalities

Jan 14th

We have been informed that instead
of being pilots as we all hope to be
we are being trained as machine
gunners and machine gun instructors
This state of affairs does not
appeal to us in the least - But still
there is a great chance need of
pilots so we all may be able
to get our flying course after this

Here one can not help but regret all the time wasted at Issoudun doing nothing but guard duty when we could have been putting our time to is much better advantage - learning the theory at least of shooting and deflections -

Jan 15th

Today our cadets were given the rare treat of a bath - Our work here is surely very interesting. We are kept busy from the minute we arrive till the time we leave at night - The lectures are not at all dry and listless and in between our lecture periods we are busy shooting with guns of almost any make and caliber.

These nights we are endeavoring to fix our rooms comfortable to live in - And also rearrange the empty barracks here for tables etc -

This evening we were over to the Messieurs of officers quarters and

bought several drinks - We stay up till about ten o'clock here - Having a bunch of hot chocolate wafers, cheese, honey, etc. just before going to bed.

Jan 16th

Today a great discovery was made by several of the men - We are not alone in these barracks but dwell with great numbers of lively man-eating fleas. They have started their work of some of the men who are badly bitten by the pests -

This camp here is being cleaned out for American troops that are to come here soon -

It is not of interesting to me this place now - Deserted except for a few blacks and chinamen - And then to think of the activities that must have been here - for this was a very large concentration camp - I wonder how many of the men that were no doubt jolly and happy as we

credits are still alive and where they are now?

Jan 17th

The French officers here at Lazare are surely as very well dressed body of men - Great fur coats and jaunty uniforms of almost every conceivable color make a setting more like a stage than real life.

One officer was pointed out to me today that has brought down twenty enemy planes - He was a very quiet unassuming man and to look at him one would never take him for a fighter.

This evening we went thru the deserted Russian barracks - Their officers evidently lived in great luxury - Large cane chairs and table folding canvas arm chairs were scattered all around the different rooms - We found several bayonets, gas masks and steel helmets -

Jan 18th

Fleas are becoming very common here now - It's both disgusting and amusing to see the fellows scratched and squirm when the little pests start to bite or just playful.

This evening Mac and I had a little flea hunt - I captured thirteen in my clothes -

On the lake in the motor boats we all were pretty well drenched with spray - The lake was quite rough and all had quite a hard time hitting the targets.

I was cleaning out my trunk and came across some letters from M.K. - I read all of them over, much to the delight of Mac, - And wished that we were together again -

Jan 19th

Going back and forth to Lazare we have a very jolly time with the girls that are working here. They are not of a low order

class - and some of them are very good looking - I've known French we manage to have some good times with them.

Well I must stop now - Chase a few fleas and then study for some examinations we are to have tomorrow.

Jan 20 Sunday

At Razan we spent the morning shooting and at lectures - There were given passes to Archachon - Mac Bob Taylor, Pop Saunders and myself stopped at a little Chapel in hopes of hearing Mass - but did not.

At Archachon we took a bath - roamed around the town and stopped into a store to purchase a fountain pen - Here were two good looking girls that we made a date with for eight o'clock to go to a movie with us - We went without dinner just to keep our appointment and saw a show that lasted till twelve o'clock - After the show we were

at a loss as to whether we should take them home or not - We knowing very little of the French customs - My girl's mother was at the show so we waited for her to act as a chaperone - And she made a real one - Mac and his girls dropping behind - whereupon the mother waited till he caught up with her and walked ahead of her - The majority of hotels were closed and here after we had taken them home - Two French officers told us to come with them and sleep in a railroad car for the night. Evidently it was something very much against the rules but nevertheless we went with them to the station, silently climbed a fence into a compartment - and tried to sleep - The place was very chilly so we had very little sleep -

Jan 21st

Today at Razan all were very much tired out from our holiday of yesterday afternoon

We had some examinations in deflections today - and all passed with very good grades -

We all enjoy our work here although none of us are very pleased over the idea of being either instructors or observers.

This evening Mac^{Hubbard} and I walked over to "The Barbary Coast" a street on one side of which are little shops and wine rooms - They are located just outside the camp and are patronized by soldiers of all different nationalities -

It's sort of an odd sight to see Blacks - Chinamen and French and American soldiers in these places drinking -

Came home at eight thirty and started our nightly hunt for fleas.

Jan 22

Here at Lazare the weather while warm and clear has not been of the right sort for flying as we have not had as much of that as we are supposed to have - Instead of going to Comau at three o'clock

we decided to stay till six and do some extra flying - It started to rain and quite a few of us missed our train - Jerry Lawrence and myself walking back -

Another visit to the Barbary Coast - It is surely an interesting place to go and note the different peoples there - The places are nearly all run by women who have their daughters with them to serve the drinks -

The little girls are all very good looking and polite - It surely seems a pity to have them there with such surroundings.

Jan 23rd

Today I received my first mail since about two months ago - Two letters from Marie and two from my mother besides others from my sisters, Al, the Elks Club - This made me very happy - happier than I have been for a long time -

This evening I stayed in my room and wrote a letter to Marie - Mac made some hot chocolate and after

this we had our usual flea hunt

Jan 24th

More work at school - The one inconvenient thing about this war is the fact that one has to get up so early in the morning - 6 o'clock -

Today we had quite a lot of flying. I was lucky enough to get a spin ride with one of the pilots -

We climbed up to 1000 meters and then had a wonderful spiral down to the water -

I wasn't the least bit scared but thought that the spiraling might make me sick - luckily it did not -

We ate supper at Cazaux and I received a box of Pall Mall from Marie today -

Jan 25th

More flying today and also three letters today - Flea hunting again at night.

We are now quite accustomed to riding in aeroplanes and

are making good scores at the "Maggie" and targets on the lake with our machine guns -

Jan 26th

Money getting very scarce around here - In some unknown reason three months pay due us was drawn for us at Issoudun but the 'management' or rather mis-management has not sent it to us -

We flew again today in both flying boat and hydroplanes - The pilots generally giving us a few thrills by diving or making very steep banks -

Jan 27th Sunday

Today we had only about three hours of school - Having the afternoon off to go to Arcachon -

At La Teste we had a very good dinner and quite a talk with one of the French pilots, Faugeron. He was the one that took me up a thousand meters and he

told me that the officer in charge cautioned him not to do it again.

After dinner Mac & I walked to Acaachon. We took a sulphur bath to rid ourselves of some of our flea bites and then wandered around the town.

At first we resolved not to go away see the girls we were with the week before but we changed our mind and decided just to stop long enough to say hello to them.

We saw them and also the mother. They wanted us to stay in Acaachon that night and again go to the mooves. So we finally decided to stay. We had to go down to La Jerte after our coats so we hired an old rearguy back and drove down with the girls.

Afterwards we too had dinner at Jannep's and then met the girls and went to the show. There we met several

French officers - who knew the girls and had quite a jolly time.

After the show - same chaparral. We stayed at the Bordaux and just about spent the last of our money there for a room -

Jan 28th M.

Every one tired and almost broke today - on account of yesterday -

Went out on the lake in canoes to shoot at targets - then also flew and shot at "Maggi" and a moving target in the lake pulled around by a fast motor boat.

Jan 29th M.

More flying today - Still no pay for us - In the evening Mac & I went over to the Barbary Coast and had a bottle of wine and a talk with a cute little girl that works in one of the wine shops -

Beer is all they are allowed to sell but we were served wine out of beer bottles -

Jan 30th W.

Great Excitement - All agreed a pay roll today. This makes four month pay we have coming sometime -

Today we went over to the air dome and flew in land machine shooting at a sleeve drawn by another plane - Five percent of my shots were hits -

I found out today that I have the honor to be placed have my name posted in a table of honor for having scored a very high percentage of hits for the "Maggie" 38% -

Jan 31st T

Today I felt too tired to get up at six o'clock for school and stayed in bed and slept till three o'clock in the afternoon -

I then went to the 'Banbury Coast' but was not allowed in by an Animate guard - It is forbidden to enter before

five o'clock in the evening -

~~Jan~~ Feb 1st F

Today also I did not go to Cazaux-Mee. called me and I went back to sleep. About 9:30 I was awakened by a noise at my window, as if some one was trying to enter - As our rooms have been broken in to before, I felt confident that I was about to catch some French or Animate thief - I noted Bob Taylor had not gone out to school and was looking around for company to loaf with that day.

We made hot chocolate and ate the entire supply of foodstuffs we had and enjoyed our meal greatly.

We took a long walk around camp took some pictures - swiped or appropriated some wood for our stoves and then spent the rest of the time writing letters -

Feb 2nd

Word was passed around today that tomorrow we would be paid - We have heard such rumors and

reports as have paid little or no attention to it.

Six of our men left for England today to take a gunnery course at an English school. They act as instructors -

Feb 3rd Sunday -

For some unknown reason we received a month's pay today -

It has been a wet dismal day with a steady rain till about four o'clock - If it were not for the fact that we now have money it would be a gloomy day for all the men -

Rain however does not dampen our spirits and in the afternoon we all go to Aroachow -

Mac and I as according to our usual procedure there have a date with our two little friends for the movies that evening - Mac's girl however could not come so acting the part of a martyr he takes my girl's little sister, a girl about ten years old.

After the show Mac and I stayed at the Hotel Victoria and in the morning had our usual run for the train with no breakfast.

Feb 4th

Examinations we are informed are to begin today - And after a ^{permission} week ~~and~~ at Aroachow no one feels like taking any hard work.

At the air dome we did quite a lot of flying and shooting at the sleeve. Grey and I scored 9.6%.

Also we were informed that there would be no exams today - but tomorrow they would be sure to start.

Feb 5th

Exams - Such things do not worry us for we all know the work has went fairly well by this time.

Shooting at the sleeve from at Farnham's position and I scored 18.2% hits - High enough for the take of honor but because two men shot we were not awarded -

I was the first man to take the

exam - an oral quiz on shooting and target deflections and different kinds of sights.

After this an exam in machine gunning - I think I did fairly well in both - so now we have only shooting tomorrow before we are finished with our work here.

Feb 6th

This morning we had our shooting exams - Then spent the rest of the morning loafing - At noon the names of the men who were to stay here as instructors and I was one of the men to stay.

Naturally I was quite elated over this fact for any thing is better than go back to Issoudun as an instructor.

We had a big evening in La Jute to celebrate our passing this course - that is Hubbard and I did -

Then another celebration in Arcachon -

The remainder of the week was spent just loafing and having a good time - Moving our luggage from Arcachon to here where we are to live while we are instructors.

"Pap" Saunders one of my best friends was one of the men sent back to Issoudun - He hated to go back and we all surely hated to see him go -

Saturday night Shelly and I spent a quiet evening in La Jute. At dinner there were several words french lieutenant - A jolly-happy go lucky crowd and with them we had a very enjoyable evening.

Feb 10th Sunday.

Shelly and I walked to Arcachon in the morning; and there saw two lents that were at Fort Harrison with me -

Today was a wonderful day so we walked along a beautiful road to a little town Molleau.

We both agreed that it would

have been a 'perfect day' if we only had two certain American girls with us for company - The bay of Anacahon was quite calm and looked tempting enough to swim in but the water was very cold so we decided to wait for a while at least before trying that.

We traveled back to Anacahon in great style - in a cab driven by a shiny little horse -

In the evening I met Mac and the two of us were to meet Penrith and Joan - We were late though and failed to meet them -

So wandered round to different cafes drinking with American English French and Canadian officers -

Afterwards met a French girl that could speak perfect English so I had a date with her till twelve o'clock - and then to the Hotel la France for the

rest of the night
Feb 11th

Our first day as instructors - I'm to teach Ammunition, which is machine gunnery - I'm the different groups are Captain, 1st and 2nd Lieutenants and Cadets - All of which we treat equally showing no special regard for rank -

As instructors we have a comparatively easy time here - Flying and shooting as much as we wish and then about four or five hours of work instructing -

Feb 12th

More instruction - In the evening one of the French pilots came to our quarters and told us wonderful stories of the great French flying and of their life at the front - Such deeds of bravery and prowess makes one's blood tingle - and also makes one all the more anxious to be at the front where he can at least be in action -

Feb 13th

Tonight in our barracks we again had french visitors the fellows played whos and sang ~~and~~ for them. Soon more french men came in to hear the music till our quarters was entirely filled - After wards two gunners that had been at the front showed us photos of Verdun, Rheims and other places near the front and the result of Germanys diabolical artillery fire -

Feb 14th -

We started this morning on candy that was sent to a lieutenant who has been killed - Very good candy -

A Farman was wrecked on the lake today - The gunner escaping with out injury - but the pilot was caught in wires and could not be released - being under water for about twenty minutes

It was a jolly fellow having given me several very good rides -

Feb 15th

Rumors have been very evident to the effect that soon we will receive our commissions - We have heard the same so many different times that now we pay no attention to them -

As cadets in France we have earned sort of a unique distinction - Of being very much out of luck - Men graduating in the States long after us are here as officers while we just maintain the rank of cadet - At times this seems the lowest rank in the army.

Feb. 16th

I received some tobacco and cigarettes today also a fine letter from Marie -

Due to the narrow-mindedness of some of the Y.M.C.A. men we are practically out of cigarettes -

There is a Y.M.C.A. at Comenay and if we go there in person we can purchase our package of eight - As their "Y" is about four kilos from here is somewhat inconvenient to walk there

after work - But their management will not listen to us going there once a week and buying our supply weekly -

This evening I went to Aicachou and spent part of my time with some officers at the Cafe Repetto and then afterwards to the Hotel Jacquempe to sleep -

Feb 17th

Slept till a late hour and then walked down to the main pier - Had dinner at the Hotel de France with two of the instructors from school -

In the evening I was to meet McCarthy but somehow we missed each other -

A lieutenant, a french gunner and I spent the evening with three women that this french man knew - Had quite a wild party.

Feb 18th

Back today to the monotony of instructing and then between

hours loafing -

We Americans are translating in to readable english practically all the french notes of any importance - To give to the men when they finish their work here -

Feb 18th

Tonight when opening the window just before going to bed Oyster saw an American jump away from the window and escape into the darkness - This is the second time they have been discovered doing such things - We will surely make life miserable for anyone that we can catch at such actions.

Feb 19th

Early this morning we were awakened by the sentry's cry of "Fire" Jumping out of bed and going out doors we saw a brilliant glare and heard the crash of flames in the direction of the barges on the lake -

The bugle then sounded the

alarm and soon practically the whole camp was up, partly dressed and down at the fire -

Instead of the hangars as we
first thought, the officers mess
building was all ablaze and ^{there was} no hope
for saving the building.

Luckily there was no wind so the fire was confined to that one spot and soon burned out. - Before this fire fighting apparatus was put in to working order.

Feb. 26th

Taylor and Lawrence left today
for Portland -

We instructors were informed that we are to receive the french brevet of military aero gunners -

On the twenty seventh and eight of
this month there is to be given
here a little musical revue -
and last night we eight cadets
rehearsed our songs -

Feb 2 / at

Very little work for me today.

I spent most of my time just loafing around.

Feb 22nd

Had a good ride in a Tamm today
I went up with Stoffel - The ride
was very bumpy and on account of
that was not able to do much
shooting with any degree of accuracy -
On a day like this one gets a lot of
thrills due to the upper winds and
air rockets -

~~Grand Haven~~ Feb 23rd

This morn I had some more flying
from an aeroplane weather fairly
good -

Sgt Hagerman was killed at the
aerodrome today whilst falling about
eight hundred meters - He was flying
a Mustang in combat work and it
appeared as though his wing broke off
for no reason at all -

He was a wonderful flier and
all the fencer pilots had nothing
but praise for his work—

It seems a pity that a man

such as he, should be killed especially
in a training school -

His death affected us quite a lot
and in the evening we were all a
sobbing crowd.

Feb 23rd Sunday

In the morning I took Bill Gray's
group. As Bill being in for Justice -

In the afternoon went to Breachon
and stayed there all night.

At the Trionfo Theater there is sort
of a spectacle or in reality beer garden.
Between acts one can buy
drinks back of the stage - Here one
sees a conglomeration of nationalities
and faces - English French Italian
and American soldiers and also
wild women waiting for some one
to buy them drinks -

Feb 24th

Rode in an officer's truck from
Breachon this morning - It rained
nearly all day - a cold miserable
day -

In the last three or four days

I've felt quite blue and homesick
at times - Wondering when I'll be
home again or if I ever will -
I've received no mail for over a
week and do not like that very well.

In the evening ^{just} after dinner and
myself had a little feast from
a box he received from home -

Candy - wafers - dates and sausage
which we heated over stove and
some beer we bought at the mess
hall -

Feb 25th

This evening we received our French
brevette of machine gunner. Naturally
we are a very pleased and happy crowd
to have them - A foreign decoration
such as this is, is prohibited by
our constitution to be worn by a soldier.
But so far no one has ordered us to
take them off so we continue to wear
them.

Feb 28th

Tonight is the night of the Cajanus
Review - Oyster, DeBore, Shelly, Gray and

McCarthy took part in it by singing some old time American and French songs. - The whole entertainment was very good. - Especially some wonderful violin music - One noticeable thing about all French shows is the length of them, this one leaving out at about one o'clock.

Feb 28th - Mar 1st

Today we had muster and signed the February payroll -

In the evening there was a second performance of the Revue - Justison and I conceived the idea of a bouquet for the American singers - so with a pig cabbage, some onions, and ribbons we made a fine bouquet and had it presented to the fellows, much to the delight of the audience -

Mar 2nd

Sort of a quiet day - A little work for me in the afternoon taking charge of one of the groups of officers - Spent the evening reading -

Mar 3rd Sunday.

Hard change of the same group of officers this morning - A wet cold day - In the afternoon all the fellows went to Arcachon with the exception of Justison and myself. I had planned to write letters all afternoon but instead just loafed around and read some magazines -

Mar 4th

Stayed in bed till eight o'clock then had a class in Arment for an hour - In the afternoon I went to the Archone and loafed about all the time - Very little flying today and also very cold -

Mar 5th

Examinations started today - We instructors are anxious to know how the new pass this for they are our first group of pupils -

Received some mail today, one, a letter from Marie - Surely was glad to get it - I haven't heard from her for over two weeks, and was beginning to think she had

Forgotten me -

I had a long ride today in a "4" and shot at the sleeve - I was so cold that I was unable to make any kind of a decent score -

Now I'm going to write some letters.

May 6th

More examinations for the different sections - consequently very little work for the instructors - The men finished their work in a very creditable manner and the instructors are surely pleased with the results.

May 7th

Today the instructors and cadets who are to stay here were permitted to fly on the lake in fairways - I made one flight and as it was a cold morning did not wait for any more flights.

Ate dinner at a little cafe with the cadets that were leaving, and then spent the rest of the time loafing. Also we were paid today.

May 8th

The new classes started today six officers and forty two cadets. Goodbye to my days of ease now as I'll probably be kept quite busy.

May 9th

Today Jack Danziger left for the hospital to be treated for an old wound that has been bothering him - Bell and I will do all the instructing now in machine gun work -

The classes seem to have no 'pup' and the men sit around in a listless manner, paying a little attention to the work -

May 10th Sunday -

This morning I had two hours of work and then left for Arcachon. Mac and I rode in a truck to Bordeaux to buy cigarettes there. While waiting for the train to St. Jests. Sent Sullivan passed and stopped his motor cycle.

and took me to Arcachon in his
rickshaw. After dinner I took
a boat ride with one of the
American pilots on the bay of
Arcachon. We crossed the bay
and went to a little cafe near
the mouth and had a very nice
little meal. Then came back
met Mac and went to a picture
show in the evening.

Mar 11th

Woke up late this morning and
had to hurry to catch the
train. As usual the train from
Lasterre to Bazas was crowded
so I rode in a box car the whole
way.

Tuesday Mar 12th

Nothing eventful today - just
the same old regular routine
work sleep and eat.

Mar 13th

Instead of eating at the
French non commissioned officers'
mess - several of us have started

eating at the 36th Aero Squadron
mess. Our meals are much better
here and the change from French
to American food is surely quite
a relief.

At the 36th Squadron I have
met quite a few of the men
that I became acquainted with
while they were under arrest
in Issoudun - They're all good
lot of men although some of
them have quite a time with
their French liquors and cognacs.

Mar 14th

Justison and I are doing our
best to be transferred to a flying
school where we will have a
chance to learn to be a pilot.

We have both spoken concerning
this to the major several times
and hope soon to get some
results.

Mar 15th 16 + 17

Nothing doing of any interest.
Weather cold and wet -

Mar 19th Sunday -

This is Saint Patrick's day -
And to celebrate it we shall
spend the entire day working
due to the fact that for about
days last week there was no
gasoline for the planes therefore
and flying -

At three o'clock I went to
Arcachon and stayed there all
night - Spent an unusually
quiet day here -

Mar 18th

This morning I took to camp
in an officers truck - Almost
froze riding on the front seat with
the driver and Q. Roosevelt.

At noon we were all summoned
before the major who proceeded to
give us hell - Dekore left early
yesterday and during this twisted
the schedule quite a bit causing
quite a row to be stirred up by
the French authorities.

Rossie and Bell who have

been living in La Teste and Arcachon
must move back here and are
confined to camp till further
orders - I was the subject of all this
lecture Bell proceeded to faint.

Mar 19th

We have been told that our
commissions will be here soon
Well I surely think we have
earned them - And then we
may get a chance to fly -

Shelly and Oyster moved back
today - They had rooms just
outside camp but had to move
back to our old quarters and
now we once more sleep eight
men in one room -

Mar 20th

I wrote a perfectly good letter
to Jerry Lawrence today a little
profane but with absolutely nothing
in it concerning anything not allowed
by the rules of censorship - Yet
some poor deluded officer with
a very high sense of duty

returned it to me to be rewritten

This evening our whole gang sang all the old songs that were ever written till about ten o'clock when we all went to bed after having a drink of the French mess.

Mar 21st

Today I received a letter from Mamie and one from Kathleen Valley - K - has sent me a fine sweater and helmet -

In the afternoon I had a fine long letter from Dick Seorness, the first I have heard from him since I've been in France. Naturally I am sore as hell for he is just an instructor and his just about finished his flying - Well Dick keep wishing you all sorts of good luck.

Mar 22nd

Nothing at school in the way of excitement - Germans in their big drive are advancing

but expect to see them stopped soon -

Mar 23rd

Today Paris was shelled by a long range gun - George du Man told us the news this evening - Rather incredible to believe but nevertheless true -

Mar 24 Sunday -

More work today - That's about all I do here - In the afternoon Justie and I walked to the ocean from here and had a swim in the ocean - The trail we took was surely a pretty one over great sand dunes and then a wonderful avenue of pines.

We met four French privates on our way and had a little touch with them at a cottage of one of the forest guards -

Mar 25th

Up at the audome today with our groups - So far they call the poorest men that

have taken the course here and
live among doubts as to any high
marks they will get in Exams

Mar 26th

Exams for the different groups
today - And very little for me
to do - Started to move out of
~~here~~ our French barracks to officers
barracks built for the Americans
at the camp. - Starting Thursday
we are to have a five days vacation.
It surely will be a relief after
the steady grind at this school.

Mar 27th

Exams ended today - Men did
very poorly - In the evening Mae
and I went to Arcachon had
dinner and then went to the
Promenade - A damn good looking
girl was there with five French
Lieutenants - And we flirted
with her - Ending up by my
going home with her after the
show -

Mar 28th

This morning Mae and I came
back to Camp at ten thirty.
Sgt. Jernsted gave the instructors
a talk and then we were given
permission to be off for five
days. As usual I had to run
to get the train out of here and
went to Arcachon.

At Arcachon the hotels were
all crowded so I had a room
in a little villa there. In the
house next to me there is a damn
good looking girl that I'll have
to meet -

Mae and I had a date with
Joan and Henriette and went to
the cinema after having a bottle
of champagne with them.

Also saw Jack Danziger who
has been at the hospital here -
being operated on for an old shell
wound.

Mar 29th

Today I had planned on going
to Bordeaux with Jack Danziger

and Bill Gray but did not wake
up till noon then went back
to sleep till four o'clock.

Then took a little walk around
the town and in the evening went
to the cinema - Then I met Hurst
and went home with her -

Apr 30th

Had another good long sleep
this morning - Was up in time
for dinner after which I took a
long walk over the town -

I forgot to mention that I
went to church yesterday Good
Friday -

This ~~evening~~ afternoon Max Oyston
and Turner left for Boucaup -

Went in to see this good looking
girl that lives ^{next} to me and made
a date to go walking with her
tomorrow -

When I went home this evening
she was at her window and we
had a pleasant little visit -
short and very quiet for her

mother was in the next room -
I, outside the window was drenched
by a downpour of rain.

Apr 31st Easter Sunday
I arose this morning in time to
go to church at 10 o'clock - On
the way I met this girl next door
and went with her. Solemn High
Mass and the church was so
crowded that we both had to
stand ^{during} the whole service.

Afterward made a date to go
walking in the afternoon with this
girl. But instead of walking went
to a picture show.

~~In the evening walked back to~~
~~La Jerte - Had an omelette for~~
~~supper - met Justice who had~~ But
it rained all afternoon. That
evening I was with a girl that
owns a dry cleaning shop and
speaks very good English - Well
that is not surprising for she
happens to be a Scotch girl - After
work at about midnight I met

three sailors looking for a place to sleep. They had had rooms but on going to occupy them found three drunken Algerians asleep in them. No rooms could be found at this late hour so they came with me to my room two sleeping on the floor and the other with me.

Apr 1st

The sailors had left when I awoke so after dinner I took another walk around the town had a date to go walking with my good looking girl next door but went to the cinema with her instead. She can not speak a word of English and I had quite a time talking to her in my poor French. Nevertheless it was worth the effort.

In the evening I walked back to La Teste to get the train for Cayeux - Was caught in quite a rain. Had an omelette

to eat and met Justie who was going to stay in La Teste all night.

Coming back to camp I found four letters waiting for me from home - I then went to bed on our hard bunks here quite a contrast from the soft bed I had at Breachon.

Apr. 2nd

Signed the payroll, moved to the new officers barracks and started in working again. Spent all my spare time building shelves and a desk in my new room. Mac and I are again roommates.

In the evening Mac and I went down to the station and had a drink and told each other of our experiences during our vacation.

Apr 3rd

Today quite a lot of work to do - both in classes and decorating our walls with

pictures mostly from La Vie
Parisienne.

In the evening Mac took
a little flight around the
rafters of our barracks - Incidentally
took a few breeches.

Wrote some letters in the
evening and read some passages
from the Triumph of the Maid
who acts.

Apr. 4th

The new men taking the course
here are really a fine bunch of
men - It really is a pleasure to
teach them -

I spent a lot of spare time today
doing more work in our room and
now have practically completed
all my efforts at carpenter
work. - This afternoon I examined
some American gamblers who
expect to leave here tomorrow.

Apr. 6th

This evening Justice and I
made some fudge and it

surely tasted good - Seemed sort
of like old times to be doing
this - Today I found found
out to my great sorrow that
I had lost ten perfectly good
frames leaving me completely
broke - Also examined some Squadron men

Apr. 6

More rain today. Somehow do
we now have a day that it
doesn't rain sometime - Was up
early this morning for classes
in armament and calibration

Every day now, I'm writing at
least a couple of letters and hope
that I'll be receiving eggs from
the mail. Here they're very scarce
and hard to get.

Apr. 9th Sunday

I slept till nine thirty this
morning - I incidentally missed
a class that I should have
had - Some of the men went
to Preaching but I remained
here and looked and slept

that afternoon - Also made some
more fudge - Made me think of
home for often that was my
regular programme there.

Three of the fellows went in
swimming in the morning in the
lake here - The weather was
quite chilly so they did not
stay in very long.

Apr 8th

I was talking to the Mayor
today and he informed me that
he was doing his best to arrange
for us to learn to fly and give
us instruction. The news did
not appeal to some of the men
they preferring to remain here in
this life of ease - Justison and
myself were more than pleased
over the thoughts of learning to
fly which is and always has
been our one aim since ground
school.

I was at the anchorage this
afternoon with a group of

cadet and officer observers who
are here for a five days course
I gave them a talk on machine
guns and at five o'clock
dismissed them as it was then
raining and did not look as if
there would be any chance of
flying. Half an hour later
the sun came out and flying
started. Naturally I got hell
and as only three cadets could
be found had a chance to
fly myself. Went up in a Jannan
but a storm started and we
had to come down.

Made some oat meal and
with condensed milk and loaf
sugar managed to have quite
a feast.

Apr 9th

I had little work to do today
and spent a lot of my time loafing
etc. We have some great times
here watching the Argonauts
try to catch and throw a bare

ball. - Wrote more letters last night and had another feast of oat meal and condensed milk.

Apr 10th

Had a fine talk with Maj Robertson today and he informed me again that he's doing all he can to get us to flying - Also he said that our commission should be here soon. It's disgusting to see the way two or three of the fellows here are making excuses to the rest of the crowd as to why we should stay here. Personally I think they are yellow instead of self sacrificing as they try to make others think they are.

The last two nights I've surely had some wild dreams. In fact I even hesitated to write them.

Apr 11th

Today the chief from the

office of the chief of air service came a telegram in which it was stated that we instructors could not be put to flying but must wait our turn on the list. I instead of being angry and chagrined at such news I merely laughed at blundering, unbusinesslike, inefficient way we as cadets have been treated. 'Our turn on the flying list' evidently they have never taken the trouble to learn we were sent here expressly to get our gunners training first and then go quickly to flying. These idiots and fools in command here in France we have no longer the patriotism we once showed and -

Oh hell. what's the use of all this?

Apr 12

Nothing new or exciting today. Nearly everyone is broke and anxiously awaiting pay day.

Apr 13th

This evening I had a little

boat ride on the lake -
Read some morbid French
poetry - wrote some letters
and then went to bed -

Apr 14 Sunday -

Had two hours of work
this morning after which I
went to church - Rained all
day so nearly all of us spent
our time loafing around a store
reading and talking.

Major Turner, some pilots
and I had dinner at the
station - Afterward Genl Joe
Dawson was in our room
and we all talked quite a
lot about flying -

Apr. 15th

Another cold wet day -
Not as gloomy for some of us
as it sounds for Maj Robin
called us into his office
and informed us that we would
have our chance at flying -
He asked each of us what we

wanted to do, stay here or fly -
Oyster Shelly Turner and Mac
have decided to stay here -

I received some letters
today and in some I heard
that there was a rumor circulated
at home for three or four days
that I was killed here in
France - And finally the
papers had to deny the story.

Also had a letter from
Marie -

Apr 16th

Was up this morning for
a class at 7:30 then I had
the rest of the morning off
Justie Shelly, Rosie Dean
and I made fruit oat
meal and then hot chocolate

The Mayor told us yesterday
that when we had taken a
few falls and broke some
bones we would not be so
anxious to fly - Well time
alone will tell - But

now I'm surely tickled over
the idea of flying —
Apr 17-18-19

Very little to do in the way of
excitement here these days — We're
all anxious to leave here and
start flying — Few cadets will
stay here as instructors to replace
us.

Apr 20th

Pay day — went up to the
3rd squadron for our pay.
Today I examined the cadets
and officers in armament.
Got lost to a treasure job —
Seymour examined the first two
groups so that I could go to
Arcachon.

Went to the cinema with Penette
and afterward to the laundry to
sleep.

Apr 21st

Sunday.

Went to church with Turner + Mae
Afternoon Turner + I had
dinner. Mae sleeping in

my bed. We tried to get some
horses to ride in the afternoon
but could not find any.
Had a date with Daisy?!

in the evening —
Apr 22nd

Rode out in the truck this morning.
Helped pick out the new instructor
and then Mae invited me to dinner
with him at the station.

Billy + Coora were there and
I spent the afternoon with them
and then in the evening Mae,
Turner, + myself rode to Arcachon
with them.

Had sort of a wild party at
night — Plenty to drink but I managed
to keep sober and stayed up all
night.

Apr 23rd

Mae + Turner went back to Arcachon
Cazaux while I stayed in Arcachon.

Apr 24th

I came back to camp at noon today - And spent about all my time resting and nursing a bad headache. Classes started today for the new group, and the new instructors started in to work.

Some of the men that came over with me are down here for the course, having been just loafing most of the time at Prouden and different camps. So I guess we're not as bad off as as far as some of the others.

Apr 25th

I'm anxiously awaiting to see Mac - but I guess he's down in Prenchon again.

I will not leave here with the others that are leaving but shall stay here till I think the instructors are competent to take care of the work.

Apr 26th

Mac is quite angry with me

over Monday's incident. — It seems as if my friendship here is at an end —

I'm doing little or no work these days — just loafing around reading quite a lot.

Have not had any mail from the states for quite a long time
Apr 27th

Justin and I went up to the 36th squadron to purchase some rats. This afternoon there was quite a wonderful exhibition of flying for the benefit of some high French officials — Sold my watch today —

Apr 28th Sunday.
Still more loafing — Bill Brown and Michel taking all the classes —

Nearly all the fellows went to Arcachon today — Justin and I stayed home —

In the evening we had a regular feast in the

room Wine — canned baked beans, sardines, bread, butter and oatmeal —

I read a little book by MacDonald today "Flying for France" and I'm anxious to fly and do some actual fighting —

I haven't the slightest doubt that I will come out of this just as sound as ever — So time alone will tell whether my hunch is correct.

Apr 29th
Signed the pay roll today — Bill Gray, DeRose, Beans and Kelton left today for Tours — for flying training — I'll be leaving soon — I hope —

Sold as Sam Brown felt today — trying to get enough money to pay up my debt before I leave —

More reading and loafing today and one hour of work on the Lewis gun for a change.

Apr 30th

Justice wants me to leave
for four Friday - I'd like to but
may have to stay here till
pay day - being very much broke
at present -

I think I'll write a letter home
to mother today -

This afternoon I examined some
privates from a balloon squadron,
the first work I've done for quite a
while.

May 1st

This is surely a wonderful May day
bright clear and warm - But
it makes me think of the days when
I was a kid and my mother -

I'm to leave here tomorrow for
four - and will be quite busy
today packing and fixing up my
work here -

Yesterday one of the Captains in a
class of mine refused to come sit
in a position where he could see
the demonstration of the game

I reported him to the Mayor -
Today I was present when Major
Robertson gave the whole action
a calling down and ^{he} has confined
the Captain to camp for the rest of
his time here -

I worked till late writing notes so
as to have all work finished here -

In a way I hate to leave this
place for everyone here has treated
us so fine - Still I'll be starting
with the work I've been wanting to
do which will more than make up for
any regrets I have at leaving.

May 2nd

This morning I did not even have
to be wakened up but rose promptly at
six thirty. Said good bye to all the
fellows and took a truck into La Teste.

We had a wait of about an hour
and spent most of it in a little wine
shop with two truck drivers.

Arrived in Bordeaux at about
one o'clock - Went to a hotel and
washed, then walked around looking

At the sight.

Justie and I both agreed that we spent a very pleasant day - Our wildest dissipation being eating ice cream - for the first time in about four months.

There were many things that reminded us of home - just the fact of being in a large city, American civilians and women - and the sound of boats in the river.

In the evening we went to see a burlesque show. Not bad for a show of that class - And then after that we went back to our hotel to bed.

May 3rd

We were to leave here at one o'clock but found that the train we were supposed to take left from a different station than the one we went to - So we decided to stay over in Bordeaux till half past ten - We visited the Quartermaster's department, purchased a few

necessities such as soap, cigars, beans, sausage etc - Also went up to the K of C rooms for a shot while - The atmosphere of this place is surely far different from the Y.M.C.A. - I hope the establishment more places all over France -

We met some of the pilots from Cayeux and had a couple of beers with them and also Sgt Teynck.

We found one of the wildest cafes I have ever seen this evening and stayed there about an hour enjoying the scene -

Justie had some packages to get so I was to meet him later on and both go to the station together - In the meantime all the lights in the city went out and we had quite a rain storm with thunder and lightning - In the darkness I was almost lost and finally managed to get to the station to find that Justie was not there yet -

When it was one minute before

train time, just as we arrived and we
just managed to catch our train.
There were no seats so we stood.

There were no seats so we stood
up in the aisle with two French
soldiers for company - We had
some venison and beans which
we shared with the French men
who in turn supplied us with bread
wine, cognac, and some very
highly seasoned french sausage.

So we managed to spend a most
of enjoyable evening, satisfying but
quite tiresome.

May 4th

Early this morning we arrived
in Tours - We had to remain in the
station till six o'clock due to
regulations of the military police

After that we had our first
view of the city - Long Island
street lined with trees presented
quite a contrast to the crowded
ones we have been used to see

It sure is a wonderful player
and I'm quite sure that our

stay here will be pleasant. All
the buildings are very well built
and of very beautiful architecture.

After walking around a while
we took a truck for the
aviation camp and here met
a great number of men we know
some that we have not seen
since ground school.

The flying field is not as large
as at London or Kazan, but
there are a large number
of machines here.

We reported to head quarters
and received a pass to go down
town, for the evening —

Then we had supper at
the Y.M.C.A. a few drinks
out of doors and then it
started to rain. So to
get back to camp we
hired a cab.

May 5th Sunday

Was up early this morning
and at a large dinner

breakfast, the first I've have
had so quite a while - Today
we reported to Major Davidson
in person and were told that
we would be put on the flying
list as soon as there was a vacancy.

Today I went to mess at the
Y.M.C.A. I'll now be able to
go about every Sunday.

This afternoon pilots from
Grouplan were here in Newport
and gave quite an exhibition
of stunt flying.

Went to bed early after reading
quite a lot and almost froze to
death.

May 6th

Was up at five thirty this
morning and spent the
morning washing and taking a
little walk - I was and
were both pleased to find
our names on the flying
list posted on the bulletin
board. - At three

thirty we marched to the
flying and here we have
to stand and loaf around
waiting our turn to fly -
My chance didn't come till
after supper but then I had
a fine joy ride and also my
first short ~~ride~~ ^{soar} of going from
the air - This was the first
time I've had my hands on
the controls - and was kept quite
busy following the movement
of my monitor. For stunt all
we did were steep dives and
climbs also a lot of tight
spirals -

A Japanese General was here
today and looked the place
over with our major - In the
evening there was a short speech
given by the Major and also
by an interpreter of the General
at the Y.

After the moon rain and
a cold night in my bunk.

May 7th

As usual, I didn't get up for Revellie and slept till ten o'clock. More bad weather today so consequently no flying - About all I did was read all day and took a short walk with Justie.

May 8th

Moved over to barracks #1 and am now sleeping next to Dick Sennett and just across from Justie - Today I received quite a few letters from the state - More reading, sleeping and to break the monotony went down to a little cafe with some of the fellows for a few bottles of beer. At about ten thirty Dick and I were riding a couple of bicycles and some seniors - threw a chain out in the road which I ran over, or rather I tried to run over and took quite a tumble but luckily I was not damaged beyond skinning my knee.

May 9

This morning for a change I was up early for our formation Revellie. Then went back to bed. I wrote a few letters home today and also received a few. No flying for me today -

May 10th

Took a bath, and loafed the entire day. Playing ball, writing letters and reading Damaged. Good to help pass the time. A man surely gets lazy here for when not flying there is absolutely nothing to do. We are supposed to work in the hangars cleaning our machines but all the cadets with their usual ability to dodge work, pay no attention to this order at all. Sometimes we march over to the hangars, in the front doors and out the back, back to our barracks again.

May 11th

Today Perkins arrived in camp from Cayuga and

brought with him our pay. Also
he told me that that few
captain I had a fuss with at
Paraguay is on my trail -

Major R - heard about it
and wrote a personal letter to
Major D - here about it. So
now let the Captain start his
dirty work.

Sent some cigarettes to the
fellows down at Paraguay today.

May 12th Sunday.
This is Mother's day - I went
to mass this morning and
heard a fine little talk about
our mother. I wrote my mother
a long letter today and
then in the evening saw a
movie at the "Y."

This afternoon Kelton, Cyrie, &
I walked to Paraguay where we
had some "vin ~~and~~ blanc"
and some thing to eat.

This is a quaint little
village and some of the old

building. There are very beautiful
especially at this time of the year.
One old wall in particular was
just covered with blossoms of
wisteria.

May 13th
Received "beacons" mail today
and as usual spent quite a lot
of my time looking. Went to
Jons with Justice this afternoon.
As usual we had a rain
storm so we had to spend about
all of our time in cafes -

We did a little shopping and
found a little English dish in
a store that we stopped at -

We stayed there looking everything
in the store and talking to the
womans and then back
in the rain outside.

May 14th
Loafed around the field this
morning but didn't get a
chance to fly - Found
a letter from Mother and

one from Maria when I came
in - Read and wrote a
few letters this afternoon.

May 15th
Today I had a couple of hops
for a diversion - they said we
had in quite awhile. Almost
forgetting the little bit
knew about flying.

After supper went to the
Duty Room and had a
couple of drinks and then
went to bed.

May 16th
More good weather here for a
change - I had three hops
today - If this good weather keeps
up, I won't be long in finishing
here - Some one came home
tonight with the wild report
that our commissions are here
and that we shall get them
tomorrow - Received a call
from Maj Davidson
today for smoking when

we were supposed to be
standing at attention in
formation

May 17th
Had a long flight today
with our new monitor -
Did all the work while in
the air and really learned
quite a lot. - Spent the
rest of my time loafing
as usual.

May 18th
Still more loafing and
also a little poking at while
the time away - This after-
noon tried taking off and
landing my machine and
I think I did fairly well.

May 19th
Slept too late this morning
to go to church - Wrote
six letters today - On Sunday
people from town walk out
here and line the road
watching the flights.

Numerous ~~crowds~~ ^{eyes} of Air Raid
would bring the fellows to
the doors of our barracks to
watch some particularly
interesting sight. Generally
wild women from town -
Did not fly today as Ben
broke one machine in landing
they we had to lose a
lot of time getting another -
Fine day - hot!

May 20th

The more time I have in the
air the more I realize how little
I know of flying - Today while
taking off a solo man crossed
directly in front of me - I just
sat there and my monitor moved
our machine down missing a
collision by about fifty feet - That
is our machine was only fifty feet
from the other directly on our level.

Weather very hot today
a lot of the men loafing
around in their B.V.D.s.

May 21st

Had forty minutes flying
and according to my monitor
I'm getting along very well -
Personally I think he's a damn
liar - But he's hoping his
judgment is correct.

There was a bad smash up
here today a new Condor with
two French men in them -
One was fatally injured and
the other just as bad - Tonight
a crowd of the men here are
discussing their chances on
leaving this. Personally
I'm just a bit worried -

Another illustration of some
of the ~~work~~ dirty work done in
army is the sending back to
the states three of the cadets -
For petty reasons alone - All are
good fliers and I'm no doubt but
that they'd make fine pilots and
good officers - Any way all
is not glory in this war -

May 22nd

Last night did not get to sleep for about an hour after I went to bed - Thinking of flying and whether I'd ever be able to fly fast machine - Also thinking of accidents etc - I'm all it was just one of those reveries where a man thinks too much -

I'm not in the least worried about my outcome here - and always feel perfectly at home in the air.

One of the men that fell yesterday died and the other is not expected to live - I was a pilot that has flew and fought over the lines for two years and a half - About the last words he said were After 2½ years at the front and then smashing up in a plane.

God! It must be hell to be killed in an accident far from the front.

About one third of the men received their commission - I was one of the other two thirds.

May 23rd

Today is my birthday - Flew in the morning and went to town for the afternoon and evening - We start flying now at five o'clock P.M. Quite an inconvenient hour for us fellows still with much grumbling and cursing we get out there on time.

May 24th

Still more flying - Today we had an old machine that several times had me quite worried - Almost side-slipping onto the roof of the hangar once - Jerry Shea and I walked over to a little village this evening and had a few drinks -

May 25th

Was too tired to get up.

fly this morning - so managed
to have a sleep till
eight o'clock -

My commission arrived to
day and now I'm waiting
for my active orders - Will
be surely worked and waited for
it just about long enough.

Went down town this evening
and had quite an enjoyable
time - Arrived in camp too
late for bed check -

May 26th Sunday

Was not reported for being
absent last night - Tipped up
with the sergeant in charge
of quarters -

Stayed a little and spent
the remainder of the day
reading and writing

May 27th M

Still nothing doing in the
way of excitement - Did a little
more flying today - Should
be ready to lash one of

these days.

May 28th

Had quite a fine joy ride
today and enjoyed a few
wing slips, shells etc - Loafed
around all afternoon and
evening and spent quite a
lot of my time writing letters.

Had some real American
chocolate today and ate about
half a pound of them -

May 29th

Nothing of excitement
going on today - Made
some good landings and
am about ready to lache,
for missing making a
lot of noise this morning
at cavillie at 4¹⁰ A.M. we have
incurred the displeasure of
our major and therefore no
passes are being given
to the cadets.

May 30th Decoration Day
Today we are to have

the honor[?] of marching down
town to join in a parade.

While waiting for the
parade to start we had
quite a lot of fun with some
M.P.s and silly clerks - Jimmy Shea
Dick Sinnott and myself
managed to get three
bottles of beer which we drank
in front of all the other
fellows, much to their
discomfiture for no one was
supposed to leave a certain
designated spot and
consequently could not
visit any bars.

I am confined to the
limits of the post indefinitely
for missing Revellie this
morning!

A crowd of cadets
arrived last night from
Italy last night. They were
all men that I had
lived or rather existed

with in London -

May 31st
The men from Italy are
to do all the flying here
and consequently we are
off the flying list till
they finish -

There is nothing for
us to do, but nevertheless
we must all get up at
four o'clock for reveille
which surely shows the
perversity and childishness
of a certain man in
company here -

I could and probably would
be court marshaled for the
murder of some of certain
Army officers - That is

if they were made known
to me June 1st

One hour's drill today - It
seems to be the opinion of the
"management" here that to
be some a good aviator - one

must devote a lot of time to
Infantry drill Reg and not
bother at all with such minor
studies as motors - machine
gunnery etc -

June 2nd Sunday -
Went to Communion this
morning and also wrote a
few letters -

June 3rd Monday.
Today I received my active
orders and am now a
full fledged lieutenant - I doubt
if conditions here will be any
different for us men and we'll
no doubt still be treated as
cadets - Bass and I walked
down to June 4th a little cafe
this evening and had some
beer -

June 4th - 5th
Sick - just stayed in
bed most all the time -
Was quite homesick with
nothing to do but just think

June 6th
Still feeling pretty rotten -

June 7th
Made my first solo flight alone
today - After four landings with
my Monitor R.J. Hall, he unfastened his
belt and left me alone in the machine
and told me to take it around again
by my self. I surely was quite nervous
but started off bravely - Once in the
air I had plenty of confidence in my
self and managed to land with
out breaking the machine - Took two
other trips and was then sent to
the solo field.

June 8th
The more I see of this army the
more disgusted one becomes with
some of the methods employed by
some of our West Point officers - They'll
learn though and realize that
aviation cannot be driven and
treated like a bunch of niggers.
The American air force which has
the personnel in its aviators to have

a wonderful fighting machine in
I'm sorry to say losing much of its
efficiency thru the narrow-minded
ness of some of the higher officials.

June 9th Sunday

We managed to break up
three machines - I did not get
a chance to fly today -

In the afternoon Justice and I
went to Town and enjoyed some
drinks a meal etc -

One of the cadets was killed yesterday.

June 10th

A notice up on the bulletin board
today announces that all
Lieutenants that miss formation
without giving satisfactory excuse
are to don fatigue clothing and
wash planes tomorrow.

This kind of punishment will
surely help win this war for us.

I am one of the officers to do the
work.

On the sixth of this month
I was sick - An army doctor

marked me "light duty" which is
interpreted as meaning that one
shall do all work, drill and
attend all formation except
flying.

June 11th

Today a crop of about fifteen
officers washed planes - a so called
punishment. Major Davidson also
gave a lecture to all the officers and
cadets that are undergoing flying
instruction - We were informed that
the government does not need us
that we are nuisances, that the
army was up yet new scheme
and that he intended to kick a
lot of us out of the service - Our
government has 16000 R.M.A's
and they can't kill that many
in the next ten years -

Needless to say such a talk
has done more to break our
morale than all the previous
mistreatment we have
received since we have been

in France. - The American army
and Air Service in particular
no longer means to us a
glorious opportunity to fight for
our country and now I doubt
if there is a single man that
would not change to one of
the allied armies even as a
private as to remain here
with such a commandant as
we have - A man that gives
a lie to all our ideals of
democracy and in fact the
very principles we are
fighting for - He's hated by
all - I'd surely hate to be
in his shoes.

Never in my life have I felt
so blue and low - I've even
neglected writing home for it
would never do for my mother
to know this.

June 12th

We will receive no letters
at this school now and

will only spend fifteen hours in
flying here - then go to Issoudun
and receive Newport training
Of course I'll not be sorry
at not getting to wear my
wings but this will be more
than offset by the fact that
we are leaving Major Davidson
here.

Had two teeth filled today
by the post dentist. He is an
Ortabular man -

June 12th

No flying today - Major Fitzgerald
today gave us a little talk
that did a lot to raise our
spirits - Major Davidson also had
a little to say and he tried to
take back a lot of remarks he
made the day before -

We are only to have fifteen
hours flying on Caucadon and
then go to Issoudun for
Newport work - This means
that we will not receive

our hutch here — This school
is going to be made an
observers' school and the
pougers that be are wading
out the men very fast —
putting good men in the
ground for mistakes in
judgement — This really means
that only the men that are
lucky will get thru here.

June 13th

Today I was the most scared
man alive while flying — I
have not been up for about
a week and when I got in my
machine I didn't have very much
confidence — I was
bumpy and when I was not
fighting the bumps and gusts
I was kept busy alternately cursing
and swearing — I'm starting to
realize that I know very little
about flying —

June 14th

Had a lot more

confidence today and believe
that sometime I may make
a flyer — Jerry Shea and I
took a little walk and drank
some beer at a little cafe just
far from here — Went to bed
early —

June 15th

Started flying at four this
morning and flew till nine
tonight — Makes quite a long
and tiresome day but man-
aged to get in quite a lot of
time — The course we fly over
takes one over the American
cemetery and it has quite a
curious look from high in the
air — At another cemetery I
witnessed a burial — flying above
the cemetery — A squad of
French soldiers — a firing
squad reaped me away though
I did not know but what
the damn fools would take
aim some where in my

direction for the volley -

Had some beer and doughnuts after flying and am now going to bed - Tired as the devil

June 16th Sunday.

Left June 23rd Sunday.

This week I finished my solo flying and then went up for my aerobatics. My first "commencement" surely took my breath away but enjoyed the others very much - The day following I went up alone to do them again -

When at an altitude of 1200 meters and just as I was about to do my commencement I noticed my belt was unfastened - Well, this sort of scared me and it took me about ten minutes after I had that fastened my belt again to get up enough nerve to try any thing - All the time I was up my belt worried me but it managed to hold all right.

We had three or four days of bad weather with no flying & during this time a crowd of us went in a detail to trucks to a couple of towns near here and managed to have quite a good time -

Stayed all night at Venolome -

Then on Sunday I started on my triangle - I managed to get lost and had to return to my town and get my bearings again - Finished up all right and am now just loafing around -

June 24th

Left town today with Al Miller and arrived in Paris at about eight thirty - We went to the University Union and then to a little cafe for dinner - Afterwards it was too late for any theater so we just spent our time walking around Paris is naturally dark and quiet at night although wild women are around in great

numbers - Stopping and asking me to go with them - In fact it getting so that a respectable man cannot venture out on the streets after dark with out being accosted and insulted by these numerous filthy bats -

We went back to our hotel took a bath and then enjoyed the rest of the night in big comfortable beds - quite a contrast to the bunks we had been used to at Tours.

June 25th.

Enjoyed another bath this morning - It surely seems odd to be in a place where one has all the comforts that a modern hotel can give.

We went sightseeing this morning again - Visited the Invalides and there saw several German planes and a large of captured German guns as well as French ones. In the center of the court

was a Spad monoplace machine on the side of which was painted a stork - On the wings and all around the machine were wreaths of flowers placed there as a tribute to Captain Guynemer, for it was in this machine that this great pilot brought down thirteen enemy planes.

We rode around the city in a Taxi - passed thru a section where all the windows in the buildings were shattered - Mute evidence of a German raid on the work of their long range guns.

Paris surely is full of handsome women - But I think the best plan to follow here is to leave them alone.

June 26th

More sightseeing - McKim, Rupp and Wood arrived last night so we all went around together today - I have met quite

a few observers here that were at
Cazaup when I was there - From
them I learned that quite a number
of the men that I knew are now
either prisoners in Germany or else
brought down -

We went to the Folies Bergère
and saw about as good an attempt
at a burlesque show as could be given.
We had just left the theatre when
far in the distance we heard the
sound of guns - Almost immediately
the sirens all over Paris sent out
their warning to the people of an Air Raid.

The Parisians took this all
calmly and did not appear to be in
the least bit excited - Gradually the
people left the streets with the exception
of the Americans - We five fellows
walked to the garden of the Folies
where we could get a better view
of everything - Soon the guns on the
Vauban defense sent up a barrage
and the sky lit up with search light
The noise of all this firing surrounded

one of thunder with a sharper report
when the shrapnel exploded high
over head - Soon the mine guns went
into action and then above the noise
of exploding shrapnel could be heard
distinctly the hum of a raiders
engine - Small pieces of shrapnel
were dropping all around but so small
that they did no damage.

It surely was interesting and also
thrilling to watch tiny flashes high
in the air and then hear the report
of all the different guns - A sort of
whistling sound was heard followed
by several particularly violent explosions
which proved to be bombs - They hit
on the opposite side of the river
and started a large fire - We
walked over there and then on
our way back to our hotel we lost
our way - After asking about
thirty seven or more gendarmes
on our way we finally arrived at
our hotel and then after
eating some cheese sandwiches

and having a bottle of beer we
went to bed - Very much pleased
at having a chance to see
a raid -

June 27th

We left Paris at ten o'clock this
morning for Izmir - Took in a
compartment with a wealthy
French lady - She treated us fine
and was very much pleased with
the work done by the Armenians
at the front -

Arrived in Izmir at about
two o'clock and after a lunch
there we loafed around for an
hour and then rode out to camp
in a touring car.

The camp is now far different
from the hell hole it was last
winter - Far larger and well
kept roads and buildings around.

Walking up to headquarters we
had to stop about every twenty
feet to shake hands and say
hello to our friends we have

not seen for such a long time.

June 28

While waiting to be assigned
to a section we have absolutely
nothing to do - Slept till nine
and then had breakfast at
the Red Lion - Wrote some
letters, read a little and
went to a movie at the X
Also received some mail today
this is the first I've had for
over a month -

June 29th

Still loafing, reading and writing
a few letters - Received some
more mail today but none from
M - Evidently she is angry at
me for a certain letter I
wrote or else perhaps she finds it
too much of an effort to write
her time waiting to me -

St Bishop was killed today in a
meat - He was a hell of a
nice fellow, quiet but friendly
to all - There is one from J

death that I surely don't want,
being killed while training far
back of the lines -

June 30th Sunday

Wrote home to mother today
and loafed around all the
rest of the time - This camp
gets on my nerves just the same
as last winter - All day I've
felt blue - not homesick but just
"low". Poor Bishop - he was

buried today - And how I hate
the sound of the drums sounding
during the march to the cemetery

July 1st

Still loafing around doing
nothing but reading writing
and sleeping - Had a letter
from M - today - As usual my
mail is travelling all over France
instead of coming to me direct.

July 2nd

Nothing doing -

July 3rd

I started in today shooting

automatons and traps - Am
not very good at either - It won't
be so very long before I start
flying -

At night we had a big Red Cross
dance at our officers club - It
surely seemed good to be even in
the environment of American
women and hear them talk ~~laugh~~
laugh and sing -

July 4th

We are to be allowed three
twenty three hour passes for the
next three days - Today was
a big day here for the French
as well as the Americans -

French cadets drilled and civilians
were admitted inside the camp
for the first time -

A big track meet was the big
event of the afternoon - After
this Bull Nevins and I walked
to Pauillac, a town about ten
miles from here - Had a very
good dinner and afterwards

went in swimming in the river
We had a budge about
twenty feet from the water
that made an excellent
place to dive from - Soon
the budge was lined with
people watching us dive -

Swimming so soon after
dinner made both of us feel
sort of rotten - and as there
is nothing at all to do in this
town - we went to bed -

July 5th

We had intended to leave here
this morning and go to Limoges
But decided to stay and rest
up for a couple of days - Here
I've had the best meals that
I've had since I've been in France
More swimming - We stayed up
late talking to the people who
own the hotel -

July 6th

Same thing today - At
about four o'clock we started back

to camp and arrived here about
six o'clock - Feeling quite different
~~from the~~ compared with the
Yellow that enjoyed their time
otherwise -

July 7th Sunday -

Had a card from Sam Showalter
today - He's over here in the Naval
Aviation Service - It surely seemed
good to hear from him -

Went to mass, wrote some
letters and then went to the Red
Cross and read till about ten
o'clock -

July 8th - 2nd

Just waiting around - Have
had a bad cold for the last
few days and also stomach
trouble - so have been feeling
rather mean -

Nothing much to do except
write letters and I've been writing
since 5 o'clock - I'm not
doing very well shooting but hope
to pick up just as soon as I get

used to these guns -

July 10th

Received a lot of Mail from the state today - One a letter from Florence Gage told about the birth of a baby to Al & Peggy. His name is Merrill Arthur -

July 11th

St Vorheis was killed today - he bumped just across from me - He sure was a peach of a fellow - Too bad he couldn't get a chance to fight as I'm sure he'd make good - I was just getting up when two hospital men asked me where Vorheis.

clothes and trunk were - They had just received word that he was killed.

The authorities immediately take possession of a dead man. Belongings and they are shipped to a depot here and then to the states -

It with a few more letters today, one to Mame - Then went to bed. Something has come over me for now I never get a full night's sleep.

Generally staying awake for over an hour after I go to bed - At times I'm afraid of this flying game - but one thing sure I'm not going to quit of my own free will - and I do so much want to go back after this is all over - Surely wish and hope it won't be long -

Received more letters today - It sure is good to get them all -

Mamie as usual was thoughtful enough to send some little present to Merrill Arthur and said that I ordered her to send it. Thank Mamie if I don't get a chance to do it otherwise -

July 12th

More rainy and unsettled weather - Went to Vorheis funeral in the afternoon. It says killed today - It's odd the way accidents seem to run around here, for a while we'll have none and then they'll start and bump off two or more within just a couple of days - Such things are very

depressing - and causes a man
to lose a lot of his former confidence
and interest in this game.

July 13th

Had two classes this morning
shooting - In the afternoon I just
loafed - and wrote a letter to
mother - Then at night Bull
Nevin and I walked to Reilly
and stayed at the Hotel du Berry
over night. -

Bastille Day July 14th Sunday -

In the afternoon the port band
came out and gave a concert
for the people here - At the first
strains of music people came
streaming out of their houses up
the street and soon the little
square where the band was playing
was crowded with people -

A cafe proprietor brought out
beer for the band - and then
more music - After this another
'bartender' not to be outdone by
his country man brought out

more beer - "Pete" Perry, "Bull" and
I decided that more potent
liquor would please the men
better so we invited them
the band down to the hotel
where we were staying and
"set them up" for the crowd
Every one seemed to have
a good time - The French especially
I think will not forget this holiday
for quite a while -

We drove back in the evening
and arrived here about eleven
o'clock and luckily walked
in thru the guard lines without
being caught -

July 15th

Started out on real work at
last this morning - We went
up to Field one and worked around
on the Pouches - Then in the
afternoon I had my first sick
in a Newport 2:30 P.M. - I
enjoyed it and now I'm
fair more confident in these

machines than I thought I'd
ever be - I'm going to like them
and surely hope I'll be able
to finish the course here and
qualify for chasse work at
the front.

July 16th
Mail from home today

July 17th
Didn't get a chance to fly
today - At about eight o'clock
storm clouds could be seen
gathering and soon a small
hurricane hit our camp -
In our barracks windows were
blown out - and then we all
were notified that help was
needed to hold down a
large fleet of Liberty planes

July 18th 19th
A little flying again - Spent about
all my time walking -

July 20th
Poor weather - Very high wind
with the result that a lot of

our planes were broken - Went to
confession this evening -

July 21st Sunday -
Up early to Communion this
morning - and then went to mass.
In the afternoon Kelton and I
walked to Vatan - met Foster there
took a few pictures - Stalked
with a good looking bad maid
for about an hour and then
walked back to camp. -

July 22nd
No flying today - Planes not
repaired as yet - So instead of
getting up at five o'clock we slept
till nine o'clock - I'll have
to stop smoking so much here -
I'm smoking almost continuously
and its starting to bother me at
night especially - waking up and
coughing like the devil -

July 23rd
Still another day and no
flying - wonder when I'll ever
get there here? In the afternoon

we've been having machine gun practice - I shoot with indifferent success - But as the practice is not of very much value to a pilot so I don't pay it very much attention to the work.

July 24th

Today I received a letter from mother - Enclosed in it were some clippings - One was quite a line of bull about me. Where in hell is the rest of my mail? I surely should be getting more than I do - Two men killed today when a Liberty D.H.4 side clipped to the ground.

July 25th

Well today for a change I managed to get in seven hours on a Newport - Made two damn good landings and my air work was good - Ed Welly my mounter told me that after my next ride he'd send me

to the tester - Well I was rotten after that so didn't get a chance to get away - This afternoon I am on guard as commander of the guard - A hell of a mean job - Seems sort of like old times this being on guard here again -

July 26th

On guard all day, so did fairly little work - No mail -

July 27th

This morning I felt too sleepy to get up, so I slept till nine o'clock - Shot machine guns on the range in the afternoon - In the evening I intended to walk to Puilly but felt too lazy - Also had very little money -

July 28th Sunday -

Had another good long sleep this morning - Then breakfast at the Red Lion - after this I went to Mass - In the after

noon I went up to visit the
Catholic Chaplain here Father
Sullivan and had a fine
little talk with him - I wrote
a couple of letters today and
then in the evening Justice
and I went to the Red Lions and
saw some movies -

July 29th

Broke - but thank goodness
my day is not far off - I'd
be damned if I know what is
happening to my mail for I am
getting very little these days.
In the afternoon I had
a little flying and surely did
some rotten work side slipped
and skidded on most every
turn

July 30th

More pretty flying - Lately
I've been thinking more of God than
heretofore and am really praying
every night - Well it's about time
I did - And I'll surely need

supernatural help flying and
fighting - Not that I am a bit
scared of these machines in fact
it's just the opposite - I enjoy
them and feel so confident in
them that I don't pay as much
attention to flying them as I
should - Hence my poor
work -

July 31st

At last I managed to fly in
old Newport with out pulling any
bone head stunts - Windy as the
devil - But just the same I felt
far more confident today than
any other time - Turner is here
for a few days before going to
St. Jean - The old gang of instructors
are planning on going to the front
for a short time as gunners and
after that back to the states -

Aug 1st

I'm still rotten making landings
I don't seem to have so much
trouble in the air any more and

hope to be able to get away into
single's quite soon -

Had some mail from the
States today -

Aug 2nd

Windy as hell today - Pershing
is expected here so we're all kept
flying - Had to come down with
motor turning up about 900 - And
at last made some decent landings.

My mountain wanted to send me to
the tester but I considered it too
windy - besides I don't think I'm
good enough to 'get by' -

Aug 3rd

Went to the tester this morning
and was sent back to learn to
fly - I surely did some rotten
work - Didn't seem to do a single
thing right. In the afternoon
it rained Aug 4th like hell so
we had no flying - Went to
Isosoudun in the evening and
stayed there all night.

Aug 4th Sunday

Went to church in Isosoudun -
Afterwards just burned around the
whole day - The engineers gave
a band concert in the park and
the whole town turned out to hear it.

'Sandy' Hamilton fell yesterday
in a fifteen M. - Don't know as yet
whether he'll pull thru or not.

Aug 5th -

Left pretty rotten today so I did
not go out for flying - Hamilton
died this morning - In the afternoon
I went to his funeral - Beecham
was brought down at the front -
God! But a lot of Americans are
being brought down - I like flying
while in a plane - but when loafing
around I'm not so fond of it -
All I hope is that I won't be
killed at a flying school - And
if I'm to get it at all it will
be over the front - I used to
feel confident as hell of going
home but now things don't
look quite so bright - I'm not

getting yellow - or would I change
to other work. - But I'm just
changing my opinion a little
Aug 6th

More rain and rotten
weather today - so once again
no flying - No mail also -
Damn it! - Haven't heard from
Maile for three weeks - Probably in
the next month or so I'll get a letter.
Well if she doesn't care to write - all
right - I'm surely not going to lose
a bit of sleep over the fact - All women
I guess are fickle as hell any way

Aug 8th

Went to the test and was sent
back again because I stalled on
my first turn - Had two more
tries with Welty found out
my trouble and passed the
test this time all right -

For the last week or so I've been
feeling low as hell worrying
over everything - accidents, whether
I'll ever be able to fly, the war

and about everything in general -
But today everything seemed to
change and once again I'm
feeling in good spirits and
anxious about flying.

In the afternoon I had a few
laps solo in 23 meter machine.
I did fairly well and most of
all I like these machines. Not
a bit afraid of them and have
great hopes of going on to
15 meter machines and becoming
a chase pilot -

Aug 9th

Today I flew both morning
and afternoon - and managed
to finish up my work on this
type of machine - I had about
an hour and a half air work
and for the first time in my
life I really enjoyed flying -
Flew over Rydell did a few spirals
and tried a lot of turns and
figure eights -

Aug 10th

Felt too sleepy to get up early this morning so flying as did not go out till afternoon - Went up in an Arco for Aerobatics and surely liked them -

In the middle of night a volley of shots woke every one - The guards were giving the alarm for fire - Nearly every one got up but it was just a small one and put out without any damage.

Aug 11th Sunday -

Once more I slept late and didn't fly till afternoon - Then I went over to field 9 and had my first ride in the 18 meter machine - This is the type of machine that has killed a hell of a lot of men but I surely liked it, and had no trouble at all with it. All these machines are tricky but if one just uses good judgment and has a

fair amount of good luck he'll have no trouble at all.

Aug 12th

Justice was over to see me yesterday - He'll probably be leaving one of these days as he is just about finished his work here - Today in the afternoon I went over to field 9 and did my spirals - The left spirals are surely fun to do - I managed to get into about every possible position but for some unknown reason kept out of a writhle - Was offered my choice between bombing and chase work so naturally I took the latter and tomorrow I'll go to field 5 for my first ride in a real machine -

Today there were quite a lot of marsh ups but only one of them was serious -

Aug 13th

Sort of an odd date to start in flying 15's on but I've

expecting it to be a lucky date
for me - 'Buck' Wood fell today
and died about two hours after
Snyder fell and broke his leg -

It's surely too bad to lose a
man like Wood - He was a perfect
gentleman in every sense of the
word and one of the finest men
I've met -

In the evening I had supper
up in these machines - They
surely are wonders although hard
as the devil for me to land -
I only hope that I'll get out the
art of landing them for by far
they are the best machines I've
ever flown - At this field
we have wonderful food - and
are treated fine also - I'm
surely going to enjoy all my
time here - I wrote a letter to
Mamie today just in the way of diversion

Aug 14th

Today there was absolutely no
wind and it was damn hard

to land - I managed to get in
four ops and in landings.
Lew tires twice

Went to Buck Woods funeral
this afternoon -

Aug 15th

Finished work in the landing
class this morning - Then in the
afternoon I went up for some air
work - My machine was not lined
up very well and I flew with
the right wing low so I came
back and in landing managed
to break another tire - Every one
that had machines up broke them
on landings so flying was called
off for the day - Played ball
a while in the evening for a
while

Aug 16th

Did my air work today and
broke two wings - Then had
a run in with St Davis in
charge of landings and was
put out the ground for a

week - Dammit this will
just keep me here that much
longer when I'm so anxious
to finish - Three men were
killed today - Sutton was
one of them -

Aug 17th

This morning I censored mail
and loafed around in the machine
shop for a while - In the
afternoon went over to the
main camp - Another man
was killed today - So there
was an unusually large
funeral for the four men -

I hate this idea of being on
the ground especially now when
I'm feeling so good and so
anxious to fly - I'm afraid
that when my week is up
I'll not only be stale but
also a little worried over this
game of flying -

Aug 18th Sunday

Jack Hubbard was killed

today - God! but they are being
bumped off fast these days.

There's talk of giving us more
time in the air before we
finish this course and that
will probably help out a bit -
Here I'm flying these 'fifties'
with only about twenty five
hours total of flying time -

I sort of looks around if a fellow
lives thru this ops just lucky -

I loafed around camp all day
today spending my time reading
I received a letter from K Varley
today -

Aug 19th

Another man killed today
If I started writing names in
this diary it would seem more
like a casualty list - About
sixteen men have been killed
in the last two weeks -

Loafed around the hangar
and learned a little about the
construction of planes -

Aug 20th

Three more accidents today - something surely must be wrong here - I don't know whether it is because we are being rushed thru here so fast or not.

Accidents seem to come in streaks here so let's hope this exceptionally bad one doesn't last any longer.

Was around the hangar again today - and also censored more mail.

Aug 21st

Brown + I rode to Ruelly on bicycles today and had a swim. Did not get back till about one o'clock and felt tired as the devil from my exertions. Were censoring today.

Aug 22nd

It's been hot as the devil here lately. Very little water to be had - consequently we all went to Ruelly in

trucks for a swim - Brown and I did not come back till late - Staying there for supper and enjoying a visit with a family there - We roamed around the country ^{near the river} in our bathing suits - Jim walked to camp from Pauly - No other man felt today.

Aug 23rd

A crowd went swimming today but I felt too tired to go - Went over to main camp - Then slept all afternoon - Should have started flying today but didn't feel very well so the doctor here had me lay off for two days more - Stahlw died today.

Aug 24th

Brown and I started to go to Argentons for the week end. We were to take a train at Ossondens but on account of a wreck there was none till late at night - We found a room where we

spent the night. - We had a few drink, at the aviation cafe a wild sort of a gin mill where American drinks are served -

Aug 25th Sunday.

We both went to church then afterward walked around till dinner time - In the afternoon we met Pishon - Jack Hamot and Forman - Pishon and I found a sort of a dive where we could buy Scotch and soda - A real dirty little cafe and to be out of the way in case any M.P.s should come in, we were ushered up stairs to a dingy little room - bare except for a couple of plain wooden benches. Came back late at night and found a letter from Sam Shewalter.

Aug 26th

Selethine's started again for us this morning - A little jerk 2nd St. - Ringold tried his best to discipline us - Instead of treating us as his equals or

superior - he tried to ride us - Which in the end amounted to him making a damn fool of himself - Started flying today - Had five hops in the landing class and then in the afternoon had some time in air work - Slept out of doors last night.

Aug 27th

Well I guess I must be lucky - Gave every one a thrill by doing a sort of a wille - then slid on my back and finally into a more spine - Pulled out less than one hundred feet off the ground - I wasn't worried very much and managed to keep my head - although I came down faster than I ever thought possible - All at once the ground seemed to almost be at the end of the nose - I was marching so I straightened out in a hurry - The instructors were so glad that I didn't crash that they didn't even

call me down - But instead
gave me another machine
to take up again. This time
I did good work with out any
trouble. In the afternoon I made
a cross country trip to Rommance
I had a poor machine and it
was bumpy as the devil in the
air. So didn't enjoy my trip
very much.

Aug 28th

This morning I flew to Pontlevoy
Had no trouble at all finding
my way. When we arrived
there clouds started coming up
and soon it started to rain.
So we stayed in town till
about three o'clock. Naturally
we ate dinner at Susannes
and also had some good
wine. We started back with
a fairly heavy wind at our
backs and made the trip in
twenty minutes. Flew around
in the clouds for a while

till I didn't know where I was
then dove down out of them.

Aug 29

Flew ~~willis~~ this morning. Just
went up to twelve hundred
meters and then did two of
them had no trouble at
all with them.

It's hell about mail for me -
I haven't received any for
a hell of a long time. Don't
think I'll do any writing till
I hear from those people.

Aug 30 - 31

Not much to write about -
flew both days. Another
man killed here. I put
in an application to go to
Orly as a ferry pilot today but
don't know when I'll go through.
As yet I'm damn rotten in
aerobacy but I think with
more experience I'll get
along all right. Vertical
side slips are about the

greatest sensation - One thinks
hes on his back and going
down damn fast - Really
I don't like them at all -

Sept 1st Sunday -

Back at Main Camp
waiting orders - Went to church
and afterward social good by
to Fr. Sullivan the chaplain -

On the train to Paris there
was little room except on the
diner - Here a crowd of us
rode and bought a few
drinks - We reached Paris
at about 7:30 - Beebe and I
roomed together and went to
a show later on - Saw Lt.
Fank at the show, he surely
is well decorated with medals.

Sept 2nd -

After trying to get our gang
together we started by truck
for Orly - Here we'll fly
practically every make of machine
and surely ought to get in a

lot of flying -

Sept 3rd

Had my first ride today ~~and~~
in a Spad - I was just a
little worried as to whether
I could fly it all right - For this
is a jump from a 80 H.P. Newport
to a 220 H.P. machine - But
didn't have a bit of trouble
with it at all - Except that
I had just taken off when my
engine started missing - I switched
to a reserve supply of gas and it
started up when I was about
fifty feet off the ground - I surely
felt relieved for I would have
had to land in a hay field
where I'd be almost certain to
wreck my plane -

Sept 4th

Drove over to St Lys this morning
by auto, to fly a Spad back -
Passed thru Versailles and had
a hurried glimpse of the Palace
there - At St Lys I saw the wreck

of all different types of planes
allied and enemy planes - That
are salvaged here for any parts
that can be used again -
Flying back I had a wonderful
view of the Gardens and Palace
at Versailles from the air -
Then in the afternoon I loafed
around the office waiting for
a job.

Sept 5th

Waited around all day and
finally at about five o'clock I
got a plane to fly to Tours -
I had never flown this type
before - but had no trouble -
Stopped at Stamps for a passenger
and a storm came up - so I
decided to stay there all night
Was assigned a nice little
room and ate my meals at
the French officers mess -

Sept 6th

Started out at about eight
thirty this morning for Tours

I flew at quite a high altitude
and had a very good trip -
At Tours I saw a crowd of the
fellows I knew and had dinner
with Justice - Stayed there all
night with him -

Sept 7th

Arrived out here about four
o'clock today - staying in Paris
only long enough to get something
to eat - Received nine letters
today and was just about the
happiest man in the world -
None from Marie though - I
suppose she's probably too busy to
write - Well if that's her attitude
I should worry -

We had a dance in the evening
but I was too tired to dress up and
go - Instead I stayed in my
barracks and wrote some letters.

Sept 8th 9th 10th 11th

We've had a lot of poor
weather these days - rainy and
very low clouds - I've spent

a lot of my time in Paris
visiting different places
such as shows - cafes etc.
The rest of the time just
loafing around doing nothing
in particular but waiting
for fairer weather to fly -

I'm just a little bit afraid
of a 3rd - And the little
slipping I've done has just
given me straight ordinary work
I'm anxious to get more time
flying it so that I can become
more confident in my ability
to handle it.

Sept 1st

Weather still poor - Cloudy
raining and a wind blowing
about thirty miles an hour
I had a special to Colombes
Belles today and surely
had a wild ride - The
clouds were so low that
I was seldom higher than
three hundred feet.

and managed to get out
several times - I ran into
a few rain storms but the
rain cut my face so that
each time I'd have to turn
around and fly out of it -

Finally when near my
destination I saw I'd have
to fly thru a particularly
bad storm to get there so I
tried it. The wind turned
my machine around like a
leaf and kept me working
my controls like mad - Finally
seeing that I'd probably kill
myself if I kept up I decided
to land - I landed in
a big field, made a good
landing and French workers
old men and boys came
running around me with
rakes / sythes etc - At first
they thought I was a
German but soon found out
different - I was there then

I found out what a hell of a
narrow escape I had -

I tried to start my motor
after the storm and continue
my trip but couldn't - So
after leaving a guard at the
machine I went to camp and
had a mechanic come out
to start my motor - Made
the rest of the trip in a fifty
mile wind and surely felt glad
to be on the ground once more.

In this awful wind I
saw several squadrons
flying toward the lines -

This is the day our American
offensive began and I surely
felt happy to hear of our
success - Also it made
me anxious as the devil tried
to get up there and do some
bad work -

We rode to Joul by truck
and then took a train for
Paris - Very little sleep all

night -

Sept 13th

Arrived in Paris about nine
o'clock and had breakfast and
lunch there then came out
to camp and rested up -

Sept 14th

This morning I went to
Maconly - a big French
reaction depot and flew a
Cessna to Orly - At this
camp I saw some of the
newest planes - As yet
in the experimental stage.

Then in the afternoon
flew a Spad to Vincennes -
Had no trouble except
with my shutters on the
camera. I could not close
them so had to use my
engine at times to keep the
camera at a proper temperature.

Found Folger. I took a train
for Paris - It was almost
four hours late - and arrived

in Paris the next morning at
two o'clock -

Sept 15th

We had a hell of a time
trying to find a hotel but
finally after walking for about
an hour found a place -

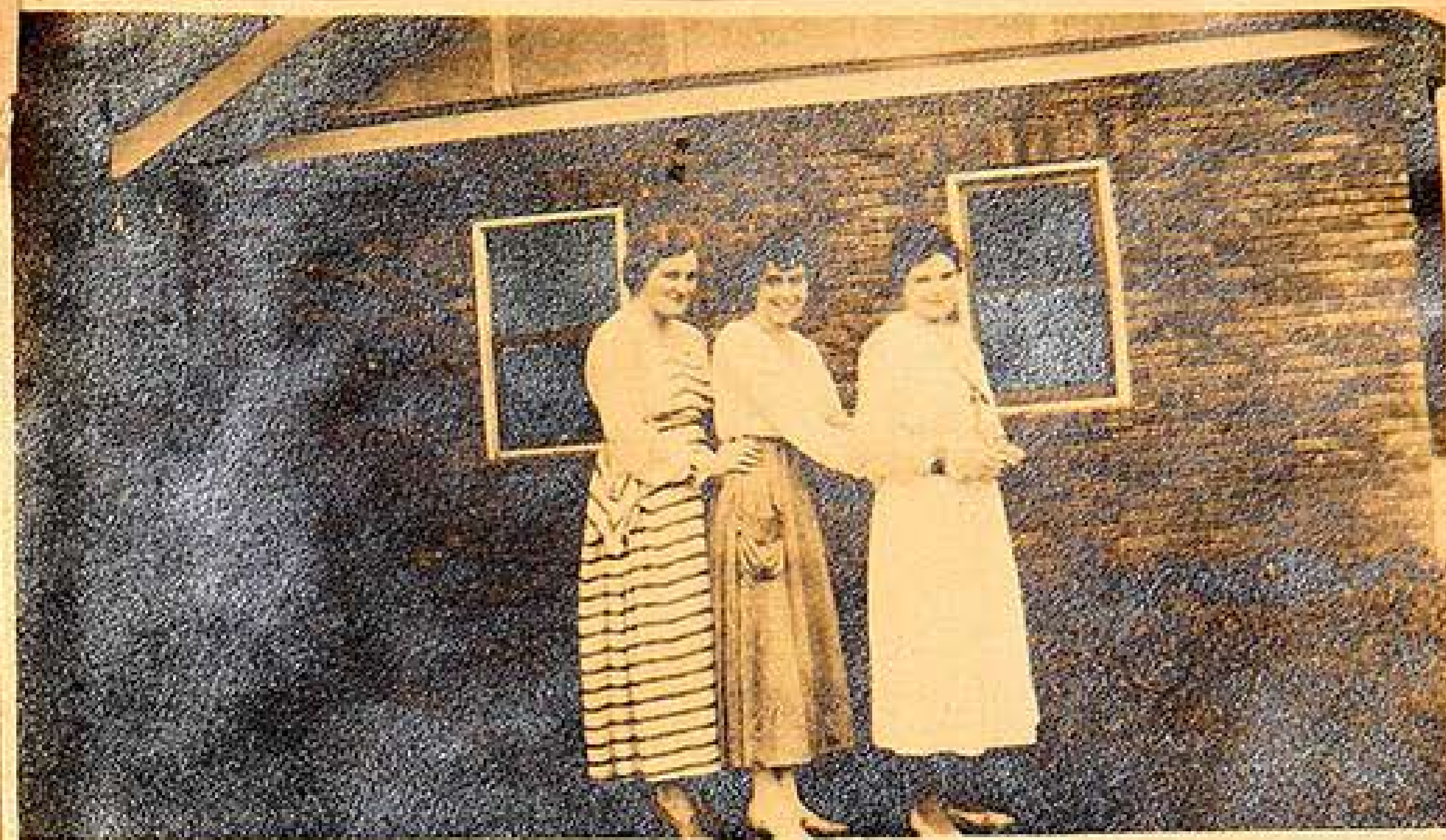
Came out to camp - Had
letter from Marnie - Rhoda R
and K - Varley -

Had a Squad assigned to
me but didn't get to make the
trip on account of no machines
ready -

Charlie Mattheu came in
today - He smashed up a
Breguet - But luckily was not
hurt -

This ends my first diary -
As yet don't know whether I'll
start another or not -

Since starting this things
certainly have changed -
Now I'm so regular flier -



A lot of our old gang are gone
More will no doubt before this
war is over -

My friends also have changed
Some that I never cared especially
for have proven to be my best
and vice versa -

Tell you mother if I should
suffer to come back -

Well you'll read this -
I've tried to be good - and to
my work - Always thinking of
you, appreciating and loving
you more and more each day

Sunday Sept 15th

Only - same

American Aviation Acceptance

Park No 1

A.E.T.

26. Gagnon H.R. Quit
27. Hazelton P.H. Mon - Tours
28. Hall B. Jr. O.K.
29. Herrick, W.F. Killed Issoudun
30. Higgins E.W.
31. Hockart J.R. Romo
32. Hoobler H.R. England
33. Hoel O.F. Front
34. Harris E. Only
35. Johnstone E.J. Romo
36. Johnson A.G.
37. Kennedy A.E. Killed Cazaux Oct 14 1918
38. Kent G.H. B.A. Issoudun
39. Kirches H.S. Retd to U.S. Hk. Trouble.
40. Kieffer J.A. Quit Retd. to U.S.
41. Lawrence G.L. O.K.
42. Leigh B. Obs. England.
43. Matthews C.E. B.A. at Lympne.
44. McCarthy W.H. Obs.
45. Malcolm J.D. Front
46. Malley E.M. Italy
47. McQuilken M.F. Front
48. Middlekauff M.H. Killed Romo 9/13
49. Nash E.K. Only
50. Nilas J.S. Only
51. Nutter R.V. Tours.
52. Nelp W.B. Quit
53. O'Brian W.B. Ground Officer Only
54. O'Laughlin ~~Killed Front~~ OK
55. Pinkley H.L. Quit cold. Yellow
56. Pinney W.W. Only
57. Pencoast H.L.
58. Powelson V. Only
59. Ramsey C.H. Only
60. Reed C.H. Quit Retd to U.S.

19

12
11 } la lulu
10 }

9 } B
10 }

8

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16				
						25
28	29	30	1	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		^	^			
9	10	11				

61. Riggs H.C. Quit Retd to U.S.
62. Roberts H.L. Only
63. Sherman L.Q. Italy
64. Schminke C.H. Acc. Issoudun
65. Shuttleworth B.D. Tours
66. Sutton C.F. Killed Issoudun Aug 18
67. Spann C.R. Quit Accident.
68. Saunders R.J. Killed Front.
69. Shook J.W. Only
70. Thorson R.W. Quit - pretty dumb.
71. Taylor R.N. O.K.
72. Trish S.V. O.K.
73. Williams Bert Killed Front 9/18
74. Worley R.M. B.A. Quit.
75. Wright G.O. ?
76. Yund D.B. B.A. Issoudun Retd to U.S.