



## Henry Lorang's WWI journal 1918 (Going to France)

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Oct. 29) signed pay-roll at noon & working in shop.

Wed. 30) Everybody of (Limas?) had washout but me & so in A.M. we had light-pack inspection & P.M. (Kyhe?)-247 by herself. Eve to Shawbury & mailed frame to folks (*we have this frame*) & spoon, buttonhook (*we may have this buttonhook*) & ring to Marg.

31 Thurs.) I to shop working on my own things & getting ready to leave any time.

Nov.1) Drill 1 hr. A.M. & 1 hr. P.M. rest time getting ready. Quit work.

Nov.2) Drill & getting ready. Got Paid \$22.35cents

Nov.3) To church & Sacraments then drill. P.M. Took some pictures & had show down- insp. Getting all ready to go.

Mon. Nov.4) Up at 5:30 & emptied ticks. Took my box to the sailmakers & bid girls goodbye. On bag-detail. To mail packages home & buy cigs. Left station on train at 11:10 A.M. for Codford by way of both & Oxford. Got to Codford on Salisbury plains at about 5 P.M. raining a little Got blankets & eats & to bed after seeing some of boys who had been at other camps.

Tues. 5) Turn in all surplus stuff & monkeying around.

Wed. 6) On fatigue detail & helping in orderly-room To "Y".

Thurs. 7) On fatigue digging round barracks & saw impressive formal guard mount, P.M. drill on top of big hill & boy gave us double time. Grade-test etc. To can. (*canteen*) with Smithy.

Fri. 8) A.M. policing & P.M. Short arm & drill on hill- also retreat and passing in review of Major very pretty. Eve to "Y" mailing postal folders & box surplus. Made light pack & to bed.

Sat.9) up as usual- to eat Rolled blankets & getting cleaned up to move again. Turned in blankets, shaved, drew rations & got into our packs & walked into Codford to get on train 6 P.M. Finally on our road thru Salisbury to Southampton where we camped on promenade long time & my squad on guard. (Troubleaf?) out finding 'em. Saw hundreds of captured convoys. (*Henry's writing here is more scrawled as if written in a hurry or under stress.*) Boat pulled out of Southampton for Havre about 6:30 P.M. Archangel & I went soon to sleep on springs of bed & sleeping intermittently half-frozen till 2 A.M. when I awoke and we all ate our rations

Sun Nov. 10) There stewing around until about 7 when we got cheese, hardtack & coffee. Arrived in harbor at about 2 A.M. & I did not realize it was rocking on the Chanel. Off boat & standing on street until about 10+ finally were put in stables with double row of beds with criss-cross steel & straps on frame for bed right side by each 2 ft. wide. Got our tickets & to eat, P.M. lying round & to "Y" awaiting further orders. Supper & to "Y" & then laid to sleep until 9:30 when all out for blankets Made bed & to sleep. "Sunday"

Mon Nov.11) Up at 6:45 ate, made bed & to formation on detail cleaning out stalls & boys about camp. It is officially reported Armistice is signed. And it proved to be true. Flags were hoisted & one American flag 40 ft.

long, down town everybody kissing it Belles & whistles going at 11 A.M. to after 2 without ceasing, & are all in camp parading with U.S. flag a floating in lead, all of us yelling.

Wave on OH! glorious flag, as seen on Bunker Hill Though tattered & worn you never lagged. Till we whipped Kaiser Bill.

Yes, Sweetheart, it is all over & and I am coming back to you as soon as they'll let me. Dearest, I wish I knew your heart-do you want me as badly as I want you. How I love you thru all. In eve I tried to go uptown but guard stopped me at every turn. Then Smithy & I jumped the fence & tried to go across (deco?) when French sentry sicked 3 dogs after us & we retaliated & home to bed.

Nov. 12) Up 6:45 washed ate & Cowles & I walked around and finally we jumped fence & out to a "pub" & had some port and cognac and to camp feeling fine. In camp all P.M. & eve & to bed early.

Nov. 13) Monkeying around all day & in P.M. John & I tried to get thru the guard, but all in vain talked to the French soldiers & German Prisoners

14) In eve turned in blankets & made up packs ready to go out. Drew rations Left camp 2<sup>30</sup> A.M. & marched in form about 3 mi. to station. Got on train at 2 & I being tallest in sqdn. got first compartment coaches 8 in one. But some fellows got ordinary box-cars (side-door Pullmans) the seargents included. Ha-ha! In our comp.'s were 4 long loaves of white bread 7 cans of corn-willie-hash & tomatoes ea. Sat in our seats and I was freezing all night. Tho't of you as I went marching and wondered were you thinking of me! Awoke about in time to eat and we sat in our seats looking at lonely scenery. Passed thru (Ronen?) where Red Cross gave me some coffee & we bot ordinary wine-sour, but I like it. To bed or rather trying to sleep about 7 & all night had only a few hours. My squad on guard at station

Nov. 15) Up & eating about 7 in the Chartreaux yards. My squad on guard at 12:30 & I beat Lt. Williams up to guard. We left about 10 & Irwin & Booth were left behind we had fine time-getting town now & then. Three meals a day hash tomatoes & bread cold. Got coffee at Thonars about 12:30 & tried to get ham sandwich for 2 francs when Williams ousted us.

Nov.16) In Niort from 6 to 7:30 & our corporals found us having come by another train. Ate & on our way to our camp where we arrived about 9 A.M. & marched to camp about a mile where we got at 9:30. This is St. Maixent & a fine old city First thing washed & shaved and then to Y.M.C.A. getting cigs & chocolates & cakes. Got cartons of (Fatinus?) for 88 cents. Dinner at 1 P.M. then to Y. & took a bath-fine. drew fatigues & retreat at 4:45 then ate. Williams read orders & got survey on clothes.

Nov.17) Sunday Lying around & to church in village then 4 of us to have some wine & home to dinner. P.M. issuing clothes to us & more sgts. & corporals were made- as a sailmaker I'm as high as I can go.

Nov.18) On fatigue duty counting & bagging turned in clothes. P.M. made trip to town. then N.D. wrote to Coggins & Ebbinger.