

World War I Holds Lasting Memories For Clark Houck

Dear John

They said you wanted me to write a piece about the Army to go with the picture. I start in when I went to Sherman and I did not get stopped until I got back home. I copied four letters that I got over there. I will send it all to you.

I get a kick out of the old news in the paper because the most of the people I knew or know about them and even knew their ancestors. There are not too many descendants of the older ones around any more.

I used to know the names of the most of the people in Johnston and a good share of the people in the country.

From County Road 10 here, on County Road 15 to 62 there used to be 20 houses and 14 farmers, now there are about 40 houses and only three or four families that have been here any length of time.

So long for now.
Clark Houck

Departs At Granville

Having been asked to write the story of my life while in the Army in World War I I will start by saying that in July 1918 I received a notice from Uncle Sam that I had been selected to serve in his Army and that I come to Granville, O. a certain day to be examined.

One of the board members was Doctor Clyde Loveless born in Frazeyburg, O. in 1871, died in Granville, O. in 1946. Next I was to go to Johnston to get two teeth filled at Doctor Prestons.

Four of us got the notice to be there at the same time. On July 22 we went to Granville, took the electric car to Newark, then the steam cars to Camp Sherman, O. The number that went I have forgotten. Perry Bush, Jay Grandstaff of Croton, Thomas Davies of Granville, Babe Beeson, I believe John Bruce, Ott Kasson and Herman Wright.

On Sunday before I left, a car load of K. of P.'s came out to bid me goodbye. William A. Ashbrook, Lud Lake and Lloyd DeRolph, who was on a week end pass from Camp Sherman.

When we got off the train at Camp Sherman, we got our first issue, a rain coat as it was raining.

First we were placed in the depot brigade, where we got our uniforms and learned how to do squads right and left. When the 83rd Division left Sherman and went to France, the 84th had been trained at Camp Taylor, Kentucky. They came to Sherman and filled up again, after the most of them had been transferred out. We were put in different companies where needed. I was put in Company 35 Regiment.

We left Sherman for Camp Mills, New York the last of August. At Sherman, we were trained on the ways to fight a war and take care of ourselves. We were also drilled on the drill field to get us toughened up. When we would have a rest period, an officer would give us a pep talk. One told us that we must take good care of our rifle for when we got over there, that would be the only friend we would have. There came a time when I wished I did not have that one.

At Camp Mills all the rifles that were defective were replaced with new ones. They came six in a box covered with grease. They lifted them out and handed them to us. All we had to do was clean them with newspapers.

At that time Bert Shaub lived the first house west of where I lived. On Sunday before we left Sherman, Bert, his wife, my mother and brother came down to Sherman in Bert's Overland touring car. Harold Shaub was the driver. We visited Ray Freas, who was in the hospital. Earl Barber and wife came down the same day.

While in the depot brigade every morning after we got out on the drill field, a long column of colored boys would come up a side street and turn right past us singing. We are going over and we won't come back until it is over, over there.

We got some replacements from Camp Dodge, Iowa to finish filling up the division. Soon after that we left for Camp Mills, N. Y. by the way of Cleveland and Buffalo at Binghamton, N. Y. They took us off the train and marched

us around the square just to keep us limbered up. At Mills, Perry Bush and I and another fellow got a pass for Saturday and Sunday. We went to N. Y. City and visited Coney Island.

After seven days at Mills we sailed. There were thirteen boats in the convoy and the boat had been an English cargo boat, the back half was colored boys going over for a work crew. One of them died in bunk number thirteen, and we were thirteen days going over.

We landed at Liverpool, England September 16th. The Submarine chasers went out a ways with us and a bunch came out and met us over there.

The boat was run by English sailors. One of them said the outfit they took before us was praying all the time. He said this gang was different, in fact, two Sergeants, Pope and Snowhen, got into a fight and a little Hungarian had a scrap. We had a Lieutenant Colonel who at one time had been stationed in Columbus, Ohio.

At Camp Mills, he drilled us and down the pike at about 160 steps a minute for a little while then told us I did drill you a little hard. He was called hard Charlie.

The cooks would cut a thick slice of the end of the loaf for the first slice. He took the knife, cut off a thin slice, threw it away, then cut off a slice of white on both sides. Now he says you have got a slice of bread a soldier will eat.

The English furnished the grub, but our own cooks prepared it. Hard Charlie took a taste of the tea we had to drink. He said no wonder they had a Boston Tea Party. These men are working men and they are going to have coffee three times a day, and we did.

Then he blew up because we were not wearing our life preservers all the time. He said you act like you were not scared, well I am, I have on an eighty dollar suit and I don't want to get it wet. A great guy. Where he spent his last days, no one will ever know!

From the boat we hiked out to some tents at Notty Ash. Ask the English how much farther it was, they would say so many minutes. When you meet traffic you pass on the left.

We left there by train for Southampton Thursday, September 19th. We went through towns of Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, Banbury, Oxford, Reading, West Basingstoke, St. Deny, St. Upton, Northam, and Winchester. In Sheffield, a date on a building said built in 1812. I thought that was old until I began to learn the age of the ones in France. There was a nice camp at Southampton. We got there Friday, September 20th and crossed the channel that night.

In the morning we hiked up a hill a half mile or more long, where we spent the night in tents. The next morning, we came back down the hill and started our first box car ride to southern France. The cars were marked 40 men and eight horses. We left the train at Mussyidan. We spread out around there in small towns.

That first hike after leaving the boat, my shoe wore a blister on the left side of my right heel. Later in southern France, it swelled up and had to be lanced. At this time the flu had moved in. The worst ones were sent to a base hospital in Bordeaux. Some were kept in a three story house not far from the barn where some of us were living. I was taken to this house and took everything with me except my rifle, which I had to leave at company headquarters. Well Doc he cut my heel open then he took a narrow piece of cloth soaked in iodine and punched it in the hole. In a couple of days he pulled it out. That was the cure. I did not have the flu.

After a week I was released but a change had took place. There had been a large transfer of men which had been sent to two divisions at the front. I went to another billet and ate at another kitchen. Also my rifle had gone to the front. No one ever knew the fate of the man or the rifle. They had another one for me. One of the officers that took the men to the front came

back at supertime and he told us about the trip and told us how they went right in the front lines that night and he said some of them are angels now. I said to myself, my heel kept me from being with them and I might have been one of them angels.

Monday, October 21, they got together 310 of us and sent us to the 80th Division in the Aragone Forest and back of the front lines Friday night, October 25, we were climbing a grade, when the French engine ran out of power. A man came running along the cars and said jump out. We had two empty flat cars on our rear and no lights were allowed. Then there was a loud crash. An artillery train was behind us and crashed into us.

We stopped at the next town after we got over the hill.

The next day we were put in different places in the division and some others were put in Co. E. 320 Regiment. The leaves were off and you could see platforms in the tops of some of the large trees where the Germans had their machine guns when the leaves were on. The trees were badly scared with shells and the ground also.

In the afternoon of Wednesday, October 30th we started towards the front lines to relieve another division. The shells the artillery sent over the next night over our heads as I understood it was called the million dollar barrage. Some where back of us was the 324 field artillery trained at Camp Sherman. They had boys from around here. Earl Gleason of Johnston and Claude Wyeth, now living in California and others.

As we were getting closer to the front, a shell lit on our left and exploded in the woods. The order was passed back. Put on your helmet and get your gas mask fastened in front in the alert position. What happened from here on and at the front for the next few days and our trip to Nicey where we spent the winter I am going to copy from the Battalion written by Major Harry P. Holt.

He starts by saying: A march similar to the one on September 26, 1918 was encountered. Roads packed with artillery and transports. Under continuous artillery fire and a few cross country routes owing to streams and shell torn fields. Passing thru Fleville, the relief was completed by 2.00 a.m. October 31st, 1918 and the daylight hours were spent in reconnoitering and explaining the attack that was to be staged early the next morning.

We were under machine gun fire and artillery fire all day with big doses of gas thrown in for good measures. When everybody was thoroughly conversant with the plans of attack, packs were piled and a position of readiness taken up. As H hour gradually drew near, the heavens were lit with the magnificent power of our artillery and machine guns and we moved forward. The enemy counter artillery was terrific, his machine guns were well hidden and the advance was slow but sure.

Fighting all day and night of November 1st brought us to Allipont and on the morning of November 2nd, the 159 Brigade "took over" the line and our Battalion was given the duty of protecting the left flank of the 317th Infantry. These duties were carried out until the large village of Buzancy had been reached when an order relieving us was received.

On November 4, we marched as reserve thru Buzancy and Bar to a position south of Saumathie remaining there until November 8th, 1918.

The Germans were in complete flight, had crossed the Meuse and news of an impending Armistice reached us. On November 8, 1918 we marched to the destroyed village of Marc remaining one night, resuming the march next day to the Bois de Apremont and occupied a German rest camp during Sunday. It was here that the news reached us of the signing of the armistice, but it was doubted until an official order was issued, giving the terms and conditions.

On succeeding days after November 18, we marched through Leisettes, Verbers, Giury, Revigny, Sommeins, Attentmont, Revigny, Don-



CLARK M. HOUCK

martin, St. Pere, Thor, Champignon, Les Recys, arriving at our present station, November 27 at 8.30 p.m. covering a distance of 150 miles. On arrival in Nicey, transferred the day before Thanksgiving, and to several other things we had to be grateful for this year was added the termination of our long series of one night stands and the knowledge that we had at last reached a more or less permanent home.

We will now leave Major Holt as he has covered the trip to Nicey which will be our winter home.

That night a boy whose home was in Chicago, stole a French woman's goose and took it to another woman to have it cooked for his Thanksgiving dinner. He said he never went without duck or goose on Thanksgiving and he was not going to this time. Well he did, and he spent the rest of the winter in the guard house. I don't know if the goose was killed or lived through the deal.

The announcement came that the 320 Infantry had been picked to represent the American Army in the welcome to be given President Wilson in Paris. The trip fell through owing to the ruling of the French that only French troops would be permitted to escort the President. Major Holt said. We nevertheless have the pride of knowing that our regiment was chosen to represent the whole American Expeditionary force in its welcome to the President of the United States, and a more signal honor than this is hard to imagine.

Then there was rumors that the 80th Division would go to the watch on the Rhine and relieve the 42nd Division, that also fell through. Later on in the winter the roads had gotten ruts in them. The 305 Engineers were put in charge. They furnished the hammers to break the sand stone they hauled and piled beside the road. One wheel barrow was made in Columbus, Ohio by Kilborn and Jacobs. The French don't have too much farm machinery. One of them had a moving machine and a self rake, like they used here before the binders. Both of them were made by the International Harvester Co.

I saw in another Frenchman's shed a pair of bright shafts like were used here in hay rakes. Printed on one of them it said, Made by the American Seeding Co., Springfield, Ohio. One day while we were working on the road, Major General Wright, commander of the 4th Army Core, came by and called us together and gave us a little talk. He said you boys will soon be on your way home and out of the Army. He said you have seen more here than I have seen in all my 35 years in the Army. Of course he said I draw more money than you do but money in the Army doesn't mean a thing, you lay it down on a blanket and some one says crap and it is gone.

About everyone had a cold.

They had a tent with cots and two small stoves in it. If a cold got too bad, you were put in there for a while. I got a pain in my upper left side. All the doctor did was put a thermometer under my tongue, then said you have got one hundred and four and a half. Do you know where that tent is? I said yes, I helped to put it up. He said go down there. They had a doctor and two helpers and they gave me pills for ten days. Then I went up to our medical place and they had two extra cots. After seven days they turned me loose. They called it pleurisy.

On Wednesday, March 26, 1919, we were reviewed by General Pershing. I will copy that from the European edition of the New York Herald printed in Paris.

In Nicey there lived a Frenchman and his wife, his name was Charlie Lebbie. He had been a cook for John Jacob Aster, that had down when the Titanic sunk. They said one row of stone buildings there was 300 years old. And one row was 500 years old. Cut in the stone over the top of door of the large church was the date 1114.

80 Division Is Revied By Chief With Julius Kahn
Chairman of House Military Affairs Committee Sees Sturgis Men at Ancy-Le-Franc (From the Herald's Correspondent)

Ancy-Le-Franc (Yonne), Wednesday, March 26, 1919
Mr Julius Kahn, Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, accompanied General Pershing on his visit to the 80th Division to day and witnessed the inspection and review of the division by the Commander in Chief. The entire Division, under Major General Samuel D. Sturgis was formed on the admirably situated plain near Ancy-Le-Franc.

The Commander in Chief and his party arrived promptly at 10 a. m. and after the formal salute and review of the troops, the Commander in Chief passed more than two hours inspecting and talking with the men. He saw the men of every platoon and met every unit commander.

After inspection came the impressive ceremony of the presentation of Distinguished Service Crosses and Medals to officers and men and the decoration (Medals Conferred) commemorative of the battles of the division colors.

Brigadier General Lloyd M. Brett and Colonel Charles Keller received Distinguished Service Medals, while Distinguished Service Crosses were conferred upon First Lieutenant Hugh C. Parker, First Sergeant Alexander Mac William, First Sergeant Raymond V. Neelon, Sergeant William T. Johnson, Corporal George W. McFarland, Corporal John Pamaranski, Private 1st Class Samuel Hill, Private George J. Fries Jr., Corporal Vivian S. Lawrence, Private Clemente R. Pulono.

The colors of each unit of the division were decorated with ribbons commemorating the

engagements participated in. After this ceremony General Pershing and his staff, accompanied by Mr. Kahn, proceeded to the reviewing stand and the entire division, headed by Major General Sturgis, passed in review, colors flying and bayonets shining, wave after wave of men passing in step with the stirring music of all the bands of the division combined.

Following the review, all the officers and non-commissioned officers of the division were assembled and General Pershing made a brief address, acknowledging for himself and for the American people, that the journey had been long and rough for the men. He commanded the men and officers for the valor and rigor which they displayed in the last decisive battles of the war.

He concluded with a parting message to the division about to leave the A. E. F. General Pershing and Mr. Kahn and the other officers of the party took lunch with General Sturgis at the Chateau of Ancy-Le-Franc. The Commander in Chief left immediately afterwards for Semur.

7,354,000 men killed in World War says March (Special to the Herald in Paris). Washington, Monday, March 24, 1919. The total number of killed in the World War according to figures compiled by General March, Chief of Staff, United States Army is 7,354,000. The figures include only men killed in battle or dying of wounds. The losses of the several nations were as follows: Russia, 1,700,000; Austria, 800,000; Turkey, 250,000; Germany, 1,600,000; England, 706,000; Belgium, 102,000; France, 1,303,000; Italy, 460,000; Bulgaria, 100,000; Roumania, 100,000; Serbia and Montenegro, 100,000; United States, 50,000.

The number of United States troops transported to France up to the day of the Armistice, was 2,500,000. The total discharged to date is 1,300,000. Orders already issued call for the demobilization of a total of 1,500,000 men.

Pershing and his aides went up and down through the lines of men passing in front of each company front. When they were in front of Tucker from Pittsburgh, Corporal of my squad, he saw the wound stripe on his sleeve, he stopped and asked in what battle he was wounded. I stood behind Tucker, about six feet from Pershing. I got a good look at him in the face as he faced Tucker. It was a miracle that Tucker was there, a bullet cut through his hide and left a scar where you would lay a pencil over your left ear. We left Nicey Sunday, March 30 and went up by Le Mans to the embarkation area.

We stayed there until Tuesday, May 13 when we left for Brest.

We now had everything we was supposed to have in the way of equipment down to two extra pairs of shoe strings.

Our stay at Brest lasted until May 20, when we sailed for the U.S.A. Our boat was one that was turned over by Germany and was made into a troop ship and named the USS Mobile. It was 795 feet long and carried 5000 troops. This was its second trip. Dave Scovell came on it the next trip. It later went to England with some others under the terms of the Armistice.

We crossed in ten days and landed at Bobokin, N. J. May 30, Decoration Day. When the 320th went over they landed over there on Decoration Day 1918. To start with they were Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania men and were trained at Camp Lee, Virginia. A boat came out a ways and met us, furnished by the Navy. On it were people from Pittsburgh, including the mayor. We went to Camp Dix, N. J. and left there towards night, June 4th.

We arrived at Pittsburgh the next morning. We went through Johnston and around the horse shoe curve. We could see the lights on Independence Hall. They had dinner for them in Pittsburgh and we left that night.

The next morning we were in Camp Sherman. We were discharged Sunday afternoon and paid including the sixty dollar bonus. The only trenches we dug was the ones with the heels of our shoes as we started for home.

I heard a little verse after I

got home that seemed to be a good ending to the trip abroad. A man met his friend just back from France. He clasped his hand and said, tell me about France and gay Pariee. And this is what he said. France is a wonderful place no one can deny with wonderful women and wonderful wine and gay Pariee is a wonderful place to have a wonderful time. But the grandest thing that ever came from France was the boat that brought me back.

Receives Letters

APO 702 Sept. 13, 1918

Friend Clark

Mrs. Scovell wrote me that you were on your way over and this is all the address I have and hope it will reach you in due time.

How did you enjoy yourself on the way over? Did you get sea sick and did you see any subs? I did not when I came over nor have I seen any of the front and from the looks of things I guess I am not going to get the chance now.

Raymond who enlisted after I left the states has been in the front wounded and gassed. I had a four day visit with him and had a fine time. A letter from him a few days ago showed him still in a convalescent camp.

I heard that Bill Mathews had been wounded and I wrote him where he was supposed to be. Have not heard anything from the rest of the boys except Hayes Graham who wrote me quite a while ago that he had been made a Lieutenant.

I wrote your mother the other day and I trust that she is doing all right. They have the measles around the corners but by this time must be over them. Did you know that Chas. Slife was dead?

I guess this is all the news I have which would interest you and would like to have you drop me a line some time. How do you like the French girls? You should take one back home with you. Don't pick one for good looks, but be sure and get one that can milk and help run the farm.

Yours, Dave
Lt. D. W. Scovell
A.P.O. 702 c, o Photo Lab.
American E. F. France

Johnstown, Ohio
November 10, 1918

Dear Friend

I expect you will be surprised to get a letter from me. I have been reading the letters in the paper from our boys over there and they all seem to like to get letters from their old home friends. So I thought I might write a word of cheer. We were so rejoiced Friday night when we got word the war was over and they rang the bells and blew the whistles in all the towns and then got word Saturday that it was a mistake. It made us all feel so bad. But I hope it will soon be over and our boys will all come home again well and happy. We will celebrate in earnest then.

There was an auto wreck last night at the railroad crossing below Alexandria. John Tyler was taking a load of men to Newark. A Lewis boy, Harry Wolfe, Thomas Sutton, ran into another machine and turned turtle and killed Mr. Sutton, broke Tyler's collar bone in four places and hurt Wolfe's back. They don't know how bad they are hurt yet. But the Lewis boy didn't get a scratch on him. It is a terrible affair. The people in the other machine wasn't hurt any.

There has been so many deaths with the flu in Newark and also Columbus but we have been lucky so far not to get it.

Mrs. Glynn went over to Lidas last Friday and came home last night. She picked up one of their cats and it bit her in the finger next to her little finger with three teeth and she has a bad looking wound. I am polticing it to get the poison out but she can't dress herself as it is her right hand. I hope she won't have any trouble with it.

Harold brought me your picture the other day, they are fine. How do you like being a soldier any way? This sure has been a nice fall to work and a lovely day today. Price just came in and he said to tell you to hurry and get the Kaiser and come home and help farm in the spring.

Well will close for this time, read your Bible and trust in Him who doeth all things well.

and you will come out alright.

Will be glad to hear from you.

Your Friends,
Tillie and Price Glynn
March 10, 1919

Dear Old Pal Clark

Well as I haven't written to you for sometime, I will try and write you a few lines tonight to let you know that I am still thinking of you and longing for the day when you return. It seems like you have been gone a long time and I guess you have and have also had a great trip and lots of experience no doubt.

We received some of the letters we had written you back the other day. I guess we had your address wrong. Was awful sorry for I know you are glad to get mail from home.

Lots of the boys are returning home and I hope it won't be long before you do and every one around this country will be glad to see you I know.

I suppose you heard in your mother's letters that I am married. I married Eula R. She often speaks of the time you delivered that letter for me.

I have three wedding cigars laid away for you when you get home. We are going to live here at home with dad. We divided the house, the west side, the two rooms downstairs for a kitchen and dining room and two upstairs for bedrooms so when you get back you must come up and take dinner with us.

Raymond Scovell is back but I guess Dave won't get back for some time. I guess there is not much neighborhood news. Everything is just as it was when you went away. Your mother is awful lonesome for you but she has been getting along fine I think.

What do you think about Irvy B. H. having a girl? I believe it will make a match, don't you? I guess Mary Brooks has got along alright this winter. We have had a very light winter this year and I guess it was a good thing we did. We are working in the sugar camp now days and have made about 125 gallons. I don't know how much Irvy has made.

Edith and Orville have a baby boy three months old and weighs 17 pounds. Some boy you bet. Well I didn't go to war but would have been drafted before this I expect if it had a kept on.

Oscar Thumwood was awful scared for fear he would have to go. But I guess it was a good thing no more did have to go and it is over for it must of been awful.

Linn Shockley's have a new baby that makes about eight I think. I hope I don't have that many.

When you come back to the U.S.A. I expect you will be sent to Camp Sherman and if so I am coming right down to see you. The K. P. Lodge has not had much doing this winter. Too many boys in France. They have got a star in their service flag and your name on it for you. Lots of them ask about you.

Well I must close for this time hoping this reaches you O.K. and finds you in fine health.

I remain your sincere friend and cousin,

J. Harold Shaub
Johnstown, Ohio

Paris, France
Dec. 6, 1918

Clark M. Houck
Friend Clark

This is the second letter I have written to you since I learned you were in France. The first one I only had your division number and no doubt you have not received the letter. Yesterday I received a letter from home and they had called Earl Barber and he gave them Regiment number.

How are all the folks around Brook's corners? I don't hear much from that section only what I read in the Independent and do not get many of them. Will Mathews is in a hospital in New Jersey, somewhere Chas. Runnells has been wounded twice and Raymond, who was wounded and gassed at Chateau Thierry in July is driving an ambulance.

How do you like this country any way? Have you found a girl to take home with you when you return? By the way, when are you going home? I would like to return soon but do not know if I can go back very soon or not. Let me hear from you at an early date if possible.

Yours, D. W. Scovell