

SCHLOSS ERENFELS.....

From here we continued down the river to the Schloss Erenfels and the town of Honnogen where we stayed from December 15th 1918. to July 21st 1919.

We went down the west side of the Rhine to Bonn, now the seat of the West German Government. It is also noted for schools and colleges. Only a short drive and there is the Romongen Bridge.

LEAVE ROMOGEN.....

Leaving Romongen, and after short drive our first view was Schloss Erenfels! In 1918 Schloss Erenfels had been the headquarters of the 6th Regt. USMC; presided over by General Lee, the 12th Field Artillery Major, whose "hairless head" and unliked disposition, had earned him the title of "Whiz Bang!" The Schloss was noted for its "window for each day of the year!" Now in 1971, it was fast going to ruin from neglect; We decided from its appearance that it might now be occupied by three or four families.

BUNDGEN FAMILY.....

We went into town and found that the Bundgen Family, with whom eight of us had stayed back in 1918, gone. were told that Mathies Bundgen became a Missionary in South America and had passed away two years before.. Their home dated 1760 had been wrecked The pastor of the large church now lived in a new manse at that location.

We met the Choir Director and he invited us over to the church which had been remodelled with a huge organ loft, the entrance having been completely changed. At we entered the church my mind flashed back to Christmas Morning of. 1918!

MEMORIES..A VERY HOMESICK LEATHERNECK.....

The first and only snow of the year fell in the Valley of the Rhine the night before Christmas. At 5 A.M. when I went on duty at Ferry Landing, heavy flakes of snow were falling. The lights of the church door reflected on the wet snow as a large crowd of Germans were going to church...Hear that music?..... The 42nd Division Band across the river at Nedier Breizig was playing Christmas Carols.....When the notes of those old songs hit the ears of this "Leather Neck", he would have given his left arm to have been able to place his good right arm around the girl he had left behind!