

ON FOOT IN STEPS OF DEFEATED.....

Honnigon on Rhine, December 16th 1918: Having traveled more than 212 miles in the footsteps of a defeated German Army, which had agreed to signing the Armistice and to retreat east of the Rhine with a 5 mile neutral zone between them and our Army of Occupation! After this long hike, whenever we were on the move for a full day's hike--one meal a day at night, and that was coffee, black please, a mess kit full of "slum gullion" --a hunk of bread--good night, dear! The rats in that old barn will keep you warm...Reville...you got to get up! You got to get up in the morning! Breakfast--a mess kit full of Oatmeal Slop, black coffee...pardon dear, the Grease Monkeys are not quite awake...They put salt into the oatmeal and coffee instead of sugar! I say Old Chap--slightly exasperating, don't you know! It was a pleasure and change to sleep in a dry clean bunk and remove your clothes at night! But at this time in USA, service men were dying like flies from Flu! Attention to Orders! All windows in all occupied rooms shall be open at all times --and no heat!

DOUBLE NIGHT WATCHES.....

Life on the Rhine: I was attached to 1st Battalion Intelligence since August with 25 other fellows. In action while in thalines it was "Par Bon"; in Honnigon it was "Tra Bon." No company fall ins or outs. We were strictly on our own, responsible for handling a 24 hour watch at the ferry landing and railroad station. The first couple of weeks we went double on night watches. At the railroad station all citizens and members of military were required to get off the train, open luggage for inspection. Now please be honest with me! Stepping off the train is a very petite Frauline, loaded with all the necessities of charm. Now would you ask her to display her wardrobe to you? Would you?---The German Officer from Corporal to top rank thinks he is a young God. Whenever one got off the train in uniform he was given the full and complete inspection. He opened his suitcase; he laid out every last article in that case, down to his toothbrush. We were not permitted to purchase anything in food from the Germans at any price. Our small bar of rationed chocolate, sugar or small bar of soap was better than gold to those poor Germans whose hearts, minds and stomachs had been scarred by four years of a very bloody war. Our treatment of all officers, we left no stone unturned to impress them that they had just lost a war! Has it not been said, "All is fair in love and war?"

1918: REVIEW BY GENERAL PERSHING.....

This review of all the Divisions on the Rhine, took place on the hills above Breitstein, that mighty fortress of rock carved out of solid stone and very steep. This high hill overlooked Coblenz with a beautiful view of the Rhine, where the Mozell joins hands with the mighty Rhine!..the Father of Waters of Germany! It is in the Valley of the Mozell where the grapes are grown, which when reborn, aged and poured from a bottle, that one gets that good over all feeling of "Rock-a Bye Baby on a Tree Top!"