

RELIVE EVENTS OF JULY 1918.

Versies. 3:20 P.M. At this location, I will relive my life and that of other members of the 1st. Battalion, 6th Regiment USMC. I shall never forget the events which took place here on the 19th of July 1918 and on the way up, if I live to be 150 years old! Why I am still here God alone has the answer.... Lets start the record from the first scratch!

4 P.M. July 16th 1918: loaded in trucks. Pierce Arrows-made for the French by USA; chain drive, solid rubber tires; packed with men and equipment like sardines in a cannon. Suicide situations: any four corners on highways in France at night, especially in war zones, or any village within range of artillery fire.

These trucks were driven by two Indo Chinese from French Possessions. Their source of power for night driving was a short stemmed pipe, the bowl no larger than an acorn. Into this bowl they poured in a little white powder, two puffs that was all.... "Ala Toot Sweet!" Down that French highway all night!

We pulled into a typical French Town some time during the night. How did you guess it? Convoy stops!

BOMBS AWAY!

Large French search lights light up the sky! German 3-motored Bombers delivering service over our heads! They open the gate as the bombs come closer, the sharp whistle of the device they used to keep the bombs upright, is heard! Trucks loaded with human cargo.... no where to go... nothing to do but pray with all the sincerity you possess! Prayers answered! Over your personal "Hot Line" your portion of bomb lands close enough to your truck so that the carbide dust from the last load hauled, penetrates your hide, lungs and your bedding roll... you can hardly breathe! Bombs away! Trucks move out--continue on to next "rondevoo with death!" 4 A.M. jump out of trucks.. roll call. All present and accounted for, sir!

Small town of Villiace. Breakfast is served, sir! Are you kidding? Stand by! 7 A.M. Shove off! Hike till 11 A.M. No water! 4 P.M. arrive at Villers Cottereta National Forest. Water! Sleep near large chow dump. 4:30: 12th Field Artillery, French 75's 3-inch shells 5,-00 Round Barrage! 5th in line --6th in reserve!

AIR BATTLE!.....

July 18 1918: 4:30 P.M. Woods cleared. 6th passes thru takes over line! Side Show: no extra charge! out of no where in the sky above, a little French Spad coming straight down with a German Plane, black cross on side, right on his tail... pouring in the lead. Just above the trees the Frenchman pulls up on the stick, skims over the top of trees; One of Herr Bill's finest continues to dive down thru the trees, shreds of clothes, wings and plane hang in shreds from the limbs of the trees. Large hole in the ground where the motor lies buried! No burial party needed! A brave member of the German Air Force has "bit the dust!"