ST. NAZAIRE, FRANCE,

JANUARY 19, 1919.

Dearest Mother:

For once in a great while I am going to write a letter, can you feature the idea ? Enyway I'm going to write a letter jest like I said at first, what is going to be in it and what isen't I am far from saying now, but you'll see later on. The reason for this must be that I am in an ill state of mine, was never more disgusted with life in my whole career. This must undoubtably ~~must~~ be a cruel world-- for you see the time is drawing near for me to go home, now can you amagon it? I seriously believe I will have the great pleasure of biding the rain swept shores of Sunny France adieu, between the 20th. of Febuary and 10th of March; perhaps in a few more day,s and I can give you my sailing date.

I was awarded the great pleasure of hearing from you again only yesterday, and can assure you after waiting allmost the period of two months, your letter was appreciated very very much. I find that you are writing about as little as I am, however we could hardly fuss over who is writing the most at this stage of the game; for I am of the opinion that not either is going to write very much untill I leave France.

Mother dear, you remember of me telling you that I wrote a letter some few months ago, that had to much in it to mail, rather I coulden't find an envelope large enough to get what I had written in, giving in detail the Battle of the Marne together with the emportent Battles on the Western front. I did later mail it, but as I have never had you to speak of geting it, am going to write it over, here on the mechine; dont look at mistakes or you'll never read it, for you see I am new at the game and get in a hurry and am jest as liable to hit one letter as another.

I borrowed a book from the Y.M.C.A. history of the war From 1914 to 1918, and while it was in my prosession taken most of the dates down together with a few of the remarkable command,s given by Gen- Joffre to his men; and as well as I remember and as few words as possiable will begin from the starting point up untill 1918. Then if I have time will give you a little of my history as a soldier some where in France.

" LEADING EVENTS OF THE WAR ON ALL FRONTS"

The four enemies fighting aganst the Allies in this great war " as you know" was Germany, Austra-Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey. Germany was an Empire The reigning souverign was William 11 German Emperor and King of Prussia. (born 1857) Germany covers an area of 206,780 sq- miles, with a population of 67,812.,000 souls. (1) Military service was compulsory and universal and the prestige in Germany was such that a man must be a soldier rather than a citizen. The first line army in time of peace, for purpose ---- of offence was 1,500,000 men, the second-------

(1) the statistics given are quoted from th e latest official census taken before the War.

line 1,000,000. the complete military resources of Germany were estimated when the war broke out , at 7,000,000, Of whom at least 4,000,000 had served in the army.

AUSTRA-HUNGARY

Austra-Hungary is called the Dual Monarchy, the reigning Soveraign is Charles, Emperor of Austra and King of Hungary (born 1887) Austra covers an area of 115, 882, squiare miles, with a population of 28,995, 844. Hungary covers an area of 125,609 square miles, with a population of 20, 886, 487.

Military service is compulsory and universal. The regular army in time of peace was composed of 34,009 officers, 390, 249 men, with reserves witch brought the war strength of the army up to 2,000,000or a total of 4,000,000, trainedand untrained who could be put in the field.

BULGARIA

Bulgaria is a Monarchy. The reigning King is Ferdinand(born1861)
Bulgaria covers an area of 43, 305 square miles. Its population is estimated at 4, 752,997 souls. Military service is compulsory and universal. The war stength of the field army amounts to about 280,000 men.

TURKEY

Turkey is an Empire. The reigning soveriegn is Mohammed tV. (born 1844)
1)Turkey in Europe, covers an area of 10,882,square miles, with a population of 1,891,000 souls,
2)Turkey in Asia, encluding Asia minor, Armenia, and Kurdistan, mesopotamia, Syria, Arabia, The grand total number of inhabitaints 21,273,900souls.

The law calling for military service in Turkey was enacted shortly before the war broke out, in 1914. The mobilization assembled about750,000 men,moreover an experienced militia of about 60,000 men who have been taken for the army.

THE ALLIES

France is a republic. It covers an area of 204, 054 square miles, counting a population of40,000,000 souls. The largest cities are Paris, the Capital, 217,807; Marsseilles, 550,619; Lyons 523,796; Le Harvel36,159; Nancy 119,939, etc. There are more people living in the country than in the cities in France.

Military service is compulsory and universal. The field army in peace time was about 800,000 combatants, with five 500,000 reserves; France was able to put 4,000,000 men in the field at the beginning of the war.

GREAT BRITAIN

Great Britain is a monarchy. the reigning King and Emperor is George V (born 1865)
England covers an area of 121,623 square miles, with atotal population of 45,370,530 souls, London the Capital and largest city counts, encluding the vast outlying suberbs, 7,400,000, The city itself represents about half this number.

The regular army was about 150, 000 men. Concription was voted in 1916. The number of fighting men in the field has been raised to over 1,500,000.

BELGIUM

Belgium is a monarchy. The reigning King is Albert 1 (born 1875)
Belgium has an area of 11,373 square miles. Brussels, the Capital, counts a population of 663,647 souls, Antwerp 312,884. The Belgium army was recuited by the call for volunteers. The total number of recuits available for the field was 133,000men.

P.S? all dates were
taken from the history; am sure I would have not remembered them.

BELGIUM, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN .

On June 28, 1914, while visiting the small town of Sarajevo, in the province of Bosnia, the Grand Duke of Austra,heir to the Throne, and his wife , the Duchess of Hohenberg, are murdered by a Serbian student. A month of diplomatic discussions ensues, but the quarrel between Serbia and Austra is centuried old, and in spite of Serbia,s goodwill in seeking to arrange matters peacefully, Austra declares war with her on July 28, 1914. This is the beginning of the declarations of war witch succede each other , as the various nations of the world drawn into this contest for Right and Liberty against Injustice and Autocracy.

Russia,seeing that her unfriendly neighbor, Austra , has declared war, begins to mobilize her armies. This act is taken by Germany as a protext to declare war with her on August 1, 1914, Without further excuse, Germany declares war with France on August 3, with Belgium on August 4, and on that samevday Great Britain declares war with Germany. Austra-Hungary declares war with Russia on August 7.

Montenegro and Serbia both dealare war with Germany on August 9; France declares war with Austra-Hungary on August 10; Great Britain declares war with the same power on August 12. On August 23, Japan declares war with Germany; Austra-Hungary declares war with Japan on August 27, and Belgium on the following day, witch brings the the number of declarrations of war in one month to the total of 14. Before the end of the year 1914, this number is to be raised to 17 by three new declarations of war: Russia with Turkey on November 3, France with Turkey on November 5, and Great - Britain with Turkey on the same day.

Before the three Allies are able to work in their close union on the Western front, each of these countries has its own belief and terrible adventures in meeting the German forces. Until August 24, when the famous order for a general retreat is given by Joffre, the incidents of the war for the Allies are a succession of suprises. Unprepared for war at the moment of its declaration, the French believe firmly that Germany will keep her pfficial promiises never to violate teh neutrality of Belgium, that the only danger of envasion is on the eastern frontier. The immediate attack upon Belgium disorganizes the French plan of concentration.

France finds herself suddenly called upon to defend a battle font of houndreds of miles in length and witch extends from the Vosges to the North Sea.

Great Britain's declaration of war does not neccessarily imply her collaboration with the French or Belgium forces on land . According to the British authorities ((the cabinet were far from unanimoua on the advisability of sending an Expeditionary force to the Continent)). Yet the favorable decision is taken, and on August 17, the British soldiers who compose this first contingent, about 150,000 men in all, land here in France.

On August 4, the King of Belgium, addressing Parliment, makes the following declarations: " I have faith in our destinies. A country witch defends itself commands the respect of all; that country cannot Perish! "

The same day the Germans begin to bombard the forts of Liege; they are twelve in number, six main and six lesser forts.

Their heroic resistance, under the orders of General Leman, does indeed " command the respect of all". It gives to the Germans their first evidence of what, to their point of view,seem impossiable; that an unmilitary people, with only a National Guard as defence, can prefur death to surrender, or to com promise with an enemy whom they have reasons to despise.

On August 7, the Germans occupy the city of Leige; the forts hold out for 11, long days, the last one to surrender on August 15, The enemy meanwhile has been pouring into Belgium, and as soon as they can safely leave Leige behind them, they break into two columns; one marches under the orders of Von Kluck

upon Louvain and Brussels " the Capital " the other, commanded by Von Bulow, advances tword Namur and Dinant, On August 22, and 23 these two streams are to unite in a way disaustrious for the French and British, at Mons charleroi

By August17, the Belgium army is retiring toward Antwerp; on August 20 Brussels is occupied, Namur falls on August 25, the vailent defenders of of Louvain are forced on August 27, to surrender. Except for antwerp, witch holds out untill October 9, Belgium is allmost entirely in the hands of the enemy. The King and his goverment takes up their official residence at Le Harve, in France. (the place I landed at when I came from England accross the Channel.)

Meanwhile in France, even before the mobilization called on August 1, 1914, has been completed, a campaign of tremendious importance is begun. On August 7, the French troops cross the frontier of Alsace, and enter Mulhouse.

The furious struggle going on between Mons, Charleroiand the Luxembourg frontier reaches its height on August 22,and 23. Charleroi is lost and taken five times, remaining in the hands of the Germans.

On August 24, in the face of the steady gains the Germans are making, Joffre determines upon a general retreat. The Allied armies are to retire to a position where,strengthened by fresh troops brought up from the rear, they will be able to turn about and take the offensive again. this retreat continues for 12 days. Fighting by day and marching by night, reforming their forces after every backward movement, the French and British gain for themsevels, during this time, the admiration of the entire world.

September 5, 1914, is one of the most memorable date in the history of the world. Joffre gives the order to halt."He commands his men to face about and to except death rather than to surrender." The followering days see the great battle of the Marne,

THE BATTLE OF THE MARNE.
(September 5-12, 1914.)

Joffre after ordering the halt, face about and take death rather than move; he read out to his men these instructions, witch are among the greatest messages of history. He said:

" at this moment, when a battle, upon witch depends the salvation of the country, is about to begin, it is important to remember, one and all, that we can nolonger look behind us; all our efforts must be in attacting and driving back the enemy. The hour has come when we must stand fast what ever the cost, and accep death rather than give way. Under these circumstances no sign of weakness will be tolerated !. "

Joffre was speaking to soldiers worthy of his confidence.

The Germans have been advancing at the rate of twenty five miles a day. Over a million and a quarter men are pouring down on Paris, from all directions, commiting as they pass the horrible atrocities conserning witch the French Government, and the United States have published official accounts.

The German soldiers, to a man , are convinced that the victory is not only assured, but that it is almost won. In fact they celebrate it in anticipation;

Mean while the French army is waiting for this barbarous and brutal enemy. The battle front of the Marne streaches from the Environs of Paris to the entrenched camps of Verdun, a distance of about 175 miles.

POSITIONS OF THE ARMIES.

The allied armies in the order of their positions along this front witch has a slightly semi-circula form are: the French army nearest Paris, is the 6th.French army, commanded by Maunory; the British army, commanded by Field-Marshal French , the commanding general of the French armies" as I have said was Joffre."
The 5th. French army under General Espery; the 9th. under Gen. -Foch; the 4th. French army under Gen. Cary; nearest to Verdun was the 2nd. French army under Gen. Sarrial.

The relative positions of the German armies is as follows: nearest Paris , the 1st. and 2nd. German armies under the General Von Kluck and Bulow, with 520 000 men; the third army under Hausen with 120,000 men; the 4th. army under the Duke of Wurtemberg, with 200,000 men;and the 5th. army, nearest Verdun, with 200,000 men under the Kronprinz.
The French left wing (the 6th. army under Maunoury)extended slightly futher to the northest than the German right wing, ~~thus accentuating the extrame German right wing~~ thus accentuating the curve of the French front so as to give it almost the lines of a compass.

THE PLANS OF THE GERMAN,GEN.VON KLUCK.

The plan of Von Kluck is to break through the " compass" and to bear down on Paris , He has only about twenty five miles to the Capital. His faith in his own power is to great, that in the French is not enough. North of the Marne only one German corps is left, commanded by Schwerin. THE BATTLE BEGINS.

General Maunoury,"French" begins an attact so violent that Schwerin is obliged to call Von Kluck to come to his rescue. Von Kluck suprised by this onslaught of the 6th. French army, the presence of witch he does not seem to have taken sufficiently into account, is obliged to withdraw across the Marne two of the corps witch have been attacking the British and the troops of Gen.Espery
Von kluck-- to contenure the comparison jest used-- is trying to twist one branch of the compass. His endeavors are vain, ~~as Maunoury~~

"THE SECOND PHASE OF THE BATTLE."
While the battle is raging in the region of the riverOurcq, the Germans attempt to force their way through the French armies,in the center of the compass, and to make up,,in this way the for the reverses they are encountering on their right. This second part of the battle of the Marne is called the " Melee of the Swaumps of Saint-Gond ", engages the entire army of Gen. Foch, and the right wing of Gen. Espery's armies.

THIRD PHASE OF THE BATTLE.

Still further east, on the Marne and the neighborhood ofVerdun the Duke of Wurtemberg and the Kronprinz are endeavoring to crush through the Armyes commanded by Cary and Sarrael,. They are determined to break through the French right wing and by going so to cut it off from Verdun, witch has been serving as pivot , first for the manoeuvres of the retreat and now for the offencive mouement.
These three seprate parts of the battle have been waged simultaneously and with encredible fury.

FURTHER DETAILS:

"As well as I remember, the events as they transpired in details are briefly as followers ".

On September 6th. 1914 the Germans, French and British, armies draw up face to face and enter into action. General Maunoury begins a violent attack to the northest of Paris. Von Kluck's ~~xxxxx~~ hurls forces with overwhelming impatus against the 6th. French army; the British notifyed by the aviation of the withdrawel of Von Kluck army go foward under a terrific fire. News is brought Von Kluck that General Martwix can not hold out for twenty four hours, before the oncoming army of -Foch.

In this offencive General Empherey has dettermined as early as the morning to take Montmiail. Effectively on the 8th. over the bodys of 7,000 Germans he leads his men into the city. From there he pushes on to Chateau- Thierry. (on that very spot one hounded years before Napoleon had won a brillant victory over Prussia, and the Russians).

September 9 is to be a terrible day for the 6th. army; Maunoury gives the order to advance if they are " killed on the spot" under such valiant and grim determinations, Von Kluck is obliged to order a retreat of his army.

Foch, during these agonizing days, is face to face with the Garman Imperial Guard. (the best soldiers that ever walked on German soil)

The 9th. army under Foch, life the 6th. under Maunoury, has been to formed with admirable elements, chosen among the best soldiers of France, and has not endured the twelve exasting days of fighting day, and marching at night. This idea of strengthening the forces from the rear, while they are falling back for better positions, is one of the masterful military genius of Joffre. Its effect is now to be more than felt by the Germans.

On September7, the Germans receive orders to redouble their attack, Foch, gives orders to redouble the resistance. On September 8, the enemy gains a slight advantage, on the rail road line to Paris;

Foch, by no ways discouraged,the followering day issues his famous command.((the situration is excellent, I order the offencive be resumed)) The situration is all ways excellent, when such a General is able to command such troops.

The Germans celebrating its occopation of the day before, have, drink to excess. They are beating a hasty retreat over a field strewn with their masses of dead and wounded. Their flight is so hasty that they have not even time to burn or blow up the bridges behind them. The Kronprinz ie the last to withdrak, loathe to renouce his dream of taking Verdun, this dream witch, is to become a nightmare for the Kise's heir.

On September 10, 11, and 12, it seems like a great broom was sweeping the Germans from the Battlefields of the Marne.

After the battle of the Marne the Germans had withdrawn from 25to50 miles, leaving behind them two thirds of the territory they had taken, and 150,000 dead or wounded soldiers!

What I have said above constitutes the Battle of the Marne, witch perhaps not realized, means so much to the world. The rest of the Battles on the Western front? I will not have time to dwell on as I have this one, so will merely give the names and losses.

~~THE BATTLE OF FLANDERS DIXMUDE~~

THE BATTLE OF FLANDERS, DIXMUDE; YRRES:

(October 20 -- November 14, 1914.)

The losses of the enemy in wounded prisonors, and killed, was 120, 000, in trenches not over half a mile there was found as many as three thousand, bodies. (but at that is nothing to compare with their losses since the early part of 1918)

THE BATTLE OF CHAMPAGNE:

The battle of Champagne gave back to France about 65, miles of reconqured territory, and with losses to the enemy of 140,000 men.

THE BATTLE OF VERDUN:

The battle of Verdun, was on of the greatest battles fought, up untill 1918. It was one of the most formidable undertaking recorded in history. Germany was preparing for it for 15, months and for ten long months the Kronprenz hurled his men to death against the wall of Verdun. But the Poilus said that the German would not pass, allthough, men and meterial, was mighter than they. In that one battle the Kronprenz laid 600,000 men at the gates of Verdun; and decited that there was such things as imposibilitys.
(that is what I had refurence to when I said, his dream was to become a nightmare for the Kiser's heir.

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME:

(July 1 -- November 17, 1916.)

This battle liberated about 125, miles of French territory and something like 22,000 was taken prisoners; (have forgotton what the losses were, but it was a great battle of something like 160,000 losses to the enemy. The battlefields of the Summe was fought over several time; and is said that you can hardly walk over them for the shell hole. There was more heavy artillery used in that battle than eny other, previous to that time.

THE BATTLE OF VIMY:

(April 8-14, 1917.)

Vimy Ridge, is a ridge of hills about 400 feet high, and witch dominates the plains of Lens and Douia. On account of its height and because it served for a post of observation, the Germans Fortified it in a manner that withstood the most violent attacks of the Allies. In this battle the Germans lost about 200,000 men, -Where I was told personaly that the Allies lost 90,000, 110,000 less than the enemy.

THE BATTLE OF CHEMIN DES DAMES:

(April 16-- May 6 1917.

The battle of Chemin Des Dames, was in every a victory for the Allies-----

with 200,000 losses to the enemy. With only 110,000 to the Allies.

THE BATTLE FOR CAMBRIA:

This gigantic struggle might better be called the battle FOR Cambria, as in spite of the heroic efforts, the stupendious sacrifices made by the British on a 32 mile front, from November 20 to December 12, after the battle Cambria still was in the hands of the enemy. At one moment the battle was a victory, but the counter attack made by the Germans was to strong, and the British had to fall back farther than they was when the battle begun. But to a certain extent is still claimed as an Allied victory, due to so many French enhabitents being liberated.

The battle of Cambria was fought from November 20 to December 12, as I believe I said above, I remember well reading of it in the papers, giving it such an Allied victory" that was while the battle was going on" then later we received the news from an unathoritive source that it was a falure. The morning the British went over the top was a great suprise to the enemy, as it was the first battle to be fought without eny artillery preparations, there wasen't a gun fired before the men went over the top, was the first time the tanks had every been used.

As I believe I have said about as much as will be possiable to say and give you a little of my soldering life for the present;

Now for my career as a soldier; beginning with old box car days to the present. If you remember it was on one beautiful June afternoon that we a party of five left the little village to join the army, as you know I came back from Atlanta home and then went back; but on my way back if Sister has ever told you, she fixed me a nice midnight lunch, cake, chicken and I dont no what all, well wen I got to Brundidge I left it in the Depot and went up town, when I came back it was closed not to open untill the next morning, me leaving at 9 o,clock that night, therfore I must leave all the trouble that Sister went to there in the Depot; and what I hated most was some letters to Boyd and Tom Sewell that was given to me be4- I left to give to them when I got to Atlanta, theywas in the package to.

As it hapen I met a hotel boy and amused him a few moments by telling what all I was going to see when I left for France, and was leaving in a few days and all that stuff, thus getting him to promise to send the letter ,s to us in Atlanta, so he did to my suprise.

I went to Savanah and finished signing up all of my enlistment papers and went on to Atlanta the evening of the 18th. reported out at the lumber yard, or what was to be our camp for duty, found Boyd and the rest all soldier,s as I believe each had on some part of a uniform; but none had a full uniform and diden untill we were ready to leave. I wore that shirt I left home in two months without wasing it but once, think of it! was balled out about twice a day for not doing something that I should have done; and coulden in no way get use to this army life; every time eny body would tell me to do something I would look up to see witch was the largest. I was use to that old way of eating what I wonted like you brought me up by cooking something that I liked regardless of the trouble you went to to do it; and could not eat but about one meal aday. Then is when I begin to think I had made a bad deal by joining the army, and wrote those wo-be-gone letters. " those were the day,s of a rookie" and my what day,s I thought they were. About the time we were ready to leave I was beginning to get on to the army life, and was'ent taking things quite so hard.

On the 26th of July at 3 pm we left old Atlanta, to see the world through a peart hole, or to come to France.
To give you some idea of the wonderful send off the people of Atlanta gave us, find it necessary to write that piece of poetry called;

" ONLY A VOLUNTEER "

Why diden I wait to be drafted
And be led to the train by a band
Why diden I put in a claim for exemption
Oh! why did I held up my hand.

Why diden I wait for a banquit
Why diden I wait for a cheer
For the drafted men get the credit
I am only a volunteer

Nobody gave me banquit
Nobody said a kind word
The grind of the engine wheel
Was all the goodby that I heard

Then off to the camp I was hustled
To be drilled for the rest of the year
And all in a shuffle forgotton
For I was only a volunteer

And perhaps some day in the futher when a little boy sits on my (knee
And ask what I did in the conflict
I will haft to look back to the eyes that so trusting peer
And say that I missed being drafted for I was only a volunteer.

(1) We had a mighty nice trip to New Yark, arrived there about 12 o,clock July 28. At 1 pm we walked up the gangplank on the OLD Carmania, A Cunard Liner, tonnage of about 22,000, on board there was about 3,000 soldier,s The 12th. Regiment of Engineers, and us the old reliable 17th. Engineers. I had never gotton to the bloody bottom" as the English call it" before she drew anchor and pulled out. We was then without a convoy, was to take it up in Halifax Canada. We anchored there in Halifax horbor " witch was it later blown to peices by the explosion of an amunition ship" on the evening of August 1, lay in there untill the afternoon of the 2 then with the convoy of six ships pulled out for a zig zag accross the broad Atlantic. Our duty,s while coming over was to go through boat drill from twice to a dozen times a day, with a few army formations, above all to ware that everlasting life belt, sleep in it and eat in it. I sleep on deck for the first three nights out of Halifax, as it was hot and Oh! what an auwful scent down where my bunk, berth, or bed was. then they made us come off of deck and sleep down in what I call that Hell hole. The eat,s was a fright, my I would have give my soul for one of those old home made honest to God biscuit. It was impossiable for me to eat over one meal a day, and even at that it was a haft to.
As luck would have it I diden get real sea sick, every time I would feel like it was coming, to the deck I would go, and lay down untill it was over, or untill I forgot about it laughing at some other poor fellow feeding the fish. I laughed at Boyd and Frank untill they was tempted to throw me overboard; they was kindly like ~~Denzilx~~ Denzel said he was

Sick from the day they went on untill they came off.

After 14 long days we anchored in Liverpool England, a crowd of hugary thirsty, broke soldier,s, not eny of us had over a dime to save our life, therefore coulden even buy enything. We was put onthe train and sent out to some of Mr. Dorell,s so called tent,s " a camp out at Soulberry planes about forty miles from Londen, stacked up in those tents twelve strong, hardly room to give those cooties that we brought off of the ship room to turn over or get in a new place. It diden rain but once a month over there that was from the 1st to the 31st providing there was thirty one day,s in the month.

We landed in Liverpool the 13 and stayed out at this camp, untill the 14, on the morning of the 14 we went up to see King George and made him a perade, the first that had been made by American soldier,s in seven houndred year"s, or since William the conquerr. He gave us one of those little banquits like you read of him giving President Woodrow Wilson; after marching about eight miles over Londen getting a wonderful reception from the English people we went back out to camp. The next morning left for Southamption, there taken a cattle boat to cross the Channel for France; landed in Le Harve France the afternoon of August 17, 1917. Was sent to some more of those miserable tents and spent the night, next morning taken some more of these one horse wagon box cars, focalled 2ndrclass French passenger cars "

On that great day of August 19, 1917 we steped off of the train here, none of us had changed clothes since we left Atlanta, and haden't had a real meal since then. you can amagon us some hungary sweet smelling soldier,s. I was so hungary untill I felt like these Earthwormes that you go fishing with would be good. When I pulled off my clothes that night and threw them over on the ground they broke all to peices, they was so rotten-****)

It's true we was a crowd of nasty, hungary, tired fellows, but it diden go hard with eny of us we all carried that smile; we was here to do our bit and every fellow was taking things as they came.

We had nothing to sleep on but Mother Earth, we lay our blanket on it and went with the Sun, From light to dark. We had to build from the ground up. As soon as we landed here it was evident that the success of our armies depended on the way they was moved and supplied. Hense, transpottation loomed up at the start as a vital factor. The difficultie that lay in our way were many. After three years of war the wear and tear on the railway facilities of France, without adequate renewal, was terrific. Forty per cent of its leading roads North was in the hands of the enemy. Every ocean gateway of eny consequence was in continual use. The six largest ports were occupied wholly or in part by the British, and therefore could not stand the strain of added American tonnage. Besides, if we was to have our full job aboard we had to have our own ports. To move our armies and the necessary quantity of subsistence and equipment fot their upkeep, engines,cars, terminals— a whole railway system-- had to be reared.

But we got buisy. When we came this port could not discharge not over four thousand tonnage a day, to day we are handling 18,000, we have constrcted fifty great warehouses that comprise a city of supply. We have linked ware houses and docks with more than a houndred miles of tracks and spurs-- some of them on concrete roadbed, we will soon have it com-