

REV. B. R. LACY, JR.
PASTOR
J. B. CAMPBELL,
CLERK OF SESSION
V. F. TODD AND W. U. COTTON,
TREASURERS
J. E. KIRK,
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DEACONS
JOHN J. EAGAN,
SUPERINTENDENT SABBATH SCHOOL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WASHINGTON STREET, OPPOSITE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GA.

Diary of B. R. Lacy.

"Wesleyan Carolin"

35th DIV

SIAM HARRINGTON
NUSPARE ARCHIVIST
NC One of Archivist HARRINGTON

(in picture?)
But answers to
37/79th to find of my
person

Ben R. Lacy
(Benjamin Rice)
113th FA?

- photo (in image) of Chaplain Lacy?

- Punctured history pen
- Temporary Board
- Also unmarked - present
- Write to several letters
Mr. A?

On the morrow went to old Cathedral only fairly interesting. Was interested going to bivouac after dinner. At dinner lots of French and American officers (Wm. Thaw) Saw trenches and dugouts far from line. Menil, le Tour 2. Went to Q. M. Hq. found camp in woods. Col. Chambers had proposed for me to stay at Hq. but I went to woods. ^{across road} Stayed in camp with Capt. Fletcher under tarpaulin. John McSween ^{next door}. While at Camp there had trouble getting writing paper for the men. Moved Camp further in the woods. Batteries soon began going to the front. But "F" went first and fired the first shot. Lt. of 114th got excited one night and hurried to Capt. Fletcher to borrow truck to get out of emplacement as he thought Germans were coming thru at day break. Went to fire. Hamonville. (3) for first time when "A" and "C" were there, Ruined villages, "L'Ennemi vous voit" camouflaged roads, secondary defenses, causalness of the work and of the men who did it along the way but our boys were on the edge "A" ^{fixed} field airplane problem. Caught camouflage, Sept. 1, afire. "A" in only camouflaged position with dugout across the road. "C" in good emplacement stayed until about ten o'clock. Rockets and lights made a weird impression. Ride to camp very thoughtful. Went up also to "B" & "D" spent nights in Major A. L. B's dugout, visited infantry Hq. Only excitement was that someone had tapped telephone wire. Day after I had been in "C" position it was heavily shelled. "C" had moved out the night before. Preparations were made for a big battle. Woods full of ammunition, big guns with tractors & R. R. brought up, modern gun and rifle ammunition hidden under bushes. Everybody thinking of big drive. Germans landed a shell in large dump, great activity at night. No movement at all during the day. Officers busy preparing positions. Positions occupied by "B" "D" "E" "F". "C" & "A" in open so the guns were not moved in. Munitions carried up every night. Horses and men hard worked. Lots of rain and mud, all about worn out. Then the drive and all were fresh. I moved up to Reg. P. C. (4) Noviant - day before advance Sept. 10th, in village near front, no good dugout. Don't know why Germans did not shell town. Visited Bn. P. C. decide to stay at Second Bn during drive. Chocolates 137 Fr. Took them to "A" and "G" the evening of drive did not know it would be that night.

On Sept. 10 went through front line trenches from Flirey to Limey. The boys had been sleeping in mud and rain by day and morning ammunition by night. Went to see Maj. T. G. Stem and found he had orders, Hurried back to P. C. Black night. Heavy rain, found Maj. T. G. Stem, and took him to 2nd. Bn. pl. P.C.

All excitement at P. C. packed roll and prepared to leave at 11:30. 9-11-18 Major C. L. P. sitting with bedding roll half rolled and unable to find detail and not knowing where to go and how to go. on way to A. L. B. found 2 parties lost, one with Maj. T. G. S. conference at 2nd Bn. Hq. Officers figured data, prepared to fire at 1:00 A. M. Sept. 12, fire opened. Rain. Heavens alight with flashes. Star shells and rockets at trenches. In pits men worked in mud and water shifting trail, wiping and carrying shells, all eager and business like "Wonderful Men" I had to say many times before it was over. 5:00 A. M. Barrage was on. 1 hour, two, three hours, still the roar and flashes surprised that there was no counter battery work by Boche. About 8:00 A. M. "E" went out through mud. Lt. Douglas A. W. stopped me to ask that I write his wife if anything happened to him that day. All stayed around until 3:00 Col. came about 1: for snack, had failed to get to his post before firing so had T. G. S. Big guns behind still booming and the heavens filled with planes All balloons up before day. No Boche planes or balloons. At three set out. Wounded prisoners coming back, a peculiar thrill at seeing prisoners. As passed through Limmey found that Lt. Douglas had been killed. Went to his grave beside a wall back of village. Bloody litter still there. Shot by shell in neck on battlefield - our first dead. Saw many others wounded on litters Prisoners helping each other and bearing litters

one dead in shell hole. Dying towards the enemy with automatic rifle pointing same way. Five horses and caisson smashed, a corps beside it which proved to be Will Be. Melton Battery "E". There Douglas was killed. Four guns nearby, a Battery in position. Held up on edge of woods. Finally went through along narrow road and narrow R R Germans well housed in huts. All confusion, could not find Col. Major, Batteries on road not knowing where to go. "E" already in ravine. A boy found a Capt. of Infantry. Haislett of 353 Inf. whose men could not carry him further, got volunteers to carry him but too heavy and too far after one failure, got C. L. P. to let him have ambulance, Capt. Cold. Queer handling wounded at night. Got jammed in narrow road. Supply companies and machine Gun Co.'s going to front. Lost men seeking Regiments. Got to bed in pup tent and horse blanket about 2 o'clock. Lonergan left to hunt ammunition in night.

on Sept. 12.

Buried Melton just before dark, with aid of few men from Battery "B". Had on his person 1.15 francs two extra tags, a package of cigarettes, a testament, with his girl's picture in it. A sad little funeral of our first soldier killed in action.

Sept 13, 1920.

Woke up early on the 13th and Sgt. Mitchell of M. C. gave me some bacon to eat. Doughboys sleeping in dugouts. Swapped horses with Lonergan. Went to Ravine where A. B. & C. were. Dead Germans and Americans, machine guns and all kinds of spoils of war. Everybody had a souvenir, the helmets were everywhere but were too heavy to carry. The effects of our Artillery was wonderful. Finally caught up with 2nd Bn. They had taken up position on hill (#6) Bouillionville and ready to fire. Got a little bread and bully beef in a ravine. Maj. Stem said that we were to go until horses and men dropped and I set out with him and went past a beautiful town to forward position. ("7") Thiaccourt and as Germans were shelling a road were afraid to occupy positions but did so on hill with sunken road behind it. Road full of Marines and Infantry; they gave us something to eat. On way to Thiaccourt somewhere a shell had killed a German officer, his horses and destroyed his little buggy in which he was trying to take his belongings away.

Our positions not shelled during the 13th. Heard many interesting things from 23 Infantry and Marines, especially touching was the fact that the French women in Thiaccourt did not know that America was in the war and went wild with joy, kissing the men.

The Infantry dig regular graves to sleep in to protect them from shell fire, scooped out places too on the side of the road. I slept with Speed in a house, fine mirror. Gas alarm and Captain Rowan investigated, false, as usual.

14th. Hard to keep men under camouflague, paid for it too at dinner time shell struck B then C, wounded, six none very seriously we think, Position shelled that night after we left. M. C. did quick work in first aid. Made reconndisance with Capt. Hanes for changing positions, found splendid place for horse line. Just at dark orders came to move We got out in a hurry. Had an exciting time on a narrow road on crest of hill. Gas alarm given, then while we had on masks Germans shelled the road, seemed that we would never move and then moved at march as cant double time. Twice shell burst right at us. Bat. "A" had red cow and boy tried to take her along. He doubledtime about half a mile in gas mask leading cow, finally lost her when she ran over a dead horse. Awful night and finally camped in a woods after daylight in a destroyed village - Ramboucourt (Muddy) The next night made march along beautiful road and camped in a deserted village of Mecrln (9)

September 15,

Plane up; bright moonlight; search light catch plane; bombs/
At Rambracourt Lt. Adler, Chapman, Works, Childs, Dunlop, Hamilton,
Hand, Bowes, joined us.

Took two swims in Meuse Sept. 16-17. Went to (13) (Commercy) with
Hardison. Sgt. Edwards lost censor stamp and had to go back to hunt
it. Did not find it. Marched by night to (14) (Nicey). I went to (1)
(Toul) and got seven bags of mail. Visited old Schelon at 10 (Menil
le Tour) went along no man's land to 11 & 12, etc (Beaumont & Noviant)
The night I came back with mail passed endless trucks and guns. Slept
on table in deserted house as could not find (Beausee) the regiment.
Found at Deuxnoud when I stayed over night with Mears to get "reclamation"
The boys have done wonderfully. They never complain at real grievances
and have shown themselves real men. Went to Repricourt (20) left
night 22nd.

Mail

October 5th, 1917. Things of note in France: 1- Yellow jackets, 2,
rats; and mice tame; 3. Rabbits; 4. snails. 5. Manure.

Things to
note in
France

Before the big show of Sept. 26th I took another trip to 1 in the
Brigade Dodge Truck. Left in afternoon of one day (23) and went by
15 (Sorey) and bought a few things for the men. Was busy at 1 getting
things for ~~the men~~ General Shipton and everyone else. Town full
of officers, aviators. Had a time getting a bed in a private home and
getting supper. On next day tried to locate men (wounded) at Base No.
45. Could not, but saw Tom Boushal and Henry Wariner. Left after dinner
returning by way of (10) (16) 'Menil le Tour, Bourg. At puncture at (17)
Beausee) Truck full of mail for Brigade. Left 105th A. T's with McSween.
He said the show was to begin that night. Could not find Brigade R. C.
So spent night at 18 (Bois de Brecourt) and went to P. C. in the morn-
ing. Rejoicing at 115th over mail. Got horse and Edwards and went to
Regiment 19 (Bois O'Esnes. On way to and from 1 (Toul) I saw road full
of everything, infantry, artillery, wagon trains, tanks, machine guns.
The night I went to (25) to 19 (Bois d'Esnes) many tanks on road. Every-
thing going forward and all roads blocked. Show began about 1:00
and (see page 13) (Sept. 26)

Stops for the
war

Sept 25th

Sept 26, 1917.

Big barrage at 5:00. Acted as No. 1 on 1st Piece Bat. "C". Had a little
chocolate sent by Mrs. Bickett and gave it to the men.

several
pieces
of
chocolate

(Sept. 23 went to Toulete for mail. Battery went to Bois A'Esnes on
24. 5:00 A.M.)

Gov. Bickett's
wife sent
chocolate

Prisoners began to come back before dinner. Lots of Schlesingers(?)
and Poles, later Prussians. All but ^{the} last named Very glad to be taken.
Many quite young boys, many old men. Leather gas mask for men, rubber
for officers. They seemed to have lots of leather. Asked one boy if
he wanted to go back "Not till the fighting is over." He said his home
was broken up, his father killed in Russia. Many said Germany whipped
and the war ended. Went over trenches, 20, (Avocourt) and through woods.
Not many dead of either army, but utter desolation from shell fire.
Forests stripped and one shell hole touching another all the way along.
Our reconnaissance fell down as Infantry was held up in woods by
machine guns. Three machine gunners U. S. A. killed by shell. Captured
77 not serviceable although Major General Farnsworth had asked us to try
to fire it. Gens. & Lt. Cols. afoot in Forest. Spent night in German
Dugout (Bois A'Avacourt) Sept. 26, that were regular hotel system.
pumps, electric lights, deep dug outs. Crowded tho. Lt. Col. Chambers

Schleswig-Holsteiners?

mail
POWS

German
prisoners
of
war
at
least
per
pows.

German
dugouts
hotels

Rodman,

Sept 27, 1920

Major Stem, Capts. Hardison, Haines, ~~Rodman~~, McLendon, Lts., Wood & Stackpole beside some enlisted men. A. B. C. came up and took positions were ordered out at day in rain (9/27/18). Roads impassable as soon as we went through. (Sam Gattis ordered to front by Lt. Colonel). Took up positions and began firing on edge of woods. 4 German 150's and about 800 rounds ammunition. 3 guns in condition. I got crew organized, John Simmons "A" gunner and with aid of French officers who had range table fired until dark on 21 & 22 (Bois de Beuge - Nantillois) French cannons who could not get their guns up then took them over. Buried Geo. A. Tallhomer, 2708659. Co. B 145 Infantry behind C's position. In morning saw an excited Lt. Col with cocked automatic driving all to the front. Many wounded. (Sam Gattis) ordered to front by the Lt. Col of Infantry or staff.

Spur
Gather

covered
200 ft
rail road

with
pistol

Sat. 28. Nothing of interest. much mud. Night previous all horses hitched ready for any emergency. Slept with Doc. Speed in dugout bath Fri. & Sat. nights. Sat. afternoon went with officers to make reconnaissance between 23 - 24 (Monfaucun & Ivoir). Former well defended. Boche shelling road. Dead Americans with body blown in two. Another who seemed to have tripped in wire on last stand, lying towards Germans.

Sun. 29. 1st Bn. moved 23-24 (Monfaucun & Ivoir) and I went up. Bad Sunday. Only one service and it at night with Capt. Hanes. Bev. Royster and few in ditch. Interrupted by firing orders. Major Stem sent for me toward dark and asked if I would observe or act as executive I let him decide. Went forward with Collie and Mitchiner. Did not have enough wire. Went to P. C. Pickering and got cussed for Artillery. Expected 75's to destroy 150's. Many wounded and gassed men near his P. C. At P. C. Stem found Intelligence officer of Infantry who said he had found a battery. Royster and I tried to sleep in grave but got rained out.

Ne

To front
killed
and
obs

From
any
down

Mon. 30. Went to Pickering P. C. and helped run line under fire to O. P. on edge of woods 25 (Cierges), right up on front. Enemy shelled around us all day long. Was in little shack in full view of their lines. fool thing to do. Saw Gg gun go into position and registered "B" on it. Found another battery position and got "C" on it and also on Barracks. Splinters and mud thrown against our hut but no harm. Mitchner excited over our fire. Don't mind hostile fire when doing something yourself. Two tanks in mud in bottom.

by
whom
spec

Tues. Oct. 1. Observed with Lt. Adler in O. P. General at P. C. Pickering. Col. had been led by Mitchner to my O. P. and in fire had gone to a hole. I adapted it for O. P. Round and just deep enough for a man's head to show above it. Saw much movement out of range. Saw troops of U. S. advance and take 25 (Cierges) under heavy German barrage. It was magnificent. Men walked straight through heavy fire. Two men at O. P. struck on helmets by fragments. Hot when picked up.

was
with
my
ser

Wed. Oct. 2, at O. P. with Lt. Royster. Fired at Batteries. Also at party of Germans on hill and routed them. "They sold out." 2nd. Bn. moved up and I moved in with Pete Crayton.
fired

Thurs. Oct. 3; Enemy finds gas near us just before day and H. E. in among us. 4 men of "E" killed, detonated in hedge. Jack Bentley, "E" hit and while first aiding him two shells burst in ammunition boxes setting fire to rope for handle and burning man's bedding behind it. Gibson, our pitcher and Weeks, S. D. wounded. Helmet strap saved Gibson from serious hurt. Wounded in neck. Both shot right over me but I was stopping binding Bentley's hand. Burial of 4 "E" boys by night very impressive. Three brothers, Col. & Cap. present and grave digging detail along bank.

*

pitcher

||

Fri. Oct. 4. Barrage at day break. Went to O. P. with McLendon, but too hazy to observe. "A" moved up closer. 2 guns.

Sat. Oct. 5. Prisoners ^{brought} back and as they passed over hill, Infantry in valley behind us had a big rabbit chase. A boche plane brought down by an Anti. Another by machine gun from the ground and as he fell & landed, some from "C" went to capture him. Other boche dropped bombs wounding one man in the foot. Went to "A"'s forward platoon 42, 43, near 44 (Epinonville, Eclifontaine, Gesnes) Saw many litter bearers with their burdens, caissons overthrown, horses killed. One man sitting beside road in natural position. I spoke to him, then saw his helmet, which was slung over his wrist, full of water. Another dead lay behind him. "A"'s two guns under apple trees along a hedge. Courage of French tank officers. An American plane brought down, counted over 55 planes up at once.

Spoke to Boche man

Services

Buried Geo. H. Frady

Work of mess

Sun. Oct. 6. Capt. Morrison asked for service. Held under camouflage of ~~Pier~~ ^{Recicourt} Fine service under shell fire, almost. Had other little service at 4th piece of "D". Buried George H. Frady, "B" right after dinner. Ordered away so had ~~no~~ no other services. Went ahead of Regiment (26 Recicourt). No provision made for men to spend night, but 114 had made them "Bailing" - "Bivouac by road." Raining. Indifference of higher officers to welfare of men. Got to bed about 1:AM in old Div. Hdq.

Monday, Oct. 7: Went in Brigade Trench (Ippecourt) to 27, and got about 600 francs worth of chocolates, cakes, tobacco, etc. at Y. M. C. A. Saw Fowler and Dilts, once of Sevier. Distributed through mess Funds. Wrote at night letters of condolence and long letter to Father.

Camp Sevier

Condolence

1st bath in 2 weeks

Tues. Oct. 8. Spent morning waiting to go. Took first bath in two weeks, put on 2nd hand clothes. Beautiful ride 28 (Senoncourt) Gen. Pershing passed in his car. Older and not so large as I had expected. Billeted at 28 (Senoncourt) Ate supper of hot fried potatoes in old woman's kitchen. Slept with Hardison.

Wed. Oct. 9. Took Major Stem to Field Hospital in morning. Moved to 29 (Boucemont) in afternoon. Billeted in deserted village. Slept cold.

Slept cold

Thurs. Oct. 10. Started to new gun positions but halted 30 (Troyon) by brigade and bivouaced on canal. Ordered to spend night there. Many men sick with diarrhea. Had been for weeks. Rolls had gone on in trucks. Raised kick to Maj. Pridgen and Col. Chambers. Works got busy and got 500 blankets for men. Slept in open, luckily it did not rain. One man fell in canal. Roysters sent to hospital.

Diarrhea

Got 500 blankets

Fr. Oct. 11. Went 6, 2, 1, 32, 33, 34 (Void, Commercy, Bar le Duc, for mail. Passed through 35 (St. Mihiel) Was astounded at German defensive system and do not see how we won so easily in our first drive. Found A. B. O.'s all moved. Finally found mail, mostly for 115th. A drunk bicyclist tried to ride with us. Beautiful roads and country. Leaves turning and falling. Car would not work. Otterness sucked gas out of tank to put in carburetor to get us back to 34 (Bar le duc) where we spent night at officers mess. Rue de le coq. 3 Negro Lt. Lt. Popelin there. Alcoves in a chapel to sleep in, 1 franc. John McSween along. Bats went with position 2:00 A. M.

Got mail at 11:00 AM

(Batteries)

Sat. Oct. 12: Left with Lt. Popelin, McSween, Edwards, and Otterness

Came back along country Lt. Popelin had fought over in Sept. 1914. Told of Battle for Fort de Troyon, as recorded by *telephone* operator who had sent account to his brother who was operated in Fort de Les Paroches. How enemy fire tore down parapet and destroyed personel. Emissary in white sheet with trumpeter offered terms. French Lt. scorns them. The charge of German, "300 m, 200 m, 100 m, 75 m, 50m (right machine gun out of order) 100 m, 75 m, 50 m, 30 m, right machine gun in order, 50 m. 100 m. 200 m. Victory." Lt. quite enthusiastic as he passed old scenes. Passed an old priest who used to dine at their mess and told them all about the country. He could remember what happened on each date. Got to 31st before dinner. Have been sick with diarrhea since drive started. Got to supply Co. in *Chaplain* *long sick with diarrhea* *fourgon* *service* *German dugout with 1000 rounds* *still sick*

Oct. 13, Sun. Half sick. Got mail off. Services in mud and mist at "A" "E" "C" eschellon. Used caisson for pulpit at "C" All attended. German dugout and houses luxurious. Capt. Fletcher with whom I stay has private dugout with steps from his bed room. Stoves galore. They had electric lights and water works everywhere. Chicken yards, swings, besides all things for fighting. Names of boys of "E" killed Oct. 3, 1918
Robert L. Alston,
John W. Melton,
Robey E. Cambell
Geo. G. Barnes.

Mon. Oct. 14, Tues. 15. Not at all well. Took medicine. Finally got on my feet. Went to see Major Stem. (36th ~~Don~~ Martin) Beautiful Mountainous country.

Week Oct. 14-19. Went to see Pete Crayton. He had things fixed fine, even to a shower bath for his men. Spent a night at P. C. Bulwinkle with Robert Beaman. He was made a captain that same night. Burgess & Dodge made 1st Lt. Visited Reid Morrison (37th ~~Hannonville~~) next day. Some mud and hills. Fine O. P. Saw ~~tm~~ there on my way back. Reid well fixed. Germans had destroyed town by fire. Pathetic because of plundered houses. Marbles, toy automobiles, baby carriages, and all kinds of furniture and clothes, especially clocks and mirrors. Church rifled. Boches well fixed especially in bathing facilities. One in town, Hot 30 pf. Cold 10. Another bath house out of town with swimming pool. Town had been gassed and odor could still be detected. Trees in town square burned. German had school (German mottoes and verses on wall) *Big Phone central,* bath, etc. Beautiful plain and country. Many gardens and boys enjoying vegetables. Soldiers enthusiastic over prospect of peace, can talk of nothing else. Mud awful. *at P. C. Bulwinkle* *Hannonville plundered by Germans.* *German bath house*

Sat. (Oct 18~~xx~~ 19. A. B. D. moved to St. Maurice.)

Oct. 19, Visited Major Stem at new position, came home in bad rain.

Sun. Oct. 20. 5 services. "D" "F" and Hdq. Co. Eschellon, from 30 to 60 present at each place. Raining, but good services. At "D" in open; "F" partly under barber paulin; Hdq. Co. in feed tent. In afternoon rode thru rain to "C" guns and in old German emplacement preached to all of firing battery. Unique service. At night by candle and lantern in another old emplacement preached to all of 2nd Bn Detail except Maj. Bulwinkle. He off with Col. Text Titus 3:11-13. Unique Sunday. Carried hymn books in knapsack. Rained all day. *services* *night service* *Hymn books in knapsack*