

## **“Short History of my experience in the U. S. Army during the great world war of 1914-1918**

Written by John Boone Scholl

On Dec. 8, 1917, I left my position as clerk in the Bank of New Bloomfield and went to Jefferson City and made application for enlistment in the aviation section of the Signal Corps. My application was accepted and on Monday, Dec. 10, I returned to Jeff. City and in company with 12 others among whom was Ralph Burnham we took the MoPac to St. Louis. We spent the night at the Stratford Hotel and after breakfast and dinner at the Merchant's Café at the expense of the U.S., I went to the Jefferson Barracks and on Dec. 12 was examined and sworn into the service.

Because of the crowded condition out there about 800 of us were sent to St. Louis. Myself and about 300 of us slept on the floors of the St. Louis Central YMCA until Dec. 27, 1917. On Dec. 25 Godfrey and myself were invited out to dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Roberts of 4446 Van Versen Ave. A splendid dinner was served and a most splendid visit was spent. I met by good fortune Misses Baker, Hunt, Delie and others.

On the night of Dec. 27 I was returned to the barracks and on the 29<sup>th</sup> we took train for Camp Grant, Ill. where we arrived Jan. 1, 1918. I was placed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Co. of the 161 Depot Brigade, Capt. Lind in command of the Battalion and Capt. McCullum in command of the company. After 54 days of quarantine, shoveling snow and coal we were released and I worked in the P.O. for three weeks.

On Mar. 26 we started for Texas and landed in Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas Mar 29. I was placed in the recruit line 132 where on Apr. 4 I was sent to the hospital with the mumps remaining there for 21 days. When I returned I was sent to trade line & on May 15 I was sent to Kelly #3 for overseas shipment but was not shipped until June 19. We arrived at Camp Merritt June 23. On June 30 at 3:30 am we got up and marched about five miles over hills to the Alpine Landing on the Hudson River. We took small transports to New York and were loaded into the Mauretania and sailed across the deep blue sea.

On July 4, we were in mid-ocean. A submarine fired two torpedoes at us but without effect. There were about 7500 of us on board among whom were 300 nurses. The Mauretania was a British vessel 900 ft. long with sixty-six inch guns, the next fastest boat on the waters. We landed in Liverpool July 8. We marched from the docks to the RR station and took train for South Hampton. We were loaded into cattle boats and sailed the English Channel and landed in Le Havre France July 10.

After four days sojourn there, we sailed again for South Hampton and to Castle Bromwich as attached to the 248 Aero Sqdn. Before going to Bromwich, however, I was attached to the casual construction sqdn. at Winchester for about a month and worked on a hospital building. As Castle

Bromwich I worked in an acceptance hangar where we set up S.E. fives? And Handley Pages. I was there about six weeks and from there to Torn Hill(?) where I worked on Handley Page airplanes. From there I was sent to Hooton Park with the 170<sup>th</sup> Aero Sqdn. I worked in the flying field and in the crash department.

From there we assembled at Codford and sailed for France Oct. 27. We landed again in Le Havre Oct. 29 and from La Havre to Mairent? Then to Romorantin en route to the front but on Nov. 11 the armistice was signed. We left Romorantin 4 o'clock pm May 23 and arrived in Brest 3am May 25. We left Brest at 8am June 4 for the boat. We loaded on the Leviathan and sailed at 4pm June 5, 1919.

[I was] 7 days in crossing and landed at Hoboken, N.J., then shipped to Camp Dodge, Iowa, and [I] was mustered out from there June 23, 1919 and took a train to Jeff. City, MO and walked to New Bloomfield and into the feedstore.

### **Safely Home Again Thanks to the Good Father.**

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The U.S. had 2,200,000 men in France, 1,300,000 in U.S. Out of 33,000 Indians, 6000 entered the army, 1000 in Navy. A \$50 bond for every man woman and child of that race.

4,000,000 acres of land poisoned with gas for 4 years at least. Great forest cut down. In certain localities not a single house stands. One can travel for miles through what used to be towns and villages – not a house stands.

In Rheims, 12,000 of the 14,000 buildings were razed.

3516 men died on transports in two weeks. 3444 French orphans were adopted by A. E. F. Total war cost of nations \$200,000,000,000. Eng casualty 3,049,991 men, 658,665 dead.

U. S. war cost \$57,000,000,000 to 1919.

U. S. Navy 1000 ships

18,000 tons of foodstuff sent to allies.

The "Y" sent 11,224 men and 2600 women.

During Oct. 1918 the last month of war they hauled 150 carloads of tobacco, 59 of ?. During last six months 9554 carloads.

575,000 baseballs, 75,000 footballs, 65,000 fielder gloves, 4,000,000 ft. of films, 600 college profs."