PMM BLOG ARCHIVE

Connelsville Native's Dispatches Chronicle WWI Experience

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, J. Gleim, Museum Curator)

This scrapbook belonged to Edgar Burke of Uniontown, Fayette County, PA.



Burke entered the military June 2, 1917 and was attached to the Medical Detachment, 110th Infantry, 28th Division. The division trained at Camp Hancock, Georgia from September 1917 until April 1918. During his time at Camp Hancock, Burke wrote newspaper dispatches for his hometown paper, the Uniontown Morning Herald, in which he described the preparations and training taking place there. These dispatches are pasted into

Burke's scrapbook, created from an illustrated German textbook, and they provide a compelling first-hand account about the conditions of camp life, the training newly-minted soldiers received, and those soldiers' feelings about being separated from their homes and families.



The 110th Infantry departed Camp Hancock, bound for France in April 1918. Sometime shortly after arriving in France, Burke composed a typewritten essay describing his journey from the time his unit left Camp Hancock until just before their first combat engagement. During this time, Burke on getting his first "glimpse of life in a real English town", experiencing an air raid, and traveling inland from the French coast inside a boxcar. In France, he participated in the 5th German Offensive July 14-27, 1918 and the advance on Ourcq and Vesle during the Second Battle of the Marne. He was injured by mustard gas on September 7, 1918 near Ourcq.

Diamy. 1918. Loft Councileville to tember 7th, after being called out on the 15th of July, arriving in Augusta Ga., Camp Hancook, Monday Leptember 10, at 5:50 .H., at theolas Station, from where we like to our cars site on F Fennsylvania verme. HERIO OF TH. HIME UNTL HEREBAY AFAIL 24th, when we entrained for Camp Merritt H.J. are here on furioug from Sebraary 21 until March 1st. Arrived at Cam Merritt H.J. Tril y pril 26, at 9:30 J. H. Spent s oried of equipues for car "Over-meas" tri, Lewing Forritt Thursday May 2nd, embarking at Sobokon H.J., at 11 J.H. My 37d, at 9:30 J. H. Spent s oried of equipues for car "Over-meas" tri, Lewing Forritt March 1st. Annonia, lifting medar for the varges at 10:10 J.H. My 37d, a ma-May 44%, only Infirmary, cool; HeySth., rough ses, life boot wrill hav at 4.1.1., hon ses with mothing of importance; May 10th, hit denger some at 4.2.1., non ses with mothing of My orthone we sighted Lude at 5 s.d., along the Soottish coast; May 16th dropped anchor during to might in Horsey Marbor, out-side the docks at Liverpool mgland, discondant during the morning hanging around station during the day until about 5 L..., when we biked about three miles out through the slum district to mother and of the docks, after we had been there until, about 8 L. ... or more allowed to go cut of the dock-parks for a short while, 1 tor we were will back into the docks by the biglors for a short while, 1 tor we were will back into the docks by the biglors for a short while, 1 the start and Left Commellaville Sectomber 7th, after being colled out on the allowed to go out of the dock-yards for a short while, here we ware a lied back into the docks by the biglors and morehed down to a freight yard and entrained for Dover; Arrived at 9 age, to rest can billets, more we mare guartered for the night, we ware clicked down into the city during the after neon also the evening, where I had a glimpse of the life of a real hap-lish town; Te were ordered up at 6:45 Lik. and exhauted for Trance; ar-rived at Calais 11 A.H. and hite to pest our 7 %6, several mile were we were guartered in tents, 15 men in each, "aperianced our first dir Reid at 11:30 THE block methor at the set of barrier bage and all our belong-inge which we had brought from the states, however I did not have much to get rid of as my barreal bag did not over reach me from large larits. It was here we were go barreal and or over reach me from large larits. It was here we needered out out one from large larits. It inge which we had brought from the Pattes, however I did not there much to get rid of as my barres; bag did not ever reach me from Camp Herritt. It was here we received our gas made dad the line men the Eaglich rifles as we were in support of the Briting as the Allies were empecting as at-tack by the Boths, when they supervise the mater a drive for Galds; Key 19th experimment another Air Reid at mid-night, boys all were out-side thought is it a great thing, and at that time did not know what much really month; ing 20th left reat cam at 1:20 7.4. loaded on Bor card (40 men or 20 horses). Also Hofts we had 35 men in our or, arrive at Luch ea, where we detrained and hiked to a tempory rest camp, slooping in nerly camflaged d tents, had tes and hard-tack at 11:30 F.A.; hat 21st, up at 6:00 All roll packs and and same should on tracks and then start hiking to another willow arriving at Actington at 12:15 F.M. , Reports, Moderniat 0.2. and i were usationed to Commany M, and billetted in pup-tents in the from yend under the treas, had seme-thing to not at 10:20; Boderniat 0.2. and i were usationed to Commany M, and billetted in pup-tents in the from year under the treas, had seme-thing to not at local is one being at 27 Fritiah Monpital mear by go over to see him in the afternoon and have a pleasant dath, firmt Fenna., boy he had seen nines he has been over.; May 23, rain , nothing of intorest play24, Mike with Gold 12 miles, T.M. when the bed on the ground; May25 nothing man aching, seen day; May 26, Man the bed on the ground; May25 nothing man aching, seen day 26, Man with Tajor Holes to Node side on der support with Ool; May 26, Mar 11 f field with Co's. I, and K, back of a file y 28 Mike the reat, boys in the field, slowdy and occit Eng 30, Decoration Eag Aread billets nothing over the course with I and X, has, and end support with Ool; May 28 Millet all day, with the down of A, back of a file of the test billets nothing over the course with I and X, has, and end support with Ool; May 28 Millet all day, with thaj a and Littor grill; June 1 , first mil fro w: Moy31 Drill grounds, First

Throughout his time in Europe, Burke continued to send dispatches to his home newspaper describing his wartime experiences. These dispatches, as well as photographs, letters, and other newspaper clippings regarding the 28th Division's service in France are all pasted into Burke's book, creating a detailed and often first-hand account of what American soldiers were experiencing during the Great War. Following the war, Burke continued to add to the scrapbook, pasting in newspaper clippings related to the financial cost of the war, veteran's benefits, and commemorations.

Edgar Burke was active in the American Legion, serving for a time as a Post Commander. He died in 1961 at the age of 71.