

**Arnold Snair's**

**World War I Diary**

**May 26, 1918 – June 29, 1919**

Found behind picture of Jessie Horning Snair that Arnold Snair carried with him during his service in WW I:

In my heart you are.

First, last, and always.

Sept 11 just before the battle talking to you and how much courage and strength your smiling face gives to me.

Just before the battle of Nov 1 am in my little dugout looking at you. And may I, I pray, have courage for the battle to do my duty and come back to you.



Arnold Snair and Jessie Horning were married June 20, 1920, He was 31, she was 25. This is probably their wedding photo.

Corporal Arnold Snair

Grenola, Kansas, U.S.A.

In Proum (sp?) Germany

A H--- of a Place

A Diary of My Trip Abroad

Left Camp Funston [Kansas] May 26, 1918, Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Arrived at Camp Mills [Mineola, New York] Wed, May 29, 4 p.m.

Crossed Hudson River on the boat Scandania.

June 3

Crossed Hudson on same boat again. Arrived New York.

June 3

Slept on the ship Karmala that night, 320 of we boys in one room.

Left for foreign fields June 4 at 10 a.m. There was 9 boats in the convoy.

Arrived at Liverpool, June 15th. The trip lasted 11 days, 5 1/2 hours. Met the convoy of 9 destroyers June 14 at 10 a.m.

June 15

At daybreak could see the coast of Ireland and Scotland. Stayed all night on the boat.

Left boat June 16. Walked 2 miles to railroad. Then road to Winchester.

Arrived Winchester at 6:30 a.m. Walked two miles to Camp Morn Hill.

June 18

Walked 7 mi, 8 mi. Drilled from 7 until 4

June 20

Went to Winchester. Saw oldest church in England. Built in 1100. Saw the tables (one building 1067) (800 years old, 42 1/2 in diameter) King Arthur played cards upon. At 6 p.m. saw lots of ??? yds and lanes and saw the ship America which was first ship sunk in the war.

Arrived at La Harve, France, June 22, at 9:45 a.m. Arrived at camp at 1 p.m.

Left June 23. 6 p.m.

Went to point 4. Left point 4, 11 p.m. Spent two days, three nights in box cars.

Arrived at St. Blin, 25 of June, then commenced drill period. The church at St Blin in was built in 1477.

Aug 5

Left St Blin, 11 truckloads of men.

Arrived at ?Guad? Aug 6 at 5 a.m., left at 7 a.m.

Aug 7

Arrived in second line trenches at Mt. Joy [Joie].

Aug 14 at 8 p.m. we marched to first line trenches between Toul and Metz.

Aug 18

While on duty in the trenches. At 4:30 a.m. the Boch[e] put over a barrage. It lasted until 6 a.m. It was pretty lively for awhile.

Aug 22

Moved to Marmonville. Went to church Sunday. The church was built in 1200.

Aug 26

The Boch[e] shot down three balloons.

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>

Took rifle practice. I made a score of 50 out of a possible 50. The Boch[e] got another balloon Sept. 5.

Sept 6

Left Marmonville to be in reserve. Slept in the woods in dugouts three nights. Went back to Marmonville.

Sept 11

Went to front line trench to go over the top. It rained all that day and all that night. We stood in the trenches from 8 p.m. until 5:20 a.m.

Sept 12

Our barrage started at 1 a.m. We went over at 5:20 a.m. The trenches was mud and water about knee deep. We drove about 8 miles that day. It was great. I saw my comrades fall on both sides. **I got hit by a machine gun bullet. Also got knocked down by a shell.** The night of Sept 12th prepared for counterattack. It rained all night on us. We slept out on the ground in the mud and water. Next morning advanced on Zarmney(?). Here we found lots of bread, jam, honey, and beer, and we sure did devour it. We laid back of Zarmney(?) in holes and they shelled us all the time. Later moved over on the Argonne front and took position in front line. It was fierce. They shelled us and gassed us severely. **I got gassed here. Was sick for three days.** Later moved to another wood in support.

Sept. 26 (written side margin)

The Boch[e] put over A.B. [artillery barrage?]

Oct 16

Getting ready for another drive.

Nov 1

Made a 6 mile drive. Slept in woods that night with Huns about 200 yds in front of us.

Nov 2

Started the drive again. We left the field as we went over. That eve at dusk I ran into a Hun face to face.

Took Talley about 9 p.m. Here we rested one day and the 355 jumped us

Nov 4

Left Talley [Taily] to be in reserve east of Beaumont.

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

The Boche put over bombardment

Nov 8

Walked 6 miles back

Nov 9

Moved back to position

Nov 10

Crossed the Meuse River and Canal. Came to the town Meuseon (?) [Mouzay].

Nov 11

11 hour, firing ceased

About 11:30 a.m. we left for Stenoy [Stenay].

Nov 15

Hiked 15 mi with heavy packs

Nov 24

Left Stenoy [Stenay]. Hiked 18 mi to Margny.

Left Nov 25 at 7 a.m.

Hiked to St. Marie. Arrived at 3 p.m.

Nov 26

Hiked to Chantmelle. Got there about 11 a.m.

Nov 30

Left Chantmelle at 7:30 a.m. Arrived Heinch(?) Heinrich at 11:45 p.m.

Left Heinrich(?) Dec 2

and arrived at Museburg(?) 1:30 p.m.

Left Dec 3

Hiked 16 mi. Went through Cretchen. Left Ermstrup at 7:30

Dec 4

Went to Reisdorf, 1 1/2 mi from Germany.

Dec 5

Preparing for big hike in the morning. Did a big hike. Crossed the river at noon at Ertstermach. Spent night at Dstorof.

Dec 7

Another hard hike. Stopped at Seffern.

Dec 8

We are resting for the hike tomorrow.

Dec 9

Left 7 a.m. sharp. Had a long hard hike.

Dsc 10 Rested.

Dec 11

Left at 7:30 a.m. Marched about 4 kilks to Geralstein

Dec 16

Left Geralstein about 7 a.m. Marched about 20 kilos to Olsheim

Dec 21

Left Olsheim at 7:30 a.m. Passed through Prum. Stopped at Meider Prum.

Dec 25

Rec Xmas box

Jan 4, 1919

We stood divisional inspection. Stood and marched 5 hours with packs on our back. It was H---.

Sat 11 Jan 1919

Stood company inspection Sat 11. Am sick today.

Monday, Jan 13

Got ribs broken. Monday letter from home and Jessie.

Wednesday, 15

Letter from home Jessie. Also letters from Claude. Have lain in billets all day nursing sore rib.

Friday, 17, 1919

Went to hospital

Sat, 18, 1919

Mail from home.

Sun 19, 1919

A dreary day for me. Was in town awhile. Saw several boys from co[mpany]. Each day a Red Cross woman visits us gives us candy or cigarettes. They have certainly played a great part in this war. The band is playing now. It sure does sound good.

Returned to co[mpany] Jan 23, 1919.

Jan 30, 1919

Col. Reeves was seen at show with a nurse. (?) L. Fred

Thursday 29, 1919 (Jan)

Took a big hike. Sat / stood inspection.

Feb 4

Went to Cafilence (?) Caplence on a pass. Had a good time. Took trip up the Rhine.

Returned to Prum the 6th.

Moved to Waxwiller the 7th.

Stood inspection.

Feb 15

Killed one deer. My first one. Sunday had a big dinner of deer meat prepared by Dutch woman. It was fine

Moved to Dahlen(?) Dacneu 10th Feb

Left Dacneu on pass March 20

First night stayed in Prum



March 21

Stayed all night Friar. Today passed over some of old battle grounds. They are rebuilding, but still shows evidence of war. Passed through Metz. It is very pretty place.

Now it is 4:25 p.m. of March 22

and waiting in Fouch (?) Foud, France, for engine to pull us on.

Arrived at Aix Les Bains March 23rd at 1:20 p.m.

Spent a very pleasant week. Beautiful scenery. There we stayed at splendid hotel.

Left Aix Les Bains March 30 at 10:15 p.m.

Rode all night. Next morning at Ishertel (?) the Red Cross gave us coffee and food and cigarettes. Left there at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday 2 (April) 1919  
Rode from Prum to Dahlen in trucks.

April 5

Moved from Dahlen to Lunefach.

April 19, 1919

Took culture for diphtheria.

April 12

Was sent to hospital as germ carrier.

April 28

Was sent to Frier to no. 2 evacuation hospital.

May 13, 1919

Ready to go to surgical ward to have tonsils removed. Had tonsils removed and am almost well now.

June 6, 1919

Am leaving Frier, Germany, for St. Augustian (?), France.

Arrived at St. Agnan, France. Monday, June 10 at 8 a.m.

Went through the mi11. Got out at 4 p. m. Now waiting to be assigned.

June 11, 1919

Assigned to Co[mpany] 6412

Left St. Aignan, France to port of embarkation. St. Magaire (?) Mayaire.  
10 p.m. Just got ordered to go aboard June 18

June 17, 1917

Arrived at port 8:30 p.m. Marched to dock. Loaded on the W. S.  
Minnesotan at 11 p.m. at dock no 3.

Left June 19, 1919

Is now 3 p.m. One day almost gone.

Arrived in Boston for 11:05 attack (?) June 29, 1919. Got off ship one hour  
later. Was met by Boston welcome committee. They showered our ship  
with candy, gum, doughnuts, and cigarettes. Later was given buns and  
coffee by R. C. The Jewish welfare board gave us handkerchiefs. The DJ  
candy (?) the pressed different Boston papers (Maybe -The press from  
different Boston papers.)

June 29

Arrived at Camp Devons 4:45 p.m. Went through the delousing at 5:00  
p.m. Was sent though mill June 29.

Was discharged July 1, 1919. Started home July 1 at 8:50 p.m. from  
Wichita.

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Found in back pages

A Soldier's Prayer

Our Father who art in Washington

Honored be thy name. Give us this day our long delayed pay And forgive  
us our AWOL As we forgive the bugler and mess sgt. And all who wear  
bars. Lead us not into the army of occupation But deliver us from all the  
ACG (ACL) For thine is the army the QM, the MP And the field clerks

Ah-Men

**Arnold Snair**  
**Company H, 353<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 89<sup>th</sup> Division, American Expeditionary Forces**  
**Arnold's serial number 2187410**

June 5, 1917 – Filled out his draft Registration Card  
January 23, 1918 – Notice of Classification. Classified 1A  
April 26, 1918 – Inducted into the Army at Howard, Kansas  
May 26, 1918 – Left Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas for France via train  
June 4, 1918 - Sailed on the ship *Karmala* for France  
June 15, 1918 – Arrived at Liverpool, England  
June 22, 1918 – Arrived at Le Havre, France  
September 12 – 16, 1918: Battle of St. Mihiel. Arnold was struck by a bullet, and knocked down by the concussion from a shell. Also, he was gassed, and was sick for 3 days  
November 1 – 11, 1918: The Meuse-Argonne Offensive (See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meuse-Argonne\\_Offensive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meuse-Argonne_Offensive))  
November 22, 1918 - Accepted rank of Corporal  
November 11, 1918 - Germany surrendered  
January 13, 1919 – broke ribs. Went to the hospital  
January 23, 1919 – Returned to duty  
February 9, 1919 - Postcard from Arnold to his father, from Maxieler (?), Germany  
February 4 – 6, 1919. Leave Pass. Stationed: Niederprum, Germany took a trip up the Rhien  
April 12, 1919 – Sick in Hospital  
April 19, 1919 - Was quarantined  
May 13, 1919 – had tonsils removed  
June 6, 1919 – Left Hospital  
June 19, 1919 – Left France  
June 28, 1919 – The Treaty of Versailles  
June 29, 1919 – Arrived in Boston  
July 1, 1919 - Discharged from Camp Devens, Massachusetts  
Discharged with the rank of Corporal.