

SHELL-SHOCKED AND GASSED

This is how he said it happened a long time ago when he was in the Army in France. It was in the Argonne Forest. One night they had to march from one town to the other with the company, the 115th Field Artillery, 30th Division. He did not like to march. He did not like any part of the Army.

They were tramping along thinking about home. It was real dark--not a light. They were afraid the Germans would see them. All of a sudden they heard Army planes overhead. The ground was bright as day. You could pick up a pin. The Germans were bombing the road so the Officers in charge of the men yelled, "Dug-outs." All of the men were supposed to run and hide. Well, all did but your Granddad. He said he was too scared--that his feet were glued to the ground. His hair stood up on his head.

The next morning when he came to he was lying in a wagon filled with straw and sick. He was shell-shocked and gassed and took the flu.

They stayed overseas eighteen months. Uncle Charlie was in his outfit. They caught a boat for home. It took eighteen days to make the trip back. The war was over. After the war ended they went to some part of Germany--said it was beautiful country. The road was lined with silver maple trees.

He was still a Private when he came back. The Government only sent me \$30.00 a month while he was in the Army. I saved every check until he came back. That was our first bank account. His father gave him some money, also his mother. Each one said not to tell the other. He also got his mustering pay. We thought we were rich.

He was at home at last and we were together again. He went back to work for his Father. The whole eighteen months he was gone, I did not get a letter from him. I wrote him one each week and after he got home, I received a pile of letters. All had been censored and scratched out. He told things that he should not have about the location of the towns, etc. That is why they were held up.

Coming back from France on the boat, they had a boxing match. Your Granddad was not doing so good, so all of a sudden, he looked and acted like he saw something out in the ocean, so his partner turned his head to see what was wrong. When he did, your Granddad took a punch and knocked him out and that was the end of the fight.