



Laigne, Fance
[ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE]
Feb. 19, [191]9

Dear Folks:

Got back here to the outfit last night. After I left Verdun I went to Liffre and visited four days with the French people there that we used to stay with. They are certainly very nice people, especially the Madame who was just like a mother to all of us that stayed there. From Liffre, I went to Chaumont with the intentions of visiting John Barnes and John Lanty who were attending a musicians school there. I arrived there Monday noon and they had Left Sunday night to come back

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 102298

Date: February 19, 1919

Description: William Cobb writes home about his brother's death, Laigne, Fance, 1919

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While at the school, I met two fellows from the 61st Inf. that gave me all the details that about Herbert's death. Just before the regiment went into the lines Herbert was transferred to Hdq. Co. and was put in charge of the Signal Platoon. On the night of Oct 14 they moved into Brioules-sur-Meuse. Herbert was with the Regimental Hdq. which established a P.C. in the town. After they got established it was time to "turn in" so everyone started to look for a place to sleep. Herbert set up

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his cot and went to sleep in an
~~old~~ shack right near the
place where the Colonel was
sleeping. Early the next morning
the Colonel called for Herbert but
got no answer. So he sent out
an orderly to find him. He
found that a shell had made
a direct hit upon the shack
in which ^{Herbert} had gone to sleep. He was
dead when ^{the orderly} found him and
undoubtedly he was instantly killed.
Both of these men that I met say
that they know he was given
a good burial but they did not
know whether he was buried at
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men was Band leader of the 61st
Band and said that Herbert
was liked very much by all
the men that knew ^{him}. He used
to play cornet with the Band
quite often and also helped the
the Band leader at different times
in conducting the Band.

These two men were with the 61st
at all times up in the lines ~~and~~,
so the information they gave me
is probably as correct as we shall
ever hear. I may be able to give
you a clearer version of it when
I get home but this is the best
I can do in a letter.

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I have received your letter of
Jan 21st and was glad to hear
that you people are all feeling
fine. I am also feeling alright.
Quite a few of the Band are on
furloughs now to different places.
Sixteen of the Band are away for
the day to play in a divisional
band of about 200 pieces. The
division passes in review before
General Pershing.
Must close now and go to supper.
Lots of love to you all.
Your loving Son,
Bill.

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