



Laigne, France  
[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, France, 1919

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191

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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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~~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 <sup>Herbert</sup> had gone to sleep. He was  
dead when ~~they~~ <sup>the orderly</sup> 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  
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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 <sup>him</sup>. 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  
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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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