

SOUTHAMPTON
HISTORY OF WORLD'S WAR WORK
NEW YORK STATE HISTORY

Name in full and rank ... *Private Arthur Gilbert Howell*
Organizations ... *First Army Ordnance Dept. Ship "Amerika"*
Place and date of enlistment ... *Camp Upton May 24 1918*
Place and date of discharge ... *Camp Upton May 3 1919*
Military camps with dates ... *Camp Upton May 29/18 to July 1/18 Camp Hancock July 1/18 to July 24/18*
Date of trip overseas and return ... *July 31/18 Return April 16/19 [Camp Stewart July 24/18 July 29/18]*

Describe below service as you saw it, battles and engagements, etc., also interesting items of historic value. Give account of all medals, citations and certificates of merit awarded you. Your photograph is especially requested. Are you a member of the Malcolm White Post, No. 433, American Legion? If so note it below.

We sailed out of Newport News VA on the Italian Ship "Amerika" in company with three other transports and were met off Sandy Hook by six more ships from Hoboken, the day before we landed at Brest we were attacked by German subs but no damage was done as the torpedo destroyers sank two subs and drove the rest away. We stayed at Brest about a week and then got orders to move to Neuch, this is the large Ordnance Repair Shop where all the Big Guns are overhauled, after leaving here I went to Givres the largest Camp in France, we soon got word to leave and landed up in the Foul sector at Domzomain, the Boche were busy every night bombing this place and blowing up our Ammunition, I stayed here about a week and was transferred then up to the Verdun sector, my work was building telephone lines around the Ammunition Dumps and repairing the breaks in the line of communication.

Letter written by Arthur G. Howell to his parents dated Nov. 20th
1918

We sailed from Newport News on July 31, and landed in Brest, France on Aug. 12th. We came over on the Italian ship "Amerika", a large steamer and on a convoy of 6 troopships. When we were 8 days out we had a big storm and all were seasick. On the 11th day we were attacked by 5 or 6 "subs", who fired torpedoes at us but did not hit any of the ships.

The torpedo boats then got busy and sunk 2 of the Subs, and the rest escaped. After landing at Brest we were marched 2 miles and "camped" for 12 days sleeping in "straw" tents and sleeping on the ground. I then met Henry Walker. Our next stop was at Mehan, where Joan of Arc was born. I worked there a week on high tenting work. We then went to Grevres, near Tours. I had charge of a construction gang building a line for an electric light circuit. Was exposed to shell fire when in France, but though we were close to the line we were fortunate in not having big shells or aeroplanes drop bombs on our plant, though some of the boys at the Ammunition dumps had narrow escapes. Saw and heard hundreds of German prisoners--they were mostly young boys and seemed glad to be captured.

S. S. Coumes Le grande