



## History of E Company, 37th U.S. Engineers

Herbert C. Brown

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1919 edition. Excerpt: ... chapter ii The Mauretania, which before the war was one of the most luxuriously appointed of the ocean liners, had been converted for transport use, and every available inch of space was utilized for carrying troops. Bunks had been built three tiers high in the great dining and lounging rooms, and the men were packed in like sardines in a box. The precautions necessary on account of submarine attack were many. Port-holes were painted over, and closed after dark, as were the skylights and other openings through which any light might show. As a result there was but little ventilation. Conditions were especially bad deep in the ship. Company E was fortunate in having quarters on the upper deck. Approximately 7,800 troops were aboard. With mingled feelings of gladness and sadness the men lined the decks of the great leviathan as she moved slowly out into the North River at 10.35 A.m., June 30, turned with the assistance of a number of tugs, and steamed down the bay. The salute at the Statue of Liberty was particularly impressive and had special significance for all. Few of the men had any idea of the seriousness or the horrors of war and at this stage felt more as if they were beginning a great adventiire. The future had much of suffering and death in store for many on board. Commander Johnson and Captain Rostrom were the principal ship officers, and Colonel Dillon the commanding officer of the troops. The guard duty aboard ship was assigned to the different companies of the Second Battalion of the 37th, and the strictest precaution was observed to have the established rules of passage enforced. Immediately upon leaving port, life-preservers were issued with instructions that they be worn at all times, and the seriousness of showing lights of...

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