

## Christmas Day in France, 1918

Excerpt of letter from Private Pond to his parents,  
Christmas Day in France. 1918

"It is trying to be a white Christmas. -- this is the first snow we have had. Had finished our Christmas dinner. We had had pork chops, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, doughnuts, coffee, nuts, a tangerine, a box of cigarettes, a cigar, and two bars of French chocolate. It was a much better dinner than the one Thanksgiving. But we had beans for dinner, and beans for supper. -- -- --

We have been busy lately picking up tin cans, rags, bottles and other refuse. The Germans left this down my dirt. We have to clean it up. These German soldiers eat you feed bully beef and jam and tomato cans. The French stinking cans, and the German bottles. Big quart wine bottles in every corner. It is not a very pleasant job but it is much better than digging shells and sleeping in holes in the ground.

Now the next section have an entire house to ourselves. Five in a room, electric lights. You have to buy or steal globes though. I am in the kitchen and have the first good bunk to sleep in since I left the states. We have a stove, three chairs, a bench, and two small tables. It makes a pretty decent place now that we have got it fixed up. There was no door. I found one and nailed the hinges onto the casing. It was not wide enough. A board cut off with a axe foot cross cut saw fixed that. The door was out of one of the French windows. The papers fixed that. The stove was no good. We found a better one. When we need anything we look for it and beg it back. -- -- --

They charge an awful price for things in the stores here. Four and a half francs, nearly 100 for a pea bowl that can be bought in the states for a quarter, or less. Everything else the same."

Yours, Douglas.

A letter written on Christmas Day and sent from Private Douglas Pond, an American soldier stationed in France, to his parents back home in the United States.

### Identifier

NYSA\_A0412-78\_B13\_F32\_Pond\_letter

### Alternate Identifier

DMS ID Number: 177648

### Date

December 25 1918

### Repository

New York State Archives

### Source

New York State Archives. New York (State). Education Dept. Division of Archives and History. World War I veterans' service data and photographs, 1917-1938. Series A0412-78, Box 13, Folder 32.

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