Donald Appletrad's World War II photographs and diary

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

These are two World War II photograph albums and a diary which belonged to Donald Appletrad. During World War II, he served in the Office of Strategic Services Headquarters Company 2677 Regiment, United States Army. Donald Appletrad was born October 11, 1909 in Leonardville, Kansas, the son of Olaf and Lydia Appletrad.

Creator: Appletrad, Donald

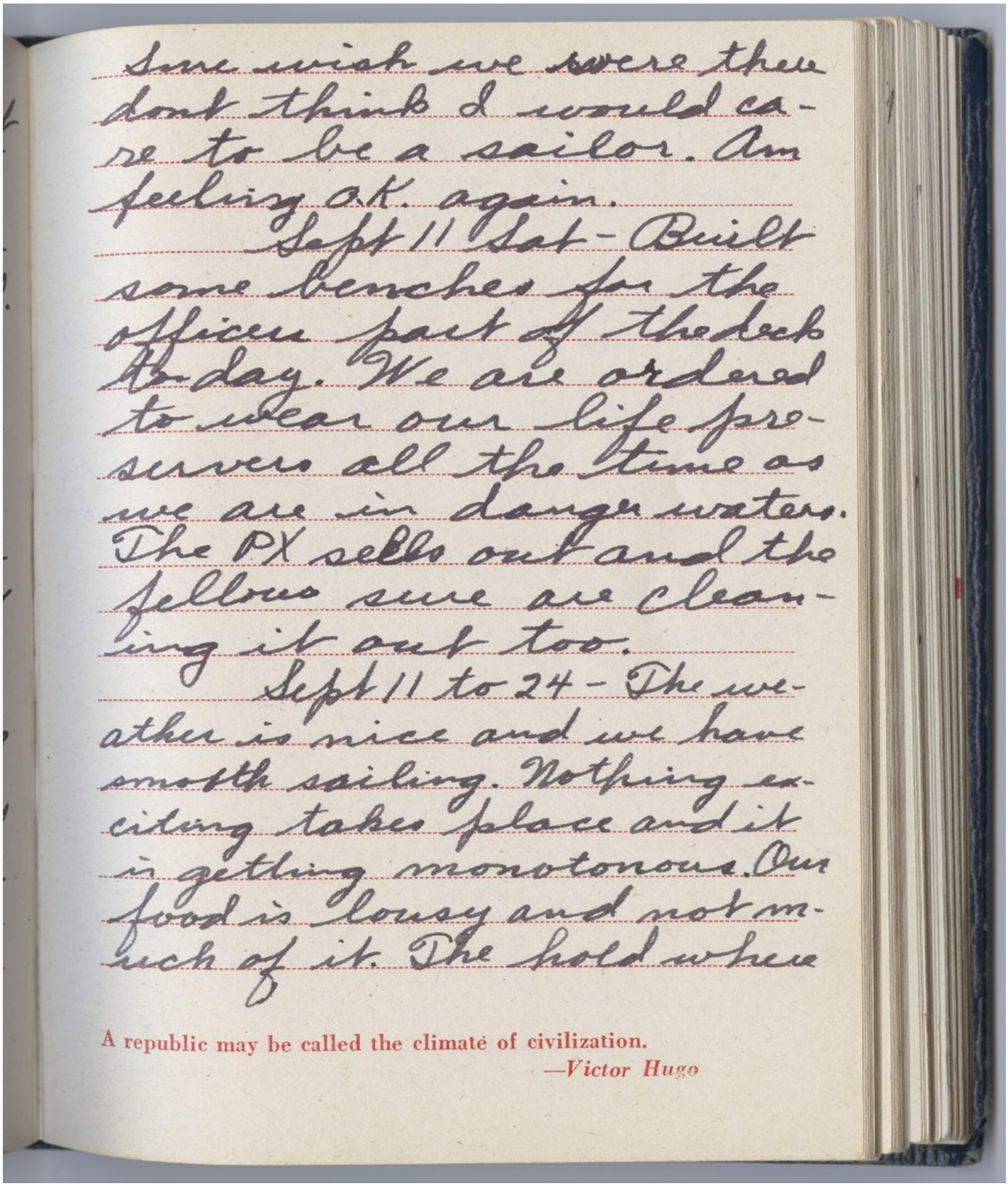
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Sure wish we were there dont think I would care to be a sailor. Am feeling ok. again.

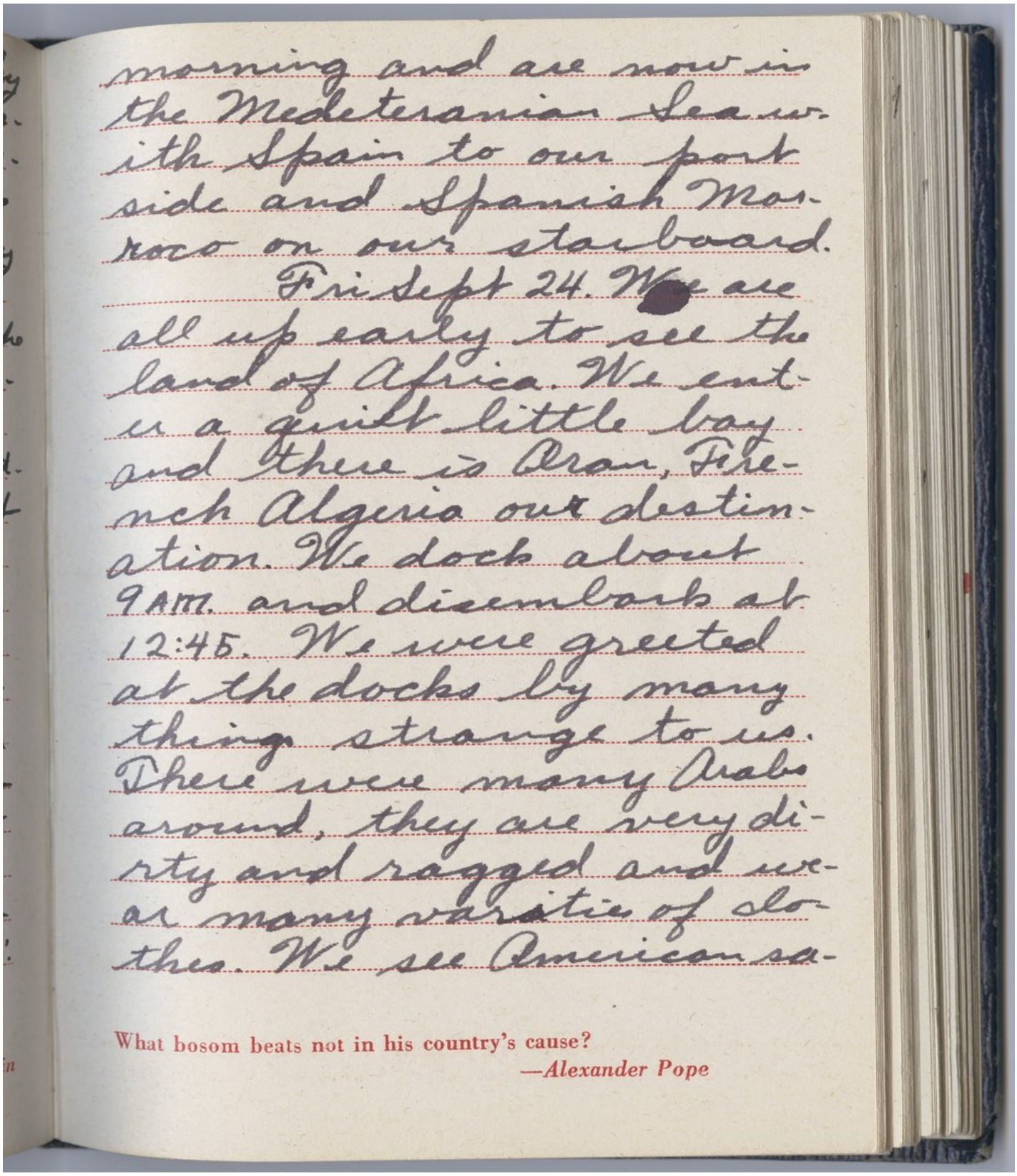
Sept 11 Sat - Built some benches for the officers part of the deck today. We are ordered to wear our life preservers all the time as we are in danger waters. The PX sells out and the fellows sure are cleaning it out too.

Sept 11 to 24 - The weather is nice and we have smoth sailing. Nothing exciting takes place and it is getting monotonous. Our food is lousy and not much of it. The hold where

A republic may be called the climate of civilization.
—*Victor Hugo*

we sleep + eat is a filthy place not fit for humans. Prisoners will be brought back to the States on this boat I feel sorry for them. Everybody is getting anxious to see the sight of land. There are about 507 men aboard besides the officers, our QM outfit has about 115 the rest are Infantry + Paratroops. Quite a few C rations are stolen and a lot of the fellows had their equipment taken. About noon on Thurs. 23 land is sighted and everyone is at the rail watching. We pass the Rock of Gibraltar sometime early Fri.

Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labor wears.
—*Benjamin Franklin*



morning and are now in the Mediteranian Sea with Spain to our port side and Spanish Morroco on our starboard.

Fri Sept 24. We are all up early to see the land of Africa. We enter a quiet little bay and there is Oran, French Algeria our destination. We dock about 9 A.M. and disembark at 12:45. We were greeted at the docks by many thing strange to us. There were many Arabs around, they are very dirty and ragged and wear many varities of clothes. We see American sa-

What bosom beats not in his country's cause?
—*Alexander Pope*

ilars, French sailors and American stevadoors working at the docks. Oran is rather a nice looking city, many nice buildings. The French are the predominating white race here about 25% of the pop. The remainder of the city is Arabs and a few other nationalities. The poor sections are dirty and very primative. We load on trucks and are transported to our camps about 10 m from Oran. Here we have tents for homes, our mess hall is outside in a grove of what appears to be evergreens. There are

The sound body is a product of the sound mind.
—*G. B. Shaw*

candles for light and our beds are single cots or double deckers made of rope + 2x4s. Our first meal consisted of K rations as we were not expected until the 25th. but boy how good it tasted. We all go to the show, an outdoor affair but has good equipment. Sight out at about 10 and so to sleep.

Sat. 25. - Up at 5.45 for Revellie, chow at 7 consisting of bacon, mush + milk bread + jam and coffee and boy did we eat after 21 day on that lousy boat.

We assemble

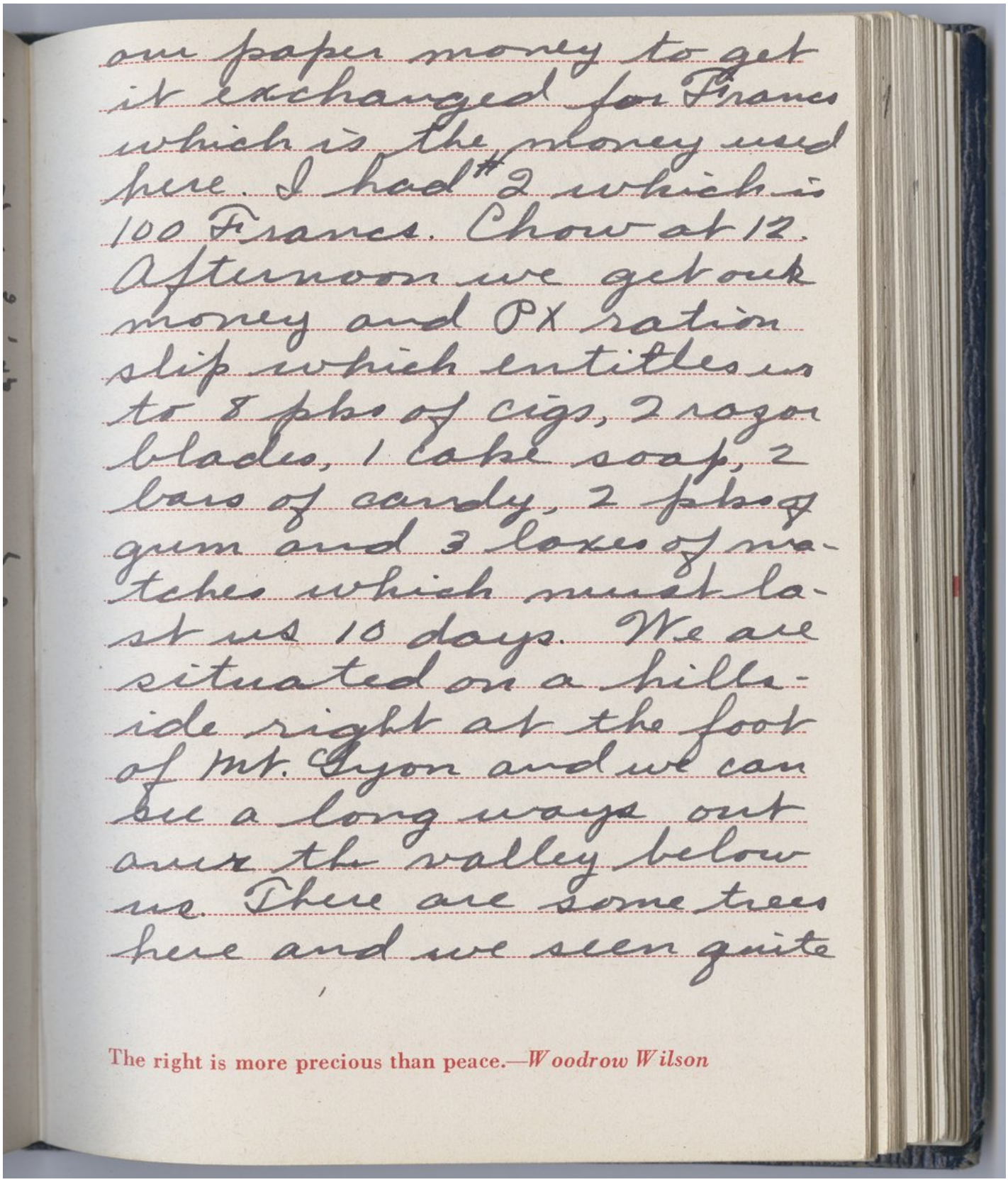
Let brotherly love continue.
—*New Testament*



at 8 for Physical inspection. We go to Assignment & classification for a check up. Chow at 11:30 and again we eat. Afternoon we have some time to arrange our things. There are 8 men to a tent. We have 3 co's A.B.C. 21st. Replacement Bn. Our A.P.O. no is 7131. Again we go to the show after supper and home to bed.

Sun. Sept 26. – Up at 6:30. Chow at 7 and we had hot cakes & coffee. At 8 we go for shots and I discover I dont need any. At about 9 we turn in all

To God, thy country, and thy friend be true.
—*Henry Vaughan*



our paper money to get it exchanged for Francs which is the money used here. I had #2 which is 100 Francs. Chow at 12. Afternoon we get our money and PX ration slip which entitles us to 8 pks of cigs, 2 razor blades, 1 cake soap, 2 bars of candy, 2 pks of gum and 3 boxes of matches which must last us 10 days. We are situated on a hillside right at the foot of Mt. Cyon and we can see a long ways out over the valley below us. There are some trees here and we seen quite

The right is more precious than peace.—*Woodrow Wilson*

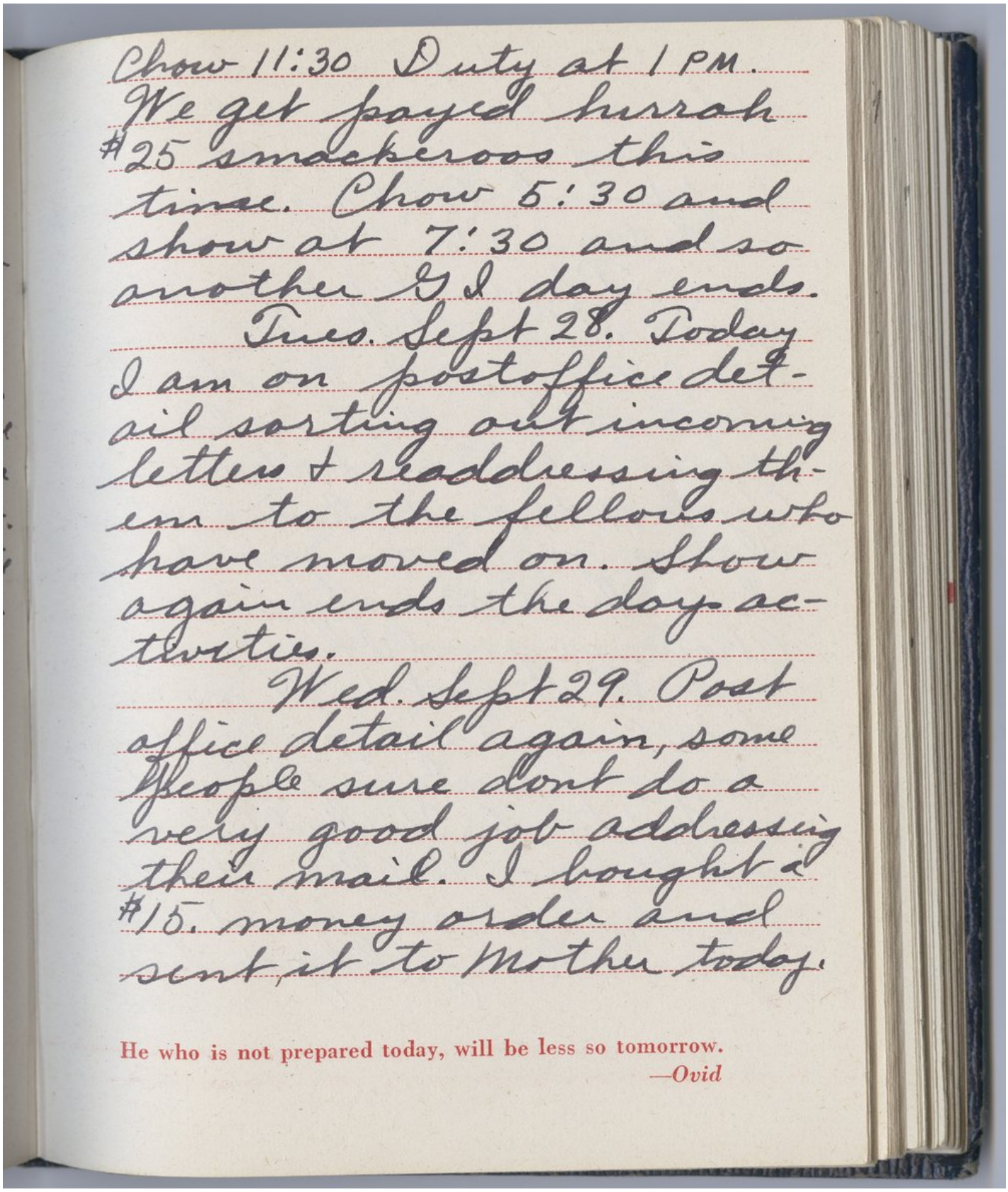
a few vineyards on our
way out to camp. Again
we attend the show the
Babes on Broadway this
time. I hear the Infan-
try boys are alerted and
expect to ship out soon.
We probably wont be here
long either ase we are be-
ing rushed right thro.
ugh our processing. We
turned in some equip.
ment and are to get a
few more items.

Mon Sept 27.

Revellie 7 AM Chow 7:30 AM
Duty 8. We got our gold
seal money and mine
is almost gone
already.



Democracy is better than tyranny.
—*Periander*



Chow 11:30 Duty at 1 PM.
We get payed hurrah
#25 smokeroos this
time. Chow 5:30 and
show at 7:30 and so
another GI day ends.
Tues. Sept 28. Today
I am on postoffice det-
ail sorting out incoming
letters + readdressing th-
em to the fellows who
have moved on. Show
again ends the days ac-
tivities.
Wed. Sept 29. Post
office detail again, some
people sure dont do a
very good job addressing
their mail. I bought a
#15. money order and
sent it to Mother today.

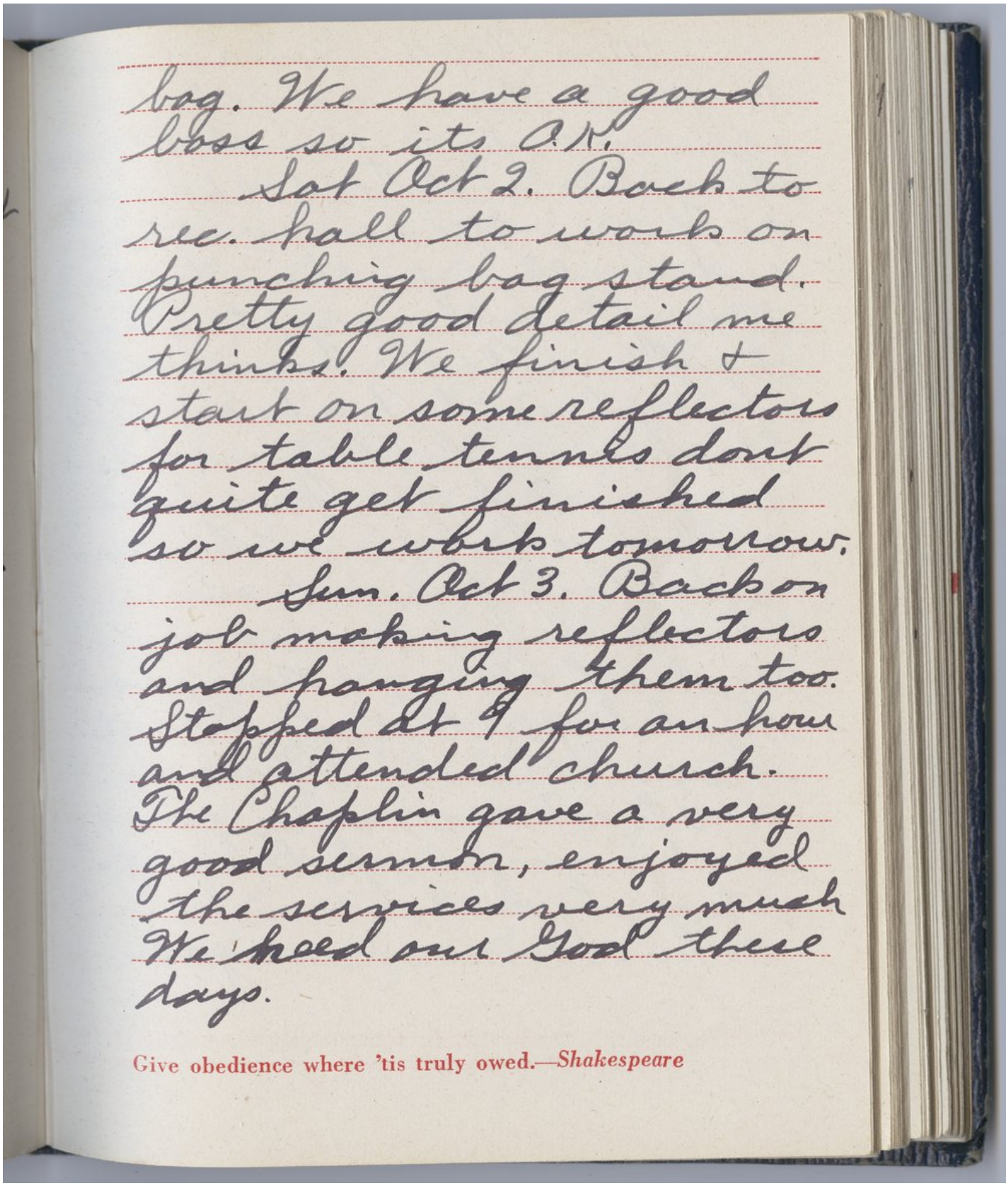
He who is not prepared today, will be less so tomorrow.
—*Ovid*

Wed Sept 29. Same old routine as yesterday nothing of importance happened to day so won't waste ink.

Thurs. Sept 30. No postoffice detail today so we'll go out to drill close order and calasenthics then a hike up Lyon Mt. and believe me I was glad to get back. Sure had an appetite. Chow is good here.

Fri Oct 1. A new detail to day carpentering, fixing up our Co. supply tent. Called off it to go to Rec. hall to build scaffold for punching bag & body

Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God.
—*Thomas Jefferson*



bag. We have a good boss so its O.K.

Sat Oct 2. Back to rec. hall to work on punching bag stand. Pretty good detail me thinks! We finish & start on some reflectors for table tennis dont quite get finished so we work tomorrow.

Sun. Oct 3. Back on job making reflectors and hanging them too. Stopped at 9 for an hour and attended church. The Chaplin gave a very good sermon, enjoyed the services very much We need our God these days.

Give obedience where 'tis truly owed.—*Shakespeare*

Mon. Oct 4. Got a pass to go to town so get dressed in a hurry and start out, get a ride all the way to town. We arrive there and walk up the street taking in the sights. The people in Oran are mostly French and Arabian. The Arabs are filthy and dress in rags, go barefoot and live in the most unsanitary conditions. There are few autos outside of Army & Navy vehicles quite a few carts horse drawn. There is a street car, very slow and a couple of dilapitated busses one is a coke burner & one gas.

Democracy's ceremonial, its feast, its great function, is the election.—*H. G. Wells*

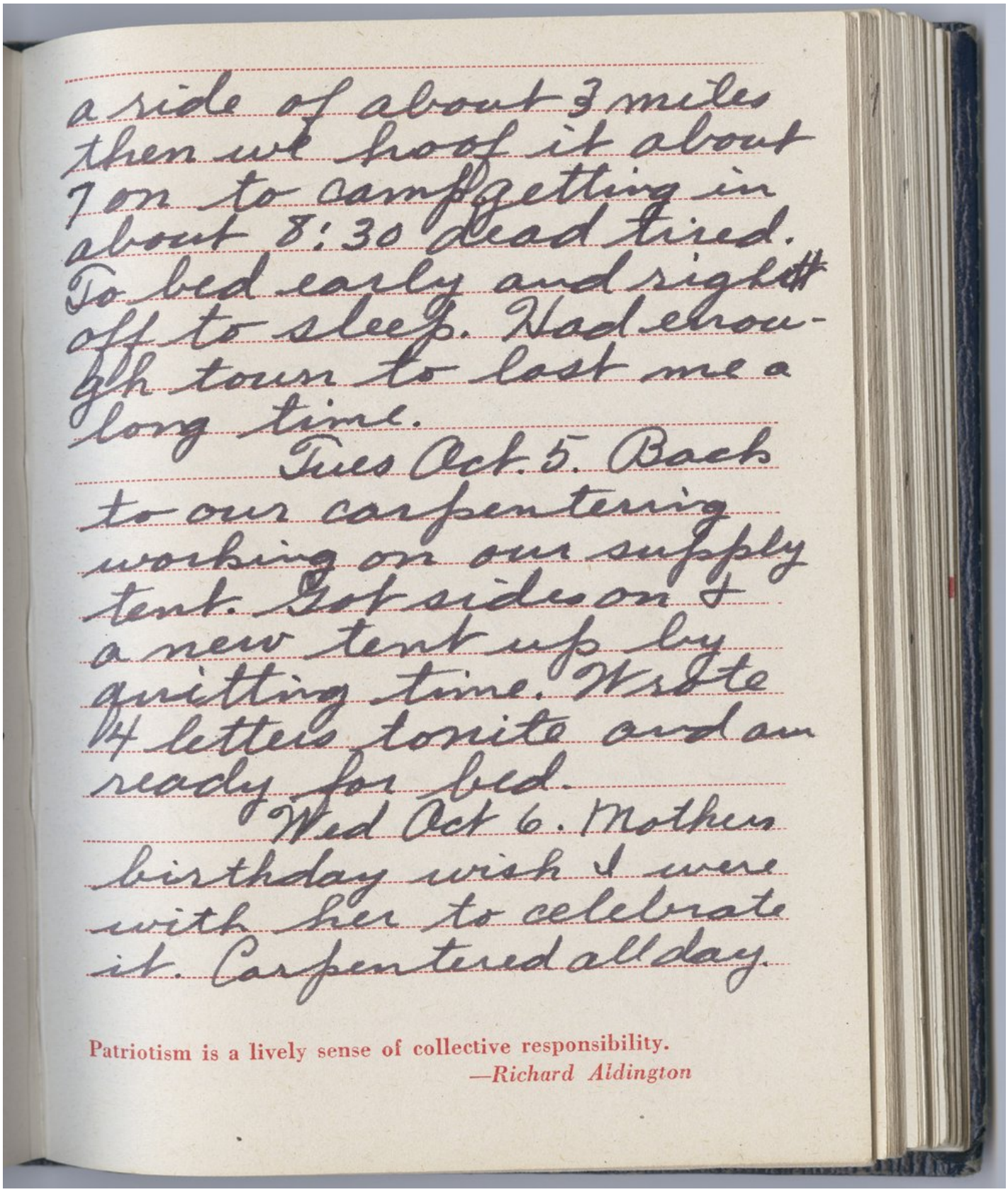
We go to the Allied club about 10:30 for a bite to eat we get 5 ticket for 10 francs or 20.¢ and each ticket is good for a sandwich, roll or bread + jam all G.I. Not a very appetizing place to eat. After eating we strolled about sightseeing, going into stores, sampling wine etc until about 3 we go to Red Cross & get some Ice cream + bread. At the Red Cross they have cots, games showers, writing room picture show and a regest-

I have not yet begun to fight.
—*John Paul Jones*



eration place where each state has a book with its native son's names & addresses we sign our state book. I purchased a cigaret case & mirror cost me 75 francs, too high. After eating again we stroll some more, we see a parade of WAC 2nd Lts & band. In Oran you see American, British, French ~~and~~ soldiers & sailors in all sorts of uniforms officers and enlisted men by the hundreds. About 7 we start home walk out to the edge of town where we get

Heroism feels and never reasons and therefore is always right.—*Emerson*



a ride of about 3 miles then we hoof it about 7 on to camp getting in about 8:30 dead tired. To bed early and right off to sleep. Had enough tour to last me a long time.

Tues Oct 5. Back to our carpentering working on our supply tent. Got sides on & a new tent up by quitting time. Write 4 letters tonite and am ready for bed.

Wed Oct 6. Mothers birthday wish I were with her to celebrate it. Carpentered all day.

Patriotism is a lively sense of collective responsibility.
—*Richard Aldington*

Thurs Oct 7. - Same old routine. Building crates now to ship cots.

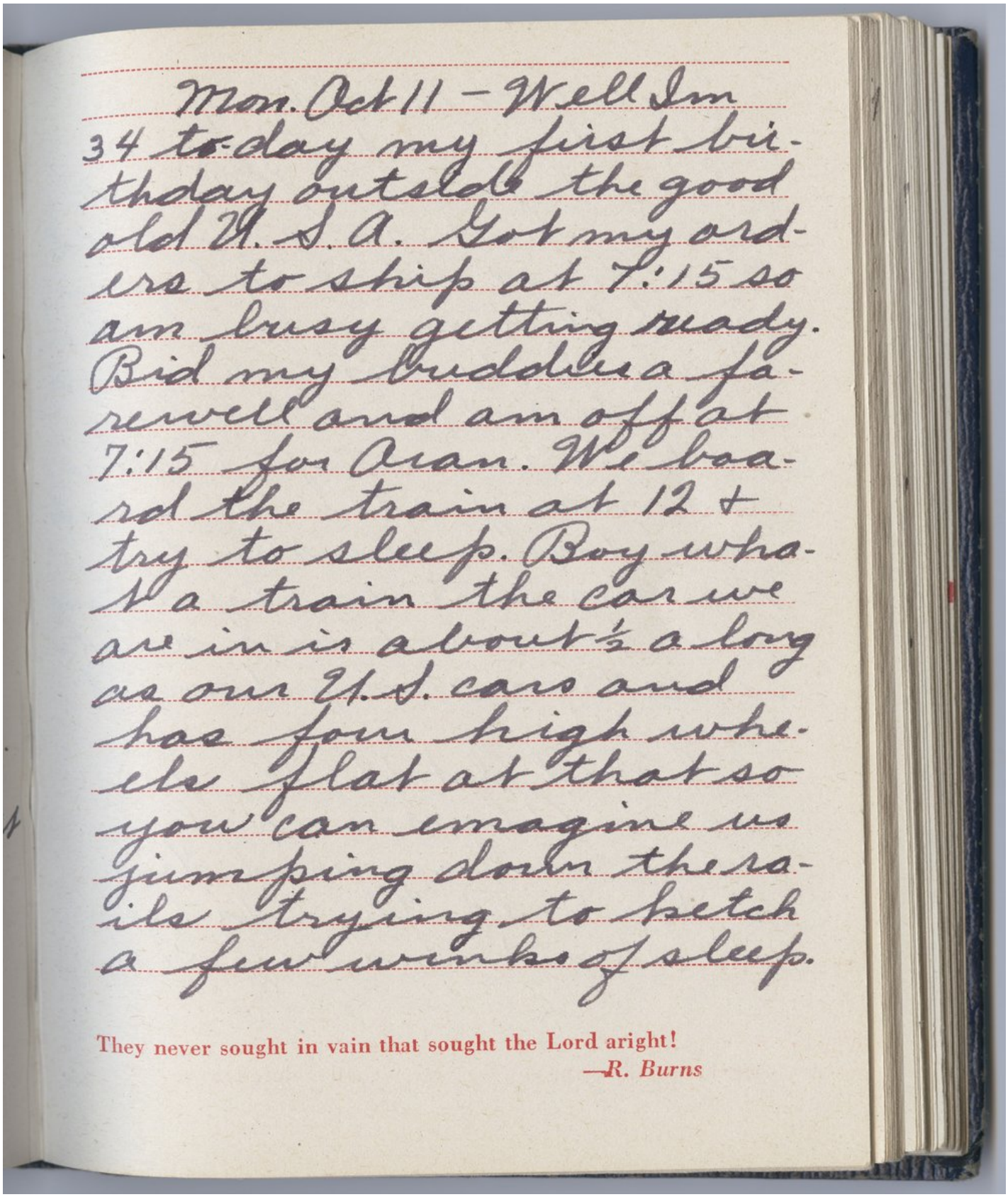
Fri Oct 8. - About the same as yesterday nothing worth writing.

Sat Oct. 9 - Work as usual. Got a good pocket knife and got our ration slips for P.X. A rainy nite so to bed early.

Sun. Oct 10. - Up at 6 for physical inspection. I am alerted have to remain in co. area. More rain. Did a bit of washing. am all ready to go.



Americanism consists in utterly believing in the principles of America.
—*Woodrow Wilson*



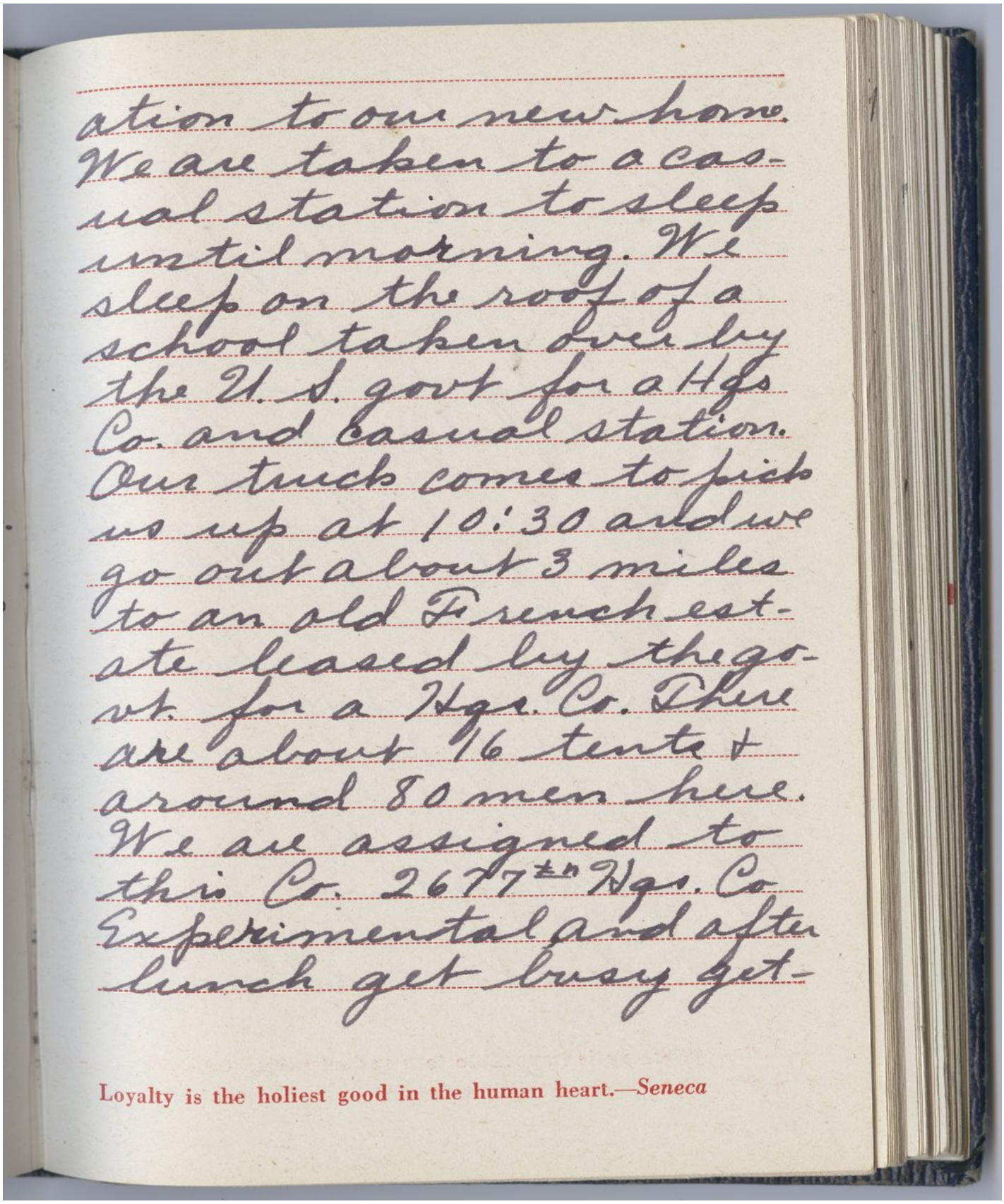
Mon. Oct 11 – Well Im 34 to-day my first birthday outside the good old U. S. A. Got my orders to ship at 7:15 so am busy getting ready. Bid my buddies a farewell and am off at 7:15 for Oran. We board the train at 12 + try to sleep. Boy what a train the car we are in is about ½ as long as our U. S. cars and has four high wheels flat at that so you can imagine us jumping down the rails trying to fetch a few winks of sleep.

They never sought in vain that sought the Lord aright!
—*R. Burns*

Tues. Oct 12 - We get up at about 7 for a breakfast of "C" rations, not so good cold. We pass through some small towns and the Arab kids come from every directions to beg when we stop. There are many strange sights along the route. We turn in early as we are to reach our destination around midnight.

Wed. Oct. 13 - We arrive in Algeres early in the morning and disembark at the station to await transport.

Thy honor, thy name and thy praises shall endure forever.—*Virgil*



ation to our new home.
We are taken to a casual station to sleep until morning. We sleep on the roof of a school taken over by the U. S. govt for a Hqs Co. and casual station. Our truck comes to pick us up at 10:30 and we go out about 3 miles to an old French estate leased by the govt. for a Hqs. Co. There are about 16 tents & around 80 men here. We are assigned to this Co. 2677th Hqs. Co. Experimental and after lunch get busy get-

Loyalty is the holiest good in the human heart.—*Seneca*

ting our bunks ready for nite. The camp is situated on a hill & has a wonderful view. The scenery here is pretty pine trees and other vegitation make it a lovely spot. The chow here is good and it looks like a good set up. We hit the hay early as we are tired from our ride.

Thurs Oct 14 - We arise at 6:30 for reveille, calasthentics and drill from 6:45 to 7:15. Chow at 7:30. From 7:30 to 8:20 we clean up our tent, make up

Nothing is impossible to a valiant heart.
—*Motto of Henry IV*

our bed + get ready for inspection. At 8:45 we fall out for work assignment for the day and go to work at 8:60. We knock off at 11:30 have chow at 12 m + back to work at 1 PM. Work is over at 5:45 + chow at 6. We are on our own until 11 PM bed check. I am assigned to carpenter work + have a good man to work for. This appears to be O.K.

Fri. Oct-15- Up + out at 6:30 ready to go. Sure like the chow here, have Spanish cooks

Ideals are the world's masters.
—*J. G. Holland*



and they know how too. Oh boy ice-cream the first Good cream since landing in N.A.

Sat. Oct. 16 - We are getting accustomed to our new routine and like it O.K. We get a bottle of beer for chow at noon. Our carpenter shop is a busy place. French lessons are started for anyone who wants to attend. Sounds like greek to me.

Sun. Oct 17 - No reveille today so we sleep until 7:30. We work until noon and take the rest of the day off to do some

With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.—*Abraham Lincoln*

odd jobs for ourselves

Mon Oct 18 - Beginning a new week with the usual routine. I still dont know what this outfit does but I think it is something sort of secret so am not going to get nosy. We see a lot of officers & civilians coming & going all the time. The men here are from all branches of the service.

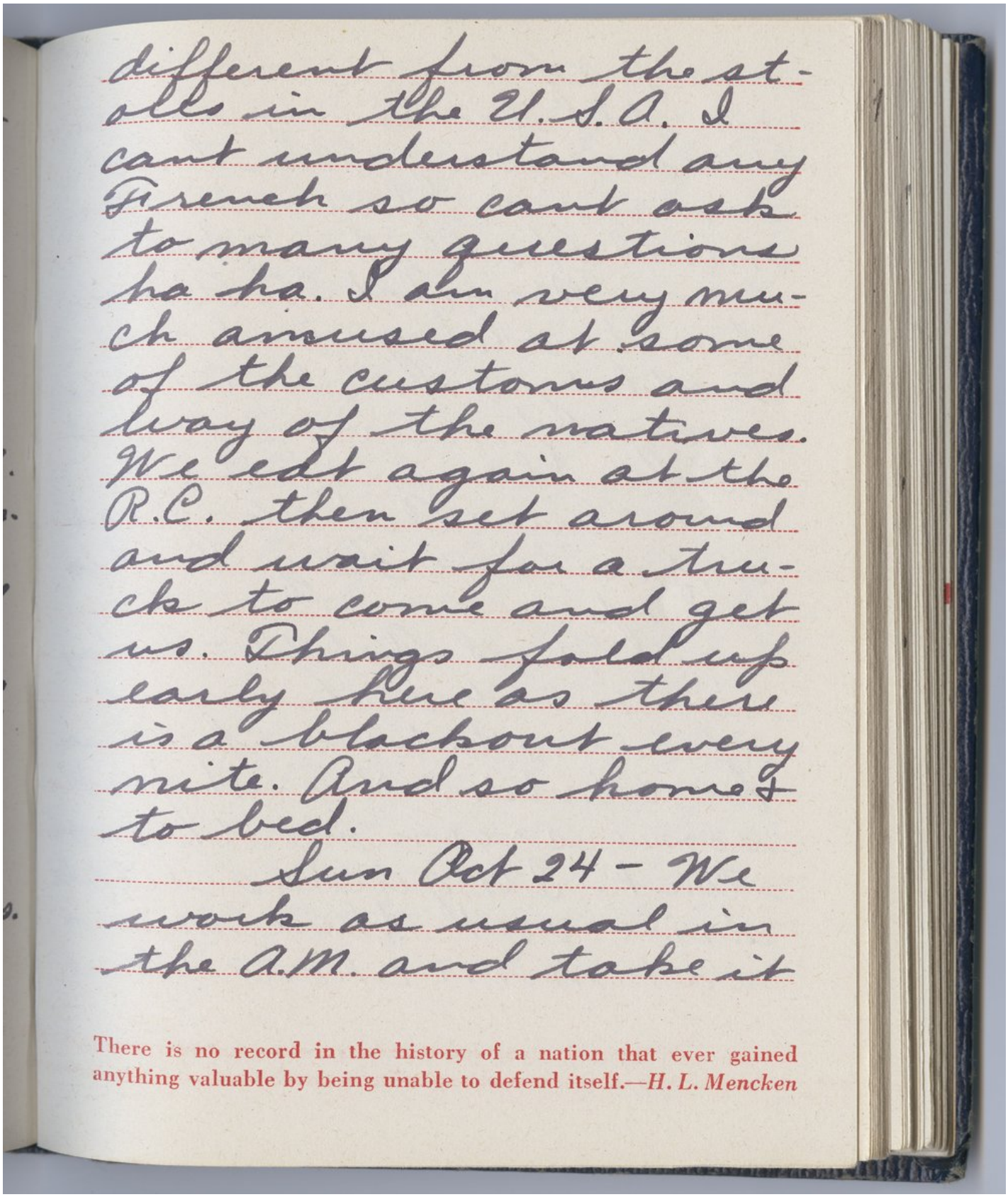
Tues Oct 19 to Sat. Oct. 20 just the usual routine days nothing much to report.

Obedience alone gives the right to command.—*Emerson*

Sat. Oct 23 – To day I got a pass and went to Algers got my watch fixed cost me a 60f. About all you see here is men in uniform officers & inlisted men from many nations Chiefly British & French. The English wear knee length trousers which looks kind of chilly to me. We went to the Red Cross servicemans club and had ice cream & cake then loafed about browsing among the French shops. They sure are



Presence of mind and courage in distress,
Are more than armies to procure success.
—*Dryden*



different from the stalls in the U.S.A. I cant understand any French so cant ask to many questions ha ha. I am very much amused at some of the customs and way of the natives. We eat again at the R.C. then set around and wait for a truck to come and get us. Things fold up early here as there is a blackout every nite. And so home & to bed.

Sun Oct 24 - We work as usual in the A.M. and take it

There is no record in the history of a nation that ever gained anything valuable by being unable to defend itself.—*H. L. Mencken*

easy after dinner or
in the evening as the
Texans say. We had
a movie here in our
mess hall tonite.

Mon Oct 25. Back
to the old grind and
nothing much in the
way of news so will
close this for today.

Tues Oct 26 - Just
a routine day in the
shop.

Wed Oct 27. - Today
we went out to one
of our stations known
as station X and put
some screen on the cook-
tent. Its quite a little
drive out there so we
eat noon chow there

We have room in this country for but one flag, the Stars and Stripes.—*Theodore Roosevelt*

had ice cream plenty of it. Station X is situated on a hillside gradually sloping down to the shores of the Medeteranian & has a nice view. Most of the men there are of Italian descent.

Thurs. Oct 28 -
Back to Station X to finish our job. Got in early, about 5 P.M.

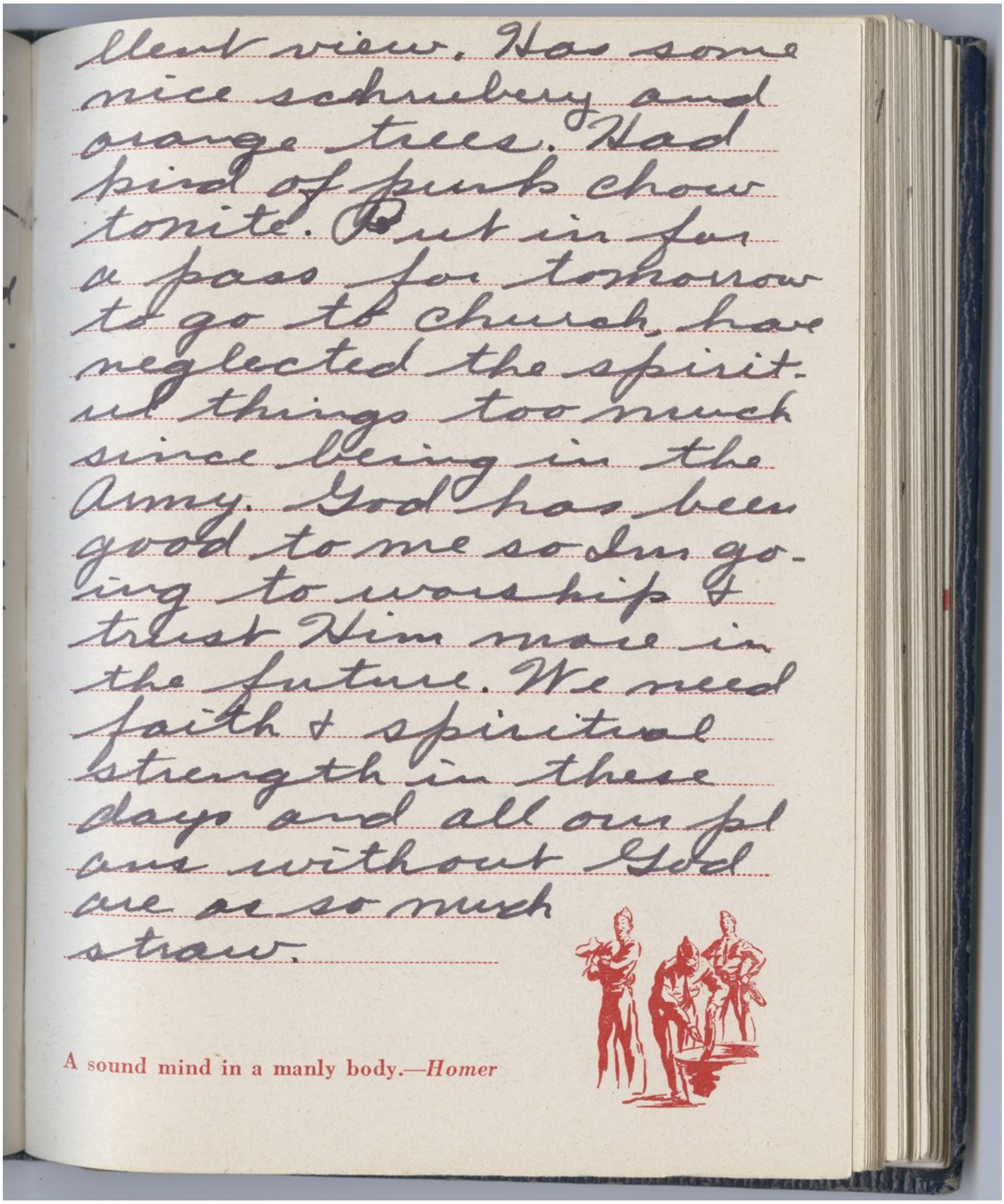
Fri. Oct 29. -
Today we went out to Station C quite a jaunt from here. C is a small station has only about 30 or so men and is right

The cement of this Union is the heart blood of every American.—*Thomas Jefferson*

on the shore of the Medeteranian. We made some screen doors & screened one window had noon & evening chow there. Had a good chance to see some irr. igated farms along the way.

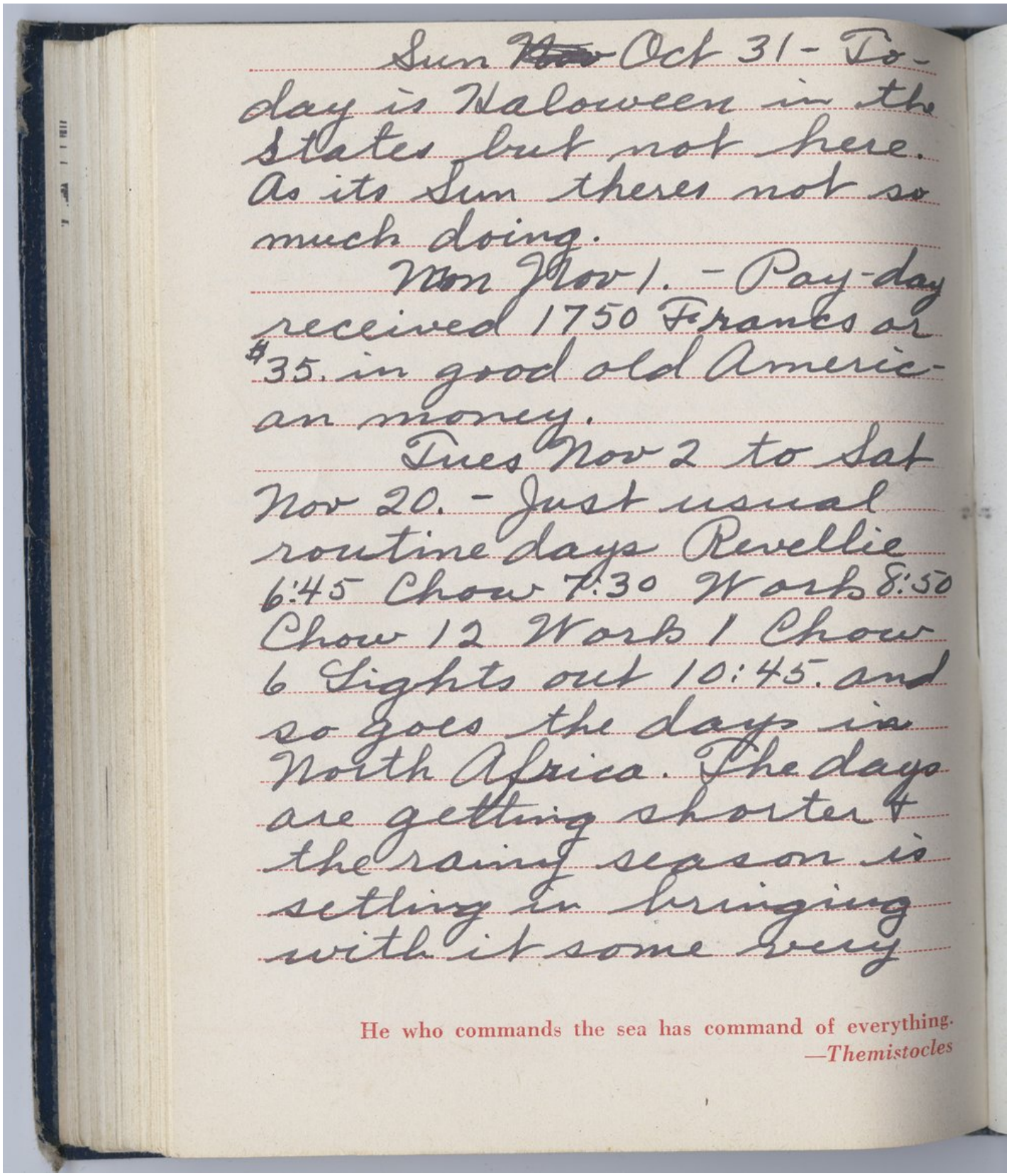
Sat Oct 30. – Well to day we work in the shop built some pigenholes and went over to Manyol and did some odd jobs. Manyol is one of our stations we look after in the way of carpenter work, it a fine old French villa with an exce-

We have met the enemy and they are ours.
—*Oliver H. Perry*



llent view. Has some nice schrubery and orange trees. Had bird of punk chow tonite. Put in for a pass for tomorrow to go to church, have neglected the spiritual things too much since being in the Army. God has been good to me so I'm going to worship & trust Him more in the future. We need faith & spiritual strength in these days and all our pal ans without God are as so much straw.

A sound mind in a manly body.—*Homer*



Sun ~~Nov~~ Oct 31 - To-
day is Halloween in the
States but not here.
As its Sun theres not so
much doing.
Mon Nov 1. - Pay-day
received 1750 Franks or
$35. in good old Americ-
an money.
Tues Nov 2 to Sat
Nov 20. - Just usual
routine days Revellie
6:45 Chow 7:30 Work 8:30
Chow 12 Work 1 Chow
6 Lights out 10:45. and
so goes the days in
North Africa. The days
are getting shorter &
the rainy season is
setting in bringing
with it some very

He who commands the sea has command of everything.
—*Themistocles*