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Horace Pippin's Autobiography, First World War, circa 1920s

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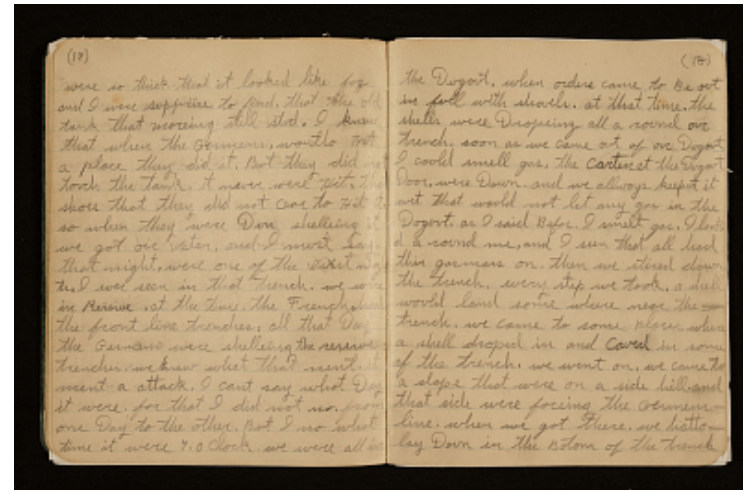
were so thick that it looked like fog and I were supprice to find. that the old tank that moreing still stud. I knew that when the Germens, wontio Hit a place they did it. But they did not touch the tank. it never were Hit. that shoes that they did not ceare to Hit it. so when they were Dun shelleing it we got oir water, and I must say, that night, were one of the wi ~~st~~ nights I ever seen in that trench. we were in Reserve, at the time, the French, had the front line trenches, all that Day the Germens were shelleing the reserve trenches. we knew what that ment. it ment a attack. I cant say what Day it were for that I did not no. from one Day to the other, But I no what time it were 7. o clock. we were all in

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the Dugout. when orders came to Be out in full with shovels. at that time, the shells were Dropeing all a round our trench. soon as we came out of our Dugout I could smell gas. the carten at the Dugout Door. were Down, and we allways kepted it wet that would not let any gas in the Dogout as I said Befor. I smelt gas. I looked a round me, and I seen that all had thir gasmass on. then we stired down the trench. every step we took, a shell would land some where near the = trench. we came to some places where a shell dropped in and caved in some of the trench. we went on, we came to a slope that were on a side hill and that side were faceing the Germe= line. when we got there. we hatto= lay Down in the Botom of the trench



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