

My paternal grandfather **Hildum Anselm Anderson** was in France during the WWI and in France, Luxembourg, and Germany after WWI as a member of the US Army of Occupation. He was in the 315th Engineers, Company A, 90th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces. Hildum left the US on June 14, 1918 and returned on June 15, 1919

In early October 2013 at my request my German friends, Detlef and Christina Uecker, took me to see several of the places in Germany where my Grandpa Anderson had been stationed. I compiled pictures from that trip and notes about the various places into a book I shared with my family.

Hildum Anselm Anderson and his fellow soldiers walked all of these distances. I have indicated the dates that Grandpa was in each place. We went to:

Aldegund (now called St. Aldegund) December 10-11, 1918

Landkern December 11-14, 1918

Mülheim on the Moselle December 21, 1918-February 19, 1919

Lieser Grandpa went here while he was in Dreis and Mülheim—they are just across the river, across a bridge, from one another.

Dreis February 19-May 10, 1919

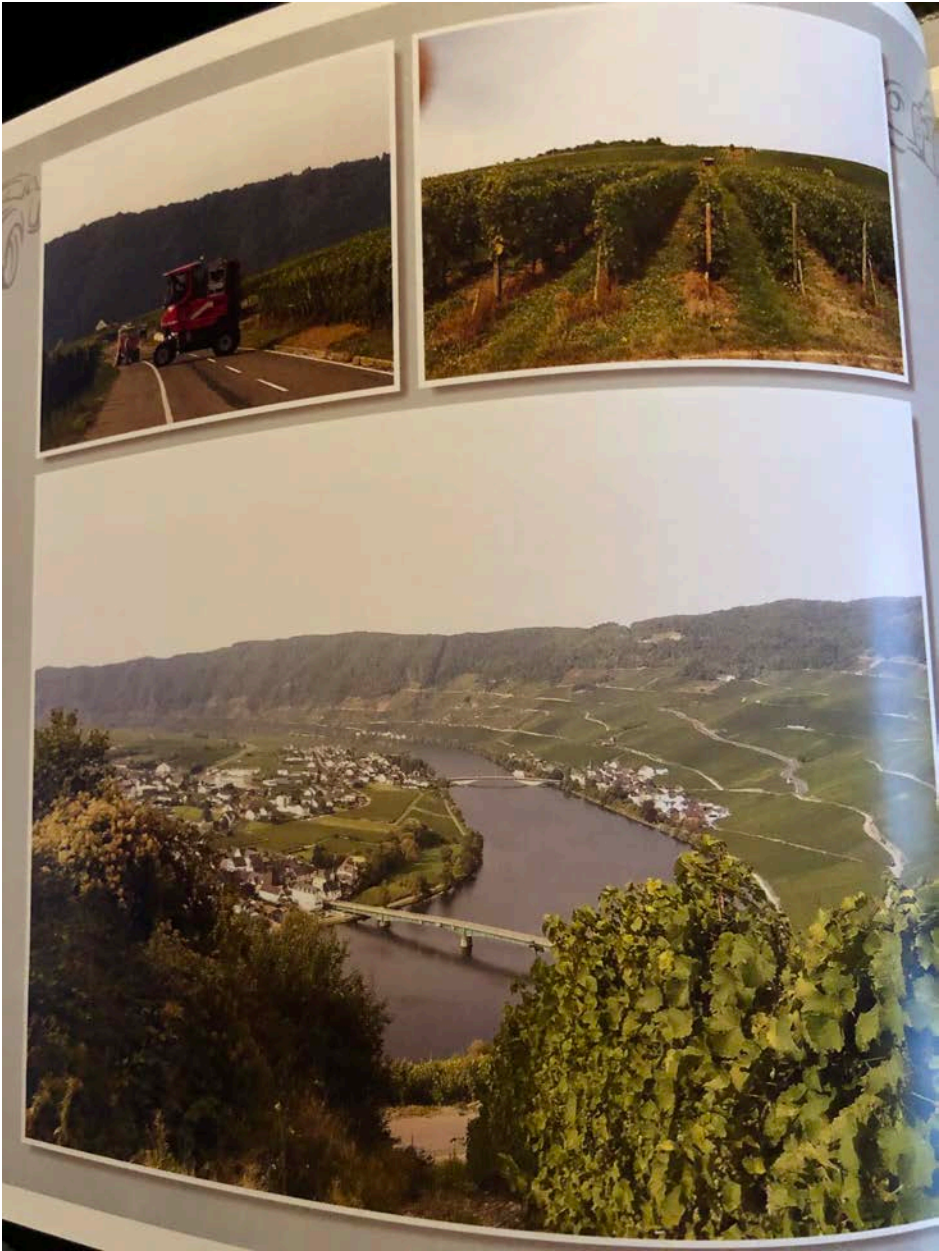
Dusemond (now called Brauneberg) May 10-21, 1919

Here is the text I prepared for the booklet of pictures that I took while visiting the sites where my Grandfather was in Germany.

My October 2013 visit to the towns in Germany where Hildum Anderson was stationed.

It was wonderful to drive the route that Hildum walked and to visit the towns where he stayed. At many junctures I was amazed at the steep hills and realized how difficult it must have been to walk from town to town in winter and with a full pack. In most towns, we parked near the church, since that was the center of town and a good place to start exploring. In almost every town, as we got out of the car the church bells started to ring. I realized after the second town, that Grandpa was saying hello and I said hello back to him. The towns are all on, or very close to, the Moselle River so the scenery is beautiful and the vineyards are everywhere. Of course, I'm not sure how intact the vineyards were after the war, but imagine they were in pretty good shape. I was very grateful to Detlef and Christina Uecker for driving us on this two-day trip, they enjoyed and appreciated it, too. I have included a pic or two of the scenery as we drove from one town to the next, knowing that Grandpa walked by these same spots. The pictures ended up in the book in a different city-sequence than I had planned so they don't correspond to the order in which Grandpa walked to them—that's on the other page with dates so you have to reference back and forth a bit ;-)

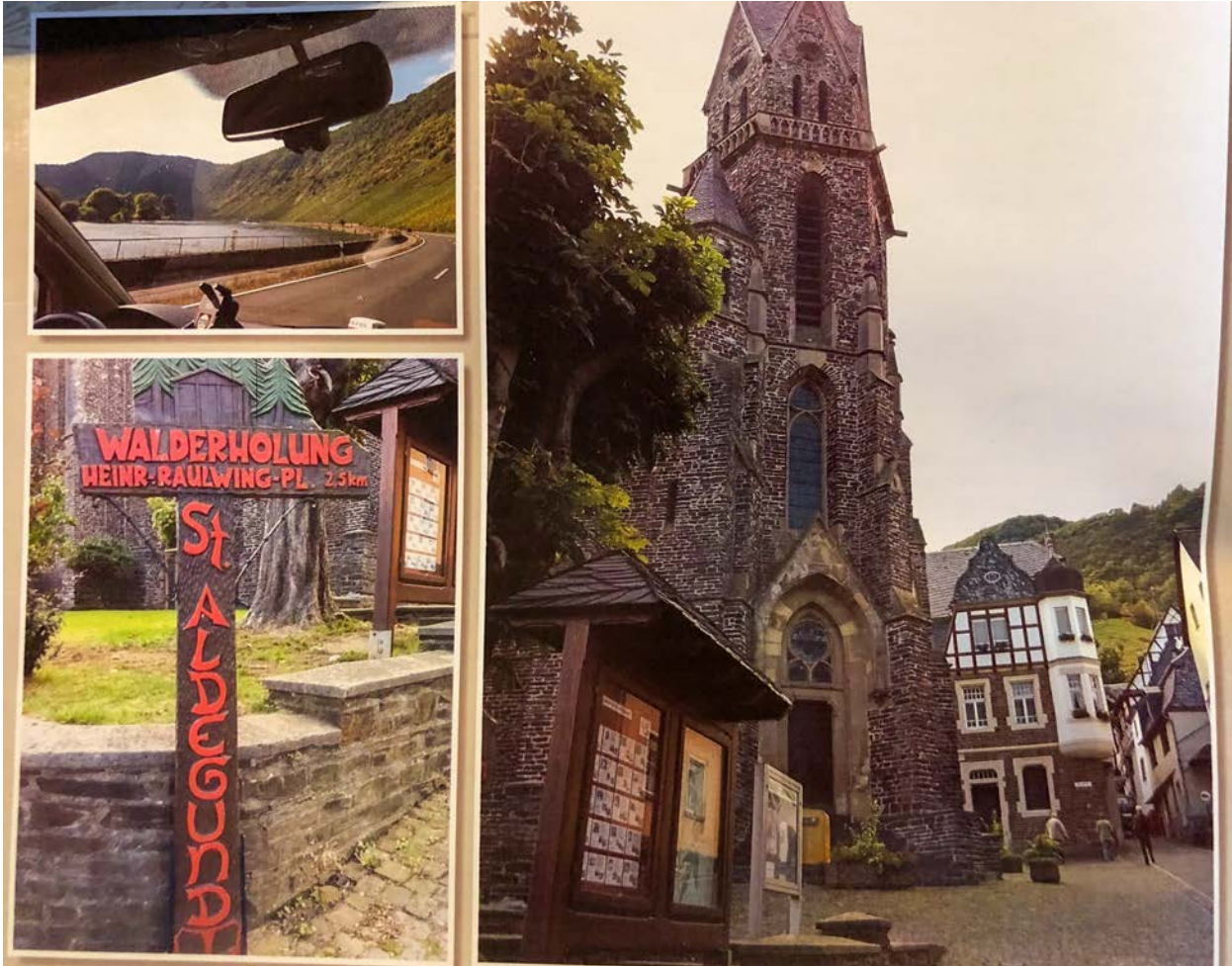
Views along the Moselle



Landkern: The small town of Landkern (which is in the slate producing area of Germany) has a beautiful stone church and many older homes in town that we walked by—certainly ones that Grandpa would have seen too since many had dates from the 1700s to 1900s. You can see the use of slate on many of the roofs.



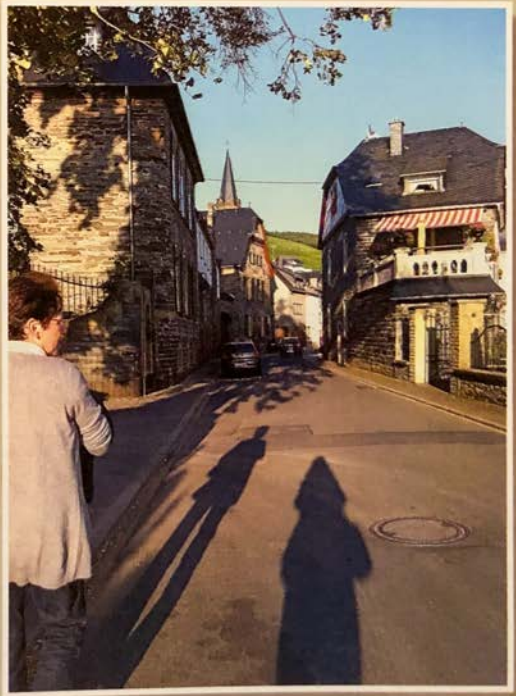
Aldegund: This town is now called St. Aldegund. It now has a “forest recreation” area (noted on the black and red cross). The dark stone church with slate roof was beautiful. I’m confident Grandpa would have seen the church and the half-timbered homes that line the narrow winding streets—but perhaps not the John Deere tractor ;-)



Dusemond: This town is now called Brauneberg (“brown mountain” which might have referred to coal and in one of the pics you can see the hills) but when we were there we found several signs that referred to Dusemond and one of the pictures shows one of those signs. The sign says “Vineyard Reuter-Dusemond Sample and Sales.” Dusemond also has winding streets, half-timbered homes, and a beautiful church. You can see a war memorial also with two arched windows that look out toward the Moselle (on the facing page, after the sign for Lieser).



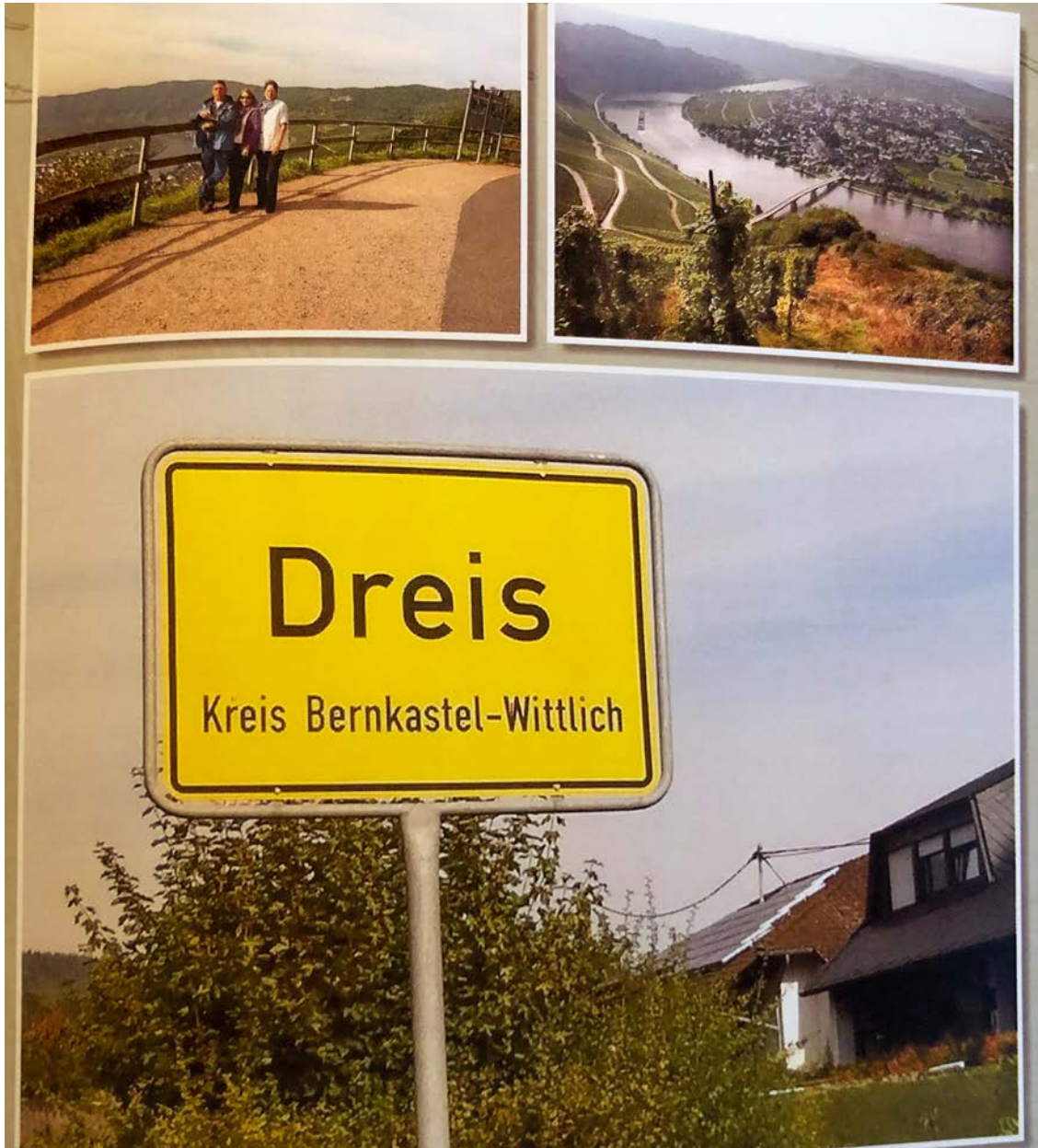
Lieser: We stayed overnight in Lieser in a cute hotel with a view of the Moselle. There is a castle in town, in the process of being renovated but it, too, was there when Grandpa was in Lieser. The church is up on a hill and we hiked up there and had a spectacular view and went inside the church. There are many winding streets and lots of vineyards. When I asked the hotel staff if a family Lang still lived in town, one of the staff members said she knew the Langs—but they lived across the river in Mülheim—“where the Catholics live.” Grandpa and two of his fellow soldiers lived with the Lang family while barracks were being built to accommodate their division. He told about living with the wonderful Lang family, their son Ernst, and the potato pancakes and the frogs ;-)



Mülheim: We went across to Mülheim, visited the cemetery and one of the workers there said he was married to a Lang. I told him the story and gave him my contact info but unfortunately never heard back from him. The cemetery stones and caskets are removed after 25 years and there were no references to the Langs. You see the beautiful scenery in this area and the small town tucked along the banks of the Moselle. It is very small and I can see why there wasn't a big enough space for Grandpa's division. Then you see some great Moselle views along the road.

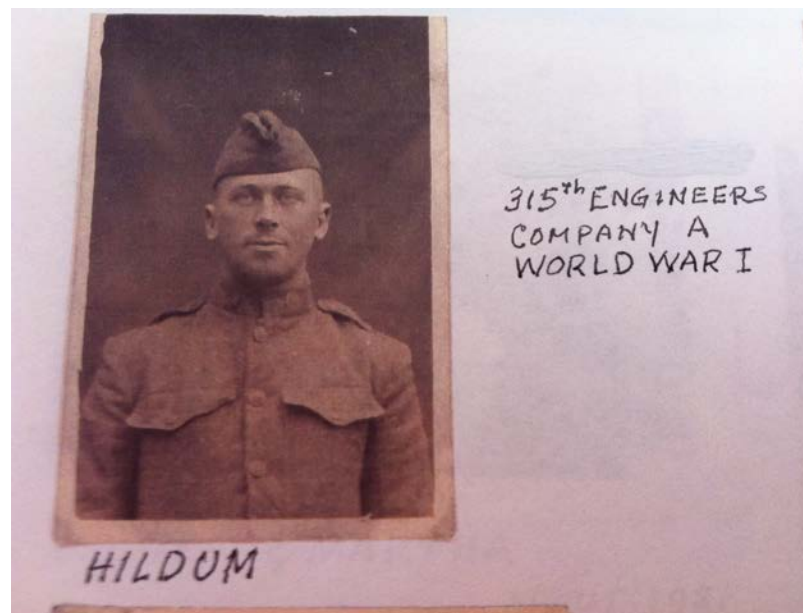
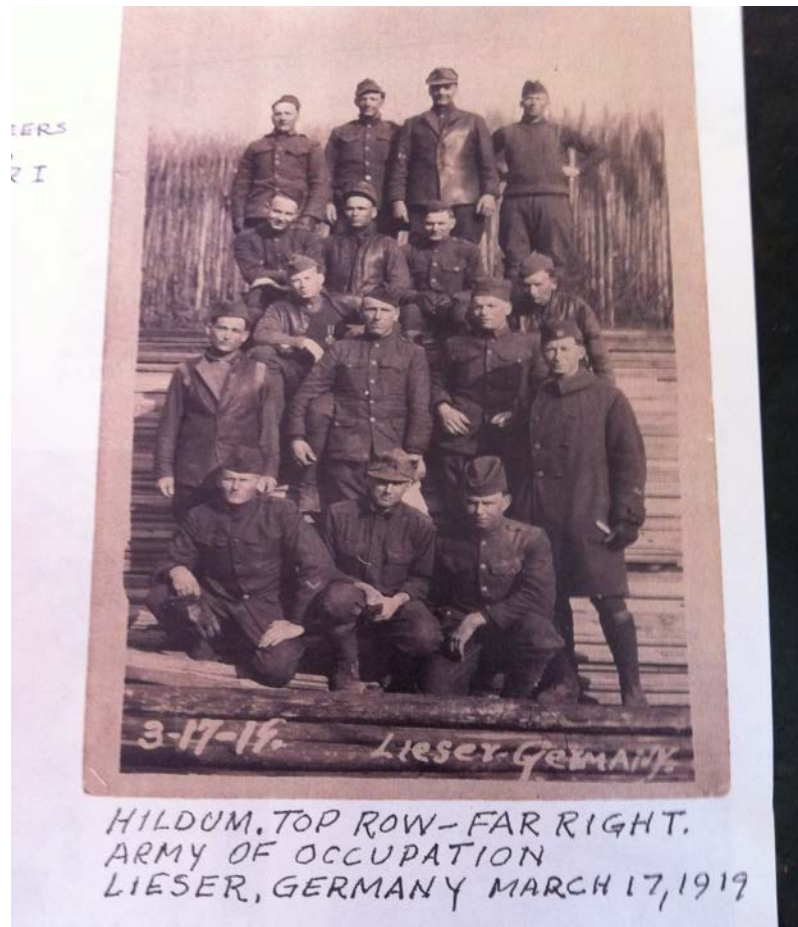


Dreis: Grandpa was in Dreis for 3 months and it is a very small town founded in 785. We walked through town trying to imagine where an entire division could have been barracked. Then we found the castle at the edge of town and guessed that the officers had the castle and the enlisted men camped on the fields on the castle property. Detlef found a fruit tree and harvested some fruit for us. The cross is from 1811 so Grandpa saw that. You'll see pics of the castle wall, of me at the entrance to the castle, of the raised fields with trees, and the castle. Right by the end of the castle wall (and property) there is a surveyor's mark, a circular silver "button" in the road that says "Grenz Punkt" which means "border point." Dreis has a lovely town square with a fountain dating back to long before Grandpa was there so I'm sure he saw it. I enjoyed sitting on a bench by the fountain with a cup of tea and a bakery item from the local bakery and chatting



with Christina and Detlef. Behind us lovely purple flowers blossomed. A wonderful experience that I'm happy to share with you.

Here are two pictures of my Grandfather. Note that the group picture was taken in Lieser.



Here is a more complete listing listing of all of the places where Grandpa was in Germany. For more information and pictures about each location do a simple Google search on the town names. Then click the Wikipedia entry for textual information or click on “Images” toward the top of your computer screen for pictures

December 3, 1918-May 21, 1919 in Germany

Dec 3-4, 1918: **Ehnen** (now part of Luxembourg)

Dec 4-6, 1918: **Wasserliesch**, town of about 500 people on the Moselle River

Dec 6-8, 1918: **Ehrang**

Another WWI soldier’s report that starts with Ehrang <http://donswaim.com/doughboypage.html>

Dec 8-9, 1918: **Dreis**

Dec 9-10, 1918 **Neuerburg**

Neuerburg wonderful 6.5 min youtube video with music about <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INyKyFtsMz8>

Dec 10-11, 1918: **Aldegund** (St. Aldegund on the map)

Dec 11-14, 1918: **Landkern**

Dec 14-16, 1918: **Kelberg**

Dec 16-20, 1918: Neuerburg I can find this on the map but not on the internet. (The only Brück listed is near Berlin and I know that’s not right.) Must be too small a town for a website. There is a Dreis-Brück. One document shows Bruck (no umlaut).

December 20-21, 1918: Neuerburg

Dec 21, 1918-February 19, 1919: **Mülheim on the Moselle**

Grandpa was also in **Leiser** Try a google search on “Leiser castle”

February 19-May 10, 1919: **Dreis** A small town I can find on the map but not on the internet—different from the one near Mülheim

May 10-21, 1919: **Dusemond** the name of this town was changed to Brauneberg in 1925. Best to search on Brauneberg

Detailed and fascinating information about his company can be found here:
[http://www.90thdivisionassoc.org/History/UnitHistories/PDF/
WW1/315%20Eng%20A%20Co.pdf](http://www.90thdivisionassoc.org/History/UnitHistories/PDF/WW1/315%20Eng%20A%20Co.pdf)