

wanted by the police of their respective countries, not necessarily for criminal acts, though a criminal record never had been a bar to service with the Legion, and I did not see why it should be now—if they suspected me of having one. I had heard there were not a few Germans in the Legion—later I became acquainted with some—and, believe me, no Alsatian ever fought harder against the Huns than those former *Deutschlanders* did. It occurred to me then that if they thought I was a German, because I had no passport, I might have to prove I had been in trouble with the Kaiser's crew before they would accept me. I do not know what the real difficulty was, but I solved the problem by showing them my discharge papers from the American Navy. Even then, they were suspicious because they thought I was too young to have been a C.P.O. When they challenged me on this point, I said I would prove it to them by taking an examination.

They examined me very carefully, in English, although I know enough French to pass in a subject like gunnery. But foreign officers are very proud of their knowledge of English—and most of them can speak it—and I think this one wanted to show off, as you might say. Anyway, I passed my examination without any trouble, was accepted for service in the Foreign Legion, and received my commission as gunner, dated Friday, January 1, 1915.

There is no use in my describing the Foreign