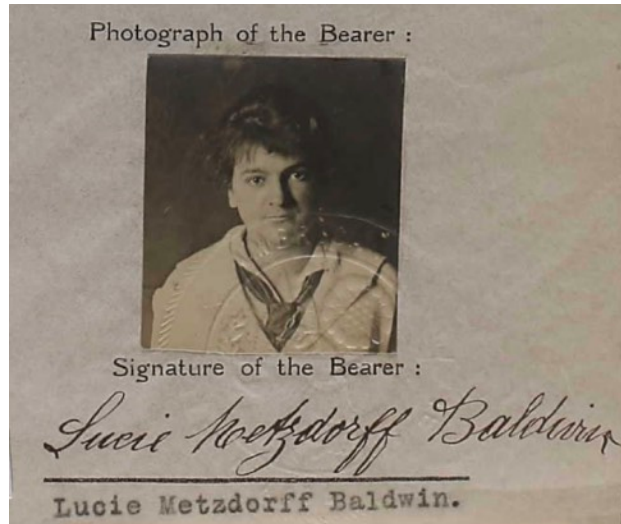

Lucie Metzdorff and Dewey Baldwin

A whirlwind and short-lived romance



Lucia "Lucie" Metzdorff

1898–

BIRTH 23 MAY 1898 • Rumelange, Esch-Sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

DEATH Unknown

1) Married Dewey Baldwin: June 23, 1919 at Rummage, Luxembourg

Albert Dewey Baldwin

1898–1975

BIRTH 17 DEC 1898 • Kitts Hill, Lawrence County, Ohio

DEATH 9 JUL 1975 • Wilgus, Lawrence County, Ohio

2) Married Francois Benoÿ: March 11, 1922 at Esch-Sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

François "Franz" Benoÿ

1882–

BIRTH 24 OCT 1882 • Echternach, Grevenmacher, Luxembourg

DEATH Unknown

Summary:

Dewey Baldwin (the author's Uncle) entered military service June 2, 1917 and was assigned to Company B, 7th Regiment, US Engineers. He trained at Ft. Thomas, KY and shipped out to France as part of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in March, 1918. He remained on active duty in France and or Luxembourg until the end of the war and was discharged Aug 5, 1919.

Somewhere in France or Luxembourg in late 1918 or early 1919 Dewey met a nurse named Lucie Metzdorff. **[Note:** over 360,000 AEF men were critically ill with influenza, fall 1918.

Dewey could have been among the sick, and carried for by Lucie Metzdorff.] He and Lucie married in June 23, 1919 in Luxembourg. Following the marriage, they departed from Brest July 25, 1919 together on a commercial ship bound for the United States. They arrived Aug 4, 1919.

For, as yet undetermined reasons, Dewey and Lucie, almost immediately, separated. Lucie stayed in New York City. Dewey, in Jan 1920, reported living in his home town of Ironton, OH as a boarder; Marital Status: Divorced. Lucie traveled from New York City to Luxembourg in October, 1920, and never returned to the United States.

Details and oddities:

Dewey Baldwin apparently trained as a cook at Ft. Thomas, KY. I take note that he was promoted to Private 1st Class Jan 13, 1918 but then reduced in rank to Private June 3, 1919. The reason for this may be related to events associated with his relationship with Lucie Metzdorff. Dewey was honourably discharged at New York City, Aug 5, 1919.

BALDWIN, DEWEY,
914241, White,
Kitts Hill, O.

RA Ft Thomas, Ky. June 2/17. Br Kitts Hill O. 18
5/12 yrs. Co B 7 Engrs to disch. Pvt 1st Jan 13/18;
Ck Mch 16/18; Pvt June 3/19. AEF Mch 15/18
to Aug 4/19. Hon disch Aug 5/19.

Once his training at Ft. Thomas, KY was a completed in March, 1918, he was shipped to France along with hundreds of other men. This is where we meet another soldier who would play a role in the relationship between Dewey and Lucie, William Edward Schwehr. Here are transport orders for both gentlemen:

PORT OF EMBARKATION HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY			
UNITED STATES ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICE			
PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CASUALS			
<p>INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS FORM</p> <p>Separate lists of FIVE COPIES EACH, will be filled out by each company or detachment commander as follows:</p> <p>1st List: Officers arranged according to rank; nurses, if any; civilian employees, if any. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.</p> <p>2d List: Non-commissioned officers above Grade 17, (Paragraph 9, Army Regulations), arranged according to grade.</p> <p>3d List: Enlisted men below Grade 16, (Paragraph 9, Army Regulations), arranged according to the usual formation of the Company, that is, by squads. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.</p>			
To be filled in by Company Commander.	Company B, 7th U. S. Engineers		
To be filled in by Army Transport Service.	520	MAR 16 1918	NEW YORK, N. Y.
	(Name of transport or commercial steamer.)	(Date of sailing.)	(Port.)

48	ANDERSEN, LARS C. 914240	PVT 1st	CHRIS P. ANDERSEN	FATHER F. O. BOX 100, BRATTON, IOWA.
49	BALDWIN, DEWEY 914241	PVT 1st	MRS. DELCIE BALDWIN	KITTS HILL, OHIO
	BEATTY, FAY B. 914243	"	MR. GEORGE W. BEATTY	FATHER 733 EAST 11th ST

DEWEY BALDWIN ORDERS AND TRANSPORT

Sheet No. <u>1</u>		HEADQUARTERS PORT OF EMBARKATION	
Class		HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY	
		UNITED STATES ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICE	
		PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CASUALS	
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS FORM Separate lists of FIVE COPIES EACH, will be filled out by each company or detachment commander as follows: 1st List: Officers arranged according to rank; nurses, if any; civilian employees, if any. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1. 2d List: Non-commissioned officers above Grade 17, (Paragraph 9, Army Regulations), arranged according to grade. 3d List: Enlisted men below Grade 16, (Paragraph 9, Army Regulations), arranged according to the usual formation of the Company, that is, by squads. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.			
To be filled in by Company Commander.	HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, SEVENTH U. S. ENGINEERS.		
	(Give full name of organization including company and regimental designations.)		
To be filled in by Army Transport Service.	520	MAR 16 1918	NEW YORK, N. Y.
	(Name of transport or commercial steamer.)	(Date of sailing.)	(Port.)

7	KRIBB, HERMAN (915487)	CORP 7 ENG	MRS. LAURA KRIBB	MOTHER	R.F.D. NUMBER 3 FLUSHING, MICH.
8	SCHWEHR, WILLIAM EDWARD (915488)	CORP 7 ENG	MRS. MARGARET SCHWEHR	MOTHER	80 SHERIDAN AVENUE BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
9	BECKMAN, EDWARD JOHN (915489)	CORP 7 ENG	HENRY P. BECKMAN	FATHER	48 HIGHLAND STREET HAMMOND, INDIANA

WILLIAM E SCHWEHR ORDERS AND TRANSPORT

As can be seen, both soldiers shipped out of Hoboken, New Jersey on March 16, 1918 on a steamer identified as '520'. It's not known if Corp. William Schwehr and Pvt. Dewey Baldwin knew each other while in training. In just a moment we will see that William must have played a role in the relationship of Lucie and Dewey.

Dewey and Lucie were married June 23, 1919 at Rumelange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

RUMELANGE, LUXEMBOURG.
July 3, 1919.

This is to certify that Private Dewey Baldwin was on June 23d, 1919, at RUMELANGE, Grand Duchy of LUXEMBOURG, married to Miss Lucie Metsdorff, a resident of RUMELANGE. The marriage ceremony was performed by Mr. J. Sturm, Burgomaster of RUMELANGE. I further certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief Mrs. Dewey Baldwin, wife of Private Dewey Baldwin, is of reputable character.

E. G. Paulen,
Colonel, Engineers,
Commanding.

On July 16, 1919 Lucie was granted a US Passport valid for **one month**. This passport granted Lucie Metzдорff-Baldwin 30 days to be transported from Brest, France to her new home in the United States and Kitts Hill, OH.

Lucie departed Brest, France identified as a 'Wife of a Soldier', July 25, onboard the commercial ship USS Ryndam, bound for New York City.

Handwritten notes on a document, likely a passport or travel record, mentioning names like Baldwin and dates like 1919.

As for Dewey, he was scheduled to board a Military Transport ship and depart Brest, France on July 16. Dewey was NOT on board that ship.

145 MASON, JOHN J. 914272	CPL COM- ENGRS PANY B7TH ENGRS.	MR JOHN MASON FATHER	313 6TH AVENUE N.E., MINNEAPOLIS MINNE//SOTA.
146 BALDWIN, DEWEY 914241	COOK COM- ENGRS PANY B7TH ENGRS.	MRS DELCIE BALD- WIN MOTHER	KITTS HILL, OHIO
147 SCHIFELING, PETER L. 914400	COOK COM- ENGRS PANY	MRS MARY SCHIFELING MOTHER	511 AYERS AVE. NUE, PEORIA

Handwritten notes in red ink: "Left at Brest France." and "Transferred PP 8, 50784 Hy. B. Dec. 59 7/13/19."

Instead, Dewey transferred to the ship that was carrying Lucie, the Ryndam. Together, they departed on July 25, 1919. His travel status was listed as: 'CASUALS "FOR ORDERS" Married Men'.

40	ANGELINI JOHN 2385598	PVT	61ST INF	SAMUEL ANGELLINI	BROTHER	389 WASHINGTON STREET QUINCY MAS SACHUSSETTS
41	BALDWIN DEWEY 914241	PVT	7TH ENGRS.	MR.W. BALDWIN	FATHER	KITTER HILL OHIO
42	BETTINGER JOHN L. 889472	PVT	QMC	ELMA MASON	SISTER	LAKE PARK IOWA

Mr and Mrs Dewey Baldwin arrived in New York City on Aug 4, 1919. Upon arrival, Dewey was honourably discharged from the Army Aug 5.

The next record we have for Dewey is the 1920 Federal Census, dated Jan 12, 1920. He reported that he was a truck driver living as a boarder in Ironton, OH. He reported that he was **Divorced**.

The next record we have for Lucie is a Aug 23, 1919 newspaper article about a Brooklyn, NY *Welcome Home Party* given for **William E. Schwehr**. This would be the

Biagio Rizzon, Executive member.

—Corporal William E. Schwehr was given a welcome home party at the home of his parents, 80 Sheridan avenue last week. It was a joyous occasion. The house was prettily decorated for the occasion. The guests entertained with songs and musical numbers. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Smith, Miss A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. Force, Mr. and Mrs. F. Schwehr, Corporal W. E. Schwehr, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Sweetman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Fleck, Mr. and Mrs. L. Kewley and Mrs. R. Bradley, Miss A. Bradley and G. L. Bradley from Newburgh, Miss Lucie Metzdorf, Miss C. Dollard, Miss E. Gibbs, Miss L. Snelling, Miss E. Gosman, Mrs. G. Thompson, John Prince, R. Twinkblack, J. Porter, Lieut. J. Barrett, A. Nussbaum, Sergt. C. Johnson, G. McKenna, G. Haefner, Lieut. Frank Guinn, G. Pfarr, Sergt. O. Johnson.

same Corp. William E Schwehr that was mentioned earlier. William Schwehr was about five years older than Dewey, born in 1893. Lucie Metzdorff was in attendance, notably **NOT** listed as Lucie Baldwin.

William E. Schwehr

in the U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014

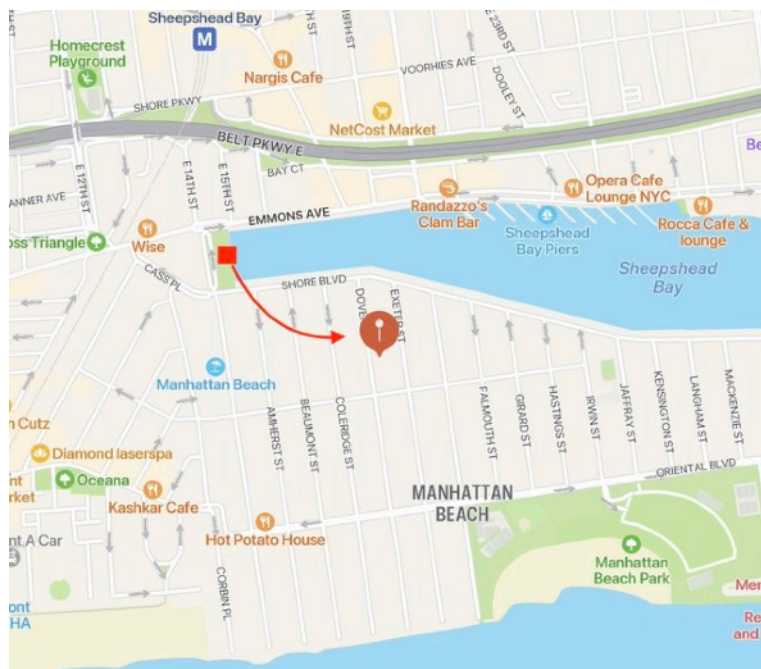
Detail

Source

Name	William E. Schwehr
Social Security Number	100-14-3814
Birth Date	14 Apr 1893
Issue year	Before 1951
Issue State	New York
Last Residence	11420, Jamaica, Queens, New York, USA
Death Date	12 May 1976

Schwehr William E		915 488	6 white	1 1/2
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)	
278 Railroad Ave Brooklyn		NEW YORK		
(Street and house number)		(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
* Enlisted in	RA Ft Slocum NY	June 5/17		
† Born in	New York NY	24 1/12 yrs		
Organizations:		Hq Det 7 Engr to disch		
Grades:		Pvt 1 cl Nov 23/17; Wag Dec 13/17		
Engagements:		—		
Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.				
‡ Served overseas:		Mch 15/18 to July 28/19		
§ Hon. disch.		AUG 1/19 on demobilization		
Was reported		0 per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.		
Remarks:				
Form No. 724-1 1/2, A. G. O. *Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "N. A.", as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. †Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date.				

The next record we have for Lucie Metzdorff-Baldwin is a US Passport application dated Oct 5, 1920. In it, she stated that she was married to Dewey, living at 65 Dover St, Manhattan Beach, NY and working as a nurse.



She further stated that the reason she needed a US Passport was to travel to Luxembourg, France, and Belgium to visit her brother and relatives and to travel. The

application contained a support document: a telegram that seemed to be an urgent request for Lucie to return to Luxembourg due to illness of a relative.

Form 1204

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	DL
Night Message	NM
Night Letter	NL

WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SEND AT: MARSHALL STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y.
PLATINUM 1200

196NYABV 14 CABLE

ESCHALZETTE SEPT 29 1920

MISS LUCIE BALDWIN

MANHATTAN BLACH 65 DOVERT STREET NEW YORK

MARGOT SCHWER KRANK GLEICH KOMMEN

VVE METZDORFF

722Pm

*Margot very sick
come at once*

ON THIS MESSAGE IS
EASTERN STANDARD TIME

As can be seen, one of referenced individuals in the telegram was **Margot Schwehr**. Was she related to Corp. **William E Schwehr**? The Schwehr surname does seem to be a common relationship reference with Lucie. How was the Schwehr family related to Lucie? So far, no connections have been found.

Lucie also stated on the application that her last US Passport was issued July 25, 1920. This clearly was a false statement. As we know, her previous US Passport was issued July 16, 1919 and was valid for one month only.

Regardless, her US Passport application was approved Oct 22, 1920. She departed the US Oct 28, 1920, never to return to the US. No divorce record has been found for Dewey and Lucie Baldwin. [Note: Perhaps, instead of a divorce, there was an annulment of the marriage in New York City.]

The next official record we have for Lucie is a Mar, 1922 marriage to Francois Benoy in Luxembourg. In Oct 1922, she and Francois had a baby boy - Adolph Rene Benoy in Luxembourg.

To date, no death records have been found for Lucie, Francois, or Adolph Rene. Might they have died during the 1940 Nazi invasion of Luxembourg/Belgium?

[NOTE: With 2.45% of its prewar population killed, and a third of all buildings in Luxembourg being destroyed or heavily damaged, Luxembourg suffered the highest such loss in Western Europe.]

Dewey Baldwin married again in 1923 to Eva Marie Kingery (1900-1986). He lived out his life in Ironton, OH. When he died in 1975 at the age of 76, he had a daughter (one daughter had died in 1972) and six grandchildren.

Comments and Lingering Questions:

1) Why did they get married and then breakup within weeks? Was Dewey jilted?

I think one intriguing possibility for why they broke up is that they lived closely together as husband and wife during the 11 day sea voyage from Brest to New York City (July 25 to Aug 4). It may be that they discovered that they were an incompatible couple.

Perhaps when Lucie learned, going forward, what her life would be, how it would change, in the small town of Kitts Hill, OH, it caused dismay. Perhaps there was an irreconcilable argument that pushed them apart.

2) Or, was the plan to get Lucie to the US for a completely different reason (e.g., US Passport for Lucie), and, they agreed this was the best way to do it?

3) What was the connection between the Schwehr family and Lucie Metzdorff. Did William introduce Dewey to Lucie through his Schwehr family connections in France/Luxembourg/Belgium?

4) What happened to Lucie after she married Francois Benoy in 1922 and gave birth to a son? When and where did she die? Same with Francois.

MS Copilot AI: *Why would a nurse from Luxembourg marry a US soldier during WW1 and then use that marriage to obtain a US passport?*

*During **World War I**, the lives of nurses and soldiers intersected in various ways, often leading to unexpected relationships. While I don't have specific information about a nurse from Luxembourg marrying a U.S. soldier during that time, I can share some context and possibilities based on historical events.*

1. **War Brides and Marriages:**

- **War brides** were women who married soldiers from other countries during or after wartime. These unions often occurred due to proximity, shared experiences, and emotional connections.
- **Luxembourg**, being a small country, had limited resources and a close-knit community. Nurses and soldiers stationed there might have interacted frequently, leading to relationships.
- **Marriages** between nurses and soldiers were not uncommon. The emotional strain of war could foster strong bonds, and nurses provided essential care to wounded soldiers.

2. **Reasons for Marriage:**

- **Love and Companionship:** *The nurse and soldier might have fallen in love genuinely. War can intensify emotions, and shared hardships can create deep connections.*
 - **Practical Considerations:** *Marrying a U.S. soldier could offer practical benefits:*
 - **Citizenship:** *By marrying a U.S. citizen, the nurse could potentially gain U.S. citizenship or residency.*
 - **Passport:** *Obtaining a U.S. passport would allow her to travel more freely and potentially escape war-torn Europe.*
 - **Security:** *Marrying a soldier provided safety and stability during uncertain times.*
- 3. Challenges and Risks:**
- **Social Stigma:** *Some people viewed war brides with suspicion, assuming they married solely for personal gain.*
 - **Legal Complexities:** *Marrying a foreign soldier involved legal processes, including paperwork and approvals.*
 - **Post-War Adjustments:** *After the war, war brides faced cultural adjustments, language barriers, and adapting to a new country.*

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