

The Mount Airy News.

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NO. 11

LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from Oliver Bunker White Plains to his friend, J. C. Badgett, Somewhere in France. August 15th.

Dear friend:
I received your letter some time ago. This leaves me well and getting along fine. I also received the letters from the girls. I think it was about the first of July that I got about a dozen at once. And I am sorry that I have not had time to answer them. I know if they knew how busy I have been they would excuse me. I was in the trenches in the front lines when I got your letter and I have not had time to write home but about once every thirty days. I have heard from Harden since I saw him, but all that I know is that he is some where over here.

I would like to hear from everybody over there. Some one who can write a long letter please write me every thing that has been going on since I left home. Well old friend, I have been scrapping the Germans, but I have not found anything funny about it. I guess you heard about the drive we made. We pushed the Germans back over eighteen miles and the drive is not over yet, but I have been put back in the reserve and am now in the rear of the firing line, but am not out of hearing of the guns. I don't know when I will have to go back in the trenches. We had a battle a few days ago and lost many of our men. You said in your other letter that you wished me the best of luck that could fall to any one, and it has sure come to pass, for the Germans landed a heavy barrage right at us several times, but we went right thru, and went up against machine gun fire. Nothing would stop us and we took some prisoners and captured many guns. The most of the time that I was at the front it was raining every day and night and I got so muddy I could hardly walk, but I did not mind the mud. Some of the prisoners that we took said that the Americans did not know to stop when they ran into machine gun fire. We went so fast that we had to stop and wait for our own artillery to catch up. I was at a quiet front for a while, but we came to a lively front and captured a good many small towns and some large ones. The boys at the front are now having good weather. Well I must close as it is getting dark and we cannot have a light for I am on guard duty tonight and am writing this letter holding the paper on my knee.

Your friend,
OLIVER W. BUNKER.

Letter from John B. McCraw now in France to his father, Mr. J. W. McCraw, of Round Peak.
American Expedi. Forces.
August 21.

Dear Father and Mother:
I am somewhere in England now and am enjoying life. We arrived over sea all right and had a very good time on our voyage. I like this country fine. It is a very fine country and will please any one. They have the most finished country that you ever saw. They are behind in many respects compared with the United States. But their farming is far ahead of what you see in the States. Their buildings are all alike and made of stone or brick. Everything is now green and pretty.

I do not begrudge my trip over, for none of my trips out west were as interesting as this one has been. I do not think that we will be over here so very long, for we will soon whip the Huns and you would think the same if you could see as much of the United States forces as I have seen. I will close for this time. Write me as often as you can.

Your son,
J. B. McCRAW.

Letter from Abner Deatherage to his father Peter Deatherage, of Mt. Airy.
Thursday Morning.

Dear Papa and all:
Just a line to let you hear from me. This leaves me feeling fine and hope same to find you well.

Am liking better every day. Took my physical examination yesterday. About 20 Drs. examined me and I passed them all. Also was vaccinated on both arms and will have to be again next Wednesday and again the following Wednesday. We get three

shots as they call it here. Am off duty 48 hours on account of same and my arms are sore now. Am quarantined for two weeks.

Took out \$10,000.00 insurance for Stella which cost \$6.50 each month. Allotted \$15.00 of my salary to her, and she will get \$36.00 each month.

Had to give a general description of my business experience, and when he made a record—and same was examined by one of the higher officials he said I need not be afraid I would get a good job.

Since I began writing this letter I was called over to one of the officers and had to be re-examined on one of the physical examinations I took yesterday, then they will put me in an office or wherever there is an opening I can fill.

Had a fine dinner today, and believe me I'm tight.

Will get my uniform tomorrow or next day.

This military service is a great education to any boy, and if we get out safe, which I don't doubt in the least, we will be better fit for life in every respect. You don't see any down-hearted men here—except a few new ones. There are about 65,000 men here and they are shipping them every day. If I get in an office, I will be allowed six months here, then if I have to go over they will give me something besides a gun, for one in an office don't get any training with a gun.

Will close, write at your convenience. With much love and best wishes, I am
Your boy,
ABNER.

Wednesday Night.

Dear Papa and all:
Just a line to let you hear from me. This leaves me well except a sore arm from being vaccinated again today. Only have one more shot.

Have been working in an office—learning to make up payrolls. Some complicated system, but I can handle it.

Practically all the boys that came with me have been transferred to the Field Artillery. Guess I'll be sent to Greenville, S. C., some time soon, as they are turning this camp into an Artillery Camp altogether, so those in the Infantry will be sent to Camp Greene.

Write when you are not busy. I am alright. Not much difference in the climate here and up there. Am using every precaution for my health. Go to bed about 9:30 and get up at 5:45. Get 3 meals regular every day.

Remember me to all. With much love
Your boy,
ABNER.

Letter from Jesse Isaacs, in France to his mother Mrs. Margaret Isaacs, Dobson, N. C.
Aug. 5, 1918.

Dear Mamma and Papa:
Will write you all a few lines in answer to your letter received Aug. 2nd, was glad to hear from you all and to hear you all was well this leaves me well and enjoying good health.

What do you think about the war? We hope it will soon be over. We have left France and are now in Belgium. Would like to tell you how every thing is but can't now. Hope to soon be back and then I can tell you the wonderful story which I could not explain with pen and paper. Well I had the pleasure of seeing a German airplane brought down a few days ago. That is about all I can say about the war. Was glad to hear you had good crops, was sorry to hear of the two deaths. Tell Walter B'n. people that he was well the last time I saw him. The way you addressed your letter was all O. K. I have changed Co. it will be like this Supply Co. 118, Inf. A. P. O. 749, American E. F., via New York, and will get it all O. K. I will get it addressed the other way like you addressed your, but I will get it quicker this way. Give my best regards to and tell Minnie I will answer her letter in a few days.

Good Bye,
JESSE ISAACS.

Letter from Wm. B. Leftwich at Camp Jackson to his father N. R. Leftwich of Ladonia, N. C.
Sept 16th, 1918.

My dear Parents:
Your welcome letter of 13th just received and I was very glad indeed to hear from you.

I am well and liking fine, there is no reason we should not like, for Uncle Sam has the best paid, and supplied army in the world. Our rations are extra good and well prepared.

Dewitt Sparger is one of the cooks

for our Battery.

Camp Jackson is situated about six miles North West of Columbia, S. C. and is one of the largest and best camps in the South, extending nearly two miles in length and varying in breadth from one-half to one and one-half miles. Boys are trained here for nearly every branch of the service. There is a small aviation field here.

The Y. M. C. A. is doing wonderful work here, and in all camps. They furnish nearly all comforts we need that are not issued by the Government, such as stationery, books and most any kind of amusement we want. If the home folks knew how much real value they were to the boys, the funds would be larger, I'm sure.

The boys have to stand a very rigid examination physically and mentally before they are sent to the Artillery, and when they find one a little weak or slow they send him back to the Infantry or "The dough boys" we call them.

Hoping to hear from you soon and often, I close.

Your loving son,
Pvt. Wm. B. LEFTWICH.

Letter from Claude E. Needham to his wife who lives near Pilot Mountain.
Somewhere in France.

Dear Wife:
Will take great pleasure in writing you this afternoon.

I am feeling fine having plenty to eat and a good place to sleep.

This is a beautiful country but is much different from ours. Two of the hardest things for me to understand is the money and language. I wish I could speak French. I want you to write me all the news and tell me how all my people are getting along.

I don't think I will have to stay over long, so enjoy yourself and trouble as little as you can.

Will close hoping this will find you all well.

Your husband,
CLAUDE E. NEEDHAM.

American Engineers
Operate German Road.

Correspondence, Sept. 12.—The American engineers' detachment now is operating a complete German narrow gauge railroad in the St. Mihiel salient, the Americans having captured 38 one man gasoline locomotives during the offensive.

In Thiaucourt the Americans took six of these locomotives, which were in running order. Several other engines had been damaged by the retreating Germans, but they had no time to injure the others. The Americans soon had the damaged engines in operation.

The equipment includes many miles of tracks, with great stacks of unladen rails and steel ties. All along the front these one-man engines are darting here and there on tracks laid by the Germans and also upon new trackage set up by the Americans, which connects with the various German systems.

Hundreds of small flat cars also were captured and the Americans are using gasoline which they found in the German supply station. The Americans had little difficulty in solving the mechanism of the German engines and they were ready for operation when the shell-torn tracks were repaired. Narrow gauge flat cars which came from the United States also are being used over the German rails. They are twice as long as the German cars and bear on their side "U. S. A." in big white letters.

German Prisoners
Working in Fields.

With the American Forces in France, Sept. 20.—Thousands of German prisoners many of them taken by the Americans in the drive north of the Marne and southwest of Soissons, have been working in the grain fields of France during the last few weeks.

In some instances a single French soldier guards fifty or sixty Germans as they labor in the field. One French soldier said he has been guarding prisoners all summer and that not one of them had endeavored to escape. All of the Germans working as harvesters still clung to their gas masks, many of them carrying them on a strap over their shoulders as they toiled in the field.

At night the German farmers' helpers were taken to quarters in the different farming districts where temporary buildings, surrounded by a high barbed wire fence had been erected.

The more bonds you buy the fewer boys will die.

TURKS ARE BEING
CRUSHED BY ALLENBY

Allied Wings Closed in Swift
Enveloping Movement—18,000 Prisoners Taken.

With the violence of the operations on the western front in France considerably diminished in intensity, the Turks in Palestine and the Bulgarians and their allies in Macedonia are being put to the test. But nowhere thus far have they been able to hold back, or even to counteract, the onslaughts of their foes.

In Palestine the Turks seemingly are in the process of being crushed; in Macedonia the entente forces are driving sharp wedges for considerable distances into the enemy fronts.

In France and Flanders, where there has been any fighting rising in importance above patrol encounters, the British, French and American troops have kept the upper hand and advanced their respective lines.

Our transcendent interest for the moment, at least, are the operations of the British General Allenby's forces in Palestine. Here, in less than four days, the British have swept forward in the center between the river Jordan and taken the famous Nazareth, while their wings closed round in a swift enveloping movement and nipped within the maw of the great pincer all the Ottoman forces in the coastal sector, the plain of Sharon, the hill region in the center and also the western Jordan valley. Meanwhile to the northeast, the friendly Arab force of the king of the Hedjaz have cut all railway communication in front of the fleeing Turks and are standing a barrier to their escape by way of the eastern plains.

More than 18,000 Turks had been made prisoners by the British and guns in excess of 120 had been counted when the last reports from General Allenby were received. In addition great quantities of war stores had been captured and still others had not been counted owing to the rapidity of the movement.

It is not improbable that within the hour the status of which has been the status of the Ottoman Empire, thousands of Turks are unaccounted for. Many of those already made prisoner, fleeing in disorder, literally walked into the hands of the British, not knowing their lines of retreat had been cut off.

Although the Turks at some points offered considerable resistance to the British, at no point were they able to stay the advance, even on the famous field of Armageddon, which the British cavalry swept across and occupied Nazareth to the north. In the operation of sewing the enemy in the sack, aviators played an important role, vigorously bombing the retreating Turks, inflicting enormous casualties on them. The losses of General Allenby are described as slight, in comparison with the importance of the movement carried out.

Spanish Influenza and
Its Treatment.

Discussing the outbreak of Spanish Influenza in this country, Surgeon General Blue says:

"The disease is characterized by sudden onset. People are stricken on the streets, while at work in factories, shipyards, offices, or elsewhere. First there is a chill, then fever with temperature from 101 to 103, headache, backache, reddening and running of the eyes, pains and aches all over the body and general prostration. Persons so attacked should go to their homes at once, get to bed without delay and immediately call a physician.

"Treatment under direction of the physician is simple but important consisting principally of rest in bed fresh air, abundant food, with Dover's Powder for the relief of pain. Every case with fever should be regarded as serious and kept in bed at least until temperature becomes normal. Convalescence requires careful management to avoid serious complications, such as bronchial pneumonia, which not infrequently may have fatal termination. During the present outbreak in foreign countries the salts of quinine and aspirin have been most generally used during the acute attack, the aspirin apparently with much success in the relief of symptoms.

Because the last epidemic of influenza occurred more than 25 years ago, physicians who began to practice medicine since 1892 have not had personal experience in handling a situation now spreading throughout a considerable part of the foreign world and already appearing to some extent in the United States. For that reason Dr. Blue is issuing a special bulletin for all medical men who send for it.

MILLIONS EXTORTED BY
THE GERMAN INVADERS.

Huns Have Extorted \$466,000,000 From the Belgians Since War Began.

Paris August 31.—Germany has extorted war contributions from Belgium during the first four years of the war amounting to a total of \$466,000,000. This is in addition to the vast amount of machinery, materials and men taken from Belgium to sustain Germany. In this fifth year of the war it is interesting to review the "financial activities" of the Germans in Belgium since that fateful day in Belgium's history, August 20, 1914, when the German hordes entered Brussels.

During that month, as the German armies were making their way thru the little kingdom numerous towns and cities were "fined" and war contributions were levied from each province as the Germans progressed south westward.

The first move of the German staff when entering a town was to proceed to the city hall and announce to the burgomaster that for resisting the advance of the Emperor William's armies his city or town had been fined so many thousand or million francs, as the case might be. When the burgomaster would remonstrate, Uhlands, and Death's Head hussars would carry off innocently in the city hall square or the burgomaster would be taken prisoner.

In one instance in the province of Liege the German commander of the company entering the town informed the burgomaster that a war contribution of 100,000 francs would have to be forthcoming within two hours. The burgomaster demurred. Neither in the history of the little town had there been as much money in the city treasury. At the present moment, there was only a little over 3,000 francs in the strong box.

"Well, we'll take that," clamorously responded the German.

More than 200,000,000 francs were thus levied between August and November, 1914.

Then Field Marshal Hermann von der Goltz, Pasha, demanded that Belgium contribute to the war a monthly contribution of 40,000,000 francs during one year and it would not be increased and that it would not be renewed. The Pasha's decree however, proved to be but another scrap of paper.

In November 1915, Baron von Bissing called upon the councils of the nine Belgium provinces to meet and inform them that the promise of his predecessor had been made in good faith but with the implied condition that war would be ended within the year and that he saw no alternative but than to renew the monthly contribution of 40,000,000 francs for another year.

On the 20th of November, 1915, instead of abolishing the onerous tax on Belgium, von Bissing decided that owing to the duration of the war the increase in prices—high cost of living—he would have to increase the monthly payments to 50,000,000 francs. He added ominously, "temporarily."

It proved to be so, indeed, for the 21st of May, 1917, the contributions was further raised to 60,000,000 francs.

The flow of francs into the coffers of the "war lord" was too small to satisfy the gargantuan appetites of the military men however, and September 12, 1916, they "seized" 430,000,000 million marks, constituting all the deposits in German bills of the Banque Nationale and Societe Generale de Belgique, the two largest banks in Belgium. When one of the directors of the Societe Generale refused to divulge that part of the combination of the vaults which he alone knew and without which the vaults could not be opened, the Germans said that they would blow them open with high explosives. The director rather than have the vaults of the institution wrecked decided to acquiesce. Thus what will probably go down as the greatest gurgling of modern times was perpetuated.

Some Liberty Loan Slogans.

Wear your old clothes and buy Liberty Bonds.

Liberty Bonds or Germany bondage.

"Come across" or the kaiser will. The soldier gives; you must lend.

Liberty bonds or German taxes. Buy over here to win over there.

For Foch and freedom; buy bonds. A bond slacker is the kaiser's backer.

A man who won't lend is the kaiser's friend.

Let all get on the bond wagon.

Be one of the millions to lend the billions.

WHY WE ARE AT WAR.

The following two editorials from the Biblical Recorder will be of especially interesting at this time. The first sets forth very briefly, but plainly our justification for being in the War. There are some people (few, let us hope) that do not yet know why we are fighting. Coming from a conservative religious leader as Dr. Johnson the writer is, the first of these editorials should prove enlightening to that class. The second sets forth, what may be regarded as the views of the conservative class of thinking people as the minimum that must be demanded of Germany when peace comes to be made. Any one who wishes to see justice done to the small nations despoiled by the Huns, as well as to guarantee peace for the future, could not ask less than therein set forth.

Christians and the War.
We have been asked several times how it is that Christians can enter enthusiastically into this world war. So far as the writer is concerned this question gives him no trouble.

This is, we think, like no other war that has ever been waged in the world and certainly like no other with which we have had experience. Germany is an outlaw among the nations, out to crush the weak by might, to despoil those whom she conquers, to murder the weak and defenceless; and to commit outrages that would have made the blood of those who lived in the dark ages run cold.

It would be wrong for a Christian to go out on the street and deliberately shoot down a man against whom he had a grievance, but it would not only be right but the sacred duty of a Christian to defend his home against the invasion of one who came for the purpose of murder and rape. The same principle holds with nations. Germany is a national highway robber, a menace to the peace and security of the other nations of the earth, and therefore, should be overpowered just as an individual should be who is guilty of such lawlessness.

The writer does not assume to be the keeper of the consciences of other people, but he cannot see how any red-blooded American citizen, who believes in justice and right, can be neutral in this mighty world conflict. We believe it is our duty as a nation to press this war-fare until Germany will have been completely conquered.

Peace Terms.
That was a high idealism expressed by President Wilson when our entrance into the war was made known. Peace without a victory and that America would have no indemnity. Mr. Wilson has himself seen the wisdom of the first proposition. Peace without victory means that the warring nations will come to a point where they are willing to have a cessation of hostilities and gather around the council table and discuss terms of peace.

In our judgement there can be no peace without victory. Such might be if the nations on both sides in this conflict were civilized. But we cannot afford to parley with Germany or give her a place at the table when peace negotiations are being conducted. Germany has shown that she has no regard for her word, and honor is a term that is not found in her vocabulary. The most sacred treaty, by her own confession, is a "mere scrap of paper." Peace must be dictated by the Allies and Germany must accept what her victors will give her. We have no doubt but that she will be dealt with fairly by the victorious nations.

We do not believe that the autocracy of Germany should go free of punishment. We are not saying here what that form of punishment should be, but if the Kaiser and those immediately associated with him are not punished, then all pen laws in regard to individuals in all countries of this earth should be expunged from the statute books.

As to indemnity, it seems but fair that a country which would deliberately plunge the whole world into war and with a wanton recklessness destroy the property of their adversaries, when it was not necessary to do so, should be made to pay indemnity. For the peace of the world, and as a warning to any other nation that in the future might desire to follow a ruthless and cruel warfare such as Germany has waged, we believe that this outlaw should be dealt with sternly.

This paper has tried to pursue a conservative course during the war, and the writer has sought to exercise self-restraint lest he might say things that would be afterward regretted, but he is putting down here the deliberate conclusions which he has reached after mature deliberation.

Hearst Prints Publicly Burned

Eugene, Ore.—Copies of publications issued by William Randolph Hearst, which had accumulated at newsstands here since a recent agreement was put in effect by newsdealers barring all Hearst publications from sale in Eugene on the ground that they were disloyal, were burned publicly in a bonfire here. A crowd of people assembled for the occasion, which included members of the patriot league.

Citizens sang patriotic songs as the flames mounted and patriotic addresses were made in which the newsdealers were commended for their action in barring the alleged disloyal Hearst publications from sale.