

## LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from Ned Bolt to his mother Mrs. W. A. Bolt, of Mount Airy. Somewhere in France. Aug. 1918.

Dear Mother and Sister:

Perhaps by this time you have received the letters that I wrote while in England. Since landing here we have changed locations several times and had the chance to see much of this country. The people of France are exceedingly pleasant and polite and we enjoy talking to them in our limited way. To see our fellows trying to converse with them is like seeing a bunch of windmills all going at once, as most of our French is spoken with the hands. However it will not be long before we can make ourselves understood, for we are studying French now. I am in the best of health and am gaining in weight daily. Do not feel concerned about my safety, for I am in no danger whatever.

Letter from Dewitt Martin of Ladonia, to his sister, Mrs. P. S. Rothrock of Mount Airy.

Camp McClellan, Ammiston, Ala.

Dear Jessie:

As I am through for the day, and have nothing to do until Taps. Will write you again and give you some more news of Camp McClellan.

The camp is still in quarantine for Spanish Influenza and I suppose will be for a few days or may be weeks yet, but the number of cases are decreasing daily now. Over 50 per cent of the men that were sent to the Base Hospital, were only suffering from colds. But were sent there as a precautionary measure more than anything else.

As for me, I am feeling fine, weigh 25 pounds more than when I came here. So the "Hash and Stew" we are always kicking about evidently agrees with me. Cussing the mess Sergeant is a habit that soon becomes chronic with us. But mess call is always responded to on double time.

The most popular man in Camp though is the mail man, you can never realize just how much a letter means to you until you get transferred and your mail is about two weeks reaching you, by that time you are disgusted with everything, then when about a dozen letters come in at once, you let out a whoop and decide that the army isn't so bad after all.

The Y. M. C. A. has been closed here since quarantine you can't realize how much we really do miss the "Y" and what a help they are to the boys until you are denied the privilege for awhile. The Y. M. C. A., K. of P., and Jewish Welfare Board, furnish all kinds of amusement and entertainment. They have a different program every night, boxing, wrestling, moving pictures etc. Sometimes the girls come out from town, and give a recital for us, which is always very much enjoyed and appreciated.

This is the fifth week I have attended Radio school, and it gets more interesting all the time. We are doing field work now. We take our wireless machines out to the Dug-outs and connect them up ready for receiving. You see the Wireless is operated in connection with the artillery. We have several aeroplanes fitted out with wireless, and when the guns are fired, the observer in the aeroplane notes the place where the shots fall, and then sends us a wireless message from his machine, and tells us how to correct the range. We have lots of fun out on the range here. All the batteries are target practicing now, and it keeps up a regular boom, boom, boom, all the time. I guess it will be more interesting when we have the Huns for a target, and suppose we'll get our share of their shells too, for they say the Boche have no love for the Radio men.

Our Radio station here, can receive messages from long distance, such as the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. We picked up a message from Calson, Panama last week, and every night we get the Press Dispatches as they are sent out from the Arlington station near Washington, City.

Each Regiment here, has erected a wireless station so we receive the news every night in our own Regiment.

I suppose we'll be leaving for France soon. Everything seems to be

most ready. At least we are expecting to spend Christmas in France. We hope the quarantine will soon be lifted so there'll be nothing to keep us from going. Everyone seems eager to start, so we'll get there in time for the big show when we cross the Rhine and nail the stars and stripes on the Royal Palace at Berlin.

The boys "Over there" are headed in that direction alright.

Its time for Taps when the lights have to go, so must close. I sure did enjoy the cake, it was dandy, tasted like home.

Be sure and write, I'm always so glad to get news from home. Send me a copy of the Mount Airy News whenever you can.

Love to all the family.

Your brother,  
DEWITT T. MARTIN.

Letter from Abner Deatherage to his father Peter Deatherage of Mount Airy.

Camp Sevier, S. C., Oct. 7, 1918

Dear Papa:

Your letter of October 3d. received this morning and was very glad indeed to hear from you and to know you are all well. This leaves me enjoying good health.

The papers are very encouraging now, and everyone here thinks that the beginning of the end has started. I get to read the daily papers, but would be glad to receive a copy of The Mount Airy News any time, when you are through with it, I would be very glad to read same.

Will close for this time. Write at your convenience. I knew you were busy so have not expected a letter from you. We all look forward to mail time and if the people at home knew how glad their boys are to hear from home they would write more often. You hear them speaking of their father and mother at home more than you do their sweethearts, and I am of the opinion some of the mothers will have a hard time keeping their boys from making a necktie out of their apron strings, when they get home to stay.

With love and best wishes to all,  
Your boy,  
ABNER.

Letter from Cephus Lewis, to his sister, Mrs. W. F. Lambert of Brim, N. C.

Somewhere in France  
Sept. 6, 1918.

Dear Sister:

I will answer your letter of Aug. 5th. Well I have just gotten back from the front. We went over the top and made good gains on old Fritz. They ran from us but it did not do them any good. So if they get me next time I have got my part already. I had a good chance to try my rifle and I did not miss a shot. I had to get nine while some of my pals were unfortunate, but I had some close calls. I hear that the Germans all had good watches and thought I would get me one, but when I got to a German he had no good watch so I had to take such as he had. I hope this cruel war will soon end for it is no fun. I will write as often as I can, so you will hear from me now and then if I do not get picked off, if so give my best love to the kids and all friends.

Letter from Greely Jones to his mother Mrs. Dave Jones of Mount Airy.

Somewhere in France.  
Sept. 1st, 1918.

Dear Mother:

Your most welcome letter just received. Was more than glad to hear from you all. I am very well with the exception of a little head ache, and that doesn't amount to much caused by a slight cold and perhaps a little too much mental and physical exertion. I was in a battle yesterday. We attacked the Huns and drove the devils back always. I was in the first wave that went over the top. We made it in the broad open day light too. One of the boldest attacks I guess ever made. We made it without even the assistance of our artillery. He used his artillery, machine guns, and every thing else he had. We was in a very close place once, but came out all right. I am not supposed to go over the top like that in an attack as I am a Battalion

Sergt. and just supposed to be on special work, getting information etc but the conditions on this special occasion required my service and I needed a prisoner in my business right at this time, so I just went over with the boys, and we had quit an exciting scrap, but I am back at Battalion head quarters now, safe with out a scratch, of course my uniform looks something like a bum's or hobo's, there are so many holes and slits in it I can hardly find the pockets, ha! ha! You will notice a little mark up 8 lines from here, I had to pause to go out to have a look, there was so much noise I thought perhaps the Boche had made a attack on us, but it's about over now, he was just putting over some shells, and I could hear them on the right of us. Our artillery is going now, so you can bet it don't take long to silence him. I certainly would like to see you all. I dream of some of you most every night and sure will be glad when the war is over so I can return. I don't think it can last so very much longer you need not worry about me getting married. Tell father to take good care of himself for I want to find him fat and strong when I return so he can stand the shock when I start telling him of my adventures and ups and downs, tell him I said he used to tell me of adventures and things he thought I never would experience but I will be telling him when I return of things he never would dream of, ha! ha! Tell him to meet me at the door with any thing from a pen knife to a cannon or chuck me out to sleep with the cows, in the chicken coop, under the house, in a ditch, on a rock, on boards, or dig a hole and make it resemble a shell hole as much as possible or any old place but don't put me in a real bed for quite awhile after I return, for it would mean sudden death. You know I will have to get at it very gradual kinder break in you see. And another thing, you want to fire the cook and leave that to me too, just chuck the stove out the door or break it up for I won't need that either. If you have a tin can or a couple of brick bats that will do the business and as for my ward robe you need not trouble about that, just a nich in the basement will be all O. K., and as for the wash woman you can fire her too, without you can use her for an ornament. And I suppose you had better get rid of the cat and collect up all the rats around the barn you can, for I could not be with out my pets you know, and in regards to the family sewing why I will take that on also.

And the most important thing yet is my sleep, just tell father to hire all the hands he can get, arm them with shot guns and any kind of fire arms or explosives that will make the most noise, and drill them and place them at my kennel or barn or where he puts me the first night and start them going when I retire, and it will be very nice to let them have a few hand bombs to chuck on the roof or some where near and I will assure you of a good nights sleep. Now one would think from this letter that I was a rough fellow or had led a dogs life, but not so. I am a much better man than when I left home you can rest assured on that, and I think if it doesn't better a man it ought to kill him. I can do any thing now, there is no such a thing as can't. I know this will be funny to you and father considering the way I used to live and what you and he often told me but don't think I am living a dog's life, for I am not, although I have gone through all this and more, but am faring just as good as any one in the army. I am not in the lines, am at Battalion headquarters. I generally have good quarters, as good as there is, don't have to work hard only at times, have warm rations, warm place to sleep and work.

GREELY,

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARM FOR SALE.

524 Acres—Fine Farming Lands—  
Terms Easy.

We are offering a fine farm of 524 acres of land in Montgomery county for sale on easy terms. This land is well suited to the production of corn, wheat, cotton and tobacco, and all kinds of fruits. Lands are well watered, and in a splendid neighborhood, on Rural Route, six miles from depot, eight miles from court house, in a mile of church.

This land has good red clay subsoil with gray topsoil. We will sell this land on easy terms either as a whole or in small tracts to suit the purchaser at \$10.00 per acre.

C. C. HUTCHENS,  
J. H. FLOGER.

### AUTOCRACY MUST GO BEFORE PEACE COMES.

If Reply does not Bring Unconditional Surrender or More it May Cause a Revolution in Germany.

Washington, Oct. 14.—President Wilson has answered Germany's proposal with a decision which not only fulfills the expectations of supporters of his diplomacy, but also dispels the fears of those who predicted he would substitute victories at arms with defeats at diplomacy.

No peace with kaiserism. Autocracy must go; no armistice can even be thought of while Germany continues her atrocities on land and sea; one cannot be considered unless it is fully dictated by the allied commanders in the field in such terms as absolutely provide safeguards and guarantees that Germany's part will not be a scrap of paper.

This in a few words is the President's answer:

"If it does not bring a capitulation which may be more than unconditional surrender, allied diplomats and American officials believe it may cause a revolution in Germany."

Beyond question it speaks for the entente allies as well as the United States.

The dispatch of the President's reply was followed by the issuance of this formal statement at the White House by Secretary Tumulty:

"The government will continue to send over 250,000 men with their supplies every month and there will be no relaxation of any kind."

No Thought of Stopping Fight.

Quite outside of the formal phase of a diplomatic document that was President Wilson's word to the world that he had no thought of stopping the fighting at this stage.

The senate chamber rang with applause of senators as the President's answer was read a few minutes after it had been announced at the state department. Senator Lodge, the President's chief critic in his course, until today, issued a statement expressing his gratification at the President's decision. Opinion at the capitol and throughout official Washington was unanimously in approval.

The official note which will convey the President's decision to the German government and more important to the German people, was delivered today by Secretary Lansing to the charge of the Swiss legation who has been acting as intermediary. It was given out publicly by Mr. Lansing at the state department at 6 o'clock this evening.

Must Return Alsace-Lorraine.

One outstanding point which does not appear in the President's note—a point on which the world has been asking questions can be answered tonight.

When the President declared that the wrong done to France when Germany took Alsace-Lorraine should be righted, he meant that Alsace-Lorraine should be returned to France.

Those who contend that the President's decision arranges the situation for something more than an unconditional surrender base it on the argument that he has now passed the stage where he might have accepted a surrender of the German military and naval forces and left the Hohenzollern autocracy on its throne.

Mr. Wilson, according to this view, has now finally informed the German people that if they want peace they can only attain it by getting rid of the kaiser and his system.

An Acceptable Armistice.

An armistice, it is true, might come first and the details of the downfall of the German autocratic government might be arranged later. But this is what an armistice would entail.

First, a stop to the atrocities on land and sea and the systematic destruction and devastation in the wake of the retreating German armies. Then, the disarmament of all the German forces and the deposit of their arms and munitions at points to be chosen by the allied military commanders. Then the occupation by allied forces of certain German cities or strongholds of strategic importance. Probably also the occupation of all the submarine bases, a turning over of the German fleet.

In short it will entail a taking from Germany of everything with which she might break her word to an armistice.

From that point the United States and the allies might proceed to dispose of what remained of kaiserism

if the German people have not done so, as President Wilson in his note plainly invites them to do.

Guilty Must be Punished.

While nowhere in the note does the President openly join with the entente statesmen in the demand that the "chief criminals must be delivered up for trial," the President's confidants points out that he plainly subscribes to the doctrine that the guilt of bringing on the world war is personal.

It will be noted that the President completely rejects the German suggestion for a mixed commission to arrange an evacuation and reminds the militarists that they will accept the terms laid down by Marshal Foch and the associated commanders; that they will have no part in framing them. He makes it plain that he does not accept the new German government headed by Chancellor Maximilian as anything less autocratic anything less a creature of German militarism than its predecessors and warns the German people that unless they destroy it the allied armies will do so.

One of the most important points of his note is that in which he acknowledges the present German government's unqualified acceptance of his peace terms and then goes on to show that those terms provide specifically for the substitution of a government wholly responsible to the German people themselves for the present one dominated by the German militarists.

Quoted Mount Vernon Utterance.

Quoting his Mount Vernon speech of July 4, the President reminds Germany that his terms call for "the destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere, that can separately secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or if it cannot be presently destroyed at least its reduction to virtual impotency."

Here, then, follow the words which proclaim with finality that the autocratic government of Germany must go and plainly invite the German people to make the change which will bring them peace.

"The power which hitherto has controlled the German nation," says the President's reply, "is of the sort here described. It is within the choice of the German people to alter. The President's words just quoted naturally constitute a condition precedent to peace if peace is to come by the action of the German people themselves. The President feels bound to say that the whole process of peace will, in his judgement, depend upon the definiteness and the satisfactory character of the guarantees which can be given in this fundamental matter. It is indispensable that the governments associated against Germany should know beyond peradventure with whom they are dealing."

Next Move is Germany's

This pronouncement the President's friends say, fulfills the predictions of those who declared that when he asked Prince Maximilian if he merely represented the military leaders who had been conducting the war, he was laying the foundations to show that the new government of Germany is no less autocratic than the others and for a final statement to the German people themselves that nothing but their autocratic government stands between them and the peace which they so fervently desire. This, the President's friends say, has been the whole theory of his diplomacy.

When the President decided to say that if an armistice should be thought of, it could not be considered without imposing terms to guarantee the good faith of Germany and provide for the maintenance of the military supremacy of the armies of the United States and the entente allies, he undoubtedly knew what the allied war council, acting on the recommendations of Marshal Foch and decided upon as necessary guarantees. These now are understood to include the occupation of Metz and Strassburg and Coblenz, the strategic keys to Germany.

The next move in the great international drama is now expected to take place in Germany while the armies of the co-belligerents thunder at her gates. Diplomats are agreed that what must come from Germany now is action, not words. She may offer to comply with the terms and give up the guarantees which would permit an armistice. From that point the disposition of the autocracy might be considered in connection with the terms of peace. Otherwise, the opinion is unanimous that the victorious armies of the United States and the entente allies must march on.

### REPLY IS EVASIVE, SAYS NORTHCLIFFE.

Speed of German Answer Indicative of Anxiety of Germans, He Declares.

London, Sunday, Oct. 13.—"The speed of the German reply is indicative of the anxiety the Germans feel for the safety of their rapidly retreating army," said Viscount Northcliffe to an Associated Press representative tonight.

"You will remember at the time they were being questioned about the Lusitania they played for delay, 'delay delay,' he continued. "Now they are fighting to gain days, even hours. As I read their reply, it is neither candid nor straightforward. It consists of evasions. These evasions are made for the purpose of unbalancing the minds of simple folks in allied countries and for the purpose of convincing the discontented section of the German people that the allies will not accept what is declared by them to look like a reasonable offer of peace."

"The character of the answer shows the atmosphere of equivocation in which the German government lives and moves. Germany in fact only declares herself ready to comply, she does not comply. She has not accepted the president's terms. She only says—untruthfully—that those terms have been accepted."

"You will remember that in 1870 the Germans when they had the great French army enveloped at Sedan, declined to give an armistice. Bismarck said:

"Germany desires to promote the re-establishment of peace. The best means of assuring it is to deprive France of her army."

"If my American friends will look at the maps in their newspapers today they will see that Marshal Foch is rapidly driving the Germans into a gigantic Sedan—not the Sedan of 1870. The number of retiring Germans far outnumbered the French army in 1870.

"If we grant an armistice we shall be providing material for a great prolongation of war. If we leave the matter to Marshal Foch he will end the war. Bulgaria is out. Turkey is going out. Austria-Hungary is on the verge of a revolution.

"The combined efforts of Americans, associated with the armies of France, Great Britain, Italy and Belgium, will end this struggle and put a stop to any possible recrudescence of the war."

### An Active Program For Women Agents.

Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon reports a most interesting schedule for the year's work in the Home Demonstration Clubs. One particularly striking program stresses the making of new garments from old. The scarcity of wool has made it necessary that every old coat suit, cloak, or dress should be remodeled or retouched that the new woolen cloth may go to keep the soldiers warm this winter. At the meeting each club member is requested to wear some old dress that she desires to remodel, and plans for just how it can best be done are discussed by the county agent.

Just at this time the Home Demonstration agents have had to drop everything else and try to organize their clubs into aids to doctors and nurses in this terrible influenza epidemic. They are supervising diet kitchens collecting garments and bandages for the sick, and going in as nurses where they are needed. One city agent who was to resign the middle of October to go overseas as dietitian writes: "I cannot leave here now until this awful epidemic is over. Conditions are somewhat improved, but my people need me still. So far, the county agent and I have been spared, and we are keeping our diet kitchens open night and day. One of us takes charge of the night work and one of us supervises things by day."

In Wadesboro there is to be put on by the home demonstration forces in co-operation with the Red Cross a big competition "sing" between a colored choir of Anson county 300 strong and one of the same size from Union. The proceeds from this novel contest will go to the Red Cross.

### Cuba Gives Cigarettes.

London, Sept. 20.—The government of Cuba has sent to the American Red Cross in Europe 240,000 cigarettes and 3,500 packages of smoking tobacco for distribution to American wounded.

"This is a gift from the Cuban people in recognition of the work of the American army and a token of the sincere friendship between Cuba and the United States," writes the Cuban minister in transmitting the gift.