

## LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from R. A. Davis, son of Mr. Joe Davis to his Sunday School teacher, Mr. John A. Martin of Mount Airy.

Somewhere in France. "Eventually Berlin."

Dear old partner of long, long ago: While glancing over some names, notes, addresses and unanswered letters today, I was reminded of you and my promise to write.

I am well and seeing lots of interesting things. You see so many things one often wonders of he's dreaming.

The French women certainly are to be praised. In factories and everywhere they have taken the place of men. The poor class wear wooden shoes. The French wear their horses in front of each other, single file carts are used, very seldom one sees a wagon. I am catching on to this French 'Lingo' pretty good. Some of the words are pronounced exactly opposite from the way they are spelt.

Never will I forget our old Sunday School class nor our Teacher. Those were the days. I found more real genuine enjoyment during that period of my life than I ever have before or since. I have often wondered if it wasn't the same with the remainder of the boys, my class mates. In imagination I still see the old Baptist Church, the organ, the two large stoves, Preacher Smith, Mark Dean with his high standing collar blowing the horn.

Once you gave me a book, The Ghost House, for regular attendance to Sunday School for six months. Those pictures too! I will never forget. Such good times we had at the White Sulphur Springs. The games we played, the boat riding, swings etc. Last, but not least, the good things to eat. Oh Boy! but wouldn't I like some of that fried chicken now.

The old class is broken now. All the boys have grown into men, some are married. Some have probably died doing their bit.

If all have lived close to their mothers and Sunday School Teachers teachings, the greatest victory of all battles will be won.

Pardon the writing. I had only ten minutes to write this.

Letter from Sergt. Eugene Riddle now in France to Rev. C. C. Haymore. Dear Mr. Haymore:

I have been thinking for some time that I would write to you but have been so busy that I have put it off until now. I know you will be glad to hear from the boys over here. Most of the boys are getting along all right since we were transferred to different outfits we do not get to see each other often, but I hear from most of them once in a while and they seem to be doing well. I think that most all of them have been in the front lines by now, and I have not heard of one of them being injured. I have just returned from the lines myself and without a scratch. I think that is a great thing to be able to say. Mr. Haymore I thank you for the good advice that you gave me in the past, and I have the little book you gave me and reading it is great past time.

Extracts from two letters from Sgt. William Graves to his father S. P. Graves of Mount Airy.

American Expeditionary Forces. Sept. 23rd, 1918.

Dear Mother and Father:

After about two months of the mud of Flanders, in "poor little Belgium" where we had "beaucoup" shells and several bombings, we have had a so-called rest for two weeks.

Now we are back in the thick of it again, and after arriving in this village called — last evening, we were greeted this morning just at daylight with about ten or twelve shells. They were all close by, shrapnel, and burst over the village; some of it rattled on the roof, but no damage was done—that is to say no one was killed or wounded.

To do material damage would be impossible, for it is literally true when I say there is not a whole house standing in the town.

I saw desolation and destruction in Belgium; it was as nothing compared with the country I came through yesterday. For miles and miles not a house standing, cities and towns leveled to the ground, fields literally honey-combed with dug-outs and old trenches, trees, large and small, practically all dead, some of them twisted off by shells, others had been killed by the Huns by hacking about the trunks; other vegetation had been injured by gas. Barbed wire entanglements there were for miles. Along the roadside were crosses innumerable which marked the graves of friends and Huns alike, with here and there a Boche helmet stuck on an old rifle barrel which served as a cross.

It is all very terrible to write about, yet what I saw yesterday and this morning so fills my mind that I have to write of that which I saw or nothing.

This morning I walked to the church here; it had been struck by a shell but the interior was not badly damaged. Of course the roof was badly shattered; the roofs do not stand shell fire very well. In the church yard one could easily discern the work of the Hun. Tombstones overturned and many of the mausoleums broken open the tops torn from

the casquets and the bodies exposed.

In this village all the wells, save two, were filled with manure and old empty cans, mines were left everywhere and diabolical traps of every kind. An innocent looking piece of piping in the building we are in was the trigger of a mine. Only last night a transport company while picketing the horses set off a mine and—well out of five, three were killed outright; I haven't heard from the other two.

To exaggerate a description of the destruction and work of demolition would be impossible. Dante's Inferno would be a puny description of some of the places I have seen.

\*\*\*\*\* I am well and am taking as good care of my health as conditions permit; just at present I am sleeping in a cellar, a pretty comfortable place. I usually manage a bath and get my clothes washed, it looks as though I've got to do a week's washing however this week. Sept. 27.

Dearest Mother: This is to be just a note for we are awfully busy just now.

I wrote a letter to you and father, jointly, about three nights ago, I fear it sounded rather dismal and depressing—that's why I am hastening to write you again so that I may correct any suggestions of depression my letter might have created in your minds. It was hastily, crudely written; I was so impressed by the ruin and desolation I had seen all day that it dominated my thoughts.

We are "carryin on" now in dead earnestness; our fellows are doing splendidly and all the war news is good.

My work is difficult but less difficult as I learn more of it. I've never told you, I believe, that our Ordnance and Quartermaster branches are consolidated in the area I am now in, and have been in. I am in charge of the Quartermaster group. I say it keeps me busy, but there are some good, congenial fellows in the bunch, and when we have a bit of time off things are very pleasant. Then there's the excitement of the thing which keeps us all going. Since we have been here we have had to be double careful about lights. Every night Jerry is over dropping his bombs; he hasn't put one in the ruined village we are in since we got here. He has spent most of his evenings bombing an ammunition dump about a mile away. He was shelling the place this afternoon.

On the railway about a mile off (as I write) a big Naval gun is letting the Hun have tremendous shells with great regularity. We are whipping them and Germany will soon be howling for peace, but no one who has seen the country, cities, towns and people I have seen, will wish to enter into any peace negotiations with her until she has tasted some of her own medicine. I hope the Allies will adopt the policy of a town for a town. Unless they do so, Germany, seeing she is beaten, will devastate Northern France, demolish cities, destroy industrial plants and economically ruin France. With French industries crippled, her own factories and towns intact, she will be able to resume her manufacturing long before France can hope to make more than a start. But I digress terribly. I am well and going on well to use the formulae of the British Field Post Cards which you received from me.

With the prayer that you are all well, and with love for you every one.

Letter from Albert S. Allred to his sister, Mrs. R. S. Cox, Mount Airy N. C.

My dear Sister: I feel ashamed to write you now as it has been so long since I wrote you, but don't feel bad, because I have so much to think of and do I can't write every time I want to. I suppose you know about me any way thru the home folks. I am getting along fine and am having very good health. The weather has started to get cold over here now, but not enough to make a fellow put on more clothes yet. The last letter I had from Nan she said that Sam was on his way over, but thought he would go to Italy. If he would let me hear from him I would be better satisfied. I have written him several times but he has not answered any of my letters. I would be glad if you would get his address from Papa and send it to me in the next letter. If he is in France and I can locate him, I might get to see him over here. They say Edd Cox is over here too, and lots of the other boys that I know, but I have never run up with any of them yet. If we should ever get back alive we can tell you all a big story. We will have to have a meeting I suppose and take a turn about telling what we know.

Letter from Jesse G. Jarrell to his mother, Mrs. Jennette Jarrell, of Sutherlin, Va.

On Board Ship. Dear Mother: I will write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. This is the eleventh day out and you know I am getting anxious to see land one more time. I want you all to write me often for I always love to hear from home. Will write more when we land.

## AWKWARD ATTEMPT IS MADE BY GERMANS TO MEET ALLIES' DEMANDS

Note is Accorded More Consideration in Washington Because of Confidential advices That People are Determined to Have Peace.

Washington Oct. 21.—Germany has replied to President Wilson with a note which though no one is prepared to say, it will lead the President even to continue exchanges on the subject of an armistice and peace, at least has served almost to bring conviction here that the people of Germany actually are taking the reins of government and sincerely desire peace on any terms the United States and the allies are willing to give.

There was no intimation tonight of the attitude of the President, and probably there will be none until the official text of the new German communication has been received. The President was in conference all evening with Secretary Lansing discussing the note as received by wireless late in the day. Like the reply to the President's inquiries a week ago, this note was sent out from the German wireless stations and picked up in the allied countries many hours before the official text could move by cable. The official version probably will come tomorrow through the Swiss legation here.

Important Confidential Advices. As received by wireless the note is believed to be slightly garbled in the important sentences regarding conditions for the evacuation of invaded territory and for an armistice, but nevertheless it is regarded as an awkward attempt to meet the conditions laid down by President Wilson for consideration of an armistice. And it makes the significant declaration that the government in Berlin no longer is responsible to a single arbitrary influence—the kaiser—but is supported by an overwhelming majority of the German people.

This declaration is supported by the statement that constitutional reforms are in progress in accord with the determination of the people under which no government can take or hold office without the confidence of the majority of a reichstag elected by universal secret suffrage. It is accorded more consideration here because of confidential advices received only today indicating that the German middle classes have resolved to have peace at any price, and if necessary are prepared to get rid of the kaiser, the crown prince and all military control.

Genuine Efforts to Get Peace. Thus the belief is strengthened that the present note and those that have gone before are genuine efforts to obtain peace, and are inconclusive merely because the Germans conducting the exchanges are seeking to bargain for something better than the unconditional surrender they are prepared to give if pushed to the wall. It is assumed also that they want to prepare gradually the German public for a realization of what has happened to their military machine and the war lord's dream of power, so as to avoid a complete collapse of government.

Diplomatic observers point out that the President is at liberty with perfect consistency to make no response at this time, but to await developments; to await the performances of the promises of the Germans not to torpedo passenger ships, their implied promise to work no more destruction during their retreat from Belgium and France than military necessity requires, and finally to await further development of the political leaven that evidently is working toward the complete overthrow of military and autocratic power in the empire.

No Immediate Cessation Hostilities. No one believes that an immediate cessation of hostilities is in sight. The opinion most generally held is that if Mr. Wilson decides to make a reply, and if the entente governments agree, the only step possible at this time would be to sanction preliminary arrangements to be dictated by Gen. Foch in the field for withdrawal of the Germans without further fighting. Such arrangements of course, would be contingent upon guarantees of continued supremacy of the victorious allied armies, and consequently virtually would mean surrender for the Germans.

The official view here so far has been that evacuation of invaded territory must be completed before there can be an armistice. Should President Wilson after consultation with the allies adhere to this view the work of driving the Germans to and across their own borders would proceed and

the opportunity for fixing details, which the new note suggests "be brought about" would come only through a request from the German lines under a white flag on the battlefield.

Little importance is attached to the protests and denials in the note regarding German brutality and ruthless destruction of property. The important thing is whether atrocities now stop. As to an investigation by a neutral commission as suggested in the note, the President indicated long ago, that such investigations could come to nothing except in connection with arrangements for final peace.

Regarding the German denial of unnecessary destruction of property by the retreating armies, military experts say that undoubtedly such armies are authorized under international law to work terrible havoc in evacuated territory. But there is one prime condition to be met—all of this must be done with the sole purpose of damaging and retarding the pursuing army. Bridges may be destroyed, stores of food burned and even buildings which might shelter enemy troops. But it is not permitted to loot and destroy private property which would be of no use to either army, or, in fact to commit any of the acts of wanton devilry which are charged up against the German armies.

## No Compromise With Foe

View of British People.

London, Oct. 21.—As proof of the futility of German attempts to weaken the will of the British people by peace talk, the Daily Telegraph publishes a series of messages from the mayors of more than 50 English and other towns, representing every phase of municipal life. They all breathe but one spirit, namely that there must be no compromise with the foe.

The following are messages from a few of the principal towns:

Birmingham—"Germany must be required to accept the terms imposed by the allies and stern justice must be meted out."

Bradford—"After what Germany has done, there must be no compromise. It is absolutely essential that there should be British supremacy of the seas."

Cardiff—"Any compromise with Germany would be fatal. The German navy must be handed over."

Hull—"The allied troops should occupy Essen and march to Berlin."

Blackburn—"To bargain with the Germans is unthinkable after the history of the past four years."

Blackpool—"The Germans asked for a good hiding and deserve to get it."

Canterbury—"In no circumstances must we make peace until every man and woman in Germany who has been brutal to our prisoners has been punished and reparation given for all the damage."

Exeter—"Let Germany surrender at the bar of the world's justice and receive just sentences for her crimes and give guarantees for her future good conduct. The allies will be just but dare not be generous."

Hythe—"In this town 'no compromise' is nailed on our mast."

## Press Comment.

Washington Post: The communication is nothing else than an effort to obtain relief for the German army by uttering a series of falsehoods and false promises to President Wilson. There should be only one answer hereafter to anything that Germany may say: "Surrender to Foch."

New York Herald: Today as on the heels of the American note of October 8, the demand of the American people will be—no armistice, no negotiations, no discussions, no peace until there is open admission of defeat by whatever government Germany may have, and no thought of peace until the German armies have surrendered unconditionally.

On with the war! We have just begun to fight!

Boston Globe: The ink and paper of the German reply to President Wilson are new; but it is the same old handwriting. Item by item the note reveals its insincerity.

Philadelphia Public Ledger: President Wilson's conduct of the long distance conversation thus far has indicated access to information not in common possession. The general feeling will be that he must be trusted to answer this last fulmination from Berlin without any pressure of uninformed public opinion upon him, one way or the other.

Chicago Tribune: From the German response it is apparent that the ruling powers at Berlin now look com-

plete defeat in the face. There is but one mind in America on this war, that it shall go on to victory, to the utter destruction of Prussian militarism and to the establishment of peace founded on its ashes.

Omaha Bee: The latest note from the German government does not meet the requirements. In no sense, generally or specifically, it is responsive.

Baltimore American: There is nothing in this note actually to promote peace; the evident disposition of the German authorities is to give way step by step as they are forced so to do. The United States and its allies have yet before them to follow out the prescription of force without stint or limit.

Providence Journal: The German government offers a reply that is not worth the paper on which it is printed. It is a compliance in form without yielding anything except what has to be yielded to the hard argument of force.

Atlanta Constitution: The latest German peace note to President Wilson is involved and ambiguous. Now, let us refer all further communications from Germany to General Foch for his attention. If we are to have peace it will come that way.

Memphis Commercial-Appeal: If the German fundamental law has been changed so as to give the people full representation and the right to veto, what guarantee can Germany give that so soon as the present difficulty is over these rights will not again be taken away from the people? The entire Germanic conversation has been a waste of time and a diversion from the main thing.

Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer: The answer of the German government to President Wilson is not satisfactory, yet it is so great an advance of anything Germany has yet proposed that it must be regarded with gratification everyone who wants to see Germany submit to terms that will mean adequate humiliation and punishment for her crimes and will put an end to the war.

Charlotte (N.C.) Observer: The reply, while both evasive and contentious, yet shows a wavering in the German courage and an inclination to recede from any sort of a dictatorial policy. If the President should accept the representations of responsibility of the new government, then it is possible he may direct it to make application to the allied military advisers in the field.

Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch: The German reply falls far short of the terms demanded, and is entitled to but one answer—unqualified rejection. Autocracy's game of deception to save itself from the full penalty of its crimes will not work, and until the conditions are fully met the war must go on. Foch is on the job, and future peace overtures should and no doubt will, be turned over to him to make answer to them.

## Meas to Gain Time or

Confession of Weakness.

London, Oct. 21.—Lord Northcliffe commenting on Germany's reply tonight said:

"A hasty perusal of the German note reveals that, with truly Prussian selfishness, no mention is made of Austria-Hungary or Turkey. It seems to me that the document may be read either as a means to gain time or as a confession of a state of affairs military and economically worse than we know."

## The Reply Won't Lead to

An Immediate Armistice.

Washington, Oct. 21.—Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, said tonight that while the German government has accepted all the requirements laid down by President Wilson, he did not believe the reply would lead to an immediate armistice.

Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, and other senators, reserved comment until the official text of the reply is received.

"The note appears to be an acceptance of the President's stipulations," said Senator Hitchcock. "In my judgment, however, it will not lead to an armistice immediately. I think the military authorities will probably make conditions so hard that Germany will hesitate to accept them and that this will lead to a delay in negotiations over an armistice. In the meanwhile the war will go on."

"As far as the change in the German constitution is concerned the President's demands have apparently been met, although Germany avoids stating that it was done at the President's request and seeks to give the

impression that it was done upon the demands of the German people."

## Germany Has Conceded All

President Wilson Required.

London Oct. 21.—Vincent Haldane former secretary for war, expressing his views on Germany's reply to President Wilson said he thought Germany had conceded what President Wilson required, but in an indirect and complex manner. The elaboration of peace conditions, he believed, would prove a formidable business.

## Appeal to Clergymen.

New York, N. Y.—"No peace except by the unconditional surrender of Germany and her allies" is the subject upon which the American Defense Society has asked clergymen of all denominations throughout the United States to preach on Sunday. The society has received a number of messages from clergymen expressing the conviction that only such a peace can be acceptable. Some of the messages are:

Dr. Thomas H. Stacy, secretary General Conference of Free Baptists, Concord, N. H.: "Nothing, but unconditional surrender will satisfy the present situation or meet the demands of future generations. Germany has shown herself too overbearing, heartless, cruel unscrupulous and untrustworthy to be permitted to be allowed to take any part in the councils which will determine the conditions of final settlement."

Dr. A. E. Montgomery, St. Paul's parish house, Burlington, Vt.: "A negotiated peace would nullify the most complete victory and render futile the sacrifice of Belgium, France, Serbia and England. In very justice to the poured-out blood of these heroic nations, it must not be. Justice demands that the Central Powers pay the great debt to humanity which they have so wantonly incurred."

Dr. Duncan J. McMillan, general secretary of the New York Sabbath Committee, New York: "We shall have fought in vain if we do not bring the German Army to an absolute and unconditional surrender. Among all our writers and speakers no one has so comprehensively and simply expressed the great purpose of the war as Abraham Lincoln in that wonderful sentence 'That government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.'"

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, vice-chairman of the New Era movement of the Presbyterian Church in the United States: "You may surely count upon me for every word that I can say regarding the position that you have taken. It would seem to me as if we would lose all we have gained if any sort of a patched-up peace should be made at this time."

Dr. Harold Pattison, Washington Heights Baptist Church, New York: "I will be glad to preach the sermon you suggest on the 20th and my topic will be, 'Fight the Next War Now.'"

The Rev. George R. Vandewater, pastor St. Andrew's Church, New York: "I am heartily and enthusiastically in accord with the printed utterances of your honorary president, Mr. Roosevelt, on this subject."

## No Certainty Yet as To Size of The Loan.

Washington, Oct. 21.—After reading a number of late reports on the outcome of the fourth liberty loan campaign, which closed Saturday, treasury officials declared tonight there is little certainty at this time either of the total volume of the subscriptions or the number of subscribers. They still felt no doubt that the loan had been oversubscribed but explained that many earlier messages appeared too optimistic in the light of actual figures now being compiled by every bank and local committee over the country.

There was good ground, however, for the estimate that 22,000,000 or more individuals had subscribed to the greatest war loan ever floated by any government. The fact that many of these represented lump subscriptions by corporations which later would reell bonds to their employees led to the belief that the number of actual bondholders would be considerably higher.

## Two Emergency Hospitals

Established in Raleigh.

Raleigh Oct. 20.—A systematic canvass of 3,500 of the 5,000 homes in Raleigh today revealed that there are nearly 1,400 cases of influenza. The complete canvass it is estimated will show a total of 2,000 cases.

Two emergency hospitals are being established and volunteer nurses are being called for. Total deaths to date as a result of the epidemic number 82.