

The Mount Airy News.

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NO. 17

LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

From Lieut. Owen S. Robertson, Co. C, 120th Inf., 39th Division, A. E. F., Oct. 7, to his wife, at Hillsboro. (This letter was apparently written about two weeks prior to the date that he sustained wounds necessitating his immediate transfer to a London hospital, notice of which was contained in a brief cablegram received last week by his family in Hillsboro.)

Since I wrote you last we have been in the line and in one of the biggest battles of the war. In fact, we broke through the Hindenburg line, at its strongest point. It has always been said that the Hindenburg line was impregnable, but this regiment of ours surely proved that it wasn't. Our boys fought like demons and like heroes too, and North Carolina and their division may well be proud of them, not one faltered and not one seemed to know what fear was.

One day last week everything was moving along smoothly and we were having absolute quiet and peace—except for a hard day's work each day, and we didn't mind that—when suddenly everything seemed to be in confusion. Orderlies were running here and there, and soon orders came in saying we were to move to—near the front, at nine P. M. This meant an all night trip by train or by lorries. We had already been told we were preparing to take some part of a strong line.

Well, we traveled all night on motor busses, and reached our destination about six miles behind the line. Here we rested for a couple of days, making our final preparation and plans for what proved to be one of the hardest and largest battles of the war.

Two days later, just before dawn, we were waiting for the barrage to open, for this was to follow to one of the strongest points on the Hindenburg line. For three days thousands of guns had been harassing the enemy from all sides. At dawn on Sunday, October—the heaviest artillery and machine gun barrage that has ever been laid in this war opened. I was lying in a shell hole just in front of my platoon when it opened, and never have I heard such a terrific noise. You couldn't hear a man shout, standing right next to you. For a minute I was paralyzed for I had never witnessed such a barrage.

There were guns in such number that one gun was firing on each yard of our front and millions of rounds of machine gun bullets were fired.

And then we advanced—slowly at first, for the tanks had come up, and we were to follow them. There was a fog in the bottom and the smoke from the shells made it impossible to see more than five yards in front. In a few seconds, I forgot all about the shells Fritz was beginning to throw all around us. We pushed on capturing all kind of Boche, and by eleven A. M., we had reached our objective—four miles away.

Here we held for two days, when we were relieved. We had burst the Hindenburg line! We had also enabled the Australians to go on over us, and they went, too, believe me.

We are hearing good news now. Bulgaria has surrendered and Turkey will follow, soon. The end is certainly in sight. The Boche is on the run and general Foch hits him in so many places at one time that he has neither the time or the men to concentrate his troops to meet the attacks. We are determined to end it before the New Year, and every man and every officer is devoting his time and energy to the task. Fritz has seen the folly of trying to resist the whole world, and he knows, and we know, he can't last much longer.

This week we have been moving every day, and have been hiking on an average of ten miles a day. We haven't stayed in one place more than a day. Last night we reached this place, which is nothing but a field full of shell holes, about eight o'clock with rain falling heavily. I found a truck and slept in it all night with only my overcoat for protection.

We are cooking over an open fire and sometimes sleeping in 'pup' tents. My home right now is a shell hole with a piece of canvas stretched over it. We are going back into the line, soon.

We have been in towns recently

that the Germans occupied less than a week before we got there, but you couldn't tell they had ever been there, for they left so hurriedly, they didn't have time to destroy everything as they usually do. In one place another lieutenant and I were billeted in a chateau, with a hundred rooms to it. At one time it must have been very elegant, but had been neglected since the war started. There were two huge store towers, between which the chateau was built. These towers were built in the 12th century, and even today are in perfect condition. The stables were built of stone, and looked large enough to accommodate five or six hundred horses and thousands of tons of hay.—Reprinted from the Greensboro News.

Letter from Corp Richard C. Woodruff in France to his mother, who lives at Elkin, N. C.
Somewhere in France.
Oct. 12, 1918.

Dear Mother:
It is time to write you again, I hope this finds you all well, and not worrying about me. You haven't any cause to worry now from the looks of the papers. We get a New York Herald printed in Paris every day for five cents. I can read the French papers too and all the news is exact here and we can depend on them.

I am in better heart today than I have been in a long time, although I haven't hear from you for several days and it's doubtful if I see a letter soon for I am not with my company now. I am taking off a few days for a rest and don't even know where my company is.

Well mother my faith still sustains me and keeps me up. I try to do all you tell me to do when things go wrong which they very often do. It's hard to keep straight but the good Lord help me. Don't you be uneasy about my soul's Salvation for I am alright. I know I will see you all again and have full confidence it will be on earth.

Well mother when I do come you want to have plenty of sweets, for we can't get anything sweet at all over here. A quart of jam over here will bring \$2.00 easily. I paid \$1.00 for one-half pounds of cakes and was very glad to get them.

We get to see air battles every once in a while and they are very pretty. Mr. Hun always gets the worst of it. I have been a little sick, but am well at the present. I am feeling just fine. Just to show you how well and strong I am I hiked 23 miles the other night with my pack and full equipment, about 90 lbs., and climbed several mountains. I made it just as good as anybody in my company.

Mother your letters are a great comfort to me, and so is your good advice. If it wasn't for your faith my hopes of returning would have long since fled but something seems to tell me that if I wait long enough that I will see you all again. I am on the front.

Mother, I think that my faith has been sufficiently tried and it still stands. I expect it to carry me thru and bring me back to you. Be good and write all you can. May God bless you all.

Letters from Wade Hatcher, in France to his mother, Mrs. T. D. Hatcher, Mount Airy.

My dear Mother:
Although I have not heard from you all in some little time now, I will write you a few lines this evening to let you know that I am well and I hope that this will find you all well. I am still working in the canteen. A French family lives in the same building that the canteen is in and the madame helps us in the canteen by serving lemonade. Her husband is a French officer. They lived in Reims before the war began. His home in Reims has been destroyed and he says that he is going to America after the war. He was home last week on a furlough. He is a fine artist, and he drew several nice pictures for us while he was here. All the French people are very kind and courteous to us.

I am having quite a time learning to speak the language, but I am not making much progress. I am kindly like one of the negro soldiers stationed near here. "I speak French

Arm them with the morale that wins battles

Morale Hastens Victory
Back up the Boys Over There

YMCA-YWCA-National Catholic War Council-K of C-Jewish Welfare Board-War Camp Community Service-American Library Association-Salvation Army

UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN
NOVEMBER 11th-18th

perfectly but not the kind they speak over here." Sept. 10, 1918.

Dear Mother:
I received your letter of the fourth of August Saturday. I also received two copies of The Mount Airy News. I had already read the one for July the seventeenth but I had not read the one for the twenty-fifth. I don't see why you have not received more of my mail, as I wrote to you twice while I was in England and have written every week since I have been in France. It has been raining here for the last two or three days.

I believe that if the Allies will keep up their good work for two or three more months that the Kaiser will come to his knees, don't you? I am still working in the canteen and having a good time as we are not open but 4 hours a day during the week and two hours on Sunday. Of course I get nothing extra for my services in the canteen, but I am glad of the opportunity to work in it while we are staying here because it will give me some practical experience in business and in bookkeeping.

Sept. 23, 1918.

Dear Mother:
Although I have not received any letters from you in some little time now I will write you a few lines this evening. I received The Mount Airy News Saturday.

Yesterday evening Mr. Hoy, one of the "Y" secretaries made arrangements for a Ford car and the canteen force went out for a drive. Mr. Hoy could not drive the car himself, so I had the pleasure of driving the "John Henry." In all I suppose we drove something like fifty miles and sure did have a nice time. We saw some tobacco and a little corn, but the tobacco nor the corn did not look near so good as that which grows in the States.

Mr. Hoy says that he intends to get the car every Sunday that the weather is favorable. It seems like a waste of gasoline for us to go out pleasure riding especially when I know that some of the cities in the states have cut out pleasure riding on Sundays, but Hoy says that he thinks we deserve a little pleasure as we are in the canteen nearly all the time and are denied the pleasures that most of the boys get. James Roberts one of the boys from the 105th died at the hospital near here one day last week. He was sick only a week. He was in Co. A, from Raleigh.

Letter from James W. Gant to his mother, Mrs. Maggie Gant, of Mount Airy.

Dear Mama:
Will write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. We had a good trip across. We had about three bad days and the winds were very high, but it did not amount to much. We did not see any submarine and had no trouble at all. Mama, believe me, this is some country over here. The scenery here is something to look at after coming from the States. The farms over here are all small, but they raise a great amount of food. They have funny houses over here, they are all old. Mama I have got some French money, a little, but I do not know how much I have. Ha! I will have a great story to tell you when I get back. I am with Captain Walker and Eugene Smith and Sergeant Joe Haynes. Tell Sheriff Haynes that we are all together. Mama you can give this letter to Editor Johnson, and he can print it if he wants to so that all my friends can hear from me.

WELD SEVEN WAR WORK AGENCIES INTO RELIEF ARMY

Great Organizations Which Are Helping to Keep Up the Morale of Fighting Millions Unite in Campaign for \$170,500,000.

With millions of American men on war fronts, in training camps and on the seas and with thousands of American women on foreign soil, all engaged in the stupendous task of making the world safe for democracy, a great duty devolves upon those who remain in the United States—the duty of making home to those who have per Home behind them for the period of the war. The agencies through which this can be accomplished are joined in the United War Work Campaign.

From being given the cigarette or chocolate bar, with which he stays his hunger in the fury of battle, to the theatrical entertainment or the athletic game, which relax him into normal comfort after weeks of terrific combat, the American fighter is dependent upon the continued efforts of the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the National Catholic War Council and K. of C., the War Camp Community Service, the Jewish Welfare Board, the American Library Association and the Salvation Army. To carry on this work the combined welfare organizations are seeking a fund of \$170,500,000.

The Y. M. C. A. provides 538 huts in American training camps and more than 800 in the war zones as centres which the fighters can use as clubs, schools, theatres, stores, churches, libraries and writing rooms. More than 7,000 men and women had been sent overseas or approved for overseas work by early autumn and 3,822 were serving in American camps at home.

Y. M. C. A. huts are the canteens of the American Expeditionary Force and are the theatres where the American entertainers, sent over by the "Y," appear. Noted American public men and clergymen speak in the huts. Classes are conducted there. Millions of letters are written there on paper provided free by the "Y." Physical directors of the "Y" teach and spread mass athletics, using material furnished free by the organization.

The Y. W. C. A. does similar work for the thousands of American women in war work overseas—signal corps telephone operators, nurses and French munition workers. It provides cafeterias, rest and recreation centres, entertainment and reading for these women and girls.

The Y. W. C. A.'s outstanding contribution to soldier welfare work in training camps was the establishment of Hostess Houses, where the soldier or sailor may receive his mother, wife, sister or sweetheart in the surroundings and atmosphere of the best homes.

The National Catholic War Council co-ordinates all Catholic welfare work in support of the government and through the K. of C. provides club-houses for our fighters in all American training camps, as well as having seventy-five centres in France and three in England. In their huts the K. of C. provides entertainment, movies, boxing bouts, educational work, religious services, free stationery, reading matter and writing rooms. In France their rolling canteen accompanies the American army, their secretaries march with the troops, giving away cigarettes, cookies, chocolates, soap and towels.

The K. of C. had 800 workers in

France at the beginning of autumn with 450 more passed by the government and 200 others signed up. At the same date they had 468 secretaries in American training camps, 150 buildings, fifty-six more in the course of erection and contracts let for fifty more.

War Camp Community Service functions exclusively in America, its special mission being to "surround the camps with hospitality." In place of leaving the soldier or sailor to the promiscuous companions and diversions formerly his lot, the organization obtains for him the best to be had in communities adjoining camps or through which he passes.

W. C. C. S. obtains for him invitations to dine, bathe or spend the day in the best homes. It introduces him to the best women and girls at social gatherings, church entertainments, theatre parties. It arouses communities to provide concerts, athletic contests and other wholesome diversions for the soldier, and to drive out or discourage the vicious elements which have been historic camp followers.

The Jewish Welfare Board is correlating the strength and purposes of 100,000 Jewish soldiers, sailors and marines with that of the Gentile soldiers. The board teaches the English language, American civics and ideals to thousands of young Jewish men who were induced into service after only a few years' residence in this country. While safeguarding his religious rites, the board assists in the process of welding the Jewish soldier into the solid American unit and is bridging over the differences between him and the others.

The American Library Association is providing reading matter for every American soldier, sailor, marine and prisoner of war. In addition to gathering and forwarding three million books contributed by the American people the association bought 500,971 books, mostly technical, of which 126,267 were sent overseas. More than 1,500,000 books of all kinds have been assigned to libraries in Y. M. C. A., K. of C. or Salvation Army huts in the war zone, a similar number being distributed in American training camps, while half a million are on warships or transports. The association has erected and operates forty-one library buildings.

The Salvation Army, with 1,310 workers, principally women, overseas, has won the affection of the fighters. Its 501 huts, rest and reading rooms are popular gathering places for the soldiers. The doughnuts fried by Salvation lassies in huts or trenches and given to the men have become famous around the world. The Salvation Army gave forty-four ambulances to the American and Allies' armies and in many other ways gives constant unselfish service.

United War Work Campaign Program

The campaign begins on Monday morning, November 11, and ends at midnight on Monday, November 18.

As approved by representatives of the Government at Washington the \$170,500,000 will be divided as follows:

Y. M. C. A.	\$100,000,000
Y. W. C. A.	15,000,000
National Catholic War Council (including Knights of Columbus)	30,000,000
War Camp Community Service	15,000,000
Jewish Welfare Board	8,500,000
American Library Association	8,500,000
Salvation Army	8,500,000

Any surplus will be divided pro rata.

FOUND BOOKS DEEP DOWN IN DUG-OUTS

American Library Association Books
Sure Reach Soldiers, Says
Raymond Fosdick

"I found the books of the American Library Association everywhere in France," says Raymond Fosdick, chairman of the National Commission on Training Camp Activities, who has just returned from an extended trip overseas, during which he conducted a thorough investigation of the work being done by the various war work agencies.

"I found them in dugouts thirty or forty feet below ground, in cow-barns where shrapnel had blown parts of the roof away, as well as in the substantial huts and tents far back from the firing line.

"I have found them in hospitals and dressing stations; in scattered villages in the training area where our men are billeted and even in the remote parts of France where the forestry units are carrying out their lonely, but efficient and essential work. Your books are in continual demand from the time the soldiers arrive in camp in America until they come back home after service over there."

The A. L. A. library service has grown tremendously within the past few months and millions of books have been distributed wherever soldiers and sailors are quartered, on sea or land.

MERCY MUNITIONS NEEDED IN TRENCHES

Lieut. Coningsby Dawson, Fighting Author, Makes Stirring Appeal for Y. W. C. A.

Lieut. Coningsby Dawson, who wrote "Carry On," says of the war work which the Y. W. C. A. is doing: "You at home cannot fight with your lives, but you can fight with your mercy. The Y. W. C. A. is offering you just this chance. It garrisons the women's support trenches, which lie behind the men's. It asks you to supply them with munitions of mercy that they may be passed on to us. We need such supplies badly. Give generously that we may the sooner defeat the Hun."

What Lieut. Dawson says of the Y. W. C. A. he might have said of all the national organizations which are coming together for the biggest financial campaign that organizations have ever headed. All the \$170,500,000 to be raised by the seven great national organizations the week of November 11 will be used to garrison and supply the support trenches behind the lines. They are the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the National Catholic War Council, Jewish Welfare Board, American Library Association, War Camp Community Service and Salvation Army.

American girls in various uniforms mingle strangely with picturesque Brittany costumes in France. The American Y. W. C. A. has a hostess house in Brittany where the Signal Corps women live and a hut where the nurses spend their free time. Both these centers are fitted with many of the comforts and conveniences of home.

"At a ten given at the nurses' hut one Saturday afternoon," writes Miss Mabel Warner, of Salina, Kansas, Y. W. C. A. worker there, "there was an odd gathering—one admiral, a bishop, a Presbyterian minister, a Roman Catholic priest, a doctor, an ensign, one civilian and myself."

First Victory Boy's Work.

"Say, I'm wise to you, all right," a Western Union messenger boy whispered to one of the directors of the United War Work Campaign in the New York headquarters. The director's desk had only just been moved in and the work of the big drive had hardly begun.

"I'm onto your stunt," the boy went on as he swung a grimy flat over the desk; "you're goin' to give us fellows that ain't old enough to go to war a chance to earn an' give to back up a fighter an' help win the war. Listen; I'm in on this."

The crumpled \$5 bill he dropped on the desk made him the first of "a million boys behind a million fighters" who are to be lined up as Victory Boys during the week of the drive.

There will be a division of Victory Girls, too, and every boy and every girl enrolled will have to earn every dollar he or she gives to the war work fund.

Sleep and Rest

One of the most common causes of insomnia and restlessness is indigestion. Take one of Chamberlain's Tablets immediately after supper and see if you do not rest better and sleep better. They only cost a quarter.