

## LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from Wade L. Hatcher to his father, Mr. T. D. Hatcher of Mount Airy.

Somewhere in France  
Dear Father:  
I received your letter dated August the 19, Friday.

We are still at this little village doing practically nothing. Some of the boys have a job driving cars, but the majority of them are not doing anything. Oh my, but I wish I was up in the lines doing my bit, but I guess that is out of the question as it would be hard for me to get a transfer now. We are going to move the canteen into the new hut tomorrow. The madam that has been serving lemonade for us when she found out that we were going to move into the new hut said: "J'ai fine avec la cantine quand vous partez la hut parce que il sera trop froid en la hut pour moi ce hiver." Anyhow it is getting about time to go to serving hot chocolate or cocoa now instead of lemonade and they are to get some American girls here to make that for us. Tell Pearl she can write all the French letters she wants to I have no trouble at all in reading them, in fact I can read ordinary French almost as fast as I can read English. I would attempt to write her a letter in French ce soir, but I know that I would make a thousand mistakes.

As for speaking the language I am not making much progress. Somewhere in France  
My dear Mother:  
I received your letter dated Sept. the 10th, this evening. I sure was glad to get it as it has been three or four weeks since I heard from you. I also received The Mount Airy News dated August 1st, this evening. I always write to you at least once a week and sometimes oftener. And I send you the 'Stars and Stripes' when I am lucky enough to get one before they are all sold. There is such a demand for papers that they go like hot cakes. Well it seems that we are destined to stay here at this village until the end of the war. I believe that the war will be over in a few months anyhow in fact it was rumored here this evening that the Kaiser had come to all of president Wilson's terms and that he was suing for peace but there are so many rumors traveling abroad that one never knows what to believe. Yes, Frank Warren is still with us. While we were on the trip from ——— we passed thru the outskirts of Paris and we camped within eight miles of the city that night. Frank was driving Captain Walker's car so they went to the city that night. I wonder how near you could come to guessing where we are now. One of the boys here received a letter the other day and it said at the top of the letter you are in ———. That is what I call good guessing, because the writer did not miss it over twelve miles.

Oh, how my heart yearns to be with the boys up in the lines when I read of their brave deeds. If I had known that the 105th would be stationed behind the lines like this, when I was in the states I think that I would have transferred into another branch of the service. But why should we worry, taking it all in all we are well situated and cared for, occasionally we get pretty home sick for the sight of an American girl. The French girls are all right in their way, but they can't come up to the American girl in any respect.

Letter from Luther Seal now in France to his sister Miss Mary Seal of Mount Airy, Route 3.  
Somewhere in England.  
Oct. 26.  
Dear Sister:  
I am sending you a few lines to let you know that I am still living. On September 29 our Division went into action and continued in action until October 15th at which time I was gassed. I was sent to a hospital on the coast of France and on the 21st was put on a boat and sent to England. I am at a Red Cross hospital and am doing nicely. I will write you at more length when my eyes are better. The trouble all settled in my eyes.

Letter from Alfred Towe to his Mother, Mrs. Bell Towe, Mount Airy, Route 6.  
Somewhere in France.  
Oct. 12, 1918.  
Dear Mother:  
I will drop you a few lines to let you all hear from me, this leaves me well. I have no news to tell you all, only I got 12 letters the ninth of this month that you wrote in June and July. I have just got them, I don't see what is the reason you don't hear from me. I have wrote you as high as six letters in one week. You know that I am a long way from home and I have not had time to write for the last three weeks as I have been in a battle. You said you hoped that I was having a good time. If you knew what I have been doing you would call that a ——— of a time. I have been loading up shells holes of water to keep from getting my head blown off. You wanted to know if I saw any of the boys from home. I do not. I have seen Henry Dean once since I left camp Lee. I suppose that Lum Hawks is wounded. Cleave Dowell is killed or lost from his company. They can't find him no where. Dushia Jones is the only one from home that made the trip over. Well I will close, I will tell you more next

time I write. Hope you will get this letter all O. K.

Letter from Vester Ring to his sister, Mrs. C. E. Lawrence of Mount Airy.  
Somewhere in France  
Oct. 20.  
Dear Sister:  
I have just received your letter and am delighted to get news from home. I am faring well and get plenty to eat and have a good place to sleep and have plenty of blankets. This is a wonderful country. I am in a small town and the French people are very kind to us American boys. I am learning a little French and I tell you it sure is some funny language to me. We boys made good over here as you no doubt see by the papers.

Letter from Ben E. Draughn to his Mother Mrs. Clara Draughn of Mount Airy.  
Oct. 13 1918.  
Dear Mother:  
I will write you a short letter this beautiful Sunday morning. This leaves me well. I am enjoying the best of health. I truly hope you all are well. Well I just came out of the trenches the other day. I was in the trenches when I got Roby letter, we all come out for a rest now it was not so bad in the trenches. None of our company got hurt. I saw Edd Herrell, Curtis George and Benton Seal the other day. They are getting on just fine. Mother I don't want you to worry about me, for I am all right and I don't think it will be very much longer before I can come home.

Letter from Chester F. McGee now in France to his father Mr. Thomas McGee, of Mount Airy.  
Somewhere in France,  
Oct. 3, 1918.  
Dear Papa:  
I received your letter today and was real glad to hear from you all and to hear that you all are well. I am well and feeling all O. K. We are having some cool weather over here now. I was glad to hear that you all had a good crop and that your tobacco was selling so good hope I can make some next year, think I can. Papa you wrote in your letter to know what I was doing, I can't tell you, all most every thing nearly a man has to do in the infantry. I am in the automatic squad our gun shoots 500 times a minute, that is some ain't it. You bet it gets Jerry, too, ha. We are where the big guns and shells are roaring all around us now, but I hope they won't happen to hit us. We have a good company and the best Lieutenant, his name is W. McLee and I am sure proud of him. Claud and Will Marion are with me yet. Well Papa I have seen a lot of France and a great deal of England, a part of it is a beautiful country, but a part of it is like the old U. S. A. is rough and hilly, and all kinds of people. This is all I can write you about the country now. Can tell you all when I get home. Kiss little brothers J. and P. for me and give my best love to all.

Tell Ernest Lawson hellow for me and that he may have to go to Camp but don't think he will have to come over for I think we will be enough for the Germans, they are getting tired of this war and you know we are going to make them still tirdler before we quit them.

Letter from Benj. H. O'Neal now in training at Camp Hancock.  
Mr. J. E. Johnson,  
Editor Mt. Airy News.  
Dear Sir:  
I will write a few lines to your paper, and let the people back in old Surry know how everthing is down in Georgia.

We are having some beautiful weather now. I am well and enjoying the best of health.  
Now I want to say a few words in regard to the campaign that is on from November the 11th to 18, among the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A. and the Salvation Army to raise \$170000.000. I want to say to you all that it is your patriotic duty to give every cent possible. The Y. M. C. A. is doing more for the boys in the camp and in France than any one organization in the world. They are always ready and willing to serve you in any way possible. I am sure if you fathers and mothers could only see what they are doing for us boys, you would contribute to them as far as possible.

Some will argue of course that the war will soon be over and that they don't need that money. Of course the war will soon be over without a doubt. But now stop and figure a little, do you not know that it will take from six to eight months to get the boys back out of the camps even in the United States and during this time they are going to need the service of the Y. M. C. A. worse than ever. They will not drill as much as they do now and therefore they will need somewhere to spend the leisure time. But how about the boys over in France? It will take from eighteen months to three years before they can all get back. Are you going to neglect them now because the war will soon be over? I

hope not. Now if there is any body back in Surry or any where up there that wants to write me I will sure be glad to hear from you. Here is my address  
Pvt. Benj. H. O'Neal  
70th Co., 6 Group, M. T. D.  
Camp Hancock, Ga.

Letter from G. E. Welch to his father, Mr. G. C. Welch of Mt. Airy.  
Somewhere in France,  
Oct. 20th.  
Dearest Dad:  
I haven't heard from you since the last time I wrote you but nevertheless I will try to write you again. I am well and getting along alright. I always try to keep a letter on the way all the time so that you won't be uneasy about me, so if you fail to get them you can't say that I didn't write often, for I write to you or Mother one at least three times a week.

This is one of those rainy October Sunday's and I must say that I have kindly got the blues, but a man just simply can't help but feel a little blue on such days when he has nothing to occupy his time. Sunday is the only day that I don't have a bunch of work to do. We go to church in the morning and in the afternoon I most always spend that in writing letters home and to my friends. Now as I have often said before, if I was just at home with you I could tell you so much more than I can write, but since that can't be I will tell you all I can.

We (All the A. E. F. boys) were tickled to death with Wilson's reply to Germany and I fully believe that they will come to his terms sooner or later if they don't come to them I say run them to Berlin, and I guess that's the way the people back home feel from the way the papers look. I can't help but think that the war is almost over and it surely is the beginning of the end. Wilson is sure the "Man of the hour" and I am sure if it was left to the boys in France they would put him in the White House for a life term and from all I can see and hear I think every Frenchman in France wants to go to America to see that great man they call Wilson. They think he is the greatest man that ever lived, and I guess they are right.

I don't guess you would know me now if you were to see me. I have a full grown mustache and I weight about 25 pounds more than I did when I left the States. I would have a picture made and send you one if I could but there are no photogs to be had in France or at least I have never seen any place to have them made. But I think I will be home before very long and we can see each other in person.

I haven't received my Mount Airy News or any of the papers for a long time and I wish they would come in on time for I like to see the news from N. C. even if it is old. Walter said he had the Greensboro paper sent to me but I have never gotten it so far.

Well I guess I have told you about all the news that I know so I will close now and go to nupper.

Letter from Jim Critz to his mother, Mrs. M. E. Critz.  
Motor Truck Co.  
A. E. F. France.

Dear Mother:  
It looks like I never will hear from home again and I suppose you think the same thing about me but if things keep up like they are going now, we will all be coming home before long. There sure was some excitement to-night when the papers came out telling about the Germans accepting the allies terms. Guess you all know more about what they are doing though we but I guess what we hear is nearer facts than what you hear.

I certainly am lucky to be in the quarters that I am, and we have the very best to eat and clothes to wear. It is no wonder they come down on the people back home for we get the best of everything. The worst thing is not getting any mail. I would give anything for a letter from you and a Mount Airy or Greensboro paper. You want to save up on the news though and tell it all to me when I come home. I certainly will have a lot of experience to relate. I think I will be able to sit around home a little better when I get back, for I am getting more accustomed to staying in and not running around like I used to.

I have not had a pass since I went to Camp Johnston at Jacksonville, but I don't feel any the worse from it, and there are a lot of other things you get used to in this army that will do us all good.

You would hurt yourself laughing if you could hear some of the remarks that the boys make about what the Germans will have to do and what they are going to do after they get home. Everyone has something different to say, but I think most of them will be satisfied with just getting back.

People say this is a beautiful country, which it is, but the old United States and North Carolina is good enough for me. And the people, you get tired talking to any one when you can't understand each other. I almost wore my hands out trying to make signs so they can understand me. You can buy as much with a small bill as you can with a smaller one, for they don't believe in giving change. It would do you good to see the truck farms and gardens. Even now, the gardens are pretty and green and you see carts of fresh vegetables on every corner.

## WINSTON-SALEM MOB PLAYS HAVOC SUNDAY

City of Winston-Salem has Fearful Experience With Great Mob And Destruction of Property and Loss of Life is Great.

The following story of the unfortunate affair is taken from the Winston Sentinel, dated November 18.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Childress were assaulted and robbed on the Inverness Mill road Saturday evening between seven and eight o'clock. An unknown negro is charged with the crime, and as a result of injuries Mr. Childress is in a critical condition at the City Hospital. After shooting him the negro continued his assault on Mrs. Childress, securing from her about \$25.00 in money.

They had started to their grocer to purchase some goods when they were intercepted at the railroad bridge just off Liberty street near Piedmont park. The screams of Mrs. Childress brought assistance and the negro fled. Officers were summoned and a search for the criminal began. While going along the railroad Sheriff Flynt halted a negro for investigation, but before the officers reached him he opened fire. Sheriff Flynt received a painful wound on his hand and a flesh wound on his neck. The search continued into the night, but without success.

Mrs. Childress has given a description of the negro and the officers expect to yet locate him. The probable result of the wounds received by Mr. Childress could not be given by medical attendants this afternoon. Winston-Salem is patrolled by soldiers today following a futile attempt of a mob of several hundred men and boys, the majority in the twenties and encouraged by a few older persons to take from the city prison a colored man held on the charge of carrying a concealed weapon. The attempt was the result of an investigation by officers of the highway robbery Saturday night when Mr. J. E. Childress and wife were assaulted while en route to the store of their grocer about seven o'clock.

The crowd began to gather early Sunday afternoon and about five o'clock they forced their way into the municipal building, bursting the door of the city jail and would have taken the prisoner from the cell had it not been for the efforts of Special Officer Oliver and Tanker Brown who, with the assistance of Attorneys Parrish and Beckerditte, turned the crowd for the moment from what appeared to be their intention. The crowd was held at bay until police and city officials could gather.

The Home Guard was called out immediately and placed in charge of the municipal building which it held all night, until relieved this morning by soldiers sent here by Gov. Bickett from Charlotte and Raleigh.

Before Municipal Building.

The greatest disorder occurred about seven o'clock when members of the crowd having been forced from the municipal building, began stoning the building and the militia stationed about it. Guns were also brought into play and city officials, fearing that unless the crowd, which had grown to several thousand people, could be dispersed serious trouble would occur, took drastic action. The fire companies were called out and a stream of water was played on the crowd, forcing it back from the building, and reducing it to only a few hundred who continued on the streets for several hours.

Four Are Killed.

This morning the casualty list, so far as known, consisted of four names. Three white persons and one colored. Mr. Robert Young, who was at one of the nozzles while the crowd was being dispersed was shot thru the heart, death following within a few moments after he received the wound.

Miss Rachael Levi, a young Jewish girl whose mother conducts a store in the municipal building on Main street was shot while standing in the door of the store watching the crowd death following in a few minutes.

Mr. Charles White, construction foreman for the Southern Public Utilities Co. and Mr. Eugene Church were returning from East Winston where they had repaired a light, in Mr. White's car, when they were held up by several negroes. When the auto was stopped two or more of the colored men jumped on the running board and asked Messrs. White and Church if they had pistols. The hold-up men proceeded to search the two white men and took a pistol from Mr. White's pocket and then shot him in the left side, inflicting a fatal wound. Despite the serious wound Mr. White ran his car to Liberty street, in front of Wallace's clothing store, where he stopped and informed friends that he had been shot. The machine was taken in charge and the wounded man was rushed to his home on Green street, where he died at 3:30 this morning. He remained conscious until a few minutes before he died. The attending physician announced that death was caused by internal bleeding. Mr. White told the facts as related above regarding the hold-up and shooting. He stated that he did not know any of the negroes who held up his car.

One colored man, George Johnson, was killed.

Several members of the Home Guard and of the police force were wounded by pistol and shotgun fire during the melee.

streets, at the Wright shoe store. Mr. R. P. Rawley, also member of the guards, received a flesh wound in the arm while on guard outside the municipal building.

Mr. Frank O'Brien, a Guardsman, suffered a badly wrenched back when he was knocked down the steps of the municipal building while a detachment of the guards was clearing the building of members of the crowd.

Result of Indiscreet Acts.

The deplorable incident was the result of indiscreet acts of a crowd of probably 400 people, who refused to listen to reason or the pleadings of Mrs. Childress, who declared that she could not identify the negro being held as the one who committed the assault on her and Mr. Childress Saturday evening.

Arrest of Colored Man.

The negro's name is given as Russell High, and he was arrested early Sunday afternoon by Patrolmen Hatcher and Wall on Depot street, charged with carrying a concealed weapon. An automatic pistol was taken from him and he was locked up. Later in the afternoon he was carried to Mrs. Childress by officers to see if he could be the one who committed the assault. She stated that he was about the size of the negro, but that it was not he voice of he negro, and neither was the pistol taken from him the one with which her husband was shot. The prisoner was returned to the city jail to await trial on the charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

Exaggerated Reports.

The news of the investigation made by the officers was exaggerated as time passed and a crowd began to gather early in the afternoon about the municipal building. Threats started thru the crowd against the negro in spite of the statements made by the more conservative citizens who assembled, that there was nothing against the prisoner except carrying a concealed weapon. Finally members of the crowd pushed their way into the building and demanded that the prisoner be delivered to them. They were held until Mayor Gorrell, Alderman Hanes and Lassater arrived and they urged the mob to be quiet and await the arrest of the negro who committed the crime it had in mind and the action of the courts.

It was then suggested that Mrs. Childress be brought down to the station to look at the prisoner again and say to the crowd if she could, that she could not identify the prisoner as the one assaulting them Saturday evening. This was done.

Mrs. Childress on Scene.

The Home Guard had been called out by this time and they formed between the crowd and the prison section of the building. Mrs. Childress made her statement to the crowd and urged that they disperse; that today any connection of the prisoner with the crime could be determined; that it could not be last night.

Forced From Building.

This had a quieting effect for a moment, but the crowd remained and more threats suggested another demonstration. At this time Col. J. C. Bessent, commanding the Home Guard, ordered the building cleared of all persons not connected with the militia, city officials or other lawful business. At the point of the bayonet the crowd was gradually forced from the building.

It was then that the crowd became more desperate. The streets in front of the building and on all sides banking up on the court grass, were thronged with people. A detachment of the Home Guard was stationed at entrance where probably five hundred people, half of whom assumed a lawless attitude, jered in their faces and threatened violence.

Stray Shot Hit Miss Levi.

Stone were hurled at the entrance in which the guards were stationed, and they were compelled to withdraw and take up their guard behind the heavy doors which closed the stairway. This continued for several minutes and the howl of the crowd were punctuated with the pistol shots. This was when a stray shot caused the death of Miss Levi. Many windows were shot out and rocks were hurled from all sides of the building.

Fire Hose Used.

At this point the city officials determined that the crowd must be retired and to avoid bloodshed it was decided to call out the fire companies and play water in front of the building. One company was stationed at the city hall and another at the northwest corner of the square. The crowd gave back, all the while hurling stones at the men who manned the nozzles and the members of the Home Guard who surrounded them. Scattered shooting occurred, one shot killing Mr. Young, assisting with one stream of water.

With the crowd pushed back from the building guards were stationed about it, and it was kept clear practically during the remainder of the night. This was about seven-thirty o'clock.

The lawless element scattered over the business district, breaking into several hardware stores and pawnshops, carrying away many pistols, guns, rifles and ammunition. They also carried away numbers of knives and razors from the stores entered.

guns were in the hands of men and boys from about fifteen years up. Firing then became general, but centered between Third and Fifth streets and between Main and Depot. Church street in the zone of the disorder was dark, and in this section hundreds of shots fired in succession.

Taken From Building.

The fact that the disturbances was not created by an organized lynch mob, but by an uncontrolled crowd of young men, seemingly caring little for anything save the promise of shooting of arms once they secured them, is suggested in the fact that the officers were able to take the prisoner from the building to a place of safety while the crowd outside the building seemed to be most threatening.

About ten o'clock the young rioters had moved east of Fourth street to Church and Chestnut streets, and shots were continuous. Many were peppered by shot some distance from the shooting, showing that much of the firing was in the air. Chief Thomas ordered his men to proceed to the scene and disarm all persons on the streets. They went out heavily armed and gathered in many weapons of varied descriptions before the arrival of the militia, which had been ordered here by Gov. Bickett at the request of Mayor Gorrell early in the evening.

It was not accomplished however, without injury to the officers. Police Detective Bryan, who was badly cut while protecting a pawn shop from the rioters early in the evening, received a second wound from a shot gun, practically the entire load taking effect, but without serious injury. Serg. Cofer, of the police department, was standing near and received a part of the load in his left hand. The officers had stepped out in the light when the shot was fired directly at them. Patrolmen Dilton and Wooten also received slight wounds in performing their duty under orders to disarm the city.

The officers were assisted during the remainder of the night by a detail from the Greensboro police department and a detachment of home guard from Mount Airy, who arrived late in the evening. Patrolman Boyles, of Greensboro sustained slight wounds from a stray shot.

Handling of Situation Commended.

Those who observed the developments thruout the evening and night commend the handling of the situation last night. Early in the afternoon grave fears were entertained that bloodshed would be great. Upon his arrival at the building Mayor Gorrell addressed the crowd, reiterating the declaration of Mrs. Childress to the officers earlier in the evening, and warned them that any violence to the prisoner in the city jail would be violence to what appeared then to be an innocent man. His remarks were futile, as the crowd surged and continued its threats. Other prominent citizens, including Messrs. P. H. Hanes, Sr., W. M. Hendren, Dr. H. A. Brown, Rev. W. L. Hutchens, H. G. Chatham, Fred M. Parrish, W. L. O'Brien, and members of the board of alderman plead with the crowd, but it would not hear.

Mayor Gorrell then determined to appeal to Gov. Bickett for assistance, fearing police department and home guard might not be able to handle the situation. Greensboro and Mount Airy were also asked to render any assistance possible.

The local officers and militia, with grim determination, stood against the rioters until they scattered, and too much praise cannot be given the officers and members of the home guard for their determined stand in front of the building when ordered to scatter the crowd. There was no excitement. The men stood at their posts, working only under instructions from their officers, who headed their men, keeping them under strict discipline even after they were forced to open fire on the crowd to hold it in check.

Army Troops Arrive.

At 4:15 this morning a special train bearing regular army troops from Camp Greene at Charlotte arrived at the Children's Home station where the two companies, comprising 250 men and officers, and commanded by Major Wilcox, immediately began their two mile march to the city, arriving on the "double quick." By this time the city had resumed a peaceful attitude of themen were immediately stationed at the armory and courthouse. Squads were dispatched to East Winston to make sure that quiet prevailed and acting on instruction from their officers the men searched every man, white or colored, who was on the street at that hour. These with guns or ammunition were escorted to police headquarters where their property was confiscated.

Tank Corps From Raleigh.

At 6 o'clock a special train arrived at the union station with 250 men and officers of the tank corps at Raleigh, under command of Major Gill. These comprised Cos. B and C and headquarters company and were accompanied by a baby tank, which was placed on the public square with its wicked guns ready for action. The men were dispatched in squads to all parts of the city for patrol duty, searching citizens for concealed weapons and doing everything in their power to prevent a repetition of last night's trouble.

Aldermen Meet.

At 10 o'clock a special meeting of the board of aldermen was called for a conference with the military officials regarding the situation. With a Gatling gun at the corner of Fourth and Main streets, the tank on the courthouse square and five hundred soldiers ready for instant action the city was under full control of the authorities after daybreak this morning.