

LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

HOW A SURRY MAN WOULD DISPOSE OF THE EX-KAISER.

On The Front Lines, Oct. 22, 1918.

Editor Mount Airy News:

The following is a poem that I have written while sitting on the front lines with shells falling all around me. I would like to have you print the poem in The News as my home is in Surry and many of my people will see the paper.

Yours truly,

T. S. JESSUP.

Let The Kaiser Live.

As long as the flowers their perfume give,
So long I'd let the Kaiser live.
Live and live for a million years,
With nothing to drink but Belgian tears,
With nothing to quench his awful thirst,
But the salted brine of a Schotchman's curse.

I would let him live on a dinner each day,
Served from silver on a golden tray,
Served with things both dainty and sweet,
Served with everything but things to eat.

And I'd make him a bed of silken sheen,
With costly linens to lie between,
With covers of down, and fillets of lace,
And downy pillows piled in place.
Yet when to its comfort he would yield,
It should stink with rot of the battle-field.
And blood and bones and brains of men,
Should cover him, smother him, and then,
His pollows should cling with the rotten cloy,
Cloy from the grave of a soldier boy,
And while God's Stars their vigils keep,
And while the waves the white sands sweep,
He should never, never, never sleep.

And through all the days, through all the years
There should be an anthem in his ears,
Ringing, and singing and never done,
From the edge of light to the set of sun,
Moaning and moaning and moaning wild,
A ravaged French girl's bastard child.

And I would build him a castle by the sea,
As lovely a castle as ever could be,
Then I'd show him a ship from over the sea,
As fine a ship as ever could be,
Laden with water cold and sweet,
Laden with everything good to eat,
Yet scarce does she touch the silvered sands,
Than a hot and Hellish molten shell,
Should change his Heaven into Hell,
And though he'd watch on the Wave-swept shore,
Our Lusitania would rise no more.

In "No Man's Land" where the Irish fell,
I'd start the Kaiser a private Hell,
I'd stab him, jab him, give him gas,
In every wound I'd pour ground glass,
I'd march him out where the brave boys died
Out past the lads they crucified,
In the fearful gloom of his living tomb,
There is one thing I'd do before I was through,
I'd make him sing in stirring manner,
The wonderful words of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Letter from Clyde Shelton to his sister, Miss Maggie Shelton, of Mount Airy, N. C.
Somewhere in France,
Sept. 14, 1918.

Dear Sister:
I write to let you know that I am all O. K., and am enjoying good health. We have been having disagreeable weather. Magrie there is only one thing the people do that we do and that is they walk with their feet and look with their eyes. It is a strange country and a funny people. Well I guess people over there think we boys over here are having a picnic, but we are not. We are doing just what people should think we are doing who know anything about what war is. It is no play job, you bet, but the boys are in good heart and are trying to do what Uncle Sam would have them do. So always remember that the boys are up against a big proposition. And I think they are doing as well as they could be expected to do. All the folks back home should write to the boys over here for they do enjoy getting mail.

Letter from Thomas Lewellyn to his mother who lives at Round Peak. American E. F., France, Oct. 30th.

Dear Mother:
I write a few lines this beautiful morning that you may know I am getting along alright, except I have mumps. I came to the hospital Sunday. Don't be alarmed at me being in the hospital, for in the army if you get a finger mashed they send you there. Probably you have read the story of the soldier in the hospital that didn't want to get well. It is a nice place to stay, but I enjoy being out and it agrees with me. Now you must not worry about me. I haven't got a cold or cough, except my jaws are puffed out like a woodchuck, so don't worry. Mother, you must not think strange if you don't hear as often as you wish to, for I will write every chance I have. Well, you might imagine I would like to have a letter as it has been five weeks since I had one. The weather is getting cool here, see a little ice nanging about in

the mornings. Well you know that makes me think of hog killing time. Guess it is not so cold there yet. We are a little ahead in a few things, we are eating dinner when you all are eating breakfast, I think six hours time is the difference. Well, I guess the boys are making preparation to go to school, as it will soon start. Tell John and Jim not to skate too much on the ice this winter, if they do I won't bring them a thing when I come home Xmas. Well, you must not worry about me, for I will be all right. I thought once I would not tell you I had mumps, it might worry you, then I thought it best not to keep anything from you so you may know if anything happens I will let you know. Hoping I may soon hear from you all. Remember me in your prayers that I may return safely. Hope this may find all well. My prayers are that I may return safely and find all well.

Letter from H. G. Burgess to his father, Mr. W. D. Burgess, of Mount Airy, Route 3. Somewhere in France, Aug. 11, 1918.

My Darling Mother:
I know I should have written home before now but what I want to say, I don't know whether it will get by or not, but I am going to tell you anyway. We have been at the front for eight days now and I was lucky enough to get back to rest camp without even a scratch, but one day while I was up in the front lines I saw some of the N. C. boys from the Infantry "go west" as they call it over here. No doubt you all have read several times of the Western front. Well I have been there. If you have heard anything from my allotment yet, I wish you would let me know. I am getting tired of them taking twenty-two dollars from my pay every month and you not getting one cent of it, and am glad to say I have got one hundred dollar's worth of Liberty Bond's paid for. The month of July finished the payments, so you see, Mr. W. D., is supposed to get my bonds some time in the near fu-

ture. But I believe they will be an slow sending them the bonds out as they have been about the allotment. You remember in the letter papa received from some person in Washington in regards to my allotment. Well I know by now it should have been received. I made the allotment in Nov. 1917.

Has Ray decided what he is going to do? Well my advice is that he goes into the Aviation service. I think he is capable of getting by with the examination. I tried getting in while we were at Camp Sevier but to my bad luck, there were no more stations for examination for enlisted men. But I think I am in a very good branch of the service, and just about as safe as any, they are all dangerous.

I could tell, I suppose a book of horrible things which happened, and which I saw happen while I was up in Flanders. Now I must tell you all the condition of the trenches, they are little narrow trenches. We waded mud up to our knees most all the time we were up there in the trenches. I saw Glenn three times before we left for the front, he had not been up. But I can't say where he is now. I hope he is getting along O. K. I am well and in the best of health, and I truly hope you all are the same. How is papa's health. I hope he is getting along O. K. I will give you my present address and I want you to send it to all the family. I would write to all of them but I hate to write the same thing to so many people. I owe about a dozen letters.

Letter from Jesse Hodges to his father, W. J. Hodges, of Mount Airy. Somewhere in France, Sept. 28.

Dear Father:
I write a few lines to let you know that I am well. I have enjoyed my trip well and have been over a good part of France. We have been here a week and I guess we will soon leave. We are very close to the firing line and I guess we will soon go to the trenches.

Letter from Egbert H. Jones to his Mother, Mrs. T. J. Jones of Mt. Airy. Somewhere in France, Aug. 8, 1918.

Dear Mama and Sister:
Will answer your letters received today. Sure was glad to hear from you all and hear you are well. I am well and getting along fine, never felt better in my life, have got several letters from you all, but can't get too many, for all of us boys are always glad to hear from home. They treat the American soldiers well over here, the French people are really nice to us. We have picked up enough of their language so we can talk to them very well. Some of them can talk English very good. Some of the girls are very pretty, but give me the U. S. girls for mine. I have not seen Greely yet, may run up on him any old day. I met up with some of the boys I know almost every day. Don't think it will be very long before we will be coming home. There are a lot of Americans over here now and they are making good too, they are showing the people over here what they can do, guess you read all about us in the papers. Write often and tell me everything and don't worry about me I am all right.

Letter from Frank P. Colson to his father, Sam Colson of Round Peak. Dear Father:
Just a line to let you all hear from me. I am well and am enjoying my trip. Have seen a good trip and have enjoyed the sights across the ocean. Hope you all are well and getting along fine. Wish you all could have been with me and seen for your self just what it is to go across the ocean. The Boys enjoy being here. They sing and play games from morning till night. They never seem tired and in good hopes and hope to be back soon. Write me often that I may hear from you all at least once or twice a week. Must close, hope to get a letter from you all soon.

Food Saving Drive to Be Inaugurated Soon. Raleigh Nov. 21.—A food conservation and war relief campaign December 1 that is expected to arouse the people of North Carolina and bring to them a full consciousness of the continued importance of food conservation as the activities of the food administration generally was planned and outlined at the conference of county food administrators with State Food Administrator Henry A. Page and his staff, which ended here this morning. The fact was emphasized that with the coming of peace the demand for food for export has been increased instead of decreased. The minimum expectations now being 20,000,000 tons instead of 18,000,000 tons, which would have been required if the war had been continued.

It was emphasized by both Mr. Fort and Mr. Page that penalties for profiteering and every disregard of food administration rules and regulations that are continued in force will be pushed more severely than heretofore, the voluntary contributions to the Red Cross and other lesser penalties giving way to the revocation of licenses or the blacklisting of dealers who are guilty.

FIRST OF THE GERMAN SEA WOLVES GIVEN UP.

Twenty U-Boats Surrendered to British Under Terms of the Armistice.

London Nov. 20.—The following account of the surrender of the first batch of 20 German submarines which was accomplished this morning at sea is given by an eye-witness of the incident. More than 80 other German submarines are to be handed over to the allied naval command before the end of the week.

After steaming some 20 miles across the North sea, the Harwick forces, which consisted of five light cruisers and 20 destroyers were sighted. The flag ship of Admiral Tyrwhitt the commander, was the Curacao. High above the squadron hung a big observation balloon.

The squadron, headed by the flag ship, then steamed toward the Dutch coast followed by the Coventry, Dragon, Dana and Sentaur. Other ships followed in line, with their navigation lights showing. The picture was a noble one as the great vessels, with the moon still shining, ploughed through their way in and took part.

Soon after the British squadron started the "paravanes" were dropped overboard. These devices are shaped like tops, and divert any mines which may be encountered, for the vessels were now entering a mine field.

Almost everyone on board donned a life belt and just as the red sun appeared above the horizon the first German submarine appeared in sight.

Soon after 7 o'clock 20 submarines were seen in line accompanied by two German destroyers, the Tibania and the Sierra Ventana, which were to take the submarine crews back to Germany after the transfer.

All the submarines were on the surface with their hatches open and their crews standing on deck. The vessels were flying no flags whatever and their guns were trained fore and aft, in accordance with the terms of surrender.

A bugle sounded on the Curacao and all the gun crews took up their stations, ready for any possible treachery.

The leading destroyer, in response to a signal from the admiral, turned and led the way towards England and the submarines were ordered to follow.

They immediately did so. The surrender had been accomplished.

Each cruiser turned and keeping a careful lookout, steamed toward Harwick. On one of the largest of the submarines, which carried two 5.9 guns, 23 officers and men were counted on her deck. The craft was estimated to be nearly 300 feet in length. Its number had been painted out.

One of the submarines was seen to send up a couple of carrier pigeons and at once a signal was flashed from the admiral that it had no right to do this.

When the ships had cleared the minefield and entered the war channel the "paravanes" were hauled aboard. On reaching a point some 20 miles off Harwick the ships dropped anchor, and Captain Addison came out on the warship Mailstone.

British crews were then put on board the submarines to take them into harbor. With the exception of the engine staffs, all the German sailors remained on deck. The submarines were then taken through the gates of the harbor and the German crews were transferred to the transports which will take them back to Germany.

As the boats went through the gates the white ensign was run up upon each of them with the German flag underneath.

Each German submarine commander at the transfer was required to sign a declaration to the effect that his vessel was in running order, that its periscope was intact, that its torpedoes were unloaded and that its torpedo heads were safe.

Orders had been issued forbidding any demonstration and these instructions were obeyed to the letter. There was complete silence as the submarines surrendered and as the crews were transferred. So ended an historic event and the first portion of the German submarine fleet is now in the hands of the British navy.

Do not imagine that because other cough medicines failed to give you relief that it will be the same with Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Bear in mind that from a small beginning this remedy has gained a world wide reputation and immense sale. A medicine must have exceptional merit to win esteem wherever it becomes known.

SHIPPING BOARD ABLE TO BRING 300,000 A MONTH.

Also Austrians, it is Expected, to Supplement the 67 Transports Flying the American Flag—Future Shipbuilding Plans.

New York, Nov. 15.—Edward N. Hurley chairman of the United States shipping board, announced here tonight on the eve of his departure for Europe, that the government intends to return to this country speedily a large part of the American expeditionary forces. The purpose of Mr. Hurley's trip to Europe is to arrange the details for their transportation.

To offset the loss of transport tonnage through the withdrawal of British ships hitherto engaged in carrying American soldiers overseas, Mr. Hurley hopes to utilize 25 of 30 German and Austrian liners, with accommodations for 4,000 men each. In compensation for the "loan" of these vessels, he said, food would be sent to the people of central Europe on their return voyages.

Mr. Hurley said the shipping board would be able to bring troops back at the rate of 300,000 a month, "if the war department wants them returned as fast as that." He would meet General Pershing at American field headquarters, he added, to discuss the details of their home coming.

While he will go abroad with Herbert Hoover, to co-operate in arrangements for the shipment and distribution of foodstuffs to regions liberated under the armistice terms and in a degree later to be determined by Germany and Austria, Mr. Hurley said his mission had primarily to do with "getting the boys back home."

Convalescent wounded, including many men who would have returned to the front had the war continued, would be the first troops brought out of France, he said. They would be followed by units of various branches of the service, following plans already partly worked out by Secretary Baker and the general staff.

Depends on Developments. On future developments in the internal affairs of Germany and Austria and their relations with the allies, the shipping officials added together with the trend of European events in general, would depend the number of troops to be brought to this country within the next few months, but he was preparing he stated, to transport large contingents.

There are 67 transports flying the American flag, Mr. Hurley said, and it is hoped that these, with German and Austrian liners which he anticipates using temporarily will suffice to bring American soldiers home as rapidly as the military authorities desire. If their capacity proves inadequate, he added, the shipping board has 125 double deck cargo vessels, some of which can be transformed for transport work.

Mr. Hurley said he would take up with the allied maritime transport council in London, which would in turn confer with the German and Austrian Maritime authorities, the question of utilizing some of the idle tonnage of the central powers.

British transports he stated, which have carried 60 per cent, of the American troops bound overseas since the military program was increased early last summer, will be utilized to convey British dominion and colonial troops back to their country. Mr. Hurley said that present plans call for his return with Mr. Hoover before Christmas. They will sail on the Olympic tomorrow, going first to London for a three days conference with food and shipping officials, and thence to Paris.

Great Merchant Fleet.

Commenting on the government's plan to continue the emergency ship building program to help make up the world's deficit of 20,000,000 tons brought about through the ravages of war, Mr. Hurley said American yards will produce 150 vessels of 1,000,000 tons aggregate during November and December.

Mr. Hurley declared that his board hopes to return ships in the service of the war department and vessels under its own charter engaged in government trade to the regular commercial channels within a year. The shipping board would continue, he asserted, its policy of paying American wages and would conduct a country-wide propaganda to attract men to the merchant marine.

Mr. Hurley predicted that within 5 years 1,000,000 men will be engaged in operating the merchant fleet, including officers and seamen, shipyard workers, and men and women in factories making marine equipment.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The war de-

partment has made no definite plans for the return of the American expeditionary forces to the United States. It was learned tonight, and it is not regarded as likely that the movement, except of sick and wounded, will start any time soon.

Asked specifically if any of the men could be expected home by Christmas, Secretary Baker said he did not know, adding that no estimates of the time required had been made.

General Pershing it is understood, has been considering the question of getting the army back home, but it is said that many factors in his plans have not yet been decided. Among these is the question of what proportion of the guard duty in Europe American forces will assume. Presumably the supreme war council through its military advisers at Versailles is working this question with regard to all the allied armies as well as the American.

Another element that is expected to go far toward determining the time when many of the American troops can be withdrawn from Europe is the turn of events in Germany. If a stable government is set up there quickly and order maintained, there will not be great need for keeping a large American force available near the German border, and it is assumed by many officers that only the garrisoning of various forts and fortresses would be required. Should the revolution in Germany follow the course of the Russian upheaval however and a condition of anarchy and lawlessness prevail, it is impossible to forecast the extent to which military intervention might be required or the scope of American co-operation in such an enterprise.

Mr. Baker has previously indicated the fundamental desire of the war department in mustering out the army would be to release, first, those men who had been longest in France and the first in action. In that event it is to be expected that the first and second (regular) divisions and the 26th, (New England), 42 (Rainbow) and 41 (Sunset) national guard divisions would be the first to be sent home.

Mr. Hurley's reference to employment of idle German shipping to expedite the return of the troops was considered here as looking ahead several months. Undoubtedly the German ships will be used to transport food to Europe and on their trips to this country could be used to move troops. As the ships have been idle since early in the war it is thought considerable time will be required to get them in condition for service.

AMERICAN FRONT LINE IS NEAR GERMAN SOIL

Will Rest Three or Four Days Before Taking up March Across the Border.

American Army of Occupation Saturday, November 23.—The front lines of the American army of occupation tonight rested along the Luxembourg-German border on the Sauer river and thence along the Moselle river to the region east of Remich. The American army will mark time until further orders. At least three or four days are expected to pass before the next move is made toward the German border.

The Germans apparently are withdrawing according to schedule. Reports reaching the third army today were that the Germans everywhere were whistling and singing as they marched. The general line of the German withdrawal is along the Peris-Saarburg road. The southern limit of the fifth German army is reported to be the line Sierck-Thionville.

Several instances are reported where Americans encountered Germans along the roadways and each time the Germans showed the Americans every courtesy. While an American officer in an automobile was riding along the Remich Treves road, east of the Moselle, he encountered German troops marching northward. A column of German infantry and some German trucks withdrew to the side of the road in order to clear the way for the Americans. Owing to the shortage of horses the Germans are using oxen to haul their supplies and some artillery.

500 Former Officers of Russian Army Murdered

Stockholm, Friday, November 22.—The bolsheviks have been guilty of terrible excesses in Petrograd in the last few days, according to a dispatch from Abo, Finland, to The Aftonbladet. Five hundred former Russian army officers are reported to have been murdered.