

LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from Dr. Alex. F. Jones to his father, Mr. J. M. Jones of Ararat, N. C.

Somewhere in France, Over somewhere on the edge of France in a rest camp, enjoying life to the limit I am wondering this beautiful morning how all the dear ones are at the good old home so far away. Well I suspect before I forget it all I had better tell you something of my trip. So long as I stayed at Camp Jackson I had nothing to say, nothing to tell only that I was well. But since leaving there I have seen many things of interest to me. First we landed in England. I found it far ahead of our country in capacity for shipping freight etc. Many curious things were noticed—no autos, train cars about 10 ft. long, horses worked one ahead of another driver always leads never rides on the wagon, some of the draying done by large steam trucks and burn wood or coal gasoline 2 to 3 dollars per gallon, roads every where perfect, and papa I wish you could see the farming, there are not as many weeks growing in all the country I saw as there is on a small farm in America. And we haven't one foot as well and completely developed as the average farm. Wheat, potatoes, cabbage vetch and hay of all kinds grow rank. Not a frame house to be seen, all stone, concrete and brick. Not a bit of vacant land, I don't guess there is as much wood land on the railroad from Liverpool to the middle of England as you have, and of the cleared space I don't think I saw enough vacant land to lay a fence worm around one acre. Just think of it, every foot of it in use. We crossed several rivers, some of them had been too wide to suit the people, they simply built walls of stone, confined the water and used the space where it was. I have seen so many things I can't tell it all. The ocean is nature, England is a demonstration of completed development as far as man can do. Every farm and field surrounded by huge stone fences. Oh, it is a wonderful world. I just think God's in everything except Kaiser Bill, and we'll knock him out of the ring.

It is quite funny too, some of the English and French customs means of transportation, etc., for instance the hotel where I am stationed where we would term the lobby or front happens to be according to custom here a dairy, the back of hotel, livery stable. But I am fond of goats milk and am growing fat. The wagons differ from ours, wheels about 6 feet high, hogs 2 feet in diameter, they have no harness, simply a big ring on hame, run shaft through stick in pin in end, but they get there with the load. As for this war it seems that the people of America know nothing simply nothing of the sacrifice of this struggle. Here they have sacrificed their homes, thousands and thousands of them, sacrificed every thing to aid at the front. Every body works, women and all. Women do every kind and all kinds of work. The prettiest girl I have seen yet was driving an ambulance truck to an army hospital. The people have welcomed us all through England and thus far in France.

There are many things yet untold the fact of it is I can see much beauty in this world. So much to be proud of. Even now here comes a beautiful child whose papa is at the front. She comes to kiss me saying in French good night good Ameriki officer. It all goes to make me exceedingly thankful I'm here in France. You see now why I say I am as content as can be. It is not that I have forgotten you. Of course I have seen many things I never would have seen at home, but that's not all, it is doing the duty which my country has assigned me that so enthusiastically prompts me to press on. Why trouble about where I spend my day. Furthermore I feel the strong arm of protection of an Almighty God same here as in America.

Letter from Egbert H. Jones to his sister, who lives near Mount Airy.

Somewhere in France, Oct. 28, 1918. Dear Sister: Received your letter yesterday. I am well. I am not in the trenches at present. Don't know when we will go to the front again. We are camping in a French village at present, having a very good time. I went to a show today, saw four American girls. Believe me they certainly did look good to me. You said guess I would have something to tell you all when I return. You are right I will, for I have learned quite a bit about war. We can hear the big guns this morning guess the boys are moving on. One thing is sure, there will be peace before much longer as we have the Hun on the run and are gaining all the time, and I think before very long we'll have this job finished and be coming home. We had a pretty hot time while up at the front. But we let the Germans know what we came over here for and when we tell them to put up their hands they lose no time in getting them up. It is great fun to go in a German dugout as we advance and see where he has lived for three or four years. But the time has come when he is getting out to let us in. Tell papa that a. the men in my bunch have been recommended for a

bravery star for their service at the front, so I will get one, also tell him I am going to bring him a souvenir I took of a German officer we captured. I have received several copies of The Mount Airy News, you all sent me, and I sure was glad to get them. I also get mail from several of the boys and girls in Virginia.

Letter from Chester McGee to his father, Mr. Thos. McGee, of Pinnacle, Somewhere in France, Sept. 27.

Dear Papa: I write you a few lines to let you hear from me. I am well and enjoying life fine. I am here where all the big guns are firing, but they have not got me yet but don't know when they will. I am not bragging for we are in the front lines. Don't forget me in your prayers and I know you will not.

Letter from R. B. Midkiff to his mother, Mrs. J. W. Midkiff, Mt. Airy, Somewhere in France, Oct. 29, 1918.

My Dear Mother: I received your letter a few days ago was so glad to get a letter from you this leaves me well. I haven't been sick for a day I am thankful to say. I believe you asked me to send you something from France I will in a few days. I will send you a nice souvenir of some kind, you see we are not in the lines now, we come out for a rest. I guess we will be out here for Xmas. Well mother don't you worry over me I will get along fine over here I think and just think how happy we all will be when this war is over. Just think, many thousands of mothers have sons over here fighting for their rights, if you could only be over here and see what I have you would be glad I am over here, and you would feel like going in the lines and fighting yourself. So don't worry over me. I am doing the best think I could ever do, I know well.

Letter from Sergt. Sephas Lewis to his sister, Mrs. W. F. Lambert of Brim, N. C. Somewhere in France, Oct. 24, 1918.

Dear Sister: I am quite well and out on a very much needed rest as I haven't had any rest since Sept. 24th and have been over the top five times in this period. I have been over six times in all. And have had many a close call, as I haven't had the chance to write you or my friends any thing of interest, I will write just a few of my encounters and you can hand it to The News if they would care to print it. Well in my first visit to the front I had heard that all the Germans had fine watches so I decided I would get one, so the order came to go over the top, I went over loaded for bears with 200 rounds of rifle ammunition and a bag full of grenades. Well the fun began and I began picking off the boches, as I happened to be a good marksman every one I saw I counted him mine. I got two for sure and I don't know how many more, but the fight was soon over and I began looking for my watches, but they were not so plentiful as I had expected, so the time soon came for another drive. I can't mention any places or dates for military reasons, well the hour came for the biggest drive yet and artillery began, the whole world seemed to be on fire and over we went. We were soon among the boches, in my Platoon there was one Lieut. and two Sergeants besides myself, three in all, five corporals and 41 men, so we had gone but a little ways before two Sergeants were knocked off, one of them being my best friend, Sergeant Jesse Jones of Mount Airy. Well the Lieut. and I were together and a shell fell just to our left and wounded him, so that left me in charge and I stopped long enough to get the maps and valuable papers off of the Lieut. and moved forward, the smoke was so thick it was dark as night but I led the way by the aid of a compass and map from one trench to another. We went at one place, I had gotten just a bit in front and came to a big dug out and called "Come out," and the Huns began coming out in a drove. Well I didn't have any men to spare to send back with them, so I disarmed them and motioned them to the rear and they were glad to go. So we moved onward, I reached my objective with five of my men, two of them being wounded. But our support soon came up and we moved ahead. Well I went to the place where the Germans cremate their dead. They had a big boiler full of dead, ready cut up, and a great pile of dead lying there ready. Don't let this get on your nerves, but it is true, for I saw it, and hundreds of others were present. Well I will turn to a bright page. The day soon came for the next drive and as usual we went forward taking every thing as we came to it. In the evening we came near a large town that was just to our right and an order came down from the Captain for my Lieut. to send out a patrol to this town to see if it was occupied by the Germans. So it was Sergt. Lewis to take eight men and go over in that town which was larger than Mount Airy. Holy smoke, I thought

well Lewis is finished now, but there was nothing to do but go, so I called out eight of the best men there was from N. C. and of us went. We were soon in town and going from one house to another with bayonets fixed and ready for anything that might happen. I looked over on main street and saw a woman waving a handkerchief, so we went over and to my surprise there were hundreds of French Women and children, and they ran to meet us crying for joy and our trip that I had thought so dangerous turned out to be a feast. For they had hot coffee and wine and they just dragged us in almost, but we were not so hard to get in as we hadn't had any thing to eat or drink since the day before. So I posted a guard and some would out while others kept watch. So we soon returned to our company leaving the happiest crowd that I ever saw. I think they felt just like I will when I get back to old Mount Airy, N. C. Well as it is getting late I guess I will run the candles out of my barn and fix to go to bed. I haven't written you half what I would like to write but I will write more soon. I have some nice souvenirs and I captured a Boche with a fine automatic pistol and my Lieut. calls me Villa, because I wear the gun in the wild west style. All the boys are wet and in the best of spirits, so give my love to mother and the kids. I would be glad to hear from all the people back there. With best wishes to all.

Letter from Early F. Gentry to his mother who lives near Dobson, Somewhere in France, Oct. 27, 1918.

Dear Mother: I will answer your letter I received today. I am well and all right. Today is Sunday and I'm not doing anything and I haven't done anything much for the last week or more, only eat and sleep. I am getting along well. I am in good heart of coming back one of these days. Listen, I must tell you about helping a little French girl churn the other morning. Believe me she is a blossom to. You said you would send me Gail address I had a letter from him some time ago he is well.

Letter from Grady Stone to his mother, Mrs. M. E. Stone, of Round Peak, N. C. Somewhere in France, Oct. 3, 1918.

Dear Mama and all: I will endeavor to let you hear from me again I'm getting along just splendid. I'm getting plenty of something good to eat and have plenty of warm clothing for winter, so you can see that Uncle Sam is taking good care of the boys. I'm having an all around good time so don't worry about me.

Letter from A. W. Tilley to his friend, who lives at Park Mountain, Surry County, Somewhere in France, Nov., 6, 1918.

Dear Friend: I received your letters and was indeed glad to hear from you. Since I heard from you last we have had some experience in war. We had one of the greatest battles that has ever taken place in Europe. We broke the Hindenburg line where it was thought by the Germans it could not be broken, but it could not stand before us boys as we went through it like— and captured several thousand prisoners. I am glad to say I was in it. I went through without even a scratch. But there were a good many of the boys wounded and some of them killed. You can leave it to the North Carolina boys to do their bit. I don't think it is going to be very long until this war is all over and we will go sailing across the sea home again. You must excuse me for such a short letter as we are preparing to go to another place.

Letter from J. G. Burgess to his father, Mr. W. D. Burgess, of Mount Airy, A. E. F. France, Oct. 27.

Dear Papa: Will now write a few words and relate some of the most interesting experience that the boys from Mount Airy have had in helping to drive the Huns from the wonderful Hindenburg line on September 29 last, which was very exciting. It was very cloudy on the morning of Sept. 29 when the boys started out after the Huns and they all wore a smile on their faces at the thought of having a real chance at the Huns. When they were seen coming with that expression on their faces that is only worn by the American soldiers and which the Huns are already very well acquainted with it made the blood in the veins of those Germans run cold at the thoughts of having to try and defend their strongest defense against the attack of the American Soldiers. The American Soldiers being so eager to make History for themselves they went on to their objective and when the Australians took up the chase where the Americans stopped there were a large number of them that did not even stop but continued to take ground from the enemy and when the final halt was called and a check was made there were some three hundred Americans that were lost, their officers knew they were not captured or killed but just lost. A search was begun and one Officer met a crowd bringing in an Austrian who was wounded and upon asking him the question, Have you seen any Americans he replied that he had and that they would have to wait until the Austrians came as this last time he saw the Yanks they were going after the enemy like the devil. There was one Sergeant from Mount Airy who started out with over (Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT WILSON ADDRESSES CONGRESS.

Tells Congress That He Has no Solution of the Railroad Question to Offer.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Congress in joint session heard President Wilson announce formally his purpose to attend the peace conference, and give his views on the part the government should play in dealing with reconstruction problems.

Democrats of the house received the announcement with cheers in which some senators joined; the Republicans were silent almost through out the address, except when the President referred to the valor and efficiency of America's soldiers and mentioned the names of Pershing and Sims. Threatened interruptions by members who disapproved of the trip and of the President's failure to include a senator among the peace delegates, however, did not materialize.

During the first hour of the new session, Senator Cummins, of Iowa, Republican, introduced a resolution to send a committee of eight senators to Paris to keep the senate advised of the progress of the peace conference, and in the house Representative Rodenburg of Illinois, Republican, had offered a resolution proposing that the Vice-President take over the executive functions upon the departure of Mr. Wilson from the country. Senator Sherman, of Illinois, Republican, announced later that he would submit tomorrow a resolution similar to that of Representative Rodenburg that it would declare the office of President vacant.

The President's annual address was read before a crowd that filled the house chamber. He reviewed at length the country's accomplishments in the war, paying tribute to the armed forces and to loyal workers at home. He disclosed that he thinks the problem of readjustment is taking care of itself without government aid.

On the railroad question, Mr. Wilson said he had no solution to offer. He said he was ready to return the lines to private control whenever a satisfactory arrangement was offered to prevent a return to the old system under private management without modification, and asked Congress to study the question.

Recommendations included a renewed appeal for women suffrage in recognition of women's work in the war, a request for early and favorable action on the unratified Columbian treaty, and a suggestion that authority should be given the war trade board or some other body to continue control for a time over exports.

The President concluded with the announcement of his forthcoming trip overseas. He said since the allied governments had accepted principles enunciated by him as the basis for peace, he regarded it as his paramount duty to go.

Many Warships to Escort The President to Brest.

London, Nov. 30.—President Wilson on reaching European waters, in all likelihood will be escorted to Brest by only American warships but by a formidable array of them. In view of the lack of official notification regarding Mr. Wilson's trip it is understood that neither the French nor the British governments have been requested to aid in the naval reception. The British authorities, however, unofficially are discussing plans to welcome the American President should he come here.

American battleships commanders, probably all nine of them in these waters, are understood to be holding themselves in readiness to proceed to a point 100 miles or so off Brest to meet the presidential liner, and the battleship accompanying it. It is probable that 24 American torpedo boat destroyers will join in the reception.

German Government is Starting Investigation.

London, Dec. 1.—The German government is starting an investigation into the German crimes in Belgium, the deportation of Belgian workmen, the theft of Belgian machinery and the murders of Edith Cavell and Captain Fryatt.

Among those held responsible, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company are General von Seuberweh, the former military governor of Brussels; General Baron Kurt von Manteuffel military commander at Louvain, and Baron von der Lancken, civil governor of Brussels at the time of Miss Cavell's execution.

GERMANY MUST PAY TO LIMIT OF HER CAPACITY

Lloyd George Says That Guilty Must Also Suffer For Crimes Committed.

London, Nov. 29.—David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, in speech at New Castle today said the victory of the entente allies had been due to the ceaseless valor of their men and that it would be a lesson to anybody who in the future thinks that they, as the Prussian war lords hoped "could overlook this little island in their reckoning."

"We are now approaching the peace conference," the premier continued. "The price of victory is not vengeance nor retribution. It is prevention. First of all what about those people whom we have received without questions for years to our shores; to whom we give equal rights with our own sons and daughters, and who abused that hospitality to betray the land, to plot against security, to spy upon it and to gain such information as enabled the Prussian war lords to inflict not punishment but damage and injury upon the land that had received them as guests? Never again!"

Mr. Lloyd George said the interests of security and fair play demanded that the people who acted in this way merited punishment for the damage they had inflicted.

The second question was the question of indemnities, the premier added. In every court of justice throughout the world the party which lost has had to bear the cost of the litigation. When Germany defeated France she established the principle, and there was no doubt that the principle was the right one. Germany must pay the cost of the war up to the limit of her capacity.

"But I must use one word of warning," said Mr. Lloyd George. "We have to consider the question of Germany's capacity. Whatever happens Germany is not to be allowed to pay the indemnity by dumping cheap goods upon us. That is the only limit in principle we are laying down. She must not be allowed to pay for her wanton damage and devastation by dumping cheap goods and wrecking our industries."

"There is a third and last point. Is no one to be made responsible for the war? Somebody has been responsible for a war that has taken the lives of millions of the best young men of Europe. Is not anyone to be made responsible for that? If not, all I can say is that if that is the case, there is one justice for the poor wretched criminal and another for kings and emperors."

Mr. Lloyd George declared that there were two offenses against the law of nations that had been committed.

"One" he said "is the crime against humanity in the deliberate plotting of the great war. The other is the outrage upon international law. It is a crime, a brutal crime, to devastate the lands of another. Whoever did that ought to be responsible for it."

"The submarine warfare did not mean only the sinking of ships but it was a crime against humanity in that it sank thousands of harmless merchantmen. In the whole history of warfare between nations that had never been sanctioned. It is rank piracy and the pirates must receive the punishment."

"I mean to see that the men who did not treat our prisoners with humanity are to be made responsible. I want this country to go to court with a clean conscience, and she will do so. There is not a stain on her record. Will not be afraid to appear before any tribunal."

"Now, these are the things which we have to investigate. We mean that the investigation shall be an impartial one, a perfectly fair one. We also mean that it shall be a stern one, and that it shall go on to the final reckoning."

"We have got so to set now that men in the future who feel tempted to follow the example of the rulers who plunged the world into this war will know what is awaiting them at the end of it. We shall have to see that this terrible war, which has inflicted so much destruction on the world; which has arrested the course of civilization and in many ways put it back; which has left marks on the minds, upon the physique and the hearts of myriads in many lands that this generation will not see obliterated—we must see by the action we take now, just, fearless and relentless, that it is a crime that shall never again be repeated in the history of the world."

33,000 TROOPS FOR CONVOY BACK HOME

North Carolina Troops Been Returned to General Pershing's Command.

Washington, Nov. 30.—General Pershing has designated for early convoy of the United States a total of 33,461 officers and 79,663 men, General March announced today. The units comprising these men will be made public.

Included in those to return are the following entire divisions, the 39th, the 76th, and the 78th (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Southern Alabama national army troops, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana national guard troops.) The other troops comprise artillery units and army corps troops.

Revised Casualty Lists.

General March gave out amended casualty reports from General Pershing giving the official total to November 26 as 262,723, exclusive of prisoners. The figures on prisoners were unintelligible in the cablegram. General March said the total number under this head probably would be practically the same as announced last Saturday.

General Pershing reported the following official casualties to November 26:

Killed in action, 28,967
Died of wounds, 12,101
Died of disease, 16,034
Died other causes, 1,980
Missing in action, 14,290
Prisoners (unintelligible)
Wounded 189,455, divided as follows:
Severely wounded, 54,751, undetermined, 43,168; slightly, 92,036.

Men Returning Home.

The war department expects to bring back home in the month of December 150,000 men, General March said. To accomplish that it will use, in addition to army transports and converted cargo boats, enough old battleships and cruisers to furnish an additional carrying capacity for 25,000 men. Shipping experts to transport 300,000 monthly when the demobilization is under full speed.

Revised army estimates for the coming year resulted in cutting the 19,000,000,000 of army appropriations to less than three billions, General March announced.

General Pershing has been directed by President Wilson to confer the distinguished service medal on General Bliss Lieutenant General Liggett and Bullard and Major General Dickman, McAndrews and Herford.

General March corrected an erroneous impression that the 27 (New York) and 30 (Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina and District of Columbia troops) divisions, reported as withdrawn from the British lines, had been designated for early return to the United States. These two divisions, he explained have been returned to Pershing's command and have not yet been assigned for transportation home.

WOULD SINGLE WILLIAM OUT TO BE PUNISHED.

Argument he Cannot be Punished Alone It is Declared is Not to be Admitted.

London, Saturday, Nov. 30.—Discussing plans for bringing to justice former Emperor William of Germany, the Times asserts that "if we had to single one culprit for punishment, he would be the person."

The paper adds that the argument that he cannot be punished because there are others who also are guilty cannot be admitted.

"By that argument" the Times continues, "a felon caught in the act would escape punishment because there are others felons who have not yet been brought to judgement, and neither law or common sense would listen to such a plea."

"Besides, it is not proposed to punish the kaiser alone. There are others, too, who will be placed on trial, but he is the chief because most highly criminal."

"The one argument against doing what we can to bring this arch-criminal to justice is that at present he is a mean and contemptible figure, hiding his head from the ruin he brought on his country and that if we prosecute him, we may somewhat impart dignity to him."

"On the other hand . . . how can respect for international law in the future be based on the immunity of the principal offender against its provisions in the past?"