

LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from James Inman to his father, of Mount Airy.

Somewhere in France.
Oct. 18, 1918.

Dear Father:

Just a few lines to let you hear from me I am enjoying life and health just fine and I am proud to hear that you all are enjoying health so well and only hope you all will continue.

I am not allowed to say anything about the war. I am going to say this much, we have the Hun on the run, and he is liable to stay on the run. And I am sure all are rejoicing over what we are doing for the Germans, and I am thankful that I came over here. This war will soon be over and all of us boys that are coming home will soon be at home.

When I get home I want to work on the farm. I have seen enough of this world. Only wish I could tell you lots of what I have seen. I am sure you would be surprised, we all thought that this war was bad enough to be at home and reading about it. You can't tell anything about it, not by reading the papers. I am thankful that I have been so much help to my country. And you are sitting in a dug out writing and it is some muddy.

Jim Baldwin and Bob Midkiff are the only ones that are with me from Mount Airy. They are getting along fine. I am not a bit chicken hearted, for it will not do to get that way. I have got my nerve and will have it till I die. We have lots of fun we make things funny when they are not, for we have got to have some amusement, and we never see anything that is funny only prisoners, and that is lots of fun. I often think of home, but never get home sick. I have not heard any thing except guns for a month or more. I suppose I will get real lonesome when I get where I can't hear them, any way I won't kick on being where I can't hear them. I have got a \$100.00 I could send home, but I am afraid to start a lot of the boys have sent money and haven't ever heard from it. I am going to see my commanding officer about sending it.

Letter from Chas. E. Harrell, to his mother, Mrs. J. M. Harrell, of White Plains, N. C.

Somewhere in France
Oct. 28, 1918.

Dear Mother:

Will take great pleasure in writing you to night. Am feeling fine and enjoying myself the best I have since I arrived over seas. Am having plenty to eat and extra good place to sleep. Sergeant Yates and myself have a nice room, costs us one franc a night or 20 cents. Have been here ten days can't tell how long we will stay here, the longest we have stayed in any place is three weeks. I went to town yesterday, saw Walter Kidd, told him about you seeing his father, he had a letter from—since he arrived overseas. Was glad to hear of Brady was getting along fine with his work, hope he will get to stay with St. Write me all the news.

Letter from Charlie McCraw to his mother of Round Peak, N. C.

Dear Mother:

I will write a few lines to let you hear from me. I am well at this time. I have not heard a word from you yet, but I am in hopes will soon. You don't know how much good it would do me to get a few lines from home. I heard from Bro. Billie the other day. Said he was well and having a fine time. I have seen no corn growing since left the states, they don't raise corn over here, they raise wheat and potatoes. Say Mama, you must not study about me, for I am alright. The Lord is with me, I have put all my trust in the Lord. He will look after me and I feel he will stay with me. There are eight of us boys together and you bet we are having a fine time. We have the best Lieutenant you ever saw, he is just a little fellow, his name is Mr. Browning you bet he is a good one. You must sow a bigger crop of wheat, you can raise that better than you can corn. Have you got both mules yet? I want you to keep them, for I am coming back and farm. So here I go to bed sweet dreams to you all.

Letter from Sephas Lewis to his sister, Mrs. W. F. Lambert, of Brim.

Oct. 19, 1918.

Dear sister:

I am well and getting on all right, but our work is rather hard. I have just returned from the front, I have been over the top four times, and am living yet, but it is a horrible place to go, but I trust in God to bring me home some day. I hope it won't be long now, but it is hard to tell when the end will come.

I hope you all are well and enjoying life. There is no pleasure here, we never know when Sunday comes except by looking at the calendar, but I hope some day to be out where I can rest on the Sabbath day.

I am in a town where we drove the Germans from a few days ago, and the happiest people I ever saw were the French people that were here. They didn't even know that America was helping them until we came into the town. They just held to us and

cried for joy. You can imagine how I felt to see them free. I thought if it were you pe ople over there how it would be. When we told them that they could write their people they jumped for joy for they had not heard from home in four years. Well I will close for this time, will write soon if nothing happens, goodbye with lots of love to all.

Letter from Sgt. E. S. Jones to his Mother, Mrs. M. A. Jones, of Mount Airy.

Nov. 12, 1918.

Dearest Mother:

Well I certainly am enjoying myself this week, way down in southern France on a seven day leave. It sure is a great place here, was a famous health resort before the war, lots of hotels here. The U. S. has taken them and fixed up for the boys. They sure do treat us fine here, nice beds, meals and hot baths any time you want them. Wish you all could be here with me. We come down here from the lines a couple of days ago. There was a great time here yesterday, when they heard the Huns had agreed to the allies peace. Lots of flags flying, bands playing, people all out in street, and lots of U. S. soldiers here also. I was close to Albert the other day, but didn't know it at the time.

Letter from W. Ed. Newton to his Father, R. H. Newton, of Mount Airy.

A. E. F. Sept. 28, 1918

Dear Papa:

Received your letter today and was more than glad to hear from you. I guess you all have been hearing of the good work we are doing over here now. All you have to do is turn a bunch of "Sammies" loose and the Germans are gone. I had a letter from Bob a few days ago, he is somewhere over here, but I don't know just where. I have lots to tell you all when I get back and I don't think that will be such a long long time. I went to the front night before last and didn't get back until last night about 10 o'clock. If I could only tell you all that I wanted to I would be writing until tomorrow night this time, and then there would be a few things left out. I wish you could see our billets in which we sleep they are not quite as nice as the Blue Ridge Inn but, they certainly do sleep good to a soldier. Well as it is getting about bed time I will close.

TURKISH FLEET NOW IN HANDS OF ALLIES

Russian Black Sea Fleet Also Surrendered—Sir Eric Geddes Speaks on Part taken by British Navy in the War.

London, England.—An official admiralty announcement reads: "All the Turkish warships have surrendered to the Allies and are now interned in the Golden Horn. The Goeben (renamed by the Turks the Sultan Yamez Selim) also surrendered and is now lying at Stenia (on the Bosphorus)."

"The Russian men-of-war in the Black Sea fleet, which were manned by the Germans have now been handed over to the allies. They consist of the dreadnaught Volga and six destroyers.

"Four German submarines have been taken over, three of which will be sent to Ismid (on the Sea of Marmora, 56 miles southeast of Constantinople.)"

Wednesday.—Speaking of the work of the British Navy during the war, Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, in an address in London today, declared that the sea-power of the British Navy, from the very outbreak of the war, assured the freedom of the world by its efforts.

He pointed out that it was the assistance of the navy which had enabled coal, food and munitions to be sent to Italy and France, while Great Britain's own munitions for the western front had been carried on the back of the navy. It was the navy which had enabled the British expeditionary force to be conveyed to France, in which operations more than 16,000,000 men had been conveyed, with a total loss, from all causes, of less than 5000 men.

It was the navy, he continued which enabled the operations to be carried on in Mesopotamia, Macedonia and Palestine and which had brought about a condition of things which resulted in the breakdown of Bulgaria, while behind the navy was the blockade which crushed the life out of the Central Powers and made them sue for peace.

From 1914 to 1917, he stated, the tenth cruiser squadron had kept under guard a stretch of sea 800 miles long from the Orkneys to Ireland and had intercepted 15,000 ships taking supplies to enemy countries. Although this work had been accomplished for the most part at night or in bad light, less than four per cent of vessels succeeded in passing the lines of the blockade.

ALL BUT REGULARS BACK BY MIDSUMMER

Thirteen Divisions Comprise American Army of Occupation; March Gives Review.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Eight of the 13 divisions comprising the American third army, now approaching the Rhine, either are national guard or national army troops, and there is every reason to believe that they will be on American soil again by midsummer.

General March, chief of staff, announced today he anticipated no difficulty in getting these units home within four months after peace has been established formally by proclamation. President Wilson, in his recent address to Congress, said the sessions of the conference probably would be concluded by spring and based on this estimate of the time, General March's statement was accepted to mean that these forces would return during the summer.

Two national guard divisions, the 32nd and 42nd, and two of the national army, the 89th and 90th, now are in the front line of Major General Dickman's army of occupation which was within 20 miles of the Rhine last night, according to General Pershing's report. The 28th and 33rd national guard and the 79th national army are in the second line, constituting the reserve which is occupying Luxemburg and various rail-centers in France, including Montmedy, Longuyon, Etain and St. Mihiel. The first Third, Fourth and Fifth regulars comprise the remainder of the advancing divisions are with the reserve.

All Back by Midsummer

The estimate as to the possibility that all except regular divisions will be withdrawn from France by midsummer is based on General March's reply to a question as to steps necessary to obtain an extension of the enlistment period for men in the army of occupation.

"The law about the men who were raised in the national army is that they must be discharged four months after the declaration of peace," he said. "That, I think, also was extended to include men who made voluntary enlistments in the regular army. I won't have any difficulty in bringing back from France the so-called national army divisions in four months after the declaration of peace. It is entirely possible that we will have to ask Congress for some modifications of the law to provide a longer period for the units which will remain in Europe."

A total of 5,225 officers and 125,515 men, General March said, have been specifically assigned for early return by General Pershing. Including in the additional units reported today are 1,426 officers and 29,381 men, the largest organizations mentioned being the field artillery brigades of the 8th (regular) and 92nd (national army—negro) divisions and the 245th and 346th infantry regiments from the 87th (national army) division. The remainder of the list consists largely of auxiliary divisional troops.

Largest Unit Yet

The 346 infantry is numerically the largest unit yet ordered home, showing 77 officers and 3,182 men.

Discussing demobilization of the forces at home, General March said college men other than those in officers' schools which were being abandoned would receive no preference as to the time of their discharge. The order of demobilization providing that combat divisions be disbanded last, he said has not been altered.

"The system is working at a very much greater speed," General March said, referring to demobilization, "and I have initiated a system by which I get a daily record as to officers and a weekly record as to enlisted men. The actual number of officers discharged at the time of the last announcement was 113; the number discharged last week, up to yesterday, was 7,858. The number of men discharged in the United States last week was over 200,000."

WHY WOMEN SUFFER

Many Mount Airy Women are Learning the Cause.

Women often suffer, not knowing the cause.

Backache, headache, dizziness, nervousness, irregular urinary passages weakness, languor—

Each a torture of itself.

Together hint at weakened kidneys. Strike at the root—get to the cause. No other remedy more highly endorsed than Doan's Kidney Pills.

Recommended by thousands—Endorsed at home.

Here's convincing testimony from Mount Airy citizen.

Mrs. L. S. Lunwick E. Elm St says: "Some time ago I had occasion to use Doan's Kidney Pills. They certainly brought me fine results. I was troubled with pains in my back, had nervous headaches and was in pretty bad condition. Doan's Kidney Pills relieved me of this trouble and it is a pleasure for me to recommend them."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Lunwick had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

Mrs. Isley's Letter.

In a recent letter Mrs. D. W. Isley of Litchfield, Ill., says, "I have used Chamberlain's Tablets for disorders of the stomach and as a laxative and have found them a quick and sure relief." If you are troubled with indigestion or constipation these tablets will do you good."

HOW THE GERMAN FLEET SURRENDERED

British and American Vessels Stripped for Instant Action at the Surrender.

Special Correspondence to The New York Times.

On Board the U. S. S. Florida, Grand Fleet, Firth of Forth, Nov. 21.—In the bright sunlight this afternoon nine German battleships, five battle cruisers and seven light cruisers steamed into the Firth of Forth and gave themselves up for internment. They were led by a British cruiser, and as they passed between the long lines of British and American battleships, the very perfection of their steaming and accuracy of their handling seemed to accentuate their humiliation.

How completely the menace which has hung like a cloud over the Allies was dissipated today is shown by the roll of vessels given up. Chief of the battleship squadron, which was commanded by Rear Admiral von Reuter, was the new Bayern, of 28,000 tons and carrying eight 15 inch guns. Then came the Grosser Kurfurst, the Markgraf, and the Kronprinz, each of 25,300 tons, and with ten 12-inch guns and lastly the Friedrich der Grosse, Kaiser, and Kaiserin, each of 24,310 tons and ten 12-inch guns.

Commodore Tagert commanded the five battle cruisers, the Derfflinger and Hindenburg, each of 26,180 tons, with eight 12-inch guns; the Seydlitz, 24,510 tons, with ten 11-inch guns; the Moltke, of 22,440 tons, and same armament and the Von der Tann, of 19,100 tons and eight 11-inch guns. The light cruisers brought in today under Commodore Harzer included the Karlsruhe, Nurnberg, Coeln, Brummer, Bremse and Emden. In addition there were fifty destroyers. All these are now at anchor under the guns of the Grand Fleet in British waters.

The program for the surrender was absolutely simple. The Germans had expressed a willingness to give themselves up and there was nothing for them to do but to come on their last cruise across the North Sea.

Last Monday the Germans, in accordance with orders from Admiral Beatty, put out to sea, with magazines empty, their guns secured amidships and only navigating and engineering crews aboard. The British and American fleets were in parade order to receive a visit from King George. On Wednesday the King accompanied by the Prince of Wales, in the destroyer Oub, steamed along the coast.

Work of their mainmasts. If the Germans used their glasses they must have seen their decks almost bare figures, but their fighting tops crowded with them at their stations and their big guns ready to be swung round at a second's notice.

To the trained sailor's eye they represented warships ready for instant action.

"It is the proudest moment in my life," said an American officer as he looked at one moment through the mist at the German fleet sinking into inglorious safety, and again at the line of American ships keeping perfect distance and direction as they followed the flagship New York.

But even when these two powerful squadrons had gone by, the Germans had still to pass the nine battleships of the second battle squadron, Admiral Beatty's flagship, the Queen Elizabeth, and four ships of the first battle cruiser squadron and the Lion, as well as the fourth light cruiser squadron. Moreover, what the Germans saw on their starboard bow clearly enough in the sun, they knew was repeated on their other quarter, even though it was shadowed by the mists. They were steaming of their own volition between two mighty fleets, which could blow them off of the water in five minutes. And it was of their own volition. This is what the ceremony of today seemed especially designed to bring out—that the surrender of the German fleet was a voluntary act on their part, and that there was no reason why they should have done it if they had not been afraid to fight. After a time the British columns turned and accompanied their prisoners back, each separate squadron wheeling out of line and back again so as to reverse the order of the whole array without altering that of each unit. But through it all the Germans kept plodding on. No one apparently gave them orders; no one coerced them; that were self-confessed in defeat and fleeing to safety while there was yet time.

The ceremony was almost terribly impersonal, so ostentatiously did the Grand Fleet keep its hands off its prisoners. It had been at grips with the Germans before, and now it was content to let them pass and leave them alone.

As the Germans drew nearer their anchorage the humiliating nature of their plight must have come home still more sharply to them. As it chanced, it was necessary for the three lines of vessels to come closer together. The north and south columns of the Grand fleet sheered in toward the German, and it seemed as though it was merely one division of mighty fighting force.

Still Flew Battle Flags.

The German ships were still flying their battle flags. The guns ran out stiffly from their turrets, and their low silhouettes showed how skillfully they had been designed as war machines.

They were keeping a beautiful formation as regards distance, and there was nothing to suggest what they were, yet every mile was bringing them nearer hopeless and prolonged captivity, and all their professional skill served was to aid their enemies in putting them easily into confinement. So as they reached their an-

stand out meet them in two long columns. Light cruisers were to lead the van, and behind them were the battleships, and behind these again other battle cruisers and light cruisers. Two great columns, each at least twenty miles long, were thus to be formed, and between them, under constant surveillance all the way, the German ships were to sail.

There was to be no communication between them and the Allies. They were to be left completely alone, and had only to obey signals and take up the anchorage assigned to them.

Long before dawn this morning the Grand Fleet got under way to godown to the appointed place. Thirty-three battleships, nine battle cruisers, five cruisers, and thirty-one light cruisers were to take part in the great triumph, and it takes a long time to move a mighty fleet like that in single file. It was a wonderful sight to watch them slip away in the small hours of the morning. There was a full moon, but the sky was overcast. For over six hours the British and American ships were picking their way down the Firth and maneuvering to assume the two-column formation. From time to time through the air came signals from the Germans, announcing exactly where they were and what progress they were making.

At 8:18 o'clock the German Commander reported he could not make the 12 knots required, but only 10. Everything was going well, but it was not until 9:15 that the Germans were first made out from the Grand fleet. They were holding strictly to their course and steaming steadily ahead in excellent order, but from the northern column, at any rate looking into the sun and across the mists, they seem very dim and shadowy and were barely discernible against the gray sea. Above them floated a British observation balloon and a dirigible, but they made no signals and paid no attention to any one.

Met Their Old Rivals.

After they had passed the cruiser they met the famous fifth British battle squadron which once before had come across them and left its mark upon them. They were the Barham, Valiant, Warspite, and the Malaya, ships which rushed at the battle of Jutland to the rescue of the battle cruisers. Then they were sheathed in smoke and fire; today they stood out in the sunlight glistening as if with silver, and gay with signaling flags—sturdy and solid looking craft they were. Then next behind them came five tall ships from across the Atlantic, with Stars and Stripes floating proudly from each of their masts and rigging, as well from the lattice-work of their mainmasts. If the Germans used their glasses they must have seen their decks almost bare figures, but their fighting tops crowded with them at their stations and their big guns ready to be swung round at a second's notice.

To the trained sailor's eye they represented warships ready for instant action.

"It is the proudest moment in my life," said an American officer as he looked at one moment through the mist at the German fleet sinking into inglorious safety, and again at the line of American ships keeping perfect distance and direction as they followed the flagship New York.

But even when these two powerful squadrons had gone by, the Germans had still to pass the nine battleships of the second battle squadron, Admiral Beatty's flagship, the Queen Elizabeth, and four ships of the first battle cruiser squadron and the Lion, as well as the fourth light cruiser squadron. Moreover, what the Germans saw on their starboard bow clearly enough in the sun, they knew was repeated on their other quarter, even though it was shadowed by the mists. They were steaming of their own volition between two mighty fleets, which could blow them off of the water in five minutes. And it was of their own volition. This is what the ceremony of today seemed especially designed to bring out—that the surrender of the German fleet was a voluntary act on their part, and that there was no reason why they should have done it if they had not been afraid to fight. After a time the British columns turned and accompanied their prisoners back, each separate squadron wheeling out of line and back again so as to reverse the order of the whole array without altering that of each unit. But through it all the Germans kept plodding on. No one apparently gave them orders; no one coerced them; that were self-confessed in defeat and fleeing to safety while there was yet time.

The ceremony was almost terribly impersonal, so ostentatiously did the Grand Fleet keep its hands off its prisoners. It had been at grips with the Germans before, and now it was content to let them pass and leave them alone.

As the Germans drew nearer their anchorage the humiliating nature of their plight must have come home still more sharply to them. As it chanced, it was necessary for the three lines of vessels to come closer together. The north and south columns of the Grand fleet sheered in toward the German, and it seemed as though it was merely one division of mighty fighting force.

Still Flew Battle Flags.

The German ships were still flying their battle flags. The guns ran out stiffly from their turrets, and their low silhouettes showed how skillfully they had been designed as war machines.

They were keeping a beautiful formation as regards distance, and there was nothing to suggest what they were, yet every mile was bringing them nearer hopeless and prolonged captivity, and all their professional skill served was to aid their enemies in putting them easily into confinement. So as they reached their an-

chorage in the Firth, some miles below the Forth Bridge in obedience to orders from the British they split up into several lines and came to a halt. There they lay, motionless and harmless, and the British and American victors swept by, leaving them in the care of guardships.

What will be the German fleet's ultimate fate is as yet unannounced. Their position is as peculiar as their surrender. They were not, strictly speaking, captured; they still apparently legally belong to whatever is the German Government. They came in flying their own colors, and so far no one from the British Navy except the necessary pilots has boarded them. They are interned under the armistice merely as a matter of precaution.

Meanwhile they are manned by their own crews, reduced it is true, to skeleton strength, and are left under their own officers as caretakers. They will simply be kept until the Allies, sitting at the Peace Conference, decide what is to be done with them. This afternoon Sir David Beatty sent to Admiral von Reuter this order: "The German flag is to be hoisted down at 5:57 today, (that is sundown) It is not to be hoisted again without permission."

Moreover, it is said that before many days are over the German ships will be moved under close guard in small detachments to that delightful Winter resort, Skapa Flow, in bleak Orkneys, where they will be able to mediate for weeks and months on what British and American seamen dared to endure to cut their claws.

BIG POLITICAL BATTLE IMPENDS IN GERMANY

Fight is to Eliminate Partisan Politics in Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils

Berlin, Friday, Dec. 6.—What promises to be a decisive battle for the elimination of partisan politics in the soldiers' and workmen's council throughout Germany, has already been precipitated by the announced determination of the soldiers to insist upon party representation on all governing boards. The leaders of the soldiers declare that if the present virtual dictatorship system of government is to be continued they will demand an equal vote with the working men. Otherwise they insist upon the immediate convocation of the national assembly.

"We soldiers today are fully qualified to speak for the bourgeoisie," a former non-commissioned officer said to the correspondent.

By what was once proudly called "Germany's splendid middle classes." We represent all callings, trades and professions. The working men, on the other hand, have succeeded during the progress of the war in creating a special social category brought about by the prosperity of labor. The bourgeoisie today is really the proletariat. The soldiers object to being outvoted and therefore demand strict party representation in the composition of the soldiers working men's boards."

The soldiers seem thus far to have proved themselves inferior parliamentary tacticians as compared with the radical labor elements. This realization is drawing on them, and their movement designed to reform the working methods of the executive committee and bring about closer communication between the two divisions promises to furnish the first big political sensation of the revolutionary government.

It is commonly understood that the soldiers are anxious that both wings of the German social democracy busy themselves in trying to get together on a common national platform. The existing system of a compromise government is said to have exhausted the patience of the soldiers.

Public demonstrations on the part of the troops returning from the front are commonly interpreted here as in approval of the Ebert-Scheidemann group. Philipp Scheidemann is delivering the bulk of the patriotic speeches and glorifying the revolution, while the Haase wing of the cabinet and its independent following apparently is in possession of decisive strategic advantage.

Former German Emperor Held to be Responsible.

London, Dec. 8.—The News Van Dag of Amsterdam, a copy of which has been received here, says it holds the opinion that the former German emperor is responsible for the acts of his troops in Belgium and France, and the ruthless submarine war and the aerial bombardments of open towns, and that, consequently, no Dutch government with common sense would allow Holland to be involved in war or have her food supply endangered by reason of acts of friendliness toward the former monarch.

Another reason the newspaper says why Holland should be relieved of William Hohenzollern's presence as soon as possible, is that many persons in Germany have not yet abandoned the hope of restoring the imperial power.

"It would not be surprising if these people entertain relations with Germans in Holland," the article concludes. "Consequently, as long as the kaiser is in Holland the germs of a political plot are existent."

Change From Poverty to Millions Causes Death.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 7.—Four weeks a millionaire after a life of hard work and poverty, Max A. Anderson, died today at Two Harbors of pneumonia.

Anderson was overcome when advised that a relative in Sweden had died and left him more than \$1,000,000.