

A Letter to The Folks Back Home

By H. V. ROSE

If you ever get into the army, you may always expect the unexpected and you will not be far from the correct reckoning. I saw several of my Johnston County friends during the Christmas holidays, and I told them that I thought that I should complete my training at Camp Jackson and go on over. However, two weeks later I was transferred from the Camp Jackson cantonment to this army mobilization camp, Camp Greene, Charlotte.

There is a decided difference between Camp Jackson and Camp Greene. Camp Jackson is built up of barracks, sanitary toilets, paved roads and so forth. Camp Greene is made up of clay hills, tents, mess-halls, pit latrines and so forth. The one is like a nicely kept town; the other is like the army with all its rigor and privation.

Here, as at Camp Jackson, the Y. M. C. A. Secretary is the soldiers' right-hand man. I think Johnston County gave as its bit to the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. 5,000. Many of you who gave for the glorious work may be interested to know how your contributions are serving in the war cause. So I am giving in this letter a week's program of these busy workers.

Sunday: 8:00 a. m., Mass; 9:00 a. m., Regimental Service; 10:00 a. m., Mass; 10:00 a. m., Protestant Service; 2:15 p. m., Bible Class; 3:00 p. m., Home Hour; 6:15 p. m., Band Concert; 7:00 p. m., Religious Service; 8:15 p. m., After Service.

Monday: 6:30 p. m., Free Moving Pictures.

Tuesday: 7:00 p. m., Religious Service; 8:15 p. m., Bible Class.

Wednesday: 6:30 p. m., Entertainments, Movies, etc.

Thursday: 6:00 p. m., Bible Class in Hut; 7:00 p. m., Stunt night; 6:30 p. m., Mess Hall Bible Class.

Friday: 6:30 p. m., Moving Pictures.

Saturday: 1:30 p. m., Personal Workers' Bible Class; 6:30 p. m., Athletics.

Now a word of explanation. In Camp Greene there are as many Catholic soldiers as there are of Protestant denominations. The Catholics have only one building in the Camp, and the Y. M. C. A. hut is opened to them for worship. The above program shows that the Y. M. C. A. gives each week nine Bible Classes. The Home Hour is the hour in which the boys write to their home folks and sweethearts. It is a serious, solemn hour too. The Band Concerts are great. Each regiment has its band, and the Y. M. C. A. Secretary goes out and gets these bands to play for the soldiers. The bands use the "Y" hut as their auditorium. The Religious service is nothing short of a regular church service. When it is practicable a minister from some of the churches in Charlotte comes down and conducts the service; otherwise, the secretary in charge conducts it. It certainly is refreshing to hear the boys sing at these services. The very songs the homefolks sing at Hood's Grove, Mill Creek, White Oak, Archer Lodge, and elsewhere over Johnston County are sung here, and it gently reminds us of better days gone and it makes us fervently hope for better days to come. Free moving pictures are displayed each week. Of course, the pictures are all clean, but many of them display enough "pep" to please the soldiers well.

The program for Stunt night is varied. It covers any art and feat that any individual may possess. Boxing and wrestling are the principle sports. Often violinists and pianists grind out their skill on these nights. One night this week six of the boys debated to a large audience: "Resolved, That from hence Russia will be more beneficial in winning the war for the Central Powers than she will for the Entente." Some of the officers of the camp were judges and a lively debate was enjoyed.

The Bible Classes last about 20 minutes. The secretary is usually the conductor of these classes.

From 400 to 1,200 soldiers attend the different religious services. As many as 2,000 to 4,000 goers and comers each day visit the hut for stationery, stamps and other means of comfort. Each hut has a library. One secretary told me that his library consisted of 700 volumes, besides a large number of magazines and newspapers.

Camp Greene has six Y. M. C. A. Huts in the camp, one at the Base Hospital and one at the Rifle-range, twelve miles north of Charlotte. Each hut has a general superintendent and five secretaries. Each one turns out just about such a volume of work as the description given above. It is enormous when you sum it up, and a dollar spent for Y. M. C. A. service

will come as near purchasing one hundred cents' worth of "value received" as for any other commodity for which it might be spent.

Hut 104 is the one most convenient for our company. Rev. J. H. Armbrust is the secretary in charge. He is a member of the West Ohio M. E. Conference. Before taking up Y. M. C. A. work he was a minister in Boston and has traveled much as a lecturer and evangelist. He has the knack of getting right up amongst the fellows and is a most likable man. I mention these facts to give you some idea of the custodians and directors of the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. contributions.

Charlotte is a very pretty and a very clean-kept city, and every citizen of it is proud of it and is quick to tell you of its many superior qualities. It is one of their characteristics, and not at all a despicable one I think. One night this week I was in the city, and I saw a man in civilian dress standing by the street side making some very "sloppy" hand-salutes to the passing soldiers. His face looked familiar and I accosted him and found him to be a Mr. Sanders. He formerly lived a few miles east of Smithfield. My talk with him was short but very pleasant.

How many of you Johnston County people think you could live on a little less than 42 cents worth of food per day? That is the soldiers' maximum allowance. Besides giving our whole time and offering our lives, if need be, for the cause of this war, we are doing our best for food conservation.

I think every farmer in Johnston County this year should plant every foot of land he can hope to tend in such crops as corn, potatoes, both Irish and sweet, wheat, rice, soy beans (soldiers like them), blackeye peas, and in fact everything that can be used as food. I think they ought to save all the fruit and berries they can. The farmer that makes a big production of farm products and places them on the market will have done a patriotic thing.

I now belong to Company "A" First Army Headquarters Regiment. When we get over there, we shall do guard duty around Gen. Pershing's headquarters. I am the only Johnston County boy in this regiment, but I do not feel a bit lonesome. Our regiment is made up of men from every quarter of the world. They are tried and true and I have much faith in them. When that big fight, that you hear so much about comes off next summer, look out for our regiment. We are going to be there and we are going to show the Kaiser how to do war stunts in the real American way.

Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C. February 18, 1918.

PROGRESS SCHOOL NOTES.

We are very sorry to note that Little Clarence Tiner is confined to his room with pneumonia.

Messrs. Roland Sasser, of Goldsboro, and Roby Sasser, of Camp Sevier, spent Saturday night with their sister, Mrs. Adam Woodard.

The Progress Literary Society met last Friday afternoon and rendered a very interesting program, which was greatly enjoyed by those present.—Prof.

Chronology of Inventions.

Barometers were first made by Toricelli in 1643.

Bombshells were first made in Holland in 1495.

The first almanac was printed in Hungary in 1470.

Iron pavements were first laid in London in 1817.

Brandy was first made in France in 1310.

Roller skates were invented by Plympton in 1863.

The first American paper money was made in 1740.

Covered carriages were first used in England in 1580.

Alcohol was discovered in the thirteenth century.

Stem-winding watches were the invention of Noel in 1851.

The first iron wire was drawn at Nuremberg in 1351.

The first torpedo was made in 1777.

The first plaster cast was made by Verocchio in 1470.

The velocipede was invented by Drais in 1817.

Steel needles were first made in England in 1545.

Phonographic shorthand writing was the invention of Pitman in 1837.

Billiards were invented in France in 1471.

The first pipe organ was made by Archimedes in 220 B. C.

The first pair of spectacles was made by an Italian in 1299.—Exchange.

The Strike.

Strike—but strike for one thing only,
For the flag,
Let the strike for that cause holy
Never lag;
Let it be a strong and good one,
To the death,
And let us keep it going
While we've breath.

Strike for all which that flag stands for,
Liberty,
Rescue from—of men and nations,
Tyranny;
From the rule of blood and iron,
From the Hun;
Strike till this, our flag's great mission,
Shall be done.

Strike to make all our resources
At their best;
Strike to fill our valiant soldiers
With keen zest,
To know they've got our backing;
That's the way
And the only way of striking—
Strike away!—Baltimore American.

Jr. O. U. A. M. Memorial Service.

Princeton Council 404 Jr. O. U. A. M. will hold a Memorial Service at the Methodist church, Princeton, N. C., Sunday, February 24, 1918, in memory of Brothers John F. Hollowell, and J. Marvin Stuckey.

Address by Rev. J. W. Alford, of Morhead City.

All Juniors and the public cordially invited.

J. F. WELLONS,
Recording Sec'y.

TWO MILLION A DAY OF STAMPS

Vanderlip Says Total Sale Passed Fifty Million Dollars. A Nation of Savers Needed to Win War.

Winston-Salem, Feb. 17th.—More than two million a day is the rate at which War Savings Stamps are selling in the United States today, according to a telegram from the National Chairman, F. A. Vanderlip, to State Headquarters here last night. The total sale of stamps yesterday passed the fifty million dollar mark while the daily average sale shows a steady increase.

"The growing value of savings that are being placed at the service of the nation by the millions of citizens of this country is the most assuring evidence," says Mr. Vanderlip, "that the heart of the people is prepared for any sacrifice necessary to win this war. 'Business as usual' is a wholly wrong theory in war times," says he, "for it is only by teaching the people to save and not to compete for labor and materials with the Government that we can put the whole strength of the nation into the war, and win."

"A militant army of War-Savers is not only the hope of this war," says Mr. Vanderlip further, "but it is the most important contribution that the people can make and the only sure way to raise the required money. To spread the gospel of saving so that the whole nation will become a nation of savers is the only way to put War Savings Stamps and the great purpose for which they are sold 'over the top.'"

FREER MOVEMENT OF GRAIN.

Effect of Increased Receipts Largely Offset by Active Export and Domestic Demand.

Owing to evidences of a substantial increase in western receipts, the corn market displayed a somewhat easier tone at the outset this week, and, with the additional influence of better weather, which facilitated railroad traffic, quite a bearish feeling developed. The downward tendency of quotations, however, was not prolonged, for, with the report that orders preventing the loading of eastern cars at Chicago had been withdrawn, prices rallied and became comparatively firm. After the holiday, fluctuations kept within a rather narrow range, though the general trend was toward a higher level, the effect of the increased shipments being more than offset by realization on the part of the trade that a large amount of corn will be wanted in the East to make make up for the long-delayed movement, as well as to meet the demand from Europe, which is said to be urgently in need of this cereal. Peace rumors were again in circulation, but attracted little attention, the principal factors governing the course of prices being the steady cash demand and the question of shipments in sufficient volume to meet requirements, although there was also some effort to advance quotations by reports that the mild weather throughout the West was causing serious damage to large quantities of corn.—Dun's Review.

The Colonel's Program.

The man who writes the sparkling paragraphs for The Nashville Banner thoroughly exposed Roosevelt's military ambition in the following:

"The Colonel's original plan was to bestride a stud horse and, at the head of several million allied troops, dash down Unter den Linden, capture the Kaiser, blow up the imperial palace at Potsdam, buckle about his loins the sword of Frederick the Great, erect a statue to himself in Berlin, come back home amidst the huzzas of the world, take possession of the White House and assume the Presidency for life. If his activities were not a menace they would be laughable."

That was the program. It was absurd. Patience is absolutely necessary to victory in this war, and of that quality Roosevelt has not a particle.

He has gained one point—mastery of his party. That helps some, and the Democrats hope he will retain that mastery, which would help a heap.—Savoyard.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (Coccyzus americanus)



Length, about twelve inches. The yellow lower part of the bill distinguishes this bird from its near relative, the black-billed cuckoo.

Range: Breeds generally in the United States and southern Canada; winters in South America.

Habits and economic status: This bird lives on the edges of woodland, in groves, orchards, parks, and even in shaded village streets. It is sometimes known as rain crow, because its very characteristic notes are supposed to foretell rain. The cuckoo has sly, furtive ways as it moves among the bushes or flits from tree to tree, and is much more often heard than seen. Unlike its European relative, it does not lay its eggs in other birds' nests, but builds a nest of its own. This is, however, a rather crude and shabby affair—hardly more than a platform of twigs sufficient to hold the greenish eggs. The cuckoo is extremely useful because of its insectivorous habits, especially as it shows a marked preference for the hairy caterpillars, which few birds eat. One stomach that was examined contained 250 American tent caterpillars; another, 217 fall webworms. In places where tent caterpillars are abundant they seem to constitute a large portion of the food of this and the black-billed cuckoo.

No Commendation.

"You seem to think a great deal of that candidate."

"How do you arrive at that conclusion?" asked Senator Sorghum.

"Why, you have always supported him."

"Yes; but a public man's attitude toward a candidate may be that of the family toward the head of the house. You don't necessarily think any more of a man because you've got to support him."

Great is the Red Cross.

The Red Cross has succeeded in a bit of diplomacy that no other organization in existence could have accomplished. It had already secured the privilege of sending letters, food and money to Americans held prisoners in Germany, and through this arrangement it has been enabled to bring these prisoners in touch with their people at home. The value of that service alone will live forever in the hearts of American fathers and mothers. But Germany has many prisoners in the United States, and the German people were naturally anxious to get in touch with their boys. The "trading-with-the-enemy" act stood in the way, but at the intercession of the Red Cross, a way around this was opened. The Red Cross is now the recognized medium through which the German fathers and mothers may send word from home or a remembrance to sons confined in American prisons. It is claimed for the Red Cross that this makes it "the single international postoffice and cable office for prisoners of war all over the world." With each developed phase of useful service rendered by this organization the admiration of the American people for it is increased.—Charlotte Observer.

OVER THE TOP

BY
Serg't Arthur Guy Empey

Serg't Empey's vivid and gripping story of the great war will be printed in daily installments in this paper.

Twenty-seven chapters of exciting adventures and heart-stirring action; events that befell this one man from the time he passed from civilian life to take his place in the human wall that stands between civilization and frightfulness.

Serg't Empey is an American who enlisted in the British Army on hearing of the sinking of the "Lusitania." He writes in a straightforward way of his own experiences "over there," of the life in which our own American boys are entering.

OVER THE TOP

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THE SOLEMN DUTY OF EVERY MAN---

This war is our war, every one of us, and it is our absolute duty to go out of our way and make sacrifices, to do everything in our power for those boys "over there." Make sacrifices and save, the biggest gain is to the saver. Invest your savings in Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps which pay 4 per cent interest, that isn't sacrifice, it's good business. Unless we meet and put through the issues of today we will have greater and more serious battles to fight. Save for yourself and your country. Buy War Savings Stamps. For sale at all banks, the post offices and stores.

WAR SAVING COMMITTEE
Johnston County