

The Smithfield Herald

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PERSHING'S ARMY ON WAY TO PICARDY

Intensively Trained and Fully
Accoutred They Are Stream-
ing to the Front.

HUNS HELD ELSEWHERE.

Losses So Great That They
Were Unwilling to Take up
Gage of Battle Sunday.

HINDENBURG'S DATE OFF

Allies Cancel His Engagement
for Dinner in Paris.

The Associated Press War Summary for Sunday in Monday's dailies looks more encouraging to Allies:

The American army in France is to fight shoulder to shoulder with the British and French troops who now are engaged in the titanic struggle with the Germans in Picardy, General Pershing's entire force having been given into the hands of General Foch, the new generalissimo, who is to use the men where he desires.

More than 100,000 Americans, intensively trained and fully accoutred, are available for use in aiding to stem the tide of the German hordes and large numbers of them, on railroad trains and in motor trucks and even afoot, already are on the way to the battlefield eager to do their part in defeating the invaders.

The miserable weather which has broken over the country is proving no deterrent to the Americans as they push forward from all directions toward the battle zone.

From the region of the Somme southward to where the battle line turns eastward furious fighting has continued on various sectors, but everywhere the enemy has been held and even pushed back at some points.

Nowhere has he been able, although he continued to throw great masses of men into the fray, to gain ground, except an infinitesimal from the French north of Moreuil. British and French machine guns and riflemen as in the days past, again tore great holes in the ranks of the field gray as they endeavored to press on.

So great have been the losses of the Germans in front of the British north of the Somme that Sunday saw them unwilling again to take up the gage of battle. Along the Scarpe the British themselves went on the offensive and to the East of Arras captured the village of Feuchy. On the southern end of the line, where Von Hindenburg is endeavoring to pierce through to the old German positions, as they stood before his retreat in 1916, the British and French troops, fighting together have met the enemy in furious combats, but everywhere defeated him with sanguinary losses.

The town of Moreuil changed hands four times, but finally rested in the hands of the British and French, while the woods to the north of the village were captured by the French.

In the bend of the line between Moreuil and Lassigny the Germans made frantic efforts to break through, but the French held them in their tracks and in addition recaptured several villages.

Not alone has Von Hindenburg lost large numbers of men killed or wounded, but both the British and French armies have taken a considerable number of new prisoners and also captured machine guns. At last accounts the Germans had launched a fresh attack in the region between the river Luce and Avre and fierce fighting was in progress.

The reports from both the British and French war offices seemingly indicate that the allied troops have reached the limits of their retrograde movement. In any event, they have cancelled the engagement Field Marshal Von Hindenburg made with himself to take dinner in Paris, on All Fool's Day. Instead of the truffles and other viands with which the German commander-in-chief had predicted he would regale himself in the French capital on April 1, his fare will be that of the German army; and instead of passing triumphantly through the boulevards of the city, a victor over the French and British troops, he will be busily engaged in dodging the shot and shell hurled at him by them and endeavoring to withstand the heavy thrusts of their infantry against his battle line.

JOHNSTONIAN IN SERVICE.

Mr. Yates Edgerton Writes Interestingly of the Service in Uncle Sam's Naval Air Service. He Left Trinity College and Enlisted in December Last.

Many of my friends, relatives and acquaintances, have written me for information regarding this branch of "The Service." That I may answer these inquiries concretely, without having to rewrite the same thing over and over; and also to give an idea of the life in The Naval Aeronautic Service to any others who may be interested, I am sending a copy of this little sketch to your publication.

In order to illustrate the splendid advantages offered by this particular branch of the Navy, it will be necessary to make many personal references, the spirit of which I trust will not be misconstrued. To begin with, I shall give extracts from my diary and from my official "Service Record," which is on file in the office of The Captain-of-the-Yard.

I left Trinity College December 10th, 1917, enlisted in the Regular Navy, (Aviation Section,) as "Landsman for Quartermaster" in Charleston, S. C., on December 13th. When I enlisted I understood that I would become a Naval Aviator. But when I reached Pensacola, much to my chagrin, I learned that only Naval Officers and Student Officers did actual flying. I also learned that men enlisted in the Quartermaster branch worked on wings, did wire splicing, and acted as "Beach-Mules." (Beach Mules are the men, either in long boots or bath-suits, who launch and pull in the Sea-planes before and after flights.) And that the men who worked on motors were known as "Machinist Mates." Having an inclination toward mechanical work, I elected a transfer from the Quartermaster branch and on January 1, 1918, I received my rating as "Landsman for Machinist Mate." This rating pays \$32.60 per month. On February 1st, I was promoted to M. M. 2c, which is the Navy way of saying: "Machinist Mate, Second Class." On March 1st I was again promoted to M. M. 1c, which of course means Machinist Mate First Class. M. M. 2c, pays \$55.50 and M. M. 1c pays \$66.50 per month.

This is paid in addition to board, clothes, lodging, medical and dental attention. This shows how rapidly any average fellow can advance himself if he puts plenty of "Pep" and thoroughness into his work. If one applies himself the only thing that holds one back is a rule stating that any rating must be held for at least one month, before the examination for the next higher rating can be taken.

In addition to the excellent technical and industrial training that is to be had in the Navy, there are several other very important things which offer new opportunities. Among these are physical culture, all sorts of athletics, military drill, and marksmanship. Taking myself as an average American youth, and any of them could have done the same thing, let's look and see what I got out of it. First, Physical Culture: I have learned the regular code of calisthenic exercises and could earn a livelihood, in civil life, as an instructor in Physical Culture. In the department of Athletics to be had in all such sports as foot-ball, base-ball, basket-ball, boxing, wrestling, and the like. So far I have only gone out for basket-ball. I made the Navy team; we won the league pennant; and I, as a member of the team, got in one of the swellest feeds a "Gob" ever heard about. "Gob" is the nick-name of the sailor. In the Military training department I worked up from a "Gob" in the rear rank to Company Commander. This was made possible by the training I received at Trinity before I enlisted. Last Saturday, one week ago, I was sent from the training school to the "Beach." This is where the actual work and te flying is done. On Monday morning following, I was appointed "First Machanician" on one of the big twelve cylinder Liberty Motors, one of the new flying boats. The experience that I will get in this work will fit me for a position commanding an excellent salary should I ever get back into civil life and desire to go into the mechanical field. All this goes to show what the Navy offers and also proves that the terrible war cloud has a silver lining after all. With kindest regards to

SELMA DEBATERS WIN IN THE DEBATE

The Triangular debates held last Friday night resulted in a victory complete for Selma, and a partial victory for Smithfield.

Selma Wins from Kenly.

In the triangular debate held here at Turlington Graded School auditorium last Friday night between Selma and Kenly, Selma won a unanimous decision. The query was "Resolved, That Congress should enact a law providing for the Compulsory Arbitration of Industrial Disputes."

Selma's debaters, Miss Bertha Moser and Miss Julia Winston Ashworth, had the affirmative. The negative was upheld by Kenly, represented by Miss Adna Lee Bailey and Miss Myrtle Watson. It was a splendid debate and was pretty well attended. Selma's representatives were the winners.

Selma Wins from Smithfield.

Smithfield's affirmative, Mr. John Grimes and Miss Carrie Brodie Sanders, went to Kenly to meet Selma's negative, Miss Lillian Snipes and Mr. Elmore Earp. Smithfield lost to Selma two to one.

Smithfield Win from Kenly.

Smithfield's negative speakers, Mr. John O. Ellington, Jr., and Mr. Lyndon Jordan went to Selma to meet Kenly's affirmative, Miss Alice Grice and Miss Nellie Ballace, and won in the debate.

The results of these debates sends both of Selma's teams to Chapel Hill to debate against the winners from other schools.

The West Leading.

The Western States are leading the Union in the sale of War-Savings Stamps. A man who has just returned from that section of the country says: "The people West are terribly in earnest about the war. The flower of the youth of the West is following Pershing, and there is a dearth of young men in all the states. The West is taking the war in intense seriousness."

Their slogan is, "Spend, but spend wisely!" Save and save earnestly! Buy War Savings-Stamps.

Priscilla Club Meets.

Kenly, March 30.—On Thursday afternoon from three to five o'clock the Priscilla Club was delightfully entertained by Mrs. J. F. Foster at her hospitable home on Maxwellton Heights. The guests were received at the door by the hostess and ushered into the cozy library which was profusely decorated with potted plants and cut flowers. A cheerful oak fire was blazing brightly and was enjoyed by each guest as the air was chilly.

After chatting gaily and plying needles briskly for an hour or so the hostess assisted by Mrs. L. C. Wilkinson served a most delicious salad course followed by cream and cake in which the color scheme of white and yellow was carried out. Easter souvenirs were given to the guests in memory of the pleasant occasion.

The entire wheat crop of France has been requisitioned by the French government.

Oak Grove and Elevation School.

A basket ball game was played last Saturday, March 30, between Oak Grove and Elevation at Royal school, the score was 22 to 4 in favor of Oak Grove. The line up was as follows: Oak Grove—Robert Laughter, L. G., 10; Clarence Johnson, R. F., 8; R. H. Baker, C., 4; George Wallace, L. G.; Marshall Johnson, R. G.

Elevation—Delma Horton, L. G., 2; Hermon Meggan, L. F.; Herbert Creech, C., 2; John Hill, R. F.; Wilbert Horton, R. G.—X.

all "the folks back home," I am, Very sincerely,
H. Y. EDGERTON,
M. M. 1c. U. S. N. (A.)
Note:—If any one reading this letter is thinking of enlisting, and would like to ask any questions, I will gladly give any information that I can. My address is Box No. 2, Warrington, Fla.

A LIVE LETTER FROM FRANCE.

Sergeant John T. Rose, Son of Mr. J. J. Rose, of Meadow Township, Writes to His Father From "Over There." Tells of Some of the Hardships and Privations and How These Things Enlarge One's Spirit.

497 Aero Squadron, A. E. F.
March 5, 1918.

My Dear Father:

You will no doubt remember the passage in the Bible where Jesus spake the parable of the great feast where everybody was invited, but they all with one accord began to make excuses. One said that he had bought a piece of land and must go and see it and prayed to be excused, another said he had bought an ox and must go and try them, and prayed to be excused; still another had married a new wife and therefore would not go. I seem to fall into the last class. While I might write you more than I do, I must admit that a good bit of my spare moments are taken up writing her. But you of course know how that all is, having been there yourself, making it useless for me to try to explain.

While we are far behind the lines we hear a great deal about what is going on from the men going to and from there. These men have had some exciting times themselves and have heard so any fellows tell the tales of their experiences, so that we get pretty good idea of what is going on. I might tell a few things but our mutual friend the Censor, may decide to do some carving with his pen-knife. So there you are.

What was done toward swelling the Y. M. C. A. fund by you folks certainly did make me glad; because, that is my line of work and naturally would be interested, and because of the great good the Young Men's Christian Association is doing "over here." You, too, would be happy if you could see how the men crowd into the "Y" buildings. In the evenings after the day's work is done it is crowded, so much so that the fellows have to stand. If it were not for the "Y" the fellows would doubtless be down the street in a cafe or walking the streets to keep themselves warm. And on the streets the skirt street walkers are always strolling about "seeking whom they may devour." And the "Y" has little things that a fellow needs that is a bit hard to get here.

At 6:45 a. m. the bugle awakens us, the bugle calls to reveille, the bugle calls us to eat three times a day, the bugle calls to quarters, calls for us to put out lights at 10 p. m. etc. In fact there is scarcely anything but what we hear the bugle. But let the world scoff and sneer as it will, then; it pays to be good to be "a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Suffering and soldiering are synonymous. Hardship, trial and privation have ever been the soldiers' customary lot. With the first signing of the enlistment papers self-renunciation immediately begins. He is compelled to give up home and friends, the comforts and privileges of social life and many personal amenities that he has held dear. He loses at once his individuality, his independence and power of self determination. He becomes part of a machine, has no power of choice, must obey without question and serve as an underling where before perhaps he reigned supreme. He is taken from the comforts and commodities of civilization and is compelled to eat and sleep and labor among the most adverse surroundings. Under a physical and nervous strain that reaches almost to the breaking point, he, nevertheless, often has insufficient food, insufficient sleep, and, exposed to the storms and tempest of the elements, as well as to storms and tempers of imminent hate and death, he is compelled to subsist in the midst of surroundings infinitely worse than those in which we keep our very cattle. Most pertinent therefore is the exhortation "Endure hardness." He has to endure it! He cannot escape it, so that, indeed, he is most apt to say in bitter cynicism that the exhortation is platitudinous. And so it would be if there was nothing coupled with it. The moral exhortation behind it shows at once a way and a means to endure it. No man can go through a soldier's life by mere physical fortitude. There must be moral fortitude behind it. The man may never have "got religion" in the old fashioned

way, but he has, somehow, some way, gotten a moral purpose. He may not know how it was done, but his soul has been enlarged, his spirit set aflame, so that he can sing with the abandon of the religious devotee:

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on!"

And moved to the depths by his new soul-cleansing passion, he can cry with the spirit of a Crusader to his brother comrades in arms;

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;
While God is marching on!"

While the soldier has many discomforts there is a fascination in the extreme good behavior of so large a number of men. Then the "Y" has a number of very good books besides the daily papers, for the men to read. It certainly is doing its part to cheer the men and keep them from being homesick.

Regards to the neighbors and friends and love to you and the family.

Your devoted son,
JOHN T. ROSE,
Sergeant A. S. S. C., A. E. F.

DEAD COVER BATTLEFIELDS.

Horrible Scenes on All Sides and the Air Heavily Laden With the Odor of Death.

London, March 30.—The Morning Post's correspondent in France draws a gruesome picture of battlefield conditions. "Prisoners state that the country side is full of bodies and that the air is horrible with the odor of death," he writes.

"Wells cannot be used. The ruined villages are impossible as billets because they are strewn with German dead. There are great piles of bodies along the roads and between them. The enemy has only recently found time to bury any of his dead.

"The spectacle of the battlefield carpeted with the bodies of their comrades has affected fresh troops, who in this way discovered to their surprise that the British are not too weak to fight. Prisoners say that the British endurance and skill in fighting is delaying the progress of the German Army.

"Among the feats of this British endurance may be mentioned that of a detachment which marched eighteen hours, fought throughout one night and half of the next day, repelled three attacks, twice recaptured a certain village and drug trenches."

PATRIOTIC MEETINGS IN ELEVATION TOWNSHIP

There will be a patriotic meeting at Royal school house in elevation township Thursday night, April 4th, at eight o'clock.

Also, there will be a patriotic meeting at Elevation school house Friday night, April 5th at eight o'clock. Everybody invited and urged to attend. Every man, woman and child in Elevation township should attend one or the other of these meetings. Your country is at war and needs your co-operation.

Some good speaker or speakers will be present to discuss the War Situation.

F. H. BROOKS,
Chairman for Elevation Township War Savings Campaign.

Motion Pictures.

The schedule for the motion pictures for this week is as follows:

Pine Level, Monday, April 1, 7:30 P. M.

Meadow, Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 P. M.

New Hope, Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 P. M.

Royal (Elevation) Thursday, April 4, 7:30 P. M.

Brogden, Friday, April 5, 7:30 P. M.

Polenta, Saturday, April 6, 7:30 P. M.

No one who has attended the motion pictures has felt disappointed yet. If you come I am sure you will not feel disappointed either.

Yours for community service,
R. P. MERRITT.

BOY MEETS AWFUL DEATH NEAR ARCHER

On Thursday of last week Jack Wall a fourteen year old son of Mr. W. H. Wall, who lives, on a farm of Mr. G. H. Hinton in Wilders township near Archer, came to his death in an awful manner. He had plowed until twelve o'clock and started home about a quarter of a mile to dinner. He got on the mule he had been plowing to ride home. The gear had been left on the mule and it seems the rattling of the trace chains scared the mule and he threw the boy off. One of the chains got wrapped around one of the boy's ankles and he was dragged to his home, the mule running into a stable. It is said the boy was sometimes dragging on the ground and at other times was three to four feet up above the ground. He died at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. His skull was crushed. One of his arms was broken and his right leg was also broken in several places.

MISS IMOGENE SCOTT THE BRIDE OF MR. TERRELL.

Burlington, March 29.—One of the prettiest marriages that has ever occurred here was solemnized at 8 o'clock Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lawson Scott on Maple avenue, when their daughter, Imogene, became the bride of Mr. Marvin Clayton Terrell.

The bride, always lovely, was radiant in embroidered white chiffon over satin, her flowing veil of tulle caught up with orange blossoms, while she carried a huge bouquet of bride roses and valley lilies. The array of gifts was most elaborate. Immediately after the reception Mr. and Mrs. Terrell went to Greensboro by automobile accompanied by the bridal party, and left for a trip to Washington. Upon their return they will reside here. Mr. Terrell has spent the past five years in Burlington and was engaged in teaching until last Summer, when he was elected county superintendent of public instruction. His bride is easily one of the town's most beautiful and accomplished young ladies. She has spent the past four years in school at the State Normal college and Randolph-Macon.

75 KILLED IN PARIS CHURCH BY GREAT GUN.

Paris, March 29.—Seventy-five persons were killed and 90 wounded, most of them women and children, when a shell fired by a German long range gun fell on a church in the region of Paris while Good Friday services were being held, according to an official communication issued this evening.

Among those killed was H. Strochlin, couns-lor of the Swiss legation in Paris.

The same church was struck by a shell during the celebration of high mass last Sunday and many casualties resulted.

MANY FORMER CAROLINA STUDENTS AT CAMP JACKSON

Chapel Hill, March 31.—According to lists just forwarded the registrar by Camp Jackson authorities the University of North Carolina now has 192 former students in training there. This list is now being added to daily. There are only 33 privates in the number, the non-commissioned officers numbering 67. Brigadier George W. McIver, now in charge of the camp is himself an old Carolina man.

The general reunion committee of the University Alumni association has sent out letters now to all the classes which will hold their reunions during the coming commencement. These classes are: 1917, 1913, 1908, 1903, 1898, 1893, 1888, 1868, 1858. Tuesday, June 4 is to be alumni day and an unusually large number of alumni is expected back to take part in the celebration.

Johnston's Cotton Crop.

Some of the prophets and prognosticators of Johnston County slipped up in their forecast of the cotton crop in this county for the year 1917. The Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, reports that 39,552 bales of cotton for the 1917 crop were ginned to March 20, 1918, as compared with 37,306 for same time last year. Only one county, Robeson, leads Johnston in cotton production.