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C. W. Ballenger

Tryon, North Carolina

#### THE RED TRIANGLE IS **KEEPING ITS PROMISES**

Y. M. C. A. Secretaries Follow The Soldiers Out Into No Man's Land

Ne Job Tee Small For The Biggest

The American Y. M. C. A. is keeping its promises. American secretaries are now, and have been for many weeks, at work in the forward areas along the battle front in France. To an indeterminate number of Red Triangle men "over there" gas and shellfire and mud and actual battle are a grim reality—a part of the day's

A personal letter of absorbing interest was lately received from Mr. Ralph Harbison, president of the Pittsburgh Y. M. C. A. and a well known business man of that city, who has been in France on a special Y. M. C. A. Mie-

The Letter "Casualties had occurred among our soldiers just before we arrived at our village," the letter reads, "and we were prdered to get under cover of our de suite. After a supper of chocolate, war read, and canned beef, the six of us sec. retaries were ordered to the cellar of the 'Y,' together with fifty soldiers who happened to be in the old shell-torn building, as the boche were beginning again to shell the town. We took canfles, a big basketful of canteen supplies, to last us in case we should have to be dug out later, overcoats and blankets. We fitted our gas masks on to be sure they were working well, and then settled down-or tried to-in the fungeon. We expected to have to stay all night, but in an hour a sentry called, 'All out,' and up we gladly went. The rest of the evening we spent upstairs in one of the reasonably whole rooms, with piano and songs and stories and the ever-present and wonderful canteen, at which I took my turn. "Needless to say, I slept none that

night, with all the bang and noise outside, but nobody does, I'm told, the first night. The night before I got about two hours of dozing with a stiff neck, sitting up in a crowded night train, but, strange to say, I never felt the lack of it for a minute.

"We were up the next morning at une bonne heure, and after breakfast at the officers' mess Clarke and I started off for the trenches, each of us ladened with about fifty pounds of canteen supplies besides our helmet, gas masks, carried at all times at 'alerte,' etc.

"For two hours we pursued a tortuous way among the various lines of trenches and connecting trenches, stopping frequently to dispense our popular wares among the boys, some repairing the trenches, some building new ones, some on sentry duty, some eleeping in the dugouts, some manning guns and watching for German

"As we entered the front-line trenches, we suddenly ran into Secretary Baker and accompanying officers. stepped aside as well as I could, sa-

luted and said, 'Good morning, Mr. Secretary.' As they passed I heard one of the officers say to the Secreary, 'You see, Mr. Secretary, the "Y" men are right up in the front-line renches with the boys.'

"Time was flying, and we knew there were still more soldiers further on who would be glad to see us. Soon we entered 'No Man's Land' by means of a tench, a land which we had seen from the rear lines in the disance an Four earlier, all uprooted and orn and desolate, and after some minutes we crawled, hot and winded, into a shell hole—the furthermost listeningpost in our lines - and found six soldiers on guard, all very much alert They gave us a warm welcome, and we conducted our communications in low whispers, for there were three German spipers in three different directions only seventy-five feet away.

"Needless to say, our gunnysacks were empty when we came out. We hurried back to the sign of the Red Triangle in the village, drank a cup of hot chocolate, and started in again in another direction.

"We watched the explosions getting closer and closer, each one preceded by the weirdest kind of a wail and whine through the air, and then during a let-up we rushed across the open and into the dugouts in an embankment, where our second pack of supplies disappeared.

"Two of the secretaries had been gassed the day before we arrived at this place, and one slightly wounded by shrapnel, while others were breaking under the physical strain and needed relief. I'm sure we will hear of fatalities soon, but since my experience in the trenches I don't ask the question any more - 'Is it worth while? Never was such an opportunty given to man to serve his fellowmen as this.

"Pass the word on, and pass it quickly, that five hundred of the most capable, earnest, and big-souled Christian men are needed here today in addition to the weekly stream that is coming. We are cabling New York frequently, but they don't come. It is critical, and we must not fail, but we will unless more and better men come immediately. As I see it, there is no Y. M. C. A. job over here too small for the biggest men in America."

TO ALL ABLE-BODIED AMERI-

CANS.

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-Uncle Sam.

-W. S. S.-

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\_W. S. S.\_





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And the list of American boys who give EVERY. thing-who die for you-is rapidly increasing.

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Thip space contributed by W. T. Lindsey.

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