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## LETTER FROM GERMANY

December 23, 1918.

Dear mother:  
I am just in receipt of a letter from you dated Oct. 12, 1918, which I was very thankful to receive, also received two others from different parties which is the first mail I have received for over two months, the last letter received from you was dated August 17. The last letter I received from the states was from Stella which was dated Sept. 21 and I received it about the middle of October. I am not surprised in not receiving any mail for a long time for I have certainly been on the move for the past 60 days.

I was sent from school to this division Nov. 1st. They were at the front and it took me a few days to locate them. I found them just a few days before the armistice was signed. I was near enough at the last to get a thrill of what the front was. But then came off and commenced to prepare to enter Germany. We left Audiffly, France, a small town behind the lines on Nov. 20 and have been on a continuous hike ever since or rather until one week ago today.

I am located at Brum, Germany, a small town on the Mozel river, about 20 miles from where it empties into the Rhine river at Coblenz, Germany. This town is completely surrounded by mountains, which extend nearly to the river bank on both sides with only enough room in most places for a good bread highway. The town being built on the mountain side. In this section the principal occupation of the people is grape growing. The entire mountain side is covered with vineyards. The grapes of course are used to make wine.

On our march here we passed through Alsace-Lorraine, Luxembourg and a good portion of western Germany. I have seen some exceedingly fine country and interesting places. The scene in the valley of the Mozel the river we are on is simply grand. I am with one of the armies of occupation, there is only one battalion here, the balance of the division is located in different towns nearby. I do not know just how long we will be here but expect from 3 to 6 months in all probability.

There came out a few days ago from the war department a memo to all officers asking which they preferred "To stay in the army, reserve corps, or immediate separation." My answer was the latter, not that I am tired of the army, but if Uncle Sam no longer needs my services I am willing to give away to the one who wished to stay in.

I have not seen but one newspaper in a month, so you can imagine about how much I know of what is going on in the country at present. We are hoping that the papers will soon be started out way, and also that we are now located that our mail will commence coming regular.

We are now very well located. Another lieutenant and I have a suite of rooms we use one for our bed room and the other for our lounging room in which we have a good stove, there being no such thing as steam heat. Both owners and men are billeted in homes of the people. The meaning of billeted is that of furnishing accommodation and shelter, sometimes bad and then good. But I am thankful to say we are well billeted here. Majority of the men are furnished with stoves, so as to have fire which makes it nice.

No doubt you wonder why I have not written since Thanksgiving. We have been on the hike every day since most impossible to write. Since arriving here I have been waiting to hear from you before writing.

No doubt you will be interested to know how conditions are over here. Certain kinds of food is very scarce, for instance, cereals & fats of all kinds and bread, the bread is very dark and taste sour. Meat is very scarce, eggs and butter are tremendous prices, as I wrote before eggs are about \$2.50 per dozen, butter \$2.00 per pound. About the only plentiful thing is potatoes, milk and wine. You seldom ever see a horse. Most of the vehicles are drawn by milk cows, and the plowing etc., is done with milk cows.

I started in tonight to learn German and I hope to be able to soon speak enough German to get around. I don't believe it will be hard to learn as I have picked up quite a few words already.

Well day after tomorrow will be Christmas day and I was tonight notified that I would be the officer of the guard for the day which keeps me from having a holiday, it also reminds me that Christmas a year ago I did guard duty. I hope by this time you have received all of my letters, and I hope in a few days to receive some more letters also the newspapers, especially The Courier. I believe I told you in my last letter about seeing Ross Hufflin, Stella's husband on our way out of the front. I have not since then seen him nor heard from him. As the hour is getting late I will have to close. I hope this letter will soon reach you and find all in the best of health. This leaves me well and in the very best of spirits. Of course this will not reach you before the holidays are over but I wish for you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year. With best wishes,

ELMER C. YOW,  
Co. L, 59th Infantry, A. P. O. 746,  
American E. F.

Rev. G. Z. Bumgarner, of Taylorsville, while walking along road near Charlotte was hit by an automobile driven by C. C. Culp, last Sunday.

PRIVATE MILFRED T. COX



Private Milfred T. Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Cox, of Kanoy. Private Cox entered the army September 1917, and was sent to Camp Jackson for about a month, then transferred to Camp Sevier where he remained six months, after which time he went to Camp Merritt, N. J., after three days he sailed from Boston, Mass. After being on water ten days he landed in Liverpool, England. During the big drive which broke the Hindenburg line Private Cox was wounded in the chest by a piece of shrapnel. He has recently returned home and has written. The Courier an interesting letter giving his experiences in the army. The letter follows:

In September, 1917, Uncle Sam called me into service to help whip the Germans. I went first to Camp Jackson for a month, then was transferred to Camp Sevier. How we went through all forms of training for warfare such as trench fighting, open warfare, long range and gas drill. We went through the gas house and took different kinds of gas. After six months of this training we were sent to Camp Merritt, N. J., and were equipped for overseas. We stayed there about three days then went to Boston, Mass., and boarded the ship Bohemian.

We then sailed to Nova Scotia, Canada and anchored in the harbor for a few days where a convoy of 12 ships joined us, and we set sail across the big sea.

We were on water 16 days. Going over we saw many large fish and strange sea animals, and sailed over where the Titanic went down.

Our trip was very dangerous because of the Submarines and mines. While on water we drilled in case of an attack. Several times we were expecting trouble but landed safely. The first town we landed in was Liverpool, England, which was a very nice city. The people were very glad to see us come. We then walked about 3 miles to the train and went to Folkestone England a port on the English Channel. This is a very thickly settled country. Owing to the large population and is well developed and has many beautiful homes, rock fences, tunnels etc.

While staying in Folkestone a few days we could hear the roar of the big cannon and began to realize the seriousness of war. From here we went on boat across the Channel to Calais, France. Here we saw the first strongly fortified town and large cannons. The Germans were trying to take this town in order to get control of the Channel.

Here was our first experience in hearing and seeing the air raids. After resting here a few days we hiked over to Jookirk, France. Here we took training with the English in their method of warfare behind the lines. From here we hiked into Belgium. Along the way we saw where the Germans had destroyed many cities and towns, and everything looked very desolate.

The Belgians had been pushed back so they were living in small huts and wagons and were prepared to move again at any time. Their method of living are quite different from ours. They use very large dogs to pull their carts about.

We were now stationed in Belgium, behind the lines, and gradually went up to the front line. In our first experience in the front lines we stayed four days and then were relieved and went back. We were in continual shell fire but no infantry attacks.

The trenches were not very deep here on account of being near the coast.

I tell you it is some experience to be in the front lines, not knowing how soon you will be called on to go over the top or how soon the enemy may come over. The enemy gassed us several times but we had no losses on account of that. We were always ready and had our gas masks on when we heard a gas shell coming.

We went over the top twice and lost some men.

During this drive we took Kemmel Hill. Where much hard fighting had been done as we moved back and fourth near Ypres where hard fighting had been done. The British had lost over one hundred thousand men trying to go around one point, there.

The British relieved us on the Flanders front and we moved to the Somme front, near St. Quentin. In transferring us over the country we were always moved in box cars about half as large as those in this country. We took training in open warfare be-

Woman's Club Meets

The Woman's Club met on Wednesday at the club room in the courthouse. Reports were given from the civic and health departments and several committees. The civic department made a number of recommendations for town improvement, among them all day electric current for Sundays. That enough steam be provided to blow fire whistle on Sunday. That school grounds be improved. That park be improved! That moral conditions in some sections from which complaint has come be investigated, and that the streets of the town be thoroughly sprinkled in order to keep down troubles arising from dust, especially as many of our citizens are weak following influenza. These recommendations were ordered sent to board of city trustees. The health department reported work done for tuberculosis and influenza patients. The flower committee is making plans for a chrysanthemum show this fall. The following were appointed on soldiers entertainment committee: Mrs. J. A. Spence, Miss Esther Ross.

## Extension of Time for Taking of Orders for Nitrate of Soda

County Agricultural Agent D. S. Coltran has just received a notice from the department of agriculture that the time has been extended for the taking of orders for nitrate of soda which the government is distributing to farmers at cost. Applications will be received by any of the men who are appointed to receive these orders and previously published in the county papers up until February 15. Don't forget the date.

Mr. J. A. Holder is the county distributor and it will be well for you to either see him or the county agent about the placing of orders. Certainly many more orders should be received than have been. There will be many acres of corn planted this year that will need this nitrogen and there is no cheaper way of getting it than in the form of nitrate of soda.

Honor Roll Gray's Chapel School  
First grade.—Edith Lineberry, Edna Routh.

Second grade.—Bruce Pugh.

Third grade.—Allie Allred, Cordelia Underwood, Lena Underwood.

Fifth grade.—William Gates, Mary Pugh, James Pugh, Dorothy Routh.

Sixth grade.—Mabel Lineberry.

Seventh grade.—Reggie Allred.

BEATRICE FOUST, Principal  
ALMA NIXON, Assistant.

hind the Somme front. Here we could see the flash of the cannon but did not hear them roar. The roar of artillery has been heard 125 miles. Then we moved nearer the front to a place near Albert. This town is completely demolished by gunfire. More training in open warfare here. We took the lorries one night and moved in rear of the Somme front where the 27th and 30th Divisions had been called to break the Hindenburg line.

On the 29th of September we took our position against the Hindenburg line. Every man and company knew his duty and was backed by the strongest artillery on the lines. This was operated by the Australians who had artillery behind the line nearly hub to hub.

The Hindenburg line was broken in this battle and as we took our position in the shell fire I was knocked out not getting more than fifteen steps from our position. A big shell bursted about four feet from me and a piece of shrapnel hit me in my chest and knocked me down, I was unconscious for about three hours and lay there about five hours in heavy shell fire. I managed to scramble into a shell hole and while lying there the German barrage was coming over heavy and fell so thick and so close the dirt nearly covered me up.

Many lay around me dead and suffering from wounds. As it seemed no one was coming to pick me up and as I came to my self I decided to try to get to the rear tracing my way by the roar of our artillery, I managed to drag along till I came back to the old trench where the first aid station was located.

There they dressed my wound and put me on a stretcher and two German prisoners and two of our men carried me to the C. C. S. station about five miles. Here the casualties were so many that they could not get all under shelter and I had to lay out in the rain, on my stretcher that night, with hundreds of others. The next day we were moved under shelter and prepared for the hospital. Then they moved me up to Rouen France to the First General Hospital where I stayed two weeks and then I was transferred to Bristol England. I was placed in the Royal Bristol Infirmary 2nd Southern General Hospital, where I remained until Nov. 29. While in the hospital I was treated well by the doctors and nurses.

Bristol is a historical place and after getting able I visited many of the different places. I saw the port where John Cabot sailed from when he came to North America. On Nov. 29, all the American soldiers were sent to the Convoys camp in Winchester England. There they were classed in A and B classes, all C men were to return to the states, A and B to their units or companies in France. As I was in class C I was sent home. I came in Casual Co. 1,003 which sailed from Liverpool Dec. 12, on the passenger ship Baltic. This is a brief sketch of my trip and experiences. I am very glad to be back once more with friends and relatives in the good old U. S. A.

MILFRED THOMAS COX

PRIVATE VAN CRANFORD



Private Van Cranford volunteered in Company K, 120th Infantry, June 5, 1917 and went to Camp Sevier August 27, 1917. He was stricken with appendicitis and underwent an operation which was followed by two other operations. He was unable to go overseas with his company and was transferred to Fort McPherson, Ga., where he has undergone treatment until recently when he was released from service.

## RANDOLPH COUNTY TEACHERS' MEETING

There was a meeting of the Randolph County teachers at the court house on Saturday. Owing to the illness of Superintendent Bulla, Miss Elbie Miller, of the Asheboro graded school, Mr. Leach, of the Ramsey graded school, Mr. Holt, of the Liberty high school, took an active part in conducting the exercises, while Mr. W. F. Wood, the principal of the Trinity high school, presided and made many suggestions of much value to the teachers.

The attendance was larger than usual and the teachers are much encouraged with the continued success of their association. A committee was appointed to plan for the reorganization of the Randolph County Historical Society. The teachers agreed to co-operate to aid in every way possible in preserving a record of war work and war organization.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Mr. R. L. Jordan has sold his home on Cox Street, near the Kelly home, to Mr. L. Whitaker.

Mr. G. W. Hammer sold his house and storehouse, on North Fayetteville Street, to Mr. R. L. Jordan. Mr. Brown will move out of the store and will transfer his stock to the newly purchased store.

Mr. J. S. Lewis has purchased what is known as the Moving corner on the corner of Fayetteville and Depot Streets. The lot faces 100 feet on Fayetteville Street and sixty feet on Depot Street.

Mr. William C. Hammer has sold his land on the north side of Depot Street to Mr. J. M. Caveness.

## Farmer Notes

Farmer high school has closed for the year. Influenza is the reason for this action on the part of the patrons of the school. The work during the fall term was interrupted by the epidemic, and it seemed improbable that the spring term could be one of continuous work. Several cases of influenza have occurred in the district, and the disease should become general it was thought best for the school to close. Miss Thomson, the principal, will return to her home in Wilmington this week. The other teachers, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Dorsett, and Mr. Horney live in the community.

Mr. Van Cranford has returned home from Fort McPherson, Ga., and Mr. Whit Elliott from Admiral, Md., where they have been in camp. Both have been discharged.

A fine mule recently bought by Mr. R. W. Fuller from Meers, York and Presnell, died Sunday.

The family of Mr. George Varner, of Asheboro Route No. 3, have influenza. Mrs. Corinna Andrews and daughter, Fern, who were helping this family have it also.

## Honor Roll Kildree School

First Month:

First grade.—Paul Ward.

Third grade.—Lalah Ward.

Fifth grade.—Roy Rightsell.

Sixth grade.—May York.

## Second Month:

First grade.—Dwight York, Mike York, Solomon Silser, Nina Williams.

Second grade.—Joe Burgess, Joseph York.

Third grade.—Madge York.

Fourth grade.—Guy York.

Fifth grade.—Glenna Frazier, Toy York, H. York, Ray Rightsell, Brody Williams.

Sixth grade.—May York, Graham Burgess.

## BLANCHE YORK, Teacher

Rev. W. W. Davidson Dead

Rev. W. W. Davidson, son of the late Berry Davidson, died in a Greensboro hospital last Tuesday night, aged 61 years, after an extended illness. The deceased graduated at Yadkin College and afterwards at Yale University.

Surviving are two brothers, Prof. G. C. Davidson, of Henderson, and Dwight M. Davidson, of Gibsonville; also two sisters, Mrs. T. J. Ogburn, of Kernersville, and Mrs. J. B. Ogburn, of Summerfield.

Paris is as crowded as Washington and I had an awful time trying to find a place to live. Have stayed at four different places this week and now have a room with a French lady in a tiny apartment. My room is so small I can lie in bed and kick every corner of it, but it is a good place to improve my French and I am going to stick it out. She is very kind to me.

Alsace-Lorraine Cross.

"I enclose an Alsace-Lorraine

## MISS WINNINGHAM CHOSEN TO ATTEND PEACE COMMISSION

A FORMER RANDOLPH COUNTY GIRL WRITES MOTHER OF VISIT TO VERDUN.

Miss Allie M. Winningham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Winningham, of Greensboro, has written her mother a very interesting letter. Miss Winningham, a former Asheboro girl, has been acting as secretary to the American Red Cross in Paris.

Goes to Peace Commission.

"Amer. Red Cross Headquarters, Paris, Dec. 29, 1918."

Dear Mammy:

"I keep writing letters, but can't seem to hear from anybody either here or in the States. I suppose I will get all my mail in a bunch some day. I got back to Paris Monday and have been as cross as a bear ever since, though I suppose I am the most ungrateful creature on earth. They wired me twice to come back and when I got here I found they wanted to send me to the Peace Commission, which, needless to say, is quite an honor. It seems they made a request of the Red Cross to loan them about a dozen secretaries, and I was