

LETTERS FROM SOLDIERS.

July 20 1918,

Dear Mr. Editor: We boys are all seeming to like it very well here. For the first few days there were a good many of the boys homesick, but most of them seem to be enjoying themselves fine.

We boys appreciate the large crowd that gathered at the depot to see us depart for camp. It showed that our friends were all interested in us. We arrived here between 4 and 4:30 a. m. on Tuesday. He had a pleasant trip. Saw many of our friends in Charlotte the short time we were there.

I saw the first Concord paper this afternoon that I have seen since leaving Concord. I am under quarantine now as well as the rest on 3rd Co. R. R. D. street. We have all been examined and took our first "shot" and also scratched.

I am enclosing some stamps for which please send me The Daily Tribune. Keep the news coming to us and trust the rest to us. Let all of the boys' friends keep the letters coming.

I was assigned a cook's position the first thing on Wednesday morning after arriving. We are on for 24 hours and then off for 24 hours. But, believe me, I have never had a hand in cooking a large dinner as we have here before I came here.

We haven't been issued our uniforms yet but have been examined and had our insurance policies made. You can print this if you care. But be sure and send the paper until further notice and a different address is sent.

HERBERT LESTER RITCHIE,

Third Co. R. R. D.

Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga.

Somewhere in France,

July 11, 1918.

Dearest Father:

A really "newsy" letter from France at this particular time would be a good thing for your paper, I know, since most of the people everywhere have home folk here doing "their bit." I am not going to call this such a letter, for it is impossible for me, on account of the censor and for other reasons, to tell you just what is happening, or what we are doing, but I want to take this opportunity to send some word of love and cheer to all mothers and wives and fathers especially, from their sons and husbands "over here." This message I send will not be printed with the words of a Kipling or Avery, but will come direct from the heart and experiences of the men. And though I have been here but a short time myself I feel that I can tell of some of the things that go to make up this "University of Hell."

All of the men of this Division, and there are quite a few from home in it, are getting along fine. It seems that all things have happened with good grace for us. The weather has been unusually wonderful. It would be almost impossible for the people of Cabarrus to understand just what kind of seasons they have here. Just one thunderstorm in nearly two months, and at night two blankets are never too many. This is the hidden reason here, and all men are taking full advantage of it. The health conditions are good. They have always been with this Division, and sanitation and cleanliness are ever the watchword of the men and officers. None of the men from Cabarrus, I find upon investigation, have suffered ill of any kind, and they have had a wonderful opportunity to fit themselves still further for the great work in hand.

And I will send just this word about letters from home. Make them cheerful. It is a fact that the men here enough to worry about without getting letters of gloom and discouragement from loved ones. A man in this fight must be a whole-hearted man. A half-hearted soldier is a half-beaten soldier. And this message is sent principally to our women. They are waging a great part of this conflict. Their knitting and Red Cross work is not all they are doing. This, in fact, is just the beginning for the letter from home to the man here is the "bread of life," and his women can make or break him by the message they send. Write him often. Tell him everything, things that originally did not interest him will be glorious news to him here. CHEERFULNESS. Let this ever be your watchword.

There is nothing I can say of the work here. You all know something of it, and should I write pages I could never tell you all. Each day there is something different, and it all is so big, so masterful, so almost super-human, that I dare not try to describe it. But the men from your home are "doing their bit," and they are doing it with the spirit and determination that can mean only Victory. It is man for man here, and this life is making of weaklings men and of men still greater men. We all understand and appreciate the suspense you go through with. Remember always that "no news is good news," and believe nothing you hear until it has been authenticated. Rumors fly fast here that should we attempt to keep up with them, or solve them, our brass would be a complete puzzle. Keep the cheerfulness up. The men here are not down-hearted.

The men here have little time to think of things to be, but it is up to the people there to have things ready for him when he does get back. What little time is spent "off duty" is devoted to a great extent to plans for the future. Dreams flourish in this swift life of today, and that half of them will not come true matters little to the host who cherish them. If you are down-hearted take the tip from the soldier. Dream some. "Dreams let the maddest, most fantastical fancies live, they fill the common place with glory." All of the men here feel that they are coming back. Afterwards! This is the password to the future. Let this be your password, and surely if the men in the life here can look to the future, you can do so too. Of the life of the soldier here one writer has said: "Odd and beautiful, ordinary and extraordinary, pathetic and humorous, are the dreams of today. Many are too precious to be voiced, others so airy that even the dreamers smile at them while they lounge them, but each dream is something clear and precious to the owner—a bright will o' the wisp that shines beyond the dark of today."

Let the man know that you too are dreaming for the future. Don't write

as though all things had stopped when he left. Don't make him think that life holds nothing in the future for you both. Make his dreams even more than a "bright will o' the wisp." Write and tell him what you are doing; what you are planning when he shall return, and it will add vigor and determination to his being, both of which are more essential in the winning of this war.

Far be it from me to act as a prophet, or advice giver, but I send this message to our women because I know how I have felt when I have received each letter, and they have been cheerful, and because I can see it in the faces of the men who have not received the message they wanted from home. Tell the man what you think of him; he is showing you what he thinks of you by being here.

Never a day passes that all men do not think of home. They are doing their all here, and to you, mothers, wives and fathers who have sons and husbands here I send a message of love and cheer, to tell you that "all is well" and that the boys are doing fine.

Affectionately,
W. M. SHERRILL.

To J. B. Sherrill, Concord, N. C.

England, Friday, June 21, 1918.

My dearest Mother and Father:

Just received your letter of May 31st. This leaves me well, and having the time of my life over here.

Glad to know you all made a Red Cross Drive. That is a good thing. If you only could see just where it went—it helps the sick and wounded boys. I go to the hospital every day to see the boys.

Say, mama, I just got a letter from John and Arthur, somewhere in France. They are well and having a fine time. I am sorry for them, they can't talk French. I am in England; have been here three months. This sure is a fine country, the finest I ever saw. I don't blame the British for fighting for their country. I will get a seven day leave July 18th. I am going to spend part of it in London. It sure is a nice place, but little old New York has it beat.

Tell my friends to write to me. I will be glad to hear from them.

I met a young man over here from Kannapolis. I sure was glad to see him. I got a pass of several days. I slept in a sure enough bed, and it made me feel like I was at home.

Well, I will stop for this time. Hope to hear from all my friends soon. And mother, write me all the good news from Concord.

From your loving son,
W. L. FREEZE,

137 Aero Squadron,

U. S. Air Service, Eaton Place,

London, England, S. W. 1.

France, July 1, 1918.

Dear Mother:

We are getting along fine and having a big time. We haven't been to the trenches yet and we don't know when we will go.

We had an air raid last night about 11 o'clock and it is lots of fun to get out and watch Jerry come over and see our big guns shoot at him. We brought down three German airplanes last night. I went over to the air-drome Sunday evening and watched our airplanes go to make a raid on the Germans.

Your son,
HARRY SKIDMORE,

Co. A. 115 M. G. Bat. A. E. F.

France, July 1, 1918.

RUDE SHOCK FOR GERMANS.

People Told That the Transport Leviathan is Not Sunk.

Amsterdam, July 28.—Implicit belief in the veracity of German admiralty reports received a rude shaking when the German public had to be told that it was not the American transport Leviathan (formerly the German liner Vaterland) but the White Star liner Justicia which was sunk last Saturday off the north coast of Ireland. The Leviathan measures 22,000 gross tons more than did the Justicia.

The Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin deems it necessary to declare that it would be entirely wrong to jump at the conclusion that German U-boat commanders habitually overestimated the tonnage sunk. The newspaper, which treats the official report as an exceptional and an excusable lapse, admits, however, that German figures on sinkings generally are based in "indications" which are fallible to the trained mariner's eye as in present methods of warfare it is, in a majority of cases, impossible definitely to establish a ship's identity.

The Lokal Anzeiger hopes, however, that the "Vaterland will be caught yet—sooner or later."

Other Berlin newspapers which already had spoken of the United States having to foot the bill for the destruction of the Leviathan, refrained from comment pending the verbal report of the U-boat commander which the German admiralty says must be awaited.

A GIRL TAKES FOUR SLACKERS TO ARMY

Men, Sentenced to Prison, Chose To Serve in the Army.

Miss Vena Connet, a clerk in draft board No. 2 office, Kansas City, carrying a large revolver, conducted four men who had attempted to escape the draft to Camp Funston Saturday.

The men were under sentence of one year in the penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth and had been given the privilege of joining the army, by Fred Robertson, district attorney for Kansas. They chose the army.

Clerk P. S. Beckler asked Miss Connet if she was willing to go, men for the trip being unavailable. "I will do my bit," she replied. The trip was made without incident, it was reported.

Print Paper Case Reopened.

Washington, D. C., July 30.—The Federal Trade Commission today reopens the print paper case at the request of the manufacturers, who asked that the commission take cognizance of the recent decision of the War Labor Board awarding an increase in wages to employees of the mills.

The United States Government is in need of women chemists.

MAN AND WOMAN CONVICTED ON CHARGES OF IDLENESS

Couple Having Automobile, in Which Whiskey-Still Worm Was Found, Will Serve Road and Jail Terms.

Charlotte Observer.

Convicted of "strolling about in idleness, having no fixed place of abode and being able to work and not working," Walter Hill, a white man, arrested Saturday morning, with his wife, Mary Hill, while camping near Shopton, in Steel Creek township, was fined \$50 by Squire J. W. Cobb yesterday morning. Being unable to pay a fine he was sent to the county roads. His wife convicted on a similar charge was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The two were arrested by Deputy Sheriff V. P. Fesperman and Constable J. E. Garrison Saturday morning on complaint of residents of the Shopton neighborhood. They were traveling in an automobile and when brought Saturday before Squire Cobb, they claimed their machine broke down and that they were forced to spend the night by the road side. The justice of peace ordered the machine held for investigation and released the couple.

Saturday afternoon, however, persons residing in the Shopton section saw the man and woman at the automobile again Saturday afternoon, it having been left there by the county officials when the two were arrested. Constable Freeland, of Steel Creek township, was notified at once and he rearrested the couple, and searched the car. In it he found a whiskey still worm and about two bushels of meal. As a result of finding these in the car the man and woman were placed in jail and brought again before Squire Cobb yesterday morning.

At the trial they claimed they did not know the worm was in the machine, and accused that someone else placed it there, without their knowledge.

A Platform of Taxation Reform.

The Progressive Farmer.

The following is a summary of the reforms we believe are needed in the matter of taxation.

1. The Government ought to do more for the people than it now does. It should provide school books for the poor. It should provide old-age pensions for the aged and mothers' pensions for needy and worthy mothers. It should provide hospital facilities for the poor who are now (and have always been) unable to get for themselves and their stricken little ones that expert help which money summons to restore health, or save life for the rich. And the government should also provide a vastly better and more efficient system of education and do vastly more for the social welfare. All this means that the Government should have more money than now.

2. All this extra money, however, should be raised, as a larger part of our present tax money should be raised, by levying on the unneeded surplus of the rich rather than on the hard-won living of the poor.

3. The justest and least injurious tax the world knows is the inheritance tax and every state in the South should adopt (and enforce) the Arkansas law on this subject, after first doubling the exemptions and then doubling the rates on inheritance received by persons in Class B as indicated later in this article.

4. Income taxes should be levied, but only on the surplus above the amounts required to support a family comfortably; and even then the inheritance tax is less objectionable than the income tax.

5. The poll tax should be abolished.

6. Instead of taxing a man on \$100 to \$300 worth of property he doesn't own, as the poll tax does, we should exempt \$300 in tools, equipment, furniture, he does own.

7. The tax rate on the first \$1,000 worth of homestead (that is to say, home or farm occupied by the owner) should be only one-half the rate levied on the surplus beyond \$1,000. This would tend to encourage home ownership, and tend to discourage large holdings and absentee landlordism. To the same end a graduated tax should be levied on unused land. We shall not argue the wisdom or unwisdom of a graduated tax on cultivated land. But certainly in the case of large holdings of unused land—lands held out of use to the detriment of the people and for the benefit of land speculators—a graduated tax should be levied for the purpose of putting these lands into the hands of producers and home-owners.

8. The buildings and like improvements on all land should be assessed for taxation separately from the land itself and then all land assessments should be published so to let the people judge as to the righteousness of the assessed values. In the case of farm lands the rate per acre on each tract should be published, listing together all the farms, say in a school district. In the case of town lots, the rate per front foot should be given, all lots on the same street listed together in order. By adopting this plan favoritism would be exposed, and the present infamous tendency to assess large holdings at a lower rate than small holdings largely remedied.

HAS GERMAN RETREAT REACHED ITS LIMIT?

The Firmness of the Fighting Monday, It is Believed in Paris, Is a Sign That This Is the Case.

Paris, July 30.—The fierceness of the fighting Monday it is believed here, is a sign that the German retreat has reached its limit, and that the enemy will make a stand with its right wing on the plateau south of the Crise, and with his left on the hills south of the Ardre. For the defense of this line it is held the Germans will devote all of Gen. von Boehm's army and the reserve divisions taken from Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.

Rowan County Woman To Be Missionary to Japan.

Salisbury, July 29.—At an impressive service at St. John's Lutheran church Sunday morning, Miss Maud Olena Powlas, of Rowan county, was commissioned a foreign missionary for the Lutheran church. Miss Powlas' field of labor will be in Japan and she leaves for that country August 15.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WANTS 25,000 MEN

Former City Editor of The Tribune Is Back in His Old Home Town Appealing for Recruits.

Sergeant John M. Oglesby, marine corps publicity sergeant for the recruiting district of Virginia, with headquarters in Richmond, formerly city editor of The Tribune, arrived in the city Tuesday morning from a trip to Asheville, Hickory and Charlotte in the interest of Marine Corps publicity and recruiting.

The Marines are now in the midst of the greatest recruiting drive in the history of the famous organization. The strength of the Corps was recently increased to 75,000 men and the recruiting organization of the scrappy Sea Soldiers is putting forth vigorous efforts to secure sufficient men to fill the new quota.

Men in the Marine Corps, which is the oldest military organization in America, serve on both land and sea. After a recruit finishes the training camp at Parris Island, he then is assigned to duty, which includes service in the Philippines, Haiti, Cuba, San Domingo, Panama, Virgin Islands, on board the larger vessels of the navy, at navy yards and in France. It is a service of action and through all its long period of history the Marine Corps, on land and sea, has upheld the finest traditions of America's fighting forces.

With the large increase a number of commissioned and non commissioned officers will be selected. All officers will come from the ranks, according to announcement by the major general commandant. By this system of selecting officers, Marine recruiters point out, every man is placed on an equal basis for advancement and his progress is determined solely upon the record he makes and the qualities of leadership he displays. The standard of the Corps is high, its personnel numbers hundreds of America's finest young men—the type of military organization and service, in fact, that should make a particular appeal to the real, red-blooded, upstanding American men.

There is a Marine recruiting station in the old Mint building in Charlotte. All postmasters are designated Marine recruiters and the district recruiting station is in Richmond. Any young man between the ages of 18 and 35, who is interested in the service, may secure full information by communicating with any of the recruiting stations.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN IS ATTACKED BY SOLDIER

Man in Uniform Wearing Mask Severely Bruises and Chokes Woman in Thomasboro.

Charlotte Observer.

A woman about 50 years old was severely bruised and choked when attacked by a masked soldier in the Thomasboro section, west of the city, yesterday morning about 11 o'clock. A report of the attempted assault was made at once to the provost marshal here. No trace of the assailant was found.

She was walking near a patch of woods, about a hundred yards from her home, when the soldier darted from some underbrush, seizing her and throwing her to the ground. His fingers clenched her throat, and it is alleged he beat her in the face. In trying to resist the assault of the man in uniform the woman grasped his face and her fingers slipped into his mouth. He bit them, the print of his teeth bearing deep into the skin.

In the scuffle the hands of the soldier slipped from the woman's throat, and she screamed. Apparently afraid to continue his attacks upon her owing to the alarm she had given, he dashed away.

The woman went to her home, and relatives notified Lieutenant Hammond, the provost marshal. He immediately dispatched provost guards to the scene and that section of the country was scoured for the soldier. But no trace of him could be found. It was said that the mask carefully concealed his face, and the woman said it would be impossible for her to identify him.

Lieutenant Hammond, who questioned her, said she appeared to be quite badly bruised about the face, as though the assailant had used his hands and fists in a most cruel manner. The age of the woman and the severity of the attack caused much excitement in the Thomasboro section. The provost guards will continue a systematic search for the soldier, in the hope that possibly some information may be obtained leading to his apprehension. It was said, however, due to the mask and the fact that he escaped through the woods, leaving no trail, little hope is entertained that he can be apprehended.

A HEAVY ATTACK IN AMERICAN SECTOR

Germans Drive Americans Out of the Village of Cierges and Also Back From Beugneux.

London, July 30.—The Germans have been counter attacking very heavily along virtually the entire battle front, according to news that reached London shortly after noon today. Their attack was an especially heavy one in the American sector, and resulted in driving the Americans out of the village of Cierges, about five and one-half miles southeast of Fere-en-Tardenois.

Another German thrust drove the French out of Beugneux near Grand Rozoy northwest of Fere-en-Tardenois. This town, however, was recaptured from the enemy.

There has been some heavy fighting near Buzancy, five miles farther south. In this latter locality forty-five prisoners were taken belonging to three divisions of the enemy now engaged in the Marne salient. There are 71 such divisions, of which ten belong to the northern army of Crown Prince Rupprecht, of Bavaria.

The enemy withdrawal is reported still orderly and military opinion in London discounts the possibility of any rounding up of Germans in the salient.

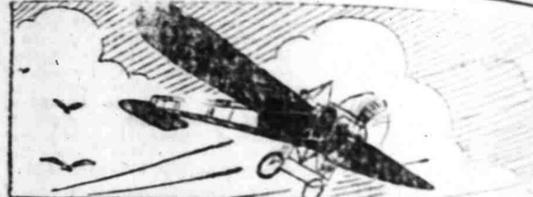
There is a famine in laundry soap in Copenhagen and other Danish cities.

NO ADVICES AS TO THE TURKO-GERMAN BREAK

The Government Will Not Be Surprised, However, if Turkey is Driven to An Open Rupture.

Washington, July 20.—No official advice regarding the reported break in relations between Turkey and Germany have been received in Washington, but the government would not be surprised if Turkey had been driven to an open rupture, as there is a well founded back ground for the report. It has been known for some months that a deep and growing feeling of dissatisfaction has existed in Turkey over the treatment by the British government of the Turkish government's efforts to cultivate friendly relations with the allied governments. It would be surprising for the Turkish government to have thrown in the towel before the allied powers before breaking off relations.

When the present negotiations between the Turkish government and the allied powers were broken off some time ago, some were expected to have thrown in the towel.



PROGRESS

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