



LETTERS FROM SOLDIERS

Berlin, Germany
September 23, 1945

Dear Fred,
Berlin is a long distance from Hometown, U. S. A., but this is the end trail leading eastward. Now the only question in the mind of every man here is, how long must we stay here.

The 82nd Air Borne Division is to be the Permanent Occupational Division in Berlin, but this is subject to immediate change. As a matter of fact there are rumors that we may pull out very soon.

This city really is "Kaput" Five and Bombs, have completely destroyed the center of the city, and have hit the suburbs pretty hard in some places.

The water, gas, power and transportation systems are now being restored as quickly as possible, but it will be many, many years before the city of Berlin will be the beautiful city that it once was.

I do not know just where all the people live. During the day time there are simply mobs of civilians in the streets and trains, but at night they disappear just like mice into a hole.

The Black Market is a big headache around here. A pack of cigarettes will sell for twenty dollars. Candy bars get five dollars. Food, name your own price. The Russians will pay four hundred dollars for a watch. Money is just like water around here, plenty of it everywhere.

I only know of one other boy who is now in Berlin, Bill Friday. He is in Company "A" of this regiment. We often get together for a bull session about the old home town. It is pretty nice to have someone from home living just across the street.

Guess I had better sign off for now. Oh Yes, the paper's are not arriving so well. Have received only four since leaving the States. We really do miss that home town paper.

Sincerely,
Thomas W. Smith, Jr.
Pfc. Thomas W. Smith, Jr.
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Prcht. Reg. 82nd. A B Division
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This Week in WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Why did John L. Lewis call off the coal strike? That is one of the most widely discussed topics in Washington today - and if anyone had the right answer it would undoubtedly have a major effect on plans which are in the making for attempting to establish permanent peace on the labor front.

We have heard dozens of guesses but the most reasonable one is that Mr. Lewis simply decided it would do labor more harm than good if homes were cold and factories were idle this winter. Mr. Lewis says that he called off the strike "in the public interest", which indicates that he is anxious to get back in the public's good graces after having alienated practically the whole American public during the war.

If some other union leaders follow Mr. Lewis' example, which appears unlikely at this time, it might cool off the growing desire of Congressmen to enact legislation which would curb union activities.

Senator Ball of Minnesota is pushing for action on his bill which would make collective bargaining a two-sided affair, would require unions to live up to contracts and would set up machinery for the peacetime settlement of labor-management disputes.

"If a program of peaceful settlement of disputes among nations is sound," the Senator said, "well then a program for peaceful settlement of disputes between management and labor, with appropriate sanctions on the few outlaws, is just as sound. And the need is just as urgent. Unless some such program is worked out, we are headed for industrial chaos."

In the House the Republicans are lining up behind a program outlined by Representative A. Rends of Illinois, the Republican whip. His program, which he describes as one with "bulldog teeth in it", also prohibits contract break by unions, government seizure of plants while employees and employers discuss differences which might result in strikes, and the denial of unemployment compensation to all persons on strike.

While the tax discussion was going on interesting figures were released showing the amount of income tax now being paid by all income groups. They showed that a married man with two dependents pays a \$45 tax if he earns \$2,000, a \$755 tax if he earns \$5,000, a \$2,245 tax if he earns \$10,000, a \$68,565 tax if he earns \$100,000 and if his income is \$1,000,000 he pays all but \$100,000 of it in tax. The figures make it clear that the day of millionaires

is over - that it is practically impossible, under the present tax set-up, for anyone to amass a million dollar fortune.

For the time being there seems to be no meeting of the "Big Three" contemplated for ending the political impasse which resulted from the recent meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers. But President Truman has revealed that he is attempting to remedy the situation by correspondence.

If the correspondence develops satisfactorily, to the point where a personal meeting will help, it is believed here that the President will urge that such a meeting be held.

STAR MAN BUYS BUFFALO MILLS

Opening Of Another Mill Near Shelby Is Planned; Cleveland Club to Be Enlarged.

SHELBY, Oct. 30.—Irvin Turk, manager of Buffalo Cotton Mills near Shelby, announced today that C. Z. Richardson of Star, N. C., has purchased the Buffalo mills, and will operate the business in the future, to produce yarn for his hosiery mills at Biscoe, N. C., and elsewhere. Mr. Richardson began operating today.

Mr. Turk stated that he plans the establishment of another mill near Shelby, if he is able to obtain a building for machinery which he had purchased for the mill at Buffalo.

O. M. Mull, president of the Cleveland Country club, announced plans today for immediate enlargement of the club. The plan calls for the sale of additional stock, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, at \$25 per share. Judge A. Powell of Shelby, will be in charge of a committee of men and Mrs. Barney Brackett in charge of a committee of women, to boost the sale of stock for the enlargement program.

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