

The CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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NICK ORLOFF WRITES

Through the courtesy and consideration of a friend in Salem we are enabled to publish the following letter from Nick Orloff, who was among the first of the Chemawa boys to join the colors. He gives an account of his cruise in the Southern Seas, as follows:

I will now give you a brief story of our voyage and not go into details too much, in other words, will make a long story short. Well, as nearly as I can remember we left Mare Island on the 16th of July and passed out through the Golden Gate, San Francisco, on the 17th and learned that our orders were to go to Chili, South America. From the day we left San Francisco the weather was beautiful and we all felt that luck was with us for the trip—it was the maiden voyage for our ship, the U. S. S. Alloway.

After leaving Frisco the land was out of sight for thirty days. Of course we crossed the equator before arriving at Chili. The first port we struck was Arica, Chili. We laid there over night and then left for Caleata Buena, Chili, where we arrived that night and commenced loading nitrate of sodium (salt petre) as our cargo. The loading lasted for fifteen days, during which we all had a great time. As to a description of that town I say frankly that it was the most rotten and filthy burg that I ever struck. The streets were dusty, the sidewalks not more than two feet wide, buildings small and low in which the people dwell. Same rooms answer in turn for cooking and dining and sleeping quarters.

After loading at that town we left for Panama to receive further orders as to our course with this valuable cargo. We reached Panama in ten days and learned that we were to go to Philadelphia and await further orders. We stayed at Panama over night and in the morning about 6:30 we started through the canal. It took us eight hours to make the passage. The canal is something wonderful—certainly beyond my description. Talk of beautiful scenery—it's all there. It surely is a marvelous engineering feat from end to end. So much for the canal. We dropped anchor at Colon, Panama, that afternoon and at 6:00

p. m. passed into the Carribean Sea. Have been out now a couple of days.

We are expecting to see one, or be hit by a German "sub" any minute and the crew is on the lookout for any object which may look like a "sea devil." We have been informed that we are in a dangerous zone at present and will be until we reach and pass the Florida coast. So in case we reach the next port safe I will mail this letter and you will know on receipt of it that all is well. We are not worried a bit for it is all in the game. We have also been informed of a German raider on this coast and have a good description of her and really know her without having seen her at all.

I surely hope we reach the United States once more. It certainly is the only country; the best and most civilized of them all. Nothing like the old U. S. A.!

NO SURE CURE

At the present writing the Spanish Influenza at Chemawa is subsiding. It is hoped that the worst is over and that we may suffer no further—for certainly we had a bad enough time of it. This country has been and is in the grip of one of the worst scourges that ever visited our borders. There seems to be no "sure cure," no real specific for the treatment of the disease. Caution is urged upon the public that little faith be placed in the so-called cures offered. Under date of October 28 the following dispatch was sent out from Washington, D. C.:

Out of the maze of sure cures, recipes and vaccines put forth as remedies for Spanish Influenza, nothing so far has been found to be a demonstrated specific cure for the disease, the United States public health service announced here today.

The epidemic has brought to the attention of the public and the health service no end of alleged "cures," it is said, most of them being offered for valuable consideration, so that the government health experts have thought it advisable to make public announcement that many of the so-called "cures" are apt to do more harm than good, and that anything demonstrated as valuable will be given the widest publicity by the government.

Vaccines have been watched in their effect by the service, but the service is not urging any form of vaccine treatment at this time.

Sergeant Henry Darnell came up from Vancouver barracks last Saturday evening and remained at the school until after noon on Sunday. He is connected with the commissary department at that army post, being in a position of trust and responsibility, and is proving himself the man for the job. We are pleased to report that he is making a splendid name for himself.