

WITH THE COLORS!

(Continued from page two)

was worse than anything I have ever heard. The barrage of the big drive of November 1st was started. I have been on the front now for several weeks where I can constantly hear the guns, but I have never heard anything like that. Even Tub, who has been through every big drive the Americans have pulled off, couldn't sleep. From the time it started until ten o'clock, when it began to die down there was never an instant when there were not dozens of guns firing at one time. There was never a break in the roar. I lay there trying to think of how it could be described and decided that could be best be compared to a load of loosely piled lumber on a lumber wagon being drawn rapidly over a rough corduroy road. Intensely that sound a hundred times and you might come near what a bombardment sounds like. We were two miles from the guns but their flares constantly illumined the tent.

We lay there and talked while the earth and everything seemed to tremble. Occasionally we would hear the whirl of a shell passing over or past us which was the only sound we could distinguish from the general roar.

We got up about five, as there was no use to try to sleep, and after washing off the worst of the dirt from my previous days travel, we went over to the kitchen where the smell of bacon and coffee was already inviting us. There, in a kitchen built in the corner of what had once been a stone house but which had only two walls remaining and no roof but a stretched canvas. I ate better cakes than I have ever eaten in our own elaborately equipped officers' mess at the air dome. Kline or "Klintie" as the boys call him was chief cook—a position which I am told that he was filling for the first time, but which would be greatly in favor of his keeping it permanently.

The boys came through the kitchen, all bundled up to keep warm, with their hands in their pockets and their dishes under their arms until they reached the stove where each got a big cup of coffee with brown sugar and canned milk—several slices of bacon and all the hot cakes he wanted. Knowing the capacity of the average human stomach according to the best physiologists, I was very much worried over the number of cakes that some of those boys piled onto their mess kits. I'll swear that Sidney Happerset staggered out with a "stack of hots" nearly a foot high and actually downed every one of them. Bennie Bassett ran him a close second, but of course one is not at all surprised at Bennie's appetite as he has lots of territory to supply.

After breakfast Tub and I went up towards the front and went through the trenches that had been recently fought through. It is hard to imagine the waste of a great battle. There were guns, rifles, machine guns, grenades of all kinds, helmets, packs, ammunition, and supplies of every description scattered everywhere. Waste and destruction of men, horses and material onevery side. An American aeroplane lay smashed in the wire entanglements. The pilot seemed to have been able to get the ship down right side up, but I wondered how he ever got out of the wire if he were able to leave his machine. We walked over to watch some of the six-inch guns firing behind a small hill and were fascinated by the regular bang, bang of these big fellows as they threw hundreds of pounds of high explosives over somewhere. Where we could not see but where we knew the Boches were trying to retreat with our wonderful Doughboys at their heels.

We returned to the hospital about ten thirty, and for an hour I watched our boys handle the gas patients with skill. Friend and foe were handled alike and in their turn. I have seen some pretty bad sights and some badly

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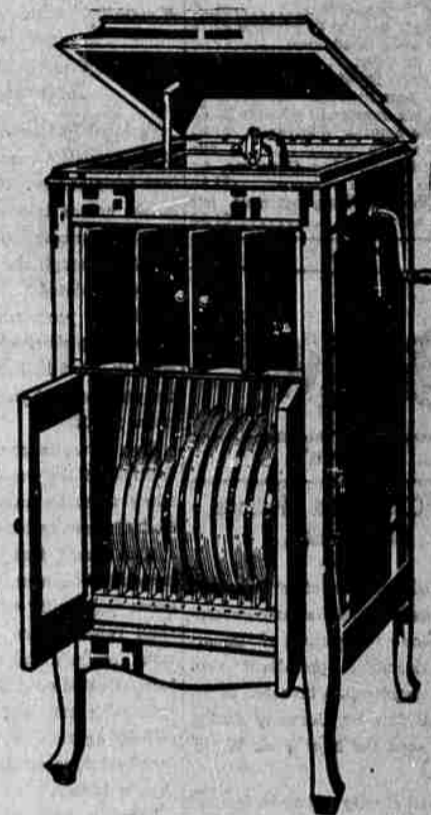
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wounded men in this war but I have never seen anything yet that effected me like seeing those gassed men come in. A man with an arm or leg shot off or a few machine gun bullets through him will get well quickly and stay well, but a man who is gassed has a dismal future to look forward to. It is some satisfaction to know that we are giving these Hun devils a good dose of their own medicine. But what a shame that we can't give the same treatment to the Kaiser, Hindenburg, and the rest of the dogs who are responsible for the use of such means of warfare, but who stay safely out of gunshot.

I have never before been so thankful that I am in the air service where we do our fighting and aid work high above all the dirt, noise and strife of the trenches—up where the air is pure and there is lots of room and only the sound of our motor fight just as hard and, if it is necessary, to die, to die clean and quickly. I admire the Doughboys and take off my hat to his courage and pluck, but I hope I will never have to change places with him.

At noon I had dinner with the officers of the aggregation, but I ate the rest of my meals with the boys as I wanted to see as much of them as possible. The afternoon I spent much of the morning in watching the prisoners and the wounded and talking to the boys. Fritz Lottes and Melvin Larson

see, one they call it a good omen. They told me one morning when they were cleaning out the Argonne forest how, as the boys were going over at dawn, the sun came out and a beautiful rainbow appeared across the sky. A yell went up from every Rainbow man in the woods, that could be heard everywhere in spite of the guns, and the boys went over with a rush and a yell that put fear into the hearts of the Boches and carried everything before them.

I left them early in the morning of the third day to go back to my work. The drive was still on, patients were still coming in, and the boys were all busy, a hard working, uncomplaining, quiet, or-

derly bunch, an organization La Grande folks can well be proud of. LIEUT. J. L. INGLE, 278 Aero Squadron A. E. F. Nov. 4, 1918.

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