

# LOCAL SAILOR'S FURLOUGH OVER

ADOLPH BRINKER LEAVES FOR EAST TOMORROW.

Was on the U. S. Destroyer S. S. Diego When That Vessel Was Sunk by Mine Explosion.

Quartermaster Adolph Brinker, U. S. N., who has been in La Grande for a couple of weeks, spending part of a twenty-five day furlough visiting his mother, Mrs. D. N. McDaniel, leaves tomorrow to return to the service at Philadelphia. He was a member of the crew of the United States destroyer S. S. Diego, which was sunk by a mine explosion off Fire Island last fall.

Quartermaster Brinker has worn the naval uniform since April 8th, 1917, when he left La Grande and went to Portland to enlist. Previous to that date he had spent a year in the office of the O-W. He went from Portland to San Francisco and spent a week at Goat Island; then he was moved on with others to the Maza Island training station and assigned to the San Diego with the rank of seaman.

The San Diego, after some service on the Pacific coast, was ordered to the Atlantic seaboard and was then sent to France, where her home port for some months was Brest. She was assigned to convoy duty there, her work being to go out to meet transports and convey them through the danger zone to their destination.

For a time, also, the San Diego was one of the boats which conveyed troops from Halifax to Queens town, Ireland, and she spent three months at Halifax following the great catastrophe there last winter.

Mr. Brinker does not have a great deal to say about the San Diego's last experience. The boat had been twenty days at Portsmouth, N. H., for repair and on leaving there was just going down to New York when she reached the spot twelve miles off Fire Island which was marked as her grave. Mr. Brinker does not altogether agree with the naval department's announcement that the San Diego was sunk by a mine. He is more inclined to think that a torpedo found its mark. At any event there was no doubting the result. The ship was hit at 11:00 o'clock and the crew got their last sight of her from the surface of the ocean just twenty-six minutes later.

The vessel's electrical facilities were destroyed by the explosion and no life boats could be lowered on that account. The crew—1244 men—therefore fitted themselves with life preservers and went over the side.

They stayed in the water two hours when an aeroplane flew overhead and sighted them, and carried word back to land. In two hours more a number of small boats appeared and picked them up. Six men only were lost of the whole crew. Mr. Brinker says that while they were in the water a small steamer approached and sighted them but their distress signals only served to scare her and cause her to disappear from that locality.

Asked about the sensations he experienced when the ship was struck and while he was in the water, Mr. Brinker says he does not know that he had any. Immediately after the explosion he says the men, like himself, were too much concerned with the idea of getting over the side to have any sensations, and though the four hours they spent in the water was an anxious time, they kept up each others' spirits with songs. There were too many of

them for any to become lonesome or to fret about their individual lot. Mr. Brinker spent about six weeks in New York City after the sinking of the San Diego, and then was assigned to the U. S. S. Truston, from which he was granted the furlough on which he is home.

Quartermaster Brinker expects to be released from the service in a couple of months, when he will return to La Grande again. He is married and he should attain his twenty-fifth birthday. His friends will be glad to see him back in this city to stay.

## TOM MURPHY IN GERMANY

DESCRIBES MARCH OF FAMOUS RAINBOW DIVISION.

Expects Peace Will Be Signed Shortly and Troops Will Be Returned.

Tom Murphy, private in the army as a member of 167 Field Hospital, 117 Sanitary train, is probably now in Germany, for in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Murphy, of Pendleton, written December 4, he was on the way to Coblenz, Germany, about 12 miles from the German frontier. His work in caring for patients still continues.

December 4. "I have just time to tell you that I am still on the way to Coblenz, Germany, which we will reach long before this reaches you. We are at Borthung, Luxemburg, about 12 miles from the German frontier. A lot of

three days and then they can go back to their outfits. "I don't know the people of Germany will be so glad to see us as they were to Belgium and Luxemburg. I don't think we will be in Germany long, as it is only 12 days from the time of the armistice. Then I am sure it won't be long after that the peace is signed up and then I see no reason why we shouldn't be home in three months. "As you will have seen by the papers, we were in the line of the final attack, the Rainbow division, the 352nd, which was the last battle. I hope you got the helmet which will be a good souvenir because I got it from the last battle fight of the war."

Borthung, Luxemburg, Dec. 3. "We went about 10 miles since my last letter and are now at a little town called Borthung, about 12 miles from the border of Germany. We have a hospital in a school house again and have a good many patients. I don't suppose you know just how we work so I will tell you. You see, the infantry and artillery are marching and we move in our cars. There are four hospital companies in the division and they are lapping over each other. We operate here today, and one of the other companies goes on ahead and sets up. Then the other two do the same thing. We evacuate our patients forward instead of to the rear. So that makes more patients at every stop but it won't be long till we get to the end and then I suppose we will have a regular hospital. This will be our last stop in a friendly country because it is only 16 miles to the first town in Germany."

November 13. "It sure seems funny to see cars on the road with headlights burning and to see fires and all that. But the best part of it is, we can stay on

top and be safe. It is a pretty long time and we were shelled at least once a day."

"When we moved into this sector we passed Henry Judd's outfit on the road in the Aronne region. I know that Judd was working with a 125 mm. and I looked for him but didn't see him. McDonald who came after me, says a fellow he knew who said Judd was there. Now I don't suppose I'll see him until we get home. The day I passed his bunch was the day after a big barrage. I am pretty sure that his battery worked in the barrage because when we passed they were moving and they were inside the jump by star kilos. He is in a wonderful branch of the service and handles a six inch rifle on a tractor. To run has a range of about 14 kilos so he is back far enough to be out of trouble."

Borthung, Luxemburg, Nov. 30. "Schools of Luxemburg are closed now because the soldiers are passing through the country. In this town we have a hospital in a school house and the kids want us to stay all the time. In the grades here the pupils talk French, English and Ger-

man and I saw a boy of fourteen who could speak any of the languages pretty good."

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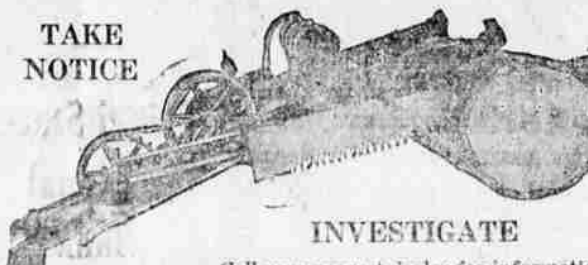
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