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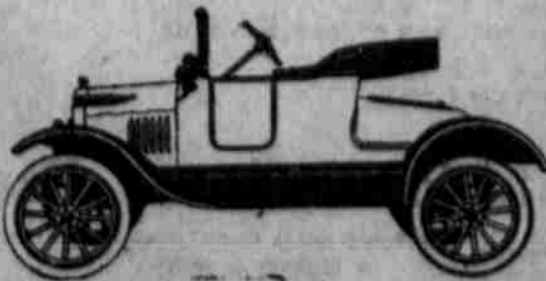


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ONTARIO, OREGON.



## Letters From Malheur County Boys Now Fighting In France

Dear Mother: I just got back day before yesterday and got your last letter this morning. I am well. There has been some mail here for me but I don't know where it has gone. It may be returned to me any day, tho, now. I was not surprised to hear that Elbert was over her. I am almost sure he was as I have seen some of the boys over here that left when he did and I am not sure but that I saw his director while I was away.

I think perhas I can go and see him sometime. John Johnson is here yet and he said that he got a letter from Estes the other day. I knew they were over. I saw several of the men that used to be with me in the states. Riggs is here also. He got my letter that I wrote him when I was at the Barracks and answered it right away but I never received it. I think that you have done pretty well with the hay. Well, I will write Elbert a letter now as I am anxious to hear from him and the sooner I write him the sooner he can write me. I do hope that I get those other letters.

Well, I am hoping that good luck will continue to come my way. I have been awfully lucky so far. Hope this finds you all well. Will close now and say goodby, from.

EMMETT.

Somewhere in France, Sept 14.  
Dear Mother and All: I will drop you a few lines tonight. I am well and in a replacement camp. I drew my equipment today and am expecting to go at any time. I am ready to leave at a minutes notice. I think I will go back to my company now and will get my mail. I will write to you again in a few days.

I came here Isa Wednesday. I have had a good rest since I have been in the hospital. Was there for three weeks. I sewed my wound stripe on my sleeve this morning and can wear a service stripe by the 23rd of November. I have been anxious to hear from home and to hear from Elbert. The last mail that I got was about the 15th of July. Well, I will close now and hope to get some word from you soon.

EMMETT.

Somewhere in France, Sept 14.  
Dear Mother and Father, I will try and write you a few lines this morning to let you know that I am well. I was transferred from my old company to the machine gun company of the 111th Infantry. We moved up pretty close to the front lines. I am learning to operate the machine gun. I think I will like it better than the infantry. There are eleven boys here that started from Camp Kearney. I got payed just before I left my old company. I drew twelve dollars this month. I only drew five in Camp Mills.

Have you heard from Emmett? It has been nearly four months since I have heard anything from him. I am anxious to hear how he is. You can't realize what war really is. I hope he is all O. K.

How are you getting along at home? Fine I hope. Don't worry about me. I am going to do my best and that is all that any of us can do. The war news is pretty good. I read where they were taking men in the states from nineteen to thirty-six.

It has been raining nearly every day. I think it must be the rainy season in this part of the world. We are with a good bunch of experienced men. They are good to explain things to us and help us all they can. Here is where my sweater comes in handy. I think that it is the best sweater I ever owned. I presume you are all thru haying by this time. Write and tell me what kind of crops you raised this year. I will be glad when I get back home so that I can help you with the work. I will close or this time, hoping that this finds you all well. I close.

Lots of love and best wishes to all  
ELBERT

—GIVE DOUBLE—  
On active service with the American Expeditionary Forces, October 6, 1918  
Dearest Mother and All: Received your letter last night and also the pictures. Was glad to get all of

them. It was just a year yesterday since I left home, and got your pictures on the right day. I think they are awfully good and am sure pleased.

Well, I have had a great experience since I last wrote you. We just came off the front line, have been fighting every minute for 9 days and 19 nights. You can't imagine and I can't tell you what we went thru. Sure was an awful strain, but we drove the Huns for about 20 miles, and had them on the run all the time. We went so fast at first that our cook wagons didn't catch up for several days, and you can imagine how hungry we were, of course we had our old standby "bully beef and hard tack" but even that tasted good.

The first day I began loading myself down with souvenirs from the captured Huns. Had and overcoat, Luger pistol, boyonet, and other junk but got tired of carrying it so threw it all away. Anyway I've got enough stored up in my "bean" to remember them.

Say you can't imagine what a bunch we have in the division. Every man fought like a devil and not a one turned back in the fact of the Hun shrapnel, gas and machine gun bullets. The Germans are sure dirty fighters, they use up their last ammunitions and then throw up their hands. We captured a great number and all of them were glad to be captured, too. I think a few more drives and we'll have them across the Rhine.

The night that we were relieved the Huns gave us an awful send off of shrapnel and shells, but we held the line. I was in a dug out with another fellow that we dug with our hands, and we got peppered with mud—plowed up all around us. I sure think God was with us that night.

Well I haven't any paper to write on, it is scarce over here, so if you can send this letter to Mae and let Murry, Carl and Boss and all of them read it. When you write will you put some sticks of gum in the letter? Can't buy any over here at all.

Things must be good with you at home now, am glad you are all getting along well, have been worried about you. I don't think we will be away much longer now. We're going to end this thing quick and show em what the Sommes and o.

Well mother be good to yourself. Love to all the kids and tell dad I'm still on deck. Write often and tell the rest of them to write. I've got all of your letters so far. I guess Love, from your son and brother,  
PVT. E. L. MORTON

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## Home Is Where the Boy Is In This War

By BRUCE BARTON

I visited a home where a service flag hangs and while we ate we talked of the boy who is over there.

"I wonder if he is cold tonight," the mother said, "I wonder if he has a place to warm himself and dry his clothes; and something good to eat."

"What wouldn't I give to be with him," she said and we were silent, knowing her heart. But I thought of the Soldiers of Friendliness who that very night would crawl out across No Man's Land to take chocolate and hot coffee to that boy.

Of the huts with their warm fires burning; of the great lecturers and preachers and actors and motion pictures that are over there.

And I thought to myself; "There is a difference between this and every other war. For when the boys have marched away before, the influence of their homes has stopped at the front gate and could go no farther.

But in this war it follows the flag, across the ocean, over the shell torn battle land, straight up to the front line trenches.

Home is where the boy is in this war. From every town and village the lines of helpfulness run out.

And no boy leaves his home behind him; step by step it travels with him, financed by the folks behind him—a token of their love.

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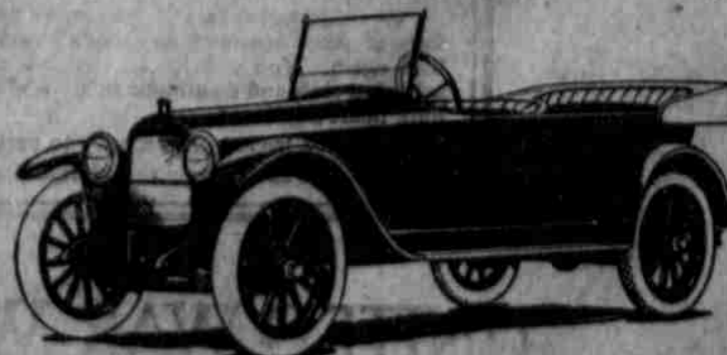
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