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Letters from Malheur Boys "Over There"

(Continued from page 3)

but I use a candle, in the window is a flower box with plants still in tact.

I have a W. S. S. poster hanging in the window and inside on the wall I have a big Fourth Loan Drive poster, the one with the Naval scene on it. I forgot to mention a big bell I have hanging on a nail. We use it to get up by. On the side of it is "Berlin 1916". We have some cans we use for carrying water—our wash pan is a Jerry Helmet, our hatchet is a German bayonet, and our stove is a small gasoline drum with 3 or 4 sizes of stove pipe on it, but it is a dandy and I am writing this with my shirt off.

They say the war is over and I guess it is, but I don't think many of us will get started home very soon. I have been up in here for some time now and have had some very interesting times and experiences, always with the little old Tank that I know now to perfection.

This town was in German hands for four years and from the looks of things, they expected to stay for a while. The town itself is all shot away, not one building being left untouched, but they sure dug in good and had every little convenience arranged for.

I have been made a Gunner who is commander of the Tank, and when we were out on a little trip a few days ago we broke down. We were away from the rest of the Company for three days but finally got fixed up and came rolling in yesterday p. m., muddy and tired but glad to get in again. We hit kitchens from every branch of service there is in the army to get our meals, and I'll tell you we had good eats.

Away out in the hills I ran into some fellows guarding some packs. Waiting for their bunch to come in from the front, one was Bill Paul who used to work for Tom Halliday, near Vale. He knew Mert and many people around Ontario and Vale. One of the first he asked about was Lola Jones, then about Art Moody and Ruth and about Art's two sisters. We dropped in for a noon meal with a labor Battalion of Negroes fixing up roads, etc., and they all treated us fine. They sure were interested in the Tank and all wanted to ride, but gas was low and I could not accommodate them.

On the road in, however, a Captain stopped us and asked if he couldn't ride just to get the sensation. I got out of the turret and gave him my place, so he could get full benefit of "all space," etc., and we took him for a mile or so. I rode on the top outside.

Between the store and the boys thought it was a little too warm in here so opened the door and now I think I will have to put on a shirt. There are two other boys in here, Robertson from K. C. Mo., and Flowers from La. In the room connected with this one are three boys, one Dougherty from Arizona, Phillips from N. Y., and Curtis from N. J. So we represent six different states.

About this part of France one cannot realize the havoc this war has brought on her, without seeing it. The Germans have only been out of here about a month and every little town is razed to the ground and as I see it, it looks to me as though churches have been used for targets more than anything else. The hills are covered with little wooden crosses where both German and Allied soldiers are buried; farther up I was out in the woods looking around and found eight Germans, four in one group, sent west by a sharpshoot, three in another group killed by rifle fire. How is Hershel Browne and Alex McPherson making it? Have written both of them, but guess they are too busy to write. I suppose Rena is already talking about her Xmas vacation—I may surprise you yet and drop in on you about that time myself, but have my doubts.

I will have a big load story to tell Rena about what I was doing on her birthday. But I'll keep that just to her. If I don't stop writing, it's well soon be a small newspaper and its liable to make the censor sore but I guess he'd just as soon spend his time on one or several, so I'll rave on, for a while because its the first chance I have had to write for a long while.

The boys are fixing up their beds so I guess I'll stop and fix mine, too. I don't want to miss my breakfast in the morning, because as the Governor of N. C. said to the Gov. of S. C. its a long time between drinks.

Please excuse the shortness of this letter and write real often to your pop.

SPRAGUE,
Corp. F. S. Adam,
Co. B, 245th Battalion
U. S. Tank Corps
A. P. O. No. 114
American Ex. Forces

Americans are Stayers
That the Americans are stayers is the declaration of Sergeant N. Brown, in a letter to his father which arrived Monday telling life in the camp where he was located during the war. He says:
Issoudun, France
Nov. 24, 1918

Dear Father:
I wrote a letter to Mamma Mothers' Day so here is a letter to you on Fathers' Day.

I received the little letter from Ovas today.
I guess that we are going to have a pretty good Thanksgiving dinner from what the mess Sergeant says. We are getting plenty of good grub and plenty of clothes for the winter. We are allowed 2 suits of uniforms, 2 pairs of field shoes, 5 pairs of socks, 3 suits of woolen underwear, 2 shirts, 1 pair of wrapped leggings, 1 cap, 1 rain coat, 1 overcoat, 1 pair of gloves, four blankets, mess kit, pack carrier, barrack bag, and a few toilet articles, also a pup tent. That is about all we have now.

I hope that we are shipped back home soon. I sure will be glad to see the good old U. S. A. again. I have been over here about fourteen months now. I haven't been in the hospital once since I enlisted. I haven't missed a day's work and I haven't been in the guard house, either. That guard house is liable to see any one though. A fellow does quite a few things that he shouldn't, you know, but it is all right as long as a fellow doesn't get caught.

How is the new car getting along, is she a good hill puller?

Have you got a good job for me when I get home, you know besides driving the car, ha! ha! How is the sheep business now? Are horses worth a nickle now? I must have quite a bunch of horses by now. When I get home I want to settle down and get to work. I can see from my little experience that that is the only way to get ahead at any thing. I wouldn't stay in the army during peace time for any money. I am making pretty good money now for an enlisted man. I am getting \$96.00 a month as an M. S. C. and \$38.00 on top of that as aviation mechanic, making a total of \$134.00 a month. That is the highest pay an enlisted man can get.

I tied hard to get to fly but it was almost impossible for me. A few of the boys from my Squadron got to fly, a few got to the front but the C. G. wouldn't let me go. Well, there isn't anything to flying in peace times so I didn't miss anything, but I sure did want to bring down a few boss planes.

I haven't seen the front or don't expect to now, but I believe I have done more good back here training pilots than a lot of the fellows on the front. This is the largest aviation camp in the world, one year ago it was nothing but a big mud hole. The French engineers said the Americans couldn't make a go of it but you see they were badly fooled.

One don't realize what a bunch of workers and stayers the Americans are until you are one of them and see what they can accomplish.

Our squadron broke the world's record for having the greatest number of O. K. planes. We had, and still have, 109 per cent O. K., this makes the eighth day. That will make them all get down and work to beat that.

Well, I hope I am home for my 21st birthday. Well, I must close for now. Best wishes and best love to all.

M. S. E. Glenn N. Brown
31st Aero Squad., 20925, A. E. F.
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