

Letters From Our Soldier Boys

FROM JACOB KERBER.

August 29, 1918.

Dear Folks and All: As we are now settled down for a while and have a little time I thought it would be a good change to write you a few lines to let you know that we are now somewhere in France and am fine and dandy and enjoying the life of a soldier also. Like it here as far as we get. France sure has good people—they'd give us anything they have. We were welcome when we got in this town—little girls came running with bunches of flowers and they tried to show us that they were glad to see Uncle Sam's boys. Only thing is hard—to speak French; also funny to listen to them talk.

The buildings here are all made out of bricks and cement; no wooden buildings here. When we were in England a couple of our officers took us down town and showed us a Catholic church that was built before Christ. They told us all about it but I can't remember it now. It sure was some church. I think they said it was the second largest in the world. It took us a couple of hours to go through and then we didn't see it all. We sure see more than we expected to see. I wish I could be home just for a day or two—I could tell you lots more about the trip. Anyway we boys expect to be home for Christmas dinner—at least we hope so, ha! ha!

Well, of more news I don't know so I'll have to close for this time, hoping you are all well and happy, as this leaves me the same. Hope to hear from you soon. I remain your loving son,
Jacob Kerber,
Co. I, 159th Infantry.

A. E. F.

FROM FRED HENKEL.

Iona Island, N. Y., Sept. 30.

Dear Mother: Your letter got here a couple of days ago so will answer it before I have to go some place where I cannot. I am doing patrol duty in the mountains near Iona Island. They call them mountains here but they are called hills out west. I do a half day on and a day and a half off and every night in bed. The natives around here think that the Mississippi river is about as far west as a person can get and stay in the U. S. I saw in one of the papers

you sent that the store Marie works in was robbed. Tell her she had better get a machine gun and some bombs to protect herself with. She could get most any of them wild men with a machine gun—they only fire about 600 shots a minute. I shot 47 shots with one when I was on the range and it sure is a goer. It sounds like one long shot.

Emile is lucky if he stays on the west coast—if he does not go to France. I see in a New York paper where Pershing says he will either be in heaven, hell or New York by Christmas.

We got a rumor that we are going to Quantico, Va., for overseas training but do not know for sure. I don't know much to write as everything is pretty quiet here now. Your loving son,
Fred Henkel.

FROM JAMES E. RUSSELL.

France, Aug. 22, 1918.

Dear Mamma and Papa: Here we are in a rest camp after a strenuous month in the lines. It is great to relax for a while away from the roar of artillery and the whir of Boche shells. I expect we will give them a bigger surprise next time, even if it did take us two nights hard marching to get back past where we started. Driving in one night we marched 16.7 miles with heavy packs. How is that? By that you can see the U. S. troops are pretty well fed or they could not do that. We are in a pretty part of France now where the valleys are similar to Jordan valley, the hills are rough too. Last evening two of us went blackberrying up on the mountain. The berries are not very ripe yet. We saw lots of wild hog nests in the leaves. Some of them were new but as we took no guns I was not very particular about running into a bunch of them as the big boars stand about four feet high and have pretty dangerous tusks. One of the natives here brought one in day before yesterday that he had killed. There is a pretty lake here. I would like to take a little trip over into Switzerland but there is no chance at present I guess. We start in on a high training schedule next week for the benefit of the replacement troops (also ourselves) for a short time.

Nye is getting along fine. He will probably be home by Christmas. Pegging around on an artificial leg. The bone was so shattered they took it off above the knee. He did not have the nerve to tell his folks, so if you see any of them tell them he will be a good man yet.

Tris is in good health at present as well as myself. I took dinner with a French family up at Mont Moreuil last week; enjoyed myself very much in spite of the fact that they laughed at my broken French, that is if my French is good enough to be called broken. Goodbye, will write again soon. Your son,
Ellsworth.

From Luther Cole

Sept. 16, 8:30 p. m., 1918.

Dear Mother:—

Received your letter today and was very glad to hear from you, as I do not hear very often. Well it's over a year since I've been home, but it seems like two months, as time surely goes fast over here.

I just wonder if you still talk about the war the same as when I left home. I would like to be home and go hunting, for there is no game here in France, but there are lots of Dutchmen and it is open season all the time. If we only get these Dutchmen thinned out as well as we did birds in Oregon, I'll be home before long, ha, ha! They are getting a little wild in places now. I suppose you see that in the papers.

Well, I don't know when I ever felt better and not at all alone, some, working pretty hard most of the time. We are having some very good weather over here now, just about the same as you have over there. Well, I will have to say good night for this time, hoping this letter gets over o. k.

Your son,
Corp. Luther Cole
Co. M, 162 Inf., A. E. F.

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Notice—Members of Santiam Lodge Notice is hereby given to all members of Santiam Lodge No. 25, A. F. & A. M., that said lodge will not convene in stated communication during October on account of the prevailing epidemic of influenza in various parts of the state.

This action is taken as a precautionary measure, although no cases have been reported in Stayton.

S. H. Heltzel, W. M.

Aumsville News

P. C. Speer, a traveling salesman of this place, spent the week end with his family.

Miss Eva McClellan, of West Stayton, was in Aumsville Sunday visiting friends and relatives.

At the last report Miss Rose Winslow was improving.

Miss Laura Pound, who is now employed at the Campbell Hotel at Portland, is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Pound.

Miss Elizabeth Swank, who was on the sick list, is able to be about again.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Eastburn and children, of Alpine, were visiting relatives Sunday. They were accompanied home by Miss Vineta Eastburn.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Peterson and son, David, of Mill City, were visiting relatives of this place Saturday and Sunday.

G. R. Munkers came home Saturday morning on a furlough from Camp Lewis.

T. L. Mill is very busy now digging his crop of potatoes.

Miss Gladys Simpson, who has been working in Condon, is visiting friends here.

Mrs. John Lewis took seriously ill Tuesday night but at last report was improving slowly.

Claude Darby and family, of Stayton, visited at the home of Mrs. Mary Eastburn Sunday. Mrs. Mary Eastburn returned home with them.

Will Albus came home from Camp Lewis Saturday to visit friends and relatives.

Mr. Tallon and family have moved on the Eberhardt place. Their former home was in Salem.

A party was given at the home of Claude Lewis Saturday evening, Oct. 12th. The evening was spent in playing games and dancing. Luncheon was served at a late hour. Everybody reported a good time.

Union Hill

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mollet, Ralph and Ethel motored to Corvallis Monday on business, returning home Thursday.

Miss Mary Peters is staying in Stayton.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Geer and family and Miss Iza Geer returned to their home in Southern Oregon.

W. H. Rabens and family were Stayton visitors Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lincoln spent the week end visiting relatives in McKee and Silverton.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Carter and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Carter and son, Loyal, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. M. Burnett.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hurt and family have moved to Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas, Mrs. Naomi Thomas, Miss Dolly Dutton, and Clifford Thomas motored from Salem to the W. H. Mollet home Sunday.

Will Neil and family have moved on the W. D. Hurt farm.

Miss Bertha Mollet called on Mrs. Lincoln Tuesday.

Mrs. Geo. Scott and Mr. and

Mrs. A. Cooley were Stayton callers the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Heater motored to town on business Monday.

Rock Point

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hunt and daughter moved to Salem last Monday. We regret very much to lose them from our neighborhood.

Mrs. Albert Frank is on the sick list this week.

School started last Monday under the supervision of Miss Eunice Downing, the same teacher that taught last year.

Norris Hunt and Ed Jacobs were hauling locust wood to Shaw Monday to be shipped to Portland to be used in the ship yard.

Arthur Hansen was a Salem caller Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frank and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Boedigheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wagner and niece motored over to Polk county Sunday. They report a delightful trip.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Burghart visited relatives in Portland this week.

Chas. Amort has rented the Henry Lang farm.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Fresh and children were Salem callers Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hunt motored out to the farm Sunday and took dinner with their son Clarence.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Downing and family spent Sunday at the W. A. Jones home.

Mr. E. C. Perry, of Scio, was in this vicinity this week looking for milk for the Scio Condensary which he is manager of at the present time.

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Silver Creek Falls

Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson received word last week that their son Alfred, who is stationed at the naval training camp, Seattle, had been quite sick with Spanish Influenza.

Percy Brown, Jr., an employee of Silver Falls Logging camp, came home last week sick, but is much improved at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Cieslak made a business trip to Silverton Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson, Mrs. Lew Peterson and family and Miss Elizabeth Wilkens spent Sunday at the S. W. Milligan home.

Mr. J. M. Hollingsworth and son, James, were up to the ranch Tuesday.

H. A. Brown is on the sick list this week with the la grippe.

Mrs. Charley Cieslak spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. James Patton.

Mt. Pleasant

Frank Laux, of Albany, is visiting at the Henry Senz home.

Mrs. Selmer Brown, of Aumsville, is visiting at Lee Downing's.

Elmer Ray and wife left last week for Eastern Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hayes and family, of Dallas, spent the week end at John Huber's.

Irvine Ray called at the Mrs. Roxie Shank home Monday.

G. H. Ray, Hal Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Shank and son were entertained at a birthday dinner at Mrs. Roxie Shank's Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Branch and family, of Sublimity, were Sunday visitors at P. H. Lambert's.

There will be preaching at the Mt. Pleasant church Sunday, Oct. 27th, both morning and evening. Everybody is invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nietling and family are moving on the Floyd Shelton farm.

Mrs. Linn Lambert called at the W. R. Ray home Monday.

The Mt. Pleasant school is closed this week the teacher being exposed to the Spanish influenza.