

Letters From Our Soldier Boys

Oct. 10, 1918.

Dear Cousin and All:

Will write you a few lines this evening don't know if I answered your last letter or not. We have been pretty busy for the last two weeks at the front and moving around. We are settled again for a few days anyway, so I am trying to write a few letters. This was as far as I got last night, seemed like I couldn't write, guess you have had the same feeling. Ha! Ha! Well I am still in France helping win the war. I sure have put up some fight. We put in about about six days at the front, where there was some real war going on and we had a pretty hard time, but are resting up now for another drive I guess. They are driving the Germans every place they strike them. The Germans don't seem to be using anything but machine guns and artillery. They don't stand for bayonet fighting and always give up before it comes to that point. Guess they don't stand much show with the American boys. The shrapnel from the artillery seems to be doing more damage than anything else. The doughboys go so fast it is hard for our artillery to keep up, as the roads are torn up badly in some places. There were times when we had to fill our ears with cotton to protect us from the noise of our own artillery, but when we got a little farther advanced we were all right. Of course there were lots of enemy shells bursting on each side of us, but we soon got used to that. One day we were in a small town in a building and they were shelling the town and one shell hit the building we were in just in the next room down near the ground and knocked a big hole in it, but never hurt any of us, so we thought we were pretty lucky that trip. We are seeing lots of country and sights to make up for our hard times. Had a chicken supper one evening. Wish you could have been there. It was the first time I ever saw anybody get a meal without using water, but that old French lady didn't waste any water to prepare a chicken supper. Well we had one chicken supper in France anyway. It is getting pretty chilly over here now. Our company got some winter

clothes in today. Hope they get them issued for it would help a fellow to crawl out mornings. Don't think the war will last any longer than this year, but that isn't saying when we will be back to the States.

Was just talking to some boys that had just been over here only about two weeks. They were from Illinois and Wisconsin. They didn't like the experience very much, but guess they will get used to it in a little while.

They claim the English and French had tried to take this town for two years but could never do it, and the Americans took it in about two hours, so you see there is some difference. I wrote to Charles a few days ago.

Well, I haven't seen a soul I knew from the West or East since I have been over here. Don't know where everybody keeps themselves. How is Mr. Barnes by this time? Where is Ella Smith now? The reason I didn't answer her letter was because it was so long before I got it that I knew they wouldn't be at the berry patch anymore and I didn't know if she would ever get it or not. Tell her hello for me.

Well, I hope Uncle John is home again and all are well and the best of everything.

Well John, when are you going to make that trip to Indiana? I will write you when I am going to be back there and you meet me there. How will that be?

Well I am fine and expect to stay that way. Give all my best regards.

Hoping all are well and happy, with love and best wishes to all,
Algie.

Pvt. Algie R. Moss, 148 Ambulance Co., 112 Sanitary Train, A. P. O. 763.

Aix Les Bains, Oct. 7, 1918.

Dear Father:

I have been here since the 2nd inst and still have 3 more days before I have to go back to the company. We are allowed a 7 days' furlough every four months, but this is the first time any of us had a chance to get away.

There are ten boys from my company and we are in the Alps mountains about 25 miles from Mt. Blanc. This is a dandy

place and also very interesting. It is known all over the world and people have come here for the sulphur baths since the time of the early Roman Empire a few hundred years before Christ.

There is an old temple here built to the Goddess of Diane, which was built about 200 B. C. It is used now as a mission and contains many relics of the early days. There is a cogwheel railroad about seven miles long up Mt. Revard, from which place one can obtain a fine view of the entire Alps Mts. The Y. M. C. A. here has leased a large temple, which was formerly a large gambling house, second in size to Monte Carlo. It contains grill rooms, large gambling rooms, a large theatre and dancing halls. At the bath house, which is about 300 ft. square and three stories high, one can obtain almost any kind of a bath imaginable. There are several suites of rooms, which were reserved for J. P. Morgan and several other big boys. The town is situated on the largest lake in France and contains about 100 large hotels. This place before the war was one of the largest summer resorts in the world. Yesterday I made a trip to Hantecombe Abbey which was built by the princess of the Savoy about 1125. I never saw anything to equal it. It is taken care of by several old monks and is now owned and taken care of by the king of Italy. It contains several tombs of princes and princesses, also counts and countesses. There are a number of almost priceless paintings there also. I visited the king's chamber, where he stays when he comes to visit there. On the way there I met Chester B. Murphy, an attorney of Portland, who just came over here. He is a "Y" secretary and is a fine fellow. He is different from most of those fellows and I think he will be well liked here. I am sure enjoying myself and this trip is worth a lot to anyone who gets the chance to take it. Will hate to go back to the for I imagine we will have a rather hard winter.
Glenn Porter.

A. P. O. 730.

MILLION BOOKS SENT TO FRANCE

No Army in History Ever Read as Omniverously as the Yanks.

PREFER DETECTIVE STORIES

Unexpected Demand for Serious Reading Surprised Librarians—Technical Books Great Aid to the Ambitious Soldier.

Washington.—More than a million books have been shipped abroad by the American Library association for the use of the American expeditionary force. The total available was 3,000,000, and this will be supplemented by a united war work campaign contribution of \$3,500,000 out of its total of \$170,500,000 for the six allied welfare organizations.

About one-half of the area covered in France by the American expeditionary force has received its first sprinkling of books. The distribution is proceeding rapidly and next July there will be established in Paris a central reference library of 10,000 volumes, available to any American soldier in France. Upon application of a hut secretary any book in the Paris library will be sent anywhere in France free of charge.

At every bookshelf the men find a poster which reads: "These books are loaned on the honor system. If you fall, it falls. America is far away, tonnage scarce and books precious. Play square with the other fellow; he has played square with you."

Fiction Predominates. The books sent to Europe have been of two kinds, those contributed and those purchased by the funds of the association, which have amounted to \$1,000,000. The variety of contributed books is astounding and ranges from mystery stories to theological treatises, from murder yarns to Milton's poems. Fiction, of course, predominates.

No army in history ever read so omniverously as has the American army in France. The men are greedy for books. In the days when the supply was inadequate, the demand was so great that a doughboy who had taken over in his barrack bag a copy of O. Henry's "The Four Million" split it into pamphlets, each containing one of the author's short stories. He passed the copies, thus, abbreviated, along the line, and they literally were read to pieces.

The most insistent call is for detective thrillers and for tales of the Rocky mountains. Next comes the demand for poetry. Robert W. Service is the soldier's favorite poet, with Rudyard Kipling a close second. Guide books which describe chateaus, cathedrals and points of historic interest are in great demand, as well as histories of France. A recent cable message to this country called for 500 copies of "Jeanne d'Arc," showing that the Maid of Orleans is as popular as the modern French maidens.

Demand for Serious Reading. The librarians have been surprised at the unexpected demand for serious reading. Many a soldier has evidently chosen war times to get in a dig at some books the reading of which he has hitherto postponed to a more convenient season. With a perfectly straight face a doughboy inquired the other day for Boswell's "Life of Johnson."

Of course more than one inappropriate book has found its way overseas. Imagine the emotions of the young giant who stalked into a "Y" hut, settled down for a quiet evening, and found that the first book staring him in the face was one of the gushiest and most effervescent of the Elsie books.

Most of the money spent for the 565,000 purchased books has gone for technical volumes designated to aid the ambitious soldier in mastering the science of war. Among these are books on the psychology of color for the camouflage corps, the chemistry of high explosives, ballistics, sanitary engineering, hydrostatics, meteorology, applied geology and other subjects on which the modern soldier must be a specialist.

"SOLID IVORY" IN THE ARMY

Recruit Believed That He Should Carry Out His Orders Regardless.

Vancouver Barracks, Wash.—Certainty in regard to but one part of his orders on the part of a recruit sentry here nearly caused the wounding of an officer of the day. The sentry, armed with a loaded rifle, challenged the officer on his approach.

"Halt!" he shouted in best form. The officer halted and waited for the rest of the challenge.

"Halt!" shouted the sentry again. The officer began to exhibit interest, especially as the sentry threw up his rifle and took careful aim.

"Hey! What the blankety-blank are you doing?" shouted the officer.

"I got orders to say 'halt' three times and then fire," said the sentry.

The officer then explained that this drastic action was only to be adopted when the challenged intruder did not answer as per form, and the sentry was much relieved to learn that he would not have to start killing until he got "over there."

That Dark-haired Chap from Virginia



says that down South the best people won't chew anything but Real Gravely. They know how it's made—the Gravely way. It costs nothing extra to chew this class of plug. A

small chew of Gravely holds its good taste. That's why it lasts so much longer than a big chew of ordinary plug.

It goes further—that's why you can get the good taste of this class of tobacco without extra cost.

PEYTON BRAND Real Gravely Chewing Plug 10¢ a pouch—and worth it!

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You are assured of a safe depository and courteous treatment at this bank, by ample capital and long experience in the banking business.

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Stayton, Oregon Capital \$25,000.00

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OUR GROCERY DEPARTMENT

has a large line of fancy and staple groceries, canned goods, smoked meats. In fact everything you will find in a first-class Merchandise store is to be found here at prices that are right.

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HOME MADE BREAD, CAKES AND COOKIES

NO ORDER TOO LARGE

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STAYTON

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TALES FROM BIG CITIES

Finds a Five Hundred Dollar Ring in a Giant Codfish

SAN FRANCISCO.—Seafaring men, friends of H. C. Dally, a fisherman who has just returned from Bering sea, contend along the waterfront here that Dally is entitled to a medal with a palm or two on it, and for two reasons. Either he is the luckiest man that ever went fishing, or he is the biggest fishing trip Ananias in or out of captivity. But let Dally tell his own story. "See this ring?" he asked the other day of a small group of friends, at the same time exhibiting a solitaire diamond in platinum setting that had evidently been worn by a woman, and which was inscribed "From C. to J." upon the inside.



"It's a daisy, isn't it?" was Dally's next question, which he answered himself by saying: "It sure is, and I'll tell ye how I got it. I was up in the Bering sea cleaning codfish at the rate of three a minute and paying no particular attention to anything else, when suddenly I picked up the biggest codfish I'd ever seen in me lifetime. He was a beauty, too. Fat? The fattest I'd ever handled.

"All right, mates. I plumped by knife into him and was just about to pass him along when something shiny in his 'hards' caught my eye. It was this ring. Yes, sir; this same sparkler that I'm a-showin' you.

"Now, lads; how'd that ring get in that fish's stomach? Whose ring is it, or whose was it, anyway? I'm willing to return the ring to the owner, but ownership must be satisfactorily established, as the stone alone is worth \$500 a Jeweler tells me. Yes, sir, 500 beans—simoleons—plasters.

"I'm going to look up a brainy newspaper fellow—if there are any brainy ones left, now that the smart guys are all at the front or getting ready to go there—and have him write a story about it, and mebbe I'll get a nice reward, anyway, if the owner is found."

New Schedule Effective Nov. 1 '18 Kingston--Stayton--Salem AUTO STAGE

7:37 a. m.	Lv Kingston	Ar 1:45 p. m.
7:50 "	" Stayton	1:20 "
8:00 "	Sublimity	1:10 "
8:20 "	Aumsville	12:50 "
8:40 "	Turner	12:30 "
8:55 "	State Hospital	12:15 "
9:00 "	Cottage Farm	12:10 "
9:10 "	Ar Salem	Lv 12:00 "

STAYTON-KINGSTON

7:15 a. m.	Lv Stayton	Ar 2:15 p. m.
7:25 "	Ar Kingston	Lv 2:00 "

Meets Train at Northbound ROUND TRIP TICKETS GOOD FOR THIRTY DAYS

Kingston--Salem	\$1.75
Stayton--Salem	\$1.62
Sublimity--Salem	\$1.50

Hamman Auto Stage

Library Chief Says Books Keep Yank Soldiers Out of Trouble Overseas.

New York.—Declaring that the "leisure hour of the American overseas is the hour of greatest moral peril," and that good reading does much to keep lonely soldiers straight, Dr. M. L. Rainey, field manager of the American Library association, has reported to the New York state branch how soldiers, sailors and social workers have been provided with good reading matter. Doctor Rainey said that in ten months the association has established 42 libraries for the army and stocked them with 600,000 books and 2,000,000 magazines, all of which had been contributed. The working force consisted of 318 persons, one-third of whom served without pay.

The Mail is \$1.50 a Year