

# OREGON SOLDIERS LETTERS FROM THE WAR CLOSE TO HOME

## Lieutenant Short Now on Gunboat Monocacy.

Although Enjoying Novel Sights of China Active Service in Atlantic Is Longed For.

LIEUTENANT EDWIN SHORT, who is in service on board the gunboat Monocacy, patrolling the river Yangtze, in China, writes to a friend in this city, saying that although he is enjoying the work and the novel sights of China, he longs to be in active service in the Atlantic. The Monocacy is reported by recent dispatches as having been fired on by Chinese soldiers.

"I have certainly been mixed up and distributed since I last wrote you and I am feeling considerable of this station since I left Cavite. Thinking I had been in the islands long enough to need a health trip, the Admiral ordered me to the Cincinnati, which was to make a couple of months' trip up north. From Manila we went directly to Yokohama and spent the month there. Then we went to Kobe and the ship stayed about five days there, but as I had previously told the Admiral that I had plenty of duty in the Philippines, when we arrived in Kobe and found that China had declared war, I was ordered to the Monocacy, one of our small river gunboats which had been interned in Shanghai river since we had entered the war, and was ordered away from the 'Cincy' the same day, so did not get ashore in Kobe.

"I left Kobe on the 'Galveston,' spent a week in Nagasaki, and then sailed for Shanghai. So I consider that I was the best part of the year, even if I did miss Kobe and Kyoto.

"From Yokohama, I went up to Tokyo a couple of times and also visited several of the mountains and sea shore resorts. Of course, I saw my fill of Buddhist and Shinto temples and shrines including the big 'Buddha,' 'Jishu-ten,' at Kamakura, and had tea several times at the famous Perry tea house of the hundred steps. Most every one who visits Japan has tea at this place and leaves his card or writes his name in a big scrap book which they keep.

"I spent all of one afternoon looking through these books and found the names of many people I know. The shops and stores were as interesting to me as anything else and I spent hours in them. I am glad I did not have to carry more junk to carry around with me. I should like to visit Japan again on my way home. Though, after being in one place for two and a half years, I don't treat to get aboard a cruising ship again, and I have almost made up my mind to call it quits with 'Sub.' I can't change my mind though, if I get an opportunity to go back to the Sub school in New London.

"Japan is a wonderful country and in many ways I can't help but admire the people for their progressiveness, especially after seeing the difference between them and the Chinese.

"Shanghai is the most modern and American looking city in the East and is also about the busiest. At present the rate of exchange is so high that one has to spend a great deal of money to get around here, but that is due to the war. So much silver is needed to pay the troops in Europe, mostly the Hindoo and Asiatic troops, who want 'real' money, that a Mexican dollar has advanced from 43 cents gold to about 89 cents gold, so that where a gold dollar was worth 2 1/2 Mexican dollars before the war, it is now worth about one and a quarter. The price of things in Mexico is still about the same as it was for the lower rate of exchange. So money is practically gold now. I do not suppose this financial dope interests you, but it is quite a vital question out here.

"After three days in Shanghai, I left on this boat for Hankow to join my ship, or rather my 'pit' kit. I was surprised to find that the comfort and modern boats here on the Yangtze. This boat is far ahead of any of the river boats on the Columbia, although not so fast. It is an English built ship, the ship's officers being all English or Scotch and the crew Chinese.

"It is 600 miles from Shanghai to Hankow and just at this time of the year, as the height of the water begins to drop, there is a strong current in the river and we only make about six or seven knots. At present the water at Hankow is about 41 feet above normal, or zero, four feet below the maximum for this year.

"Large, ocean-going steamers go up to Hankow at all heights of water except the lowest in winter. The country along the banks is similar to that along the Columbia, with hills and mountains, with occasional ranges of hills in the background and here and there coming down to the river's edge.

## Everything along the banks is green and so is the brush and small trees.

The natives cut them down before they get to be of any size. Almost all the land along the river is cultivated and some of it has been inundated for a couple of months and the water is just leaving it. The river is as muddy as coffee and about that color.

The Monocacy is one of two flat-bottomed gunboats we have which go up the Yangtze about 1800 miles above Hankow through two sets of mountain ranges and their gorges and rapids. The boats draw only about two feet of water and have their propellers in tunnels.

"The boats are about 150 feet long, I think, and carry two line officers and a surgeon, besides a crew of about 40 men. I am 'second,' the C. D. being a fellow officer ahead of me who has been up twice before as 'second.' Four



Lieutenant Edwin Short, who is on Gunboat Monocacy in China Patrolling the River Yangtze.

other countries have boats of a similar type, but as they have been interned since 1914, I doubt if they will be able to get them up the river on this high water. The two boats, Monocacy and Palos, are the fastest of their type on the river and can do 13 knots. During the winter months in Chung King the only communication with the outside world is by mail, which is carried by native runners, and the mail arrives about once in two months, so I will be pretty much of a case, nothing to do and all winter to do it.

"I would give anything to be back on the Atlantic, where I could see and service, but the Admiral told all of us who put in requests to go that the department left us out here because they thought we were needed. I guess we will stay for a while at least. I feel like a sick man when I see some of the British sailors out here who have been in the service for years, but I had rather be up here seeing some of the stations, if I have to stay out here, than in Cavite."

## Transport's Encounter With U-Boat Described.

Chehalis Boy Writes of Exciting Incident on U. S. T. Baltic.

CHEHALIS, Wash., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—How the United States transport The Baltic narrowly escaped being sunk by a submarine on the 28th of November, last, as it approached Liverpool on a trip from New York, is vividly described in a letter received here by parents of a Chehalis boy who is now "somewhere in France" serving in the aviation corps. The writer's name is withheld from publication by special request.

The Baltic sailed from New York with 12 other vessels about November 20. The weather was rough the first two or three days and the fourth there was a heavy storm, many being blown off their courses. On November 27, passengers on the ships were startled by a loud shot which had been fired by one of the three submarine destroyers which were guarding the Baltic. The other 12 ships in the convoy were also likewise guarded by other submarine destroyers. The gunners of the submarine destroyer which had fired the shot had observed a submarine and had fired at it.

The submarine submerged at once, but came up again soon, got the range of the Baltic and fired a torpedo in its direction. The submarine then started to submerge, when one of the destroyers dropped a depth bomb close to it, and the submarine was blown to pieces, sinking at once. In the meantime the destroyer had signaled the Baltic, the officers of which at once picked up the vessel and succeeded in partially turning its course. The torpedo struck the front end of the Baltic, glancing a blow, but fortunately did not explode. However, it tore a large hole in the boat, following which the whistle signaled all aboard to the lifeboats.

These were reached without disorder of any kind and all waited for the signal to drop to the water. It was fortunate that the destroyers were so close to the submarine, for the Baltic was very little sleep that night on account of the excitement of the early evening. Liverpool was reached safely the morning of the 29th.

The writer spoke of the splendid reception given the American boys in France by the U. S. C. A. and commended the officers of the Baltic highly. The letter was written from Chehalis, France, and when mailed the local boys there were in good health, good spirits and enjoying splendid weather.

## Lack of Holiday Spirit Is Noticeable in France.

Walter Tannensee, of Portland, With Interesting Letter Describing Conditions of American Soldiers "Over There."

WALTER TANNENSEE is a well-known Portland boy and a graduate of Lincoln High School, who is with the 24th Company of the Quartermaster's Corps "somewhere in France." He is a prominent athlete and an excellent football player and wrestler.

His mother recently received a letter from him, which was written on the day before Christmas.

"I surely wish that I were going to be home for Christmas," he writes, "so could see all of my old friends. It is hard to say what we will be doing tomorrow, as there are no holidays in the Army. Christmas in this country is not like the Christmas in the States. The people do not seem to take the interest in it that we do at home. Perhaps it is on account of the war. Everything is practically at a standstill here. I expected everything here to be about the same as it was during the reign of Napoleon. No doubt the houses, streets and watering places have not been altered. The houses are of a very old type, and one can tell how many rooms there are in the house by counting the chimneys. Most of the houses have a stove as they are able to walk; also some of the women. Believe me, they never can keep me here after the war.

"We have one nice place to go and that is to the Y. M. C. A. It seems to me that wherever you go there is a Y. M. C. A. They are doing a great deal for the boys in the Army. One can get practically anything there, excepting candy, cake, etc. They are preparing rooms with several shower baths, although it is hard to say just when we will be able to use them. The company is allowed 250 pounds of turkey for Christmas. We will have a reminder of home. We have plenty to eat and a good place to sleep.

"Taking everything into consideration this is surely some experience and I am glad that I enlisted."

## Camp Lewis Officers Are Praised by Soldier.

Forrest L. Moe, of Hood River, Writes Interesting Letter Regarding Activities at Northwest Training Camp.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—Forrest L. Moe, formerly a sergeant of Twelfth Company, Oregon Coast Artillery, stationed at Fort Canby, Wash., in a letter to his mother, Mrs. A. D. Moe, tells of the activities at the recently established Northwest training camp at Camp Lewis, where he is now engaged in intensive study.

"I think there are about 550 men in the camp in the field artillery and 550 in the infantry. We are assigned to companies of 100 men each, and each company is divided into four platoons, which are further divided into sections. Each company has two cantonment buildings, which provide us with plenty of room for rest and study. The buildings are equipped with electric lights, and we burn both wood and coal in the furnaces, two of which are installed in each building.

"We sleep on iron spring cots and are provided with a straw mattress, two blankets and a comforter. Each roll out of bed; roll call, at which we are dressed and in military formation; 8 to 6:30, attend to toilet duties; 6:30, breakfast; 7:10, inspection of barracks by officers of our company; 7:30 to 8:30, physical exercise; 8:30 to 9:30, drill; 9:30 to 10:30, lecture; 10:30 to 11:45, drill; 12, dinner; 1:15 to 1:30, lecture; 2 to 2:50, drill; 3 to 3:30, physical exercise; 3:30 to 4:30, practice march, hike; 4:30 to 5, read mail, daily papers, etc.; 5, supper; 5:30 to 7, have this time for recreation and go to the Army exchange, where we can buy stamps, candy, tobacco, etc., or visit with friends; 7 to 8, study and examination period.

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man is provided with a chair, but has to hold a suitcase on his lap to serve as a table or writing desk. We are very comfortable and well provided for.

"This is an ideal site for a large Army camp. The ground is level and has a good, natural drainage. The soil is a coarse gravel, and the hills in the distance are well supplied with fir trees. Within 12 hours after a heavy rain the water has soaked into the ground. The ground comprises about 1900 acres, on which we can execute almost any kind of maneuver.

"Our work programme is posted on a bulletin board a week in advance, and it is followed to the letter—weather permitting. When the weather is bad we are given special lectures dealing with conditions and experience met on the firing line. Our hours of work are the same every day, except Saturday and Sunday.

"Following our programme: "At 5:45 A. M., first call, at which we

roll out of bed; roll call, at which we are dressed and in military formation; 8 to 6:30, attend to toilet duties; 6:30, breakfast; 7:10, inspection of barracks by officers of our company; 7:30 to 8:30, physical exercise; 8:30 to 9:30, drill; 9:30 to 10:30, lecture; 10:30 to 11:45, drill; 12, dinner; 1:15 to 1:30, lecture; 2 to 2:50, drill; 3 to 3:30, physical exercise; 3:30 to 4:30, practice march, hike; 4:30 to 5, read mail, daily papers, etc.; 5, supper; 5:30 to 7, have this time for recreation and go to the Army exchange, where we can buy stamps, candy, tobacco, etc., or visit with friends; 7 to 8, study and examination period.

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## Vancouver Soldiers Edit Paper in France.

"What Do You Call It" Has No Name, but Is Live Wire.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—"No one loves a crabber. Smile, dammit, smile! You're lucky to be alive," is one of the pithy items in a paper, published behind the trenches in France, by the aviators from this section of the United States.

The editor has not found a name for his paper yet. It is now called "What Do You Call It" and a prize is being offered for a name.

Captain George F. Kearney is business manager; Lieutenant H. G. Canda, advertising manager; Harrison R. Tucker, Cadet, editor; John Jacob Niles, Cadet, associate editor; Austin J. Smith, Cadet, business manager; and editor, J. William Shook; assistant pressman, Shepherd K. Nash, Cadet.

Rumor—The Quartermaster Department issues six packets to the cadets. Will they fly now?

A toast in the A. R. C.: Coffee, cocoa, smiles and tea. "Come on, fair Miss Death, we're here; May she always stay right here. Cause she cheers us when she's near.

Auto rumor—U. S. declares war on Austria, and the car is now called "A. R. C. 'Treat' Sunday knew they were celebrating the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, marking the victory of Jews over the Syrians." Mrs. Morris Jacoby, of New York City, gave the funds for the feed through Miss Sophia Berger of this post.

Life in a Hangar

"The hangar looks," the sergeant said; "The rain drips down upon my head; Each night when bedtime comes to me, I look right at the ceiling and see the Cadets at night have no respect for their own lives. I don't sleep. Ah! How the chills run down my back. When those steel jackets go smack! smack! I don't know what I'm doing. And hope the fight is called a draw; There is no man with guts enough to stand up to a downy blow. They may be only damned cadets, but sure we spread 'em 'bout camp."

Y. M. C. A. plans. Jerry Reynolds, a student at the University of Oregon, will stage a singing contest Friday night in the auditorium at 7:30; movies will be shown Thursday and Saturday.

Monday night of each week is to be "Soldiers' Night" with local talent on the bill. A minstrel show for Christmas night is being rehearsed.

Tube, a joyful jazz band, blend with rich melody at musical. It was an event bringing gladness to all who were there, making them forget for the time the "horror" of war.

Captain Ramsome out-launched Lauder, the boys applauded so heartily they almost fell from their perches around the walls and windows. The boys were filled and 500 more needed. The outside room was full of those who could not see but heard through the windows. Seductive strains on his clarinet, a solo, and a rousing bit of applause, while the tinkling tones of the jazz orchestra resulted in four encores. "The Old Family Toothbrush," rendered by a soloist, was a rousing bit of the climax of the show. Jones Midgely and Irwin performed in their usual inimitable manner.

SPEED IN SPIRIT OF AUD SHOWN IN KILNER FIELD GAMES SUNDAY (By Cadet H. L. Pinkley)

Did you see them—the 66 grimy, gory, grid giants battling through mud and rain on Kilner Field Sunday? Seven hundred spears, spears, spears, the teams with all the pep of college students back home. Bets were made; hats busted and dignity lost. Every player was a going leader, from Parley Long and Woolsey, being small constellations, handling the slippery oval with the skill of All-American heroes.

Was it a game? No, it was a riot. The teams of the cadets squared 52 and 54 have a look-in on the cup, each having collected a game. The 52nd won the toss of a coin which decided the game. The 54th, which is still in the cup race. (The coin referred to was a franc.) An all-post team is to be picked at the end of the season and men who make this team will be real "Grid Lizards."

Wolbert, who injured his landing gear on a forced landing, was the only man hurt. It was perhaps the only flagging of the players, who were assorted Q. M. issues.

## French People Are Glad to See American Soldiers.

Corporal E. P. Glazier Writes of His Observations "Over There." The French Are Odd, but Girls Are Good-Looking.

CORPORAL EUGENE P. GLAZIER, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Glazier, of 667 East Clinton street, was one of the first to enlist when the call for volunteers sounded. He is a graduate of the Y. M. C. A. automobile school and is "somewhere in France" with the 76th Aero Construction Squadron.

In a letter which was written to his family recently he says:

"Everything is so much different-looking here than at home. The houses are old and the streets are unusually narrow. The people all seem to be glad to see us. The girls are good-looking, especially with khaki suits on. The people dress about the same as they do in the United States. The streets are about half as large as ours. The automobiles are different in design and so are the steam trucks. We don't have any trouble in getting our money changed. The pennies here are as large as half dollars, so it does not take much to make a pocket full of money.

"There is snow on the ground and some more fell today. We are living the same here as we did at Kelly Field, but it is a lot more comfortable. There is plenty of good water and the fellows can get good beer and wine if they want to buy it. Things here are priced about the same as they are in the States.

"The Y. M. C. A. is in talking to the Welsh, Scotch, Irish, English and French and South Africans and making them understand us. Almost all of the shopkeepers speak English."

## Ambulance Driver Relates Experience in France.

Dropping of Shells and Artillery Duels Provide Excitement.

ALBERT GENTNER (17), who was one of the first Red Cross men to enlist, is now serving in Section 60-10 United States Ambulance Service, with the French army, Amexford, France. In a letter received at the college this week he writes as follows:

"I suppose this will reach you after Christmas vacation and I must go to work and dances. The holidays pass here almost without recognition, for we have no legal holidays in the Army calendar, nor do we have any. Thanksgiving, though, is a day that will be remembered, for we had a wonderful feed. Sometimes we are apt to forget that we ever did anything but act as ambulance drivers or that we ever lived in any other world but this one. Back home is something like another world.

"My world at present is a little dug-out about three-fourths of a mile from the front trenches and trips to the hospital in the rear with blesses and malades. Several of us live at the post of about three-fourths of a mile from the front trenches and trips to the hospital in the rear with blesses and malades. Several of us live at the post of about three-fourths of a mile from the front trenches and trips to the hospital in the rear with blesses and malades. Several of us live at the post of about three-fourths of a mile from the front trenches and trips to the hospital in the rear with blesses and malades.

## French People Sad, Writes Sid Prairie.

Eugene Boy Says Contrast With Americans Great.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—The countenance of France is sad and the faces of the people over there offer a striking contrast to the happy faces of the Americans that the soldier leaves behind, according to a letter received here from Sid Prairie, formerly an employee of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Eugene. His letter, which is addressed to J. A. McKeivitt, announces his safe arrival "somewhere in France," which he designates in the letter as "here."

"There is a great difference in the expressions of the people's faces here," he writes. "Everybody looks sad, and half of the women are wearing crepe. I guess the people of the United States don't know there's a war going on."

Prairie first landed in Liverpool. "You are only allowed two ounces of bread a meal in England," he writes. "We were about starved out there."

## Soldiers Cheerful Despite Disappointments.

Private Frank Story Makes Light of His Troubles in France.

PRIVATE FRANK STORY, 30th Company, Fifth Regiment, U. S. M. C., is among the many who have failed to receive packages sent from this country to France. As an indication, however, of the cheerful spirit with which the boys accept their disappointment, he adds: "Everything is running smoothly." His recent letter to his mother, Mrs. M. Story, 1815 East Davis street, makes light of his troubles:

"Your letters of November 4 and 8 came Saturday, December 29, the only one I received for a month. I haven't received the package as yet, nor have I received any tobacco from home. I spent a very enjoyable Christmas, and thanksgiving, had turkey both days. I received a package from Aunt Rose, containing a sweater, helmet and three packs of cigarettes. I wish you to send me a pack of cigarettes as it will come in very handy. I have been in the hospital since Friday. Expect to get out in a few days.

"Dude, from Coal Bay, was near me; in fact, was in the same camp. Now there is a big distance between us. Everything is running smoothly."

## Oregon City Boy Tells of Christmas in France.

Albert M. Scripture, Now With the Thirty-first Aero Squadron, Is Anxious to Be "Up and at Them."

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 24.—S. F. Scripture, of Oregon City, is in receipt of two letters from his son, A. M. Scripture, who is with the 31st Aero Squadron.

Former Oregonian carrier is making good in U. S. NAVAL SERVICE.

## Soldier Sleeps in Barn and Eats on Snowbank.

Homer Lefell Says "Wild" Rumors Are Numerous in France.

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"This is a great life," he writes. "We sleep in a barn, eat on a snowbank and walk all the time. We have been here about five weeks and the more I see of 'Sunny' France the more I think of the old United States.

"We had a fine trip across. It took 14 days and there was good weather all the way. No submarines were sighted, but we were heavily convoyed. Even at that, it wasn't exactly a pleasant trip.

"Rumors are numerous here. One rumor is that we are going to move to Italy. Another is that Japan has declared war on the United States, and that we may go down the line to Verdun. We call these 'Lafayette' rumors. We get very little news. The nearest one gets to the front, the less news one hears. One thing we are sure of, we are going to move.

"Lefell was a member of the 1915 graduating class of the University of Oregon and is a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

## Soldiers in France Enjoy the Letters From Home.

August Olin Says Cigarettes and Sweets Are Difficult to Obtain in War Zone—His Dinner Feature of Christmas Celebration.

A LITTLE free discussion on the subject of letters is uppermost in the soldier's mind is found in a letter from August Olin, who is now on the French front. Olin was employed by the Schwab Printing Company and lived at Hiawatha. The letter, which is addressed to his family, shows him to be a "don't find much time to write any, so I will have to write to everybody at once. A fellow can't write much here that will get by the censor, anyway; about all they will allow us to write is 'Hello—I'm well—goodbye.'"

"Since coming here I have been on the jump about all the time and finally landed with a bunch of regulars. Darn good company, too, and have quite a reputation that they made in the trenches.

"It is pretty cold here. It has snowed all day and although I have been out, I didn't mind it much, for I am getting so hard that I can stand most anything. We don't have such a bad time of it here. They treat us white and the meals are good. Wood is very scarce, but lately they have given us coal, so we can keep a fire burning in the evening.

"France don't make much of a hit with me. The country has gone all that is left is the old people and kids. They use the German prisoners to do most of the work, and they sure have enough to do. There's a man's job ahead of us here and the way it looks to me we will be here for quite a while. But if the people back in the states will wake up and give us a little help we could get out on top. My experiences I am going through will be worth all the hardships I have encountered.

"It is raining here will be hard but interesting. We have gas lectures, have to lay out trenches, build dug-outs, put up wire entanglements and many other things.

"We can buy most everything we want here at about the same price as in the states. Good cigarettes are almost impossible to get. We can get some, but none of the good old brands. 'Yesterday was Christmas and it was a rather quiet one for us here in France. We did not have a big dinner and we did not come out on top. It was about all the difference from any other day.

"We have not received any mail from the states, so we are getting pretty anxious for it to reach us. Here's hoping."

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"It is pretty cold here. It has snowed all day and although I have been out, I didn't mind it much, for I am getting so hard that I can stand most anything. We don't have such a bad time of it here. They treat us white and the meals are good. Wood is very scarce, but lately they have given us coal, so we can keep a fire burning in the evening.

"France don't make much of a hit with me. The country has gone all that is left is the old people and kids. They use the German prisoners to do most of the work, and they sure have enough to do. There's a man's job ahead of us here and the way it looks to me we will be here for quite a while. But if the people back in the states will wake up and give us a little help we could get out on top. My experiences I am going through will be worth all the hardships I have encountered.

"It is raining here will be hard but interesting. We have gas lectures, have to lay out trenches, build dug-outs, put up wire entanglements and many other things.

"We can buy most everything we want here at about the same price as in the states. Good cigarettes are almost impossible to get. We can get some, but none of the good old brands. 'Yesterday was Christmas and it was a rather quiet one for us here in France. We did not have a big dinner and we did not come out on top. It was about all the difference from any other day.

"We have not received any mail from the states, so we are getting pretty anxious for it to reach us. Here's hoping."

## French People Sad, Writes Sid Prairie.

Eugene Boy Says Contrast With Americans Great.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—The countenance of France is sad and the faces of the people over there offer a striking contrast to the happy faces of the Americans that the soldier leaves behind, according to a letter received here from Sid Prairie, formerly an employee of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Eugene. His letter, which is addressed to J. A. McKeivitt, announces his safe arrival "somewhere in France," which he designates in the letter as "here."

"There is a great difference in the expressions of the people's faces here," he writes. "Everybody looks sad, and half of the women are wearing crepe. I guess the people of the United States don't know there's a war going on."

Prairie first landed in Liverpool. "You are only allowed two ounces of bread a meal in England," he writes. "We were about starved out there."

## Soldiers Cheerful Despite Disappointments.

Private Frank Story Makes Light of His Troubles in France.

PRIVATE FRANK STORY, 30th Company, Fifth Regiment, U. S. M. C., is among the many who have failed to receive packages sent from this country to France. As an indication, however, of the cheerful spirit with which the boys accept their disappointment, he adds: "Everything is running smoothly." His recent letter to his mother, Mrs. M. Story, 1815 East Davis street, makes light of his troubles:

"Your letters of November 4 and 8 came Saturday, December 29, the only one I received for a month. I haven't received the package as yet, nor have I received any tobacco from home. I spent a very enjoyable Christmas, and thanksgiving, had turkey both days. I received a package from Aunt Rose, containing a sweater, helmet and three packs of cigarettes. I wish you to send me a pack of cigarettes as it will come in very handy. I have been in the hospital since Friday. Expect to get out in a few days.

"Dude, from Coal Bay, was near me; in fact, was in the same camp. Now there is a big distance between us. Everything is running smoothly."

## Oregon City Boy Tells of Christmas in France.

Albert M. Scripture, Now With the Thirty-first Aero Squadron, Is Anxious to Be "Up and at Them."

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 24.—S. F. Scripture, of Oregon City, is in receipt of two letters from his son, A. M. Scripture, who is with the 31st Aero Squadron.

Former Oregonian carrier is making good in U. S. NAVAL SERVICE.

## Soldier Sleeps in Barn and Eats on Snowbank.

Homer Lefell Says "Wild" Rumors Are Numerous in France.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—The nearer the American soldier gets to the firing line, the less he knows about what is going on in the great world war, according to a letter from Homer V. Lefell, a graduate of the University of Oregon, who is serving with General Pershing's expeditionary forces in France. Lefell, in a letter to Wilbur Carl, a freshman at the university, says this has been true since he arrived on the other side of the Atlantic.

"This is a great life," he writes. "We sleep in a barn, eat on a snowbank and walk all the time. We have been here about five weeks and the more I see of 'Sunny' France the more I think of the old United States.

"We had a fine trip across. It took 14 days and there was good weather all the way. No submarines were sighted, but we were heavily convoyed. Even at that, it wasn't exactly a pleasant trip.

"Rumors are numerous here. One rumor is that we are going to move to Italy. Another is that Japan has declared war on the United States, and that we may go down the line to Verdun. We call these 'Lafayette' rumors. We get very little news. The nearest one gets to the front, the less news one hears. One thing we are sure of, we are going to move.

"Lefell was a member of the 1915 graduating class of the University of Oregon and is a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

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