FIRST HERO OF THE LAND JUST SIMPLE MOUNTAINEER

Sergeant Alvin York, Elder in Church of Christ, and Conscientious Objector, Bravest in All A. E. F.



CORPORAL ALVIN C. YORK.

"Mighty glad the people are so in

Mountain Minister Described.

mountain licker for the flivver in a

suit and Panama hat stood before the cial.)—In the mountain fastnesses door of Wolf church last Sunday after-of Fentress county, Tennessee, noon and talked for over an hour about three miles south of the Kentucky line, his third elder. the mother of Alvin C. York sat at her wheel this week and spun as she waited for the return of her boy from France. Alvin arrived there in time for the Memorial day celebration.

And Alvin, known to the mountain people as "Big 'Un," is home.

Up there in the "rough country" of the people as "Big 'Un," is home.

Up there in the "rough country" of the worked hard and everybody respects the could be added to the people as "Big 'Un," is home.

Up there in the "rough country" of the upper Cumberlands was born Alvin Cullom York, "holiness" preacher and Pershing's pick as "the greatest hero of the American army."

Up there today his mother's heart is made glad. And there, up the mountain road near the little mill, lives Gracie Williams, 17, and the belle of Three Forks o' Wolf, as the neighborhood is known. She holds the heart of the six-foot hero in her hands, for when he went to the war he "left it up to her" to take him or turn shim down battle tank going into any control of the state of the boulder. Cuillom York, "holiness" preacher and Pershing's pick as "the greatest here of the American army."

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York Family Is Poor.

When family is poor. Their also has a gazoline engine at his place, it is place, it is place, it is place to the boundar roads like a battle tank going into action, or chug-chugging down a creek-bed that serves a stretch of the way as the road. He also has a gazoline engine at his place, it is place, it is place, it is place to the boundar roads like a battle tank going into action, or chug-chugging down a creek-bed that serves a stretch of the way as the road. He

York Family Is Poor. The family of York is poor. Their farm of 75 acres raises barely enough for a living for York's mother and her eight children. Alvin York, before he entered the army, was a laborer on other people's farms and on the county

roads.

Mountain folks up in the Wolf river country don't know Alvin York as a hero. They've heard rumors to that hero. They've heard rumors published

hero. They've heard rumors to that effect, following the stories published in all the papers of America. York himself has never written home of what he did.

To them he is simply "Big 'Un," an elder in the "holiness" church and leader of the country choir. It is as the churchman that he holds his place among them, not as the soldier here of the Arsonne drive.

mountain licker for the flivver in a pinch.

Alvin Cullom York was born December 13, 1887. He was within one month of 29 years old when, on November 13, 1917, he left home as a drafted man for Camp Gordon. Previous to that he had worked as a day laborer on the roads and neighboring farms.

He was the first York ever in the army, as far back as the family can remember. He did not want to go. As a member of the Church of Christ in Christian Union he did not believe in fighting. He was the head of a family of ten. The family was very poor. He tried to claim exemption and was told that he had to go anyhow. Even after he got to camp he was hard to convince that his duty lay in the army. He wrote back for affidavits that he was resided at home. the Argonne drive.

York's family, with the exception of himself and two of his brothers, are Methodists. Up until four years ago the red-haired Alvin drank his "mountain dew" and gamed for money with the best of them. The church was not for him. He went at times to "meetin's" at Wolf church or Possum Trothut the best of them to relegion. He loved to sing and the mountain folks. And he of the young mountain girl to whom he offered his heart when he left for thattle. For these two considerations.

Then the ease two alone, he went to "meetin."

York Gets Religion.

Then the new church came, the Church of Christ in Christian Union. Rev. R. C. Pile, known to his flock simply as "Rosier," was the new pastor. A few people only would come at first to hear his creed. Wolf church, the "meetin," house of the Methodists, was used by the new sect when not in use by the new sect when not in use by the new sect when not in use by the mean sect when not in use by the mean sect when not in use by the heard set when he left for meetin, house of the Methodists.

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by the new sect when not in use by the Methodists.

One Sunday morning, it was, the sixfoot mountaineer, eager to lead the singing, as he did everywhere around Three Forks o' Wolf, came to hear Rosier preach. He sat by the back of the door, paying little heed to what Rosier was a saying. When the hand-Rosier preach. He sat by the back of the door, paying little heed to what Rosier was a saying. When the handful of real listeners rose to sing, York rose with them and led the hymns.

"I can see him now," said the mountair preacher, speaking of his boy in France. "He has a nowerful volce and present two-room cabin. His fother "I

ful of real listeners rose to sing. York rose with them and led the hymns.

"I can see him now," said the mountain preacher, speaking of his boy in France. "He has a powerful voice, and when he sings he rears back his shock of red hair and lets 'er come forth.

"I can show you the very spot where he got religion. And from that day to this he has followed it to the word. Before he killed those Germans I know he had reasoned in his heart that it was right to kill them. If he hadn't he wouldn't have fired a shot."

The congregation of the Church of Christ in Christian Union now averages less. They hold Sunday school in the little church every Sunday morning, with "meetin's" twice a month.

And those "meetin's" are not the congregation. Rosier knows his flock and holds them in when in the leader of all musical events for miles and miles around.

York was born on the site of his present two-room cabin. His father was a blacksmith. The family owned to have a blacksmith the family owned to have a living.

Father Killed in Fend.

Mrs. Mary York, mother of Alvin, was a Brooks, a family populous in the neighborhood. Her father, the first of "the Brooks," was murdered as the climax of a wild mountain feud. He came to Tennessee from Michigan before the Civil War and married. For with "meetin's" twice a month.

And those "meetin's" are not the Confederacy; and when all of the men the congregation. Rosier knows his flock and holds them in when in the mountain feud as the climax of a wild mountain feud. He came to Tennessee from Michigan before the Civil War and married. For mitted the confederacy; and when all of the men the confederacy and when all of the men the confederacy; and when all of the men the confederacy and when all of the men the confederacy and when all of the men the confederacy and when all of the men the c

"Alvin's anxious to get home," she said. "He writes that he's a-pinin' for the singin's again. Says it won't seem like home if the singin' and prayer and a says and a says and be seen. meetin' ain't goin' on when he gets

He will not be disappointed, Rosier says. Since Brother York left the prayer meetings and the singings have

in fail, but the hatred of the others was too bitter to wait his trial. He was brought out and shot, his body tied to a horse's tall, and as the animal raced down the mountain road the feudists pumped Brooks' body full of lead.

The union men it was that killed him. But today his grandson, for bravery under the union flag, has been decorated with the nation's greatest

Alvin grew up as one of the wildest Alvin grew up as one of the wildest of the neighborhood. He drank, gambled and fought. Because of his immense size and strength men called him "Big 'Un," and the nick-name is what he is known by up there now. "Alvin was a kind of wild boy," his mother said. "He drank liquor a lot after his father died. But then he got religion and has been a mighty good boy ever since."

Rev. R. C. Pile, pastor of the Church of Christ in Christian Union there at of Christ in Christian Union there at Wolf church, is the man who converted York. He made a good job of it, for the big mountaineer is now third elder in the church, leader of the choir and preacher upon occasion.

"He follows our faith," said Mr. Pile. "We don't use tobacco, smoke, drink, cuss or raise hell. He has always followed what our church teaches.

"When he went away we asked him to say good-by to the members of the church. He wouldn't do it. Said he was coming back. Told me the Lord had revealed to him that he was coming back.

ing back.
"I got a letter a few days ago from

"I got a letter a few days ago from a man asking me if we were going to take Brother Fork back when he came home. The man said if we take him back we do away with conscientious objection, and if we don't take him back we lose a great man. Well, all I've got to say is that if York's conscience is clear, mine is."

York's aweetheart is Miss Gracie Williams, who, though 15 years his junior, seems to hold the matrimonial situation pretty well in hand. When the red-haired glant left for the war, he just "left it to her to take him if she wanted him when he came back." Whether or not she'll take him, nobody but Gracie Williams knows. Williams knows.

Youth Always a Dead Shot.

A little conversation with any of York's neighbors will unfailingly bring out the fact that he was a dead shot in the fullest sense.

A little old man in gray clothes and uncertain whiskers, who sat on the side of the river just above the mill, was accosted by the stranger, who asked the foolish question if York was a good shot.

shot.

The little old man looked up with an air of knowledge offended at igno-"Yes, sir," he said emphatically. "He

"Yes, sir," he said emphatically. "He was a good, old-time shooter!"
York could kill a fox running as far as he could see him. His neighbors tell you that offhand. He shot in the turkey matches, clipping the gobbler's head at 50 yards. He shot in "pony purses" for money. In all the matches he always excelled,
Fox hunting, however, was his favorite sport, and in one season he has

the sport, and in one season he has killed as many as 25, his mother said. He hunted them far and near over the mountains, and their skins, with those of the coons, possums and skunk, he sold for profit.

His father, too, was an extra shooter, said Mrs. York. "He used to win beeves and over their art their and over their as their and over their at their

and hogs and everything at their and nogs and everything at their matches.

"Once Alvin and some more boys ran a fox out of his hole into the bushes and Alvin shot him. Just like his paw, he was—no trouble for him to knock

also has a gasoline engine at his place, and buys his "gas" for it and the "Liz-zie" by the barrel over at East James-town, many miles away. Thought as how he might also use some of that Since he has been in France Sergeant York has written twice a week to his mother. She keeps his last letter always on the high mantel over the fire-place, and when the next letter comes she takes its predecessor to a big wooden box with all the others she has received from him since he has been away. Since he has been in France Sergeant

Letter Written to His Mother. In his last letter the big mountain

err shows his simple love for his home and home folks. From near Bordeaux he writes as follows:

Awaiting York at home is a letter from the sister of his "bunkle," Cor-poral Murray L. Savage, who was killed while fighting with York in the Ar-gonue. The writer of the letter, Mrs. Hollis McPherson of East Bloomfield, N. Y., asks news of how her brother

The mother of Sergeant York said she The mother of Sergeant York said she didn't know whether or not he would accept the offer of the polytechnic school at Cockeville to go there and get an education.

"I don't know whether Alvin will want to leave here or not," she said.

'He has always been such a great home Asked if she would like to move to Cookeville into the big house the town has offered her, she said:

"I hardly know about that, I sin't never been no place. Just used to the biuffs and the mountains. A-body ought to be satisfied, though where he can do the most good."

Land Conditions Outlined.

The Oregon state chamber of com-merce has in the hands of the printer the copy for a new folder on land setrewdy sort. None of that goes in that congregation. Rosier knows his flock and holds them in when, in the rare occasions that men get together up in those parts, somebody feels it incumsebent upon himself to start a fight. Not so very far from Three Forks o' Wolf, at enother church, a young man had his threat cut in a brawl.

What York thinks of his church and its life is told by his mother.

Soldier Anxiers for Cat. We had not be men the copy for a new folder on land settlement conditions in the state. It the union army he stayed at home. A presents in concise form an outline of the Oregon land settlement commission, but its chief value is in the copy for a new folder on land settlement conditions in the state. It the union army he stayed at home. A presents in concise form an outline of the Oregon land settlement conditions in the state. It the oregon land settlement conditions in the state. It the oregon land settlement commission, but its chief value is in the copy for a new folder on land settlement conditions in the state. It the oregon land settlement commission, but its chief value is in the copy for a new folder on land settlement conditions in the state. It the oregon land settlement conditions to the oregon land settlement conditions in the state. It the oregon land settlement conditions to the oregon land settlement conditions in the state. It thement conditions in the state. It thement conditions in the state. It the oregon land settlement conditions to the union army he stayed at home. A presents in concise for the oregon land settlement conditions to the union army he stayed at home. A presents in concise for the oregon land settlement conditions to the union army he stayed at home. A presents in concise for the oregon land settlement conditions.

Doctor Tells How To Strengthen Eyesight 50 Per Cent In One Week's Time In Many Instances

says. Since Brother York left the prayer meetings and the singings have died out at the church. But when the third elder returns the voices of his congregation once more will rise in reverence to the maker of the hills.

"Alvin says he's getting along all right and havin' a good time, and it alin't costin' him nothin." said his mother. "But he wants to see us all bad, he says. He writes to me that he's been singin' and prayin' and talkin' to the boys in the hospitals over in France."

The lauded war hero, for all his honors, is still the third elder in the Church of Christ in Christian Union, doing his duty in the hospitals for his God as he did it on the field of battle for his country. Nobody in all the countryside who knews Alvin York or his people has anything but good words for "Big Un"

They rep powerful glad to know he won his honors.

No one is prouder of him than Rosier.

The little round preacher in his brown

THE UNITED STATES OIL AND GAS COMPANY wish to advise the present stockholders of their stock that a number of wells have been drilled in on adjoining property and are big producers. Here is a facsimile of the latest telegram:

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HAVE NOT COMPLETED UNDERREAMING WHICH IS GOING SLOW BUT SURP

STILL HAVE BUT THE ONE SHIFT WORKING AS I CANNOT FIND MAN SUITABLE

AND WILL TAKE NO CHANCE WITH INEXPERIENCED MAN THEY HAVE A GOOD WELL

AT HAMILTON DOME IN THE EMBAR ESTIMATED AT FIVE HUNDRED BARRELS

C C LANDES FIELD MAN.

This is only one of several. This well is near our property. It looks like we are going over the top, does it not?

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ting boards of the machine, carrying ISENATOR WILL SEEK FUNDS provision for work of this kind in the

ning boards of the machine, carrying his camping outfit just as so many scores of paleface automobile tourists.

Degens of Indian families have motored here this year from Warm Springs and other reservations for the berry harvest. They seem to take more pride in their new power steeds than in ponies of days gone by. The Indians, when calling at garages, make frequent inquiries about good roads. They are ready to offer information on pleasing stretches they have passed over or ling stretches they have passed over or ling work new in progress on projects Senator McNary has advised the state chamber of commerce that he will use every possible effort to secure amendment of the agricultural appropriation gram that brought his answer.

ing stretches they have passed over or to warn against had roads.

A number of the Indian families here picking berries have announced that they will motor over the Columbia river highway to the Portland Rose Festival.

pending bill before congress.

The eight western states produce 250 er cent mare foodstuffs than Pennsylvania, but the Keystene state would receive 80 per cent more of the distribu-

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