

SOLDIER'S LETTER

Following is an interesting letter from William Pracht, who is serving in the United States navy:

January 6, 1919.

Here we are at (get an atlas, an encyclopedia and a history) Zelenika, Dalmatia, which was before the war part of Austria on the Adriatic Sea. It is still on the Adriatic, but to whom it will belong is a question. The Serbs have the best claim, altho the Wopps or Dagoes are hot after it. It is being policed by United States, five hundred and seventy soldiers of the 332nd Infantry are here holding it down. There are other detachments scattered along the coast north and south-west of here.

It is a million years old (Cattaro will show on the map. It is some 15 miles from here at the head of the bay, south). We are near the entrance to the bay, which is narrow and opens to the west and spreads out north and west, T-shaped. I don't know how long the arms are north and south, separated from the sea by peninsulas of high rocky hills, 500 or 600 feet high and precipitous on the seaside, and heavily fortified everywhere. Little settlements or a regular string-town is along the east side.

The Delmatian Alps separate this country from Montenegro and Serbia. They are thousands of feet high (lime stone) all along the coast. The hills are in most part bare of trees other than olive and some orange, cyprus and Lombardy poplar, then brush. The high mountains in the rear are mostly bald.

This bay is a wonderfully pro-

TECTED harbor and has been an Austrian naval base. The Moors or Mosos originally fortified the entrance, as there are dozens of kinds of most ancient ruins. I don't know any of the late history of the capture or taking over of this place, but expect it was surrendered via the armistice.

The mountains and hills about bristle with modern works, batteries, etc. In the harbor are Austrian battleships, cruisers, four submarines, numerous small craft, hangars, hydroplanes, airplanes, shops, sheds, supplies, machinery, arms, ammunition of all kinds and classes, torpedoes, magazines, in fact a complete base.

I took a walk along thru Stringtown south yesterday. Saw more than I could describe. Went thru the U-41 (sub.) There were three others. This boat is up against a sort of stone wharf about one-half long enough for us. (We are 20 feet from being alongside). Will have to get out about 5000 tons before we can get any closer. It seems that these are the best accommodations, but how in blazes the Austrians ever got anything ashore is a question. The soldiers will have to unload us. I don't know who the flour goes to. It is evident that if we don't unload no one else will.

The women seem to do all the work and the men the fighting and strutting around. Most of the people live up in the hills and mountains like rabbits, where they have their sheep and olive trees. One can see little clusters of houses stuck all over the mountains. They look to be nailed on, but I am told there are little ravines and valleys everywhere. I want to get up on the high ground and have a look.

We will be here a month or more. I don't know how we will get unloaded, a wagonful at a time and Uncle Sam doing it. We are the first cargo boat to get this far. The "Western Scout" which followed us from Seattle and which we left at Colon (Panama) came in yesterday. She is our class and loaded with flour with a merchant marine crew and is anchored out in the bay (no dock). She will be here six months. What ought to be done is for both of us to get out of here and go where we can unload. Nobody seems to care. This flour will cost 25 cents a pound.

There is a little Austrian narrow guage railroad here that leaves daily for Vienna up, over and thru the mountains. It travels about a mile an hour. There are several pretty good towns north and south of us. These cargoes are evidently for the Serbians and the interior. Why they don't, and how they are to get it gets me.

These waters are full of naval craft, United States, English, French and Dago. I could look down the south arm of the bay yesterday and I believe I saw 50 craft, and then couldn't see around some corners. There is nothing to buy here. The people are exceedingly skeptical and have no clothes but rags, and have an absolutely deplorable, indifferent air about everything.

When the soldiers got here in November this place was a prison camp for Russians principally, but some others were mixed in. They tell me it was one sight and smell. The houses all thru here are of stone and are squatty. A complete history and story of all things would take a year to read. I think Pharaoh used to come up here to get olives and grapes.

We had a good trip from Gibraltar. Came thru the straits of Messina between Sicily and Italy. Saw Mt. Stromboli blowing smoke, and the glare at night was a pretty sight. Picked our way thru the mine fields, was picked up twenty miles out in the Adriatic by a Dago destroyer and piloted into this hole. Stopped at Gallipoli, Italy, about three hours for orders. There was no store there.

altho we had liberty.

I thought Sicily and the south of Italy were old looking, but this coast has it skinned forty miles. I sent some mail ashore a couple of days ago (via the U. S. soldiers then leaving. Nothing like a postoffice here), but don't know when it will go out. Will have to be taken to Italy by some U. S. boat some time. The soldiers get some mail some months, and some months they don't. However, I will start this the best I know how as soon as possible.

We arrived here on the 3rd at 3 p. m. Saw the Paris edition of the New York Herald of December 15, the latest news. The account of Wilson's arrival in Paris was in it. It is now time for chow and then me for on watch. Got 23 100-pound sacks of flour unloaded this morning. We have 180,000 only. What's the answer?

— Later, Jan. 9.

January 7 was Christmas time in this man's country and all night there were all about us on the water and up in the mountains guns, cannons and all kinds of signal rockets (ammunition and stuff captured when the Austrians quit the country). Yesterday I took a long walk north. Visited an old town which was there when Heck was a pup, containing an old castle that was rotten 1000 years ago.

Today, the 9th, we moved about 15 miles and now are at Cattaro (see map extreme lower end of Dalmatia and 8 miles straight up bald mountains to Montenegro) which is at the lower end of the same bay on which we were. I will never regret making this trip for just what I saw today. We wound in land-locked narrow waterways to get here, bounded about with high bald and rocky barren mountains full of caves.

This is the land of the original cave man. They used to sweep down on the scattered hamlets and villages and steal themselves a squaw, and whenever they found a spring, either half way up the mountains or near the beach, they started a town. First, a big high church, then a place to buy sour wine, cognac or rum. Then they built a few more places like the last. After a while a few men and their families crowded thru the brush and they built a few houses, then they built a wall about the whole business. In the meantime they planted out a few grapevines for wine and some olive trees for soap. Then they went over to one of the neighboring bergs and made a raid on it for a goat or two.

The old wall built about this berg (Cattaro) was built 2000000000000 years ago. It is built V-shaped, upside down, the point up the side of the mountain and the wide part along the beach. I judge it is about one-third of a mile on all sides. I haven't been ashore yet, but can see.

The mountains come down to the water. All the houses are of stone. Some are modern, but are mostly antiquated. This is a kind of a pocket with only four hours of sunshine. When you want to see the sun you have to lie on your back and look up. There is snow on the high peaks, but is warm down here.

I can't begin to describe anything. We dumped a few tons up at Zelenika, will dump a few here, then chase over to some other hole. It looks as tho we would peddle it all the way from here to Trieste up north.

There are U. S. troops here. A company of them was sent over the mountains to Montenegro, as they are fighting there among themselves as to who will be king. Guess you read more about it than we know. This is only about eight or ten miles from us. I don't know what the people eat or where they raise it when they have time. They seem to put in most of their time hunting for a pile of rock on which to build a town. Then when they plant an olive tree they put in the rest of the time building rock walls to hold the tree on the mountain. When it rains—it rains, and there is no footing.

Got to go on watch at 8, and don't know where or how I will mail this.

BILLY.

FORT KLAMATH ELK HERD ANNOYANCE TO RANCHERS

According to reports from that vicinity the herd of elk liberated at Fort Klamath about two years ago has been giving much annoyance to ranchers in that district. The herd now numbers about thirty head and it is almost impossible to fence them out from the farmers' hay stacks. They are said to be a fine lot, some of the older ones probably weighing 1000 pounds.

At last reports the barkeepers were recovering from the prohibition wave, and reflecting that it takes 100,000 soda fountains to irrigate the dusty throats of the American girls and High school boys.



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MUST FILE INCOME TAX RETURNS BY MARCH 15

Washington, D. C., March 4.—The work on the collection of \$6,000,000,000 has been begun by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. This is the estimated yield of the new revenue bill. The income tax provisions of the act reach the pocket-book of every single person in the United States whose net income for 1918 was \$1,000, or more, and of every married person whose net income was \$2,000 or more. Persons whose net income equalled or exceeded these amounts, according to their marital status, must file a return of income with the collector of internal revenue for the district in which they live on or before March 15.

Here is what will happen to them if they don't: for failure to file a return on time, a fine of not more than \$1,000 and an additional assessment of 25 per cent of the amount of tax due.

For "willfully refusing" to make a return on time, a fine of not exceeding \$10,000, or not exceeding one year's imprisonment, or both.

For making a false or fraudulent return, a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, together with an additional assessment of 50 per cent of the amount of tax levied.

For failure to pay the tax on time, a fine of not more than \$1,000 and an additional assessment of 5 per cent of the amount of tax unpaid, plus 1 per cent interest for each full month during which it remains unpaid.

In addition to the \$1,000 and \$2,000 personal exemptions, taxpayers area allowed an exemption of \$200 for each person dependent upon them for chief support if such person is under eighteen years of age and incapable of self-support. Under the 1917 act, this exemption was allowed only for each dependent "child." The head of a family—one who supports one or more persons closely connected with him by blood relationship, relationship by marriage, or by adoption—is entitled to all exemptions allowed a married person.

The normal rate of tax under the new act is 6 per cent of the first \$4,000 of net income above the exemptions, and 12 per cent of the net income in excess of \$4,000. Incomes in excess of \$5,000 are subject also to a surtax ranging from 1 per cent of the amount of the net income between \$5,000 and \$6,000 to 65 per cent of the net income above \$1,000,000.

Payment of the tax may be made in full at the time of filing return or in four installments, on or before March 15, on or before June 15, on or before September 15, and on or before December 15.

Revenue officers will visit every county in the United States to aid taxpayers in making out their returns. The date of their arrival and the location of their offices may be ascertained by inquiring at offices of collectors of internal revenue, post-offices and banks. Failure to see these officers, however, does not relieve the taxpayer of his obligation to file his return and pay his tax within the time specified by law. In this case taxpayers must seek the Government, not the Government the taxpayer.

Dr. R. L. Burdick
DENTIST
Swedenburg Block, Ashland, Ore.

**THOSE SHOE BILLS!
—KEEP THEM DOWN**

Mr. John Held, merchant, of Salt Lake City, keeps an exact record of the shoes he wears. He writes, "Two pairs of Neolin Soles have worn for me 19 months and I am on my feet ninety per cent of the time."

This is not an extraordinary example of the money-saving service that people get from Neolin Soles. It is typical of the experience millions are having. These soles do wear a very long time, and so help you keep shoe bills down. They are scientifically made so they must wear.

Get Neolin-soled shoes at almost any good shoe store. Get them for your whole family in the styles you prefer. And have these cost-saving soles put on your worn shoes. They are very comfortable and waterproof as well as durable. They are made by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio, who also make Wingfoot Heels, guaranteed to outwear any other heels.

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runs freely from its convenient —sidespout— package—it does not clog the shaker

"It's your own money you're spending," says Barney McGee



"Go ahead and chew your sweet, sticky plug, if you like it. But there isn't an ordinary tobacco that's one, two, three with Real Gravely. The real

good tobacco taste stays with it." Good taste, smaller chew, longer life is what makes Genuine Gravely cost less to chew than ordinary plug.

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1200 COUNTIES HAVE AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

There are now more than 1200 counties in the 33 northern and western states which have county agricultural agents, according to a statement issued by H. W. Gilbertson, in charge of county agent work in the northern and western states. These agents have been of especially great value in carrying on war work for increased production and conservation. Thru these agents working with farm bureau committeemen more than one-third of a million farms were assisted in securing or locating four millions bushels of seed grain and campaigns for increased production carried on thru these channels resulted in more than 68,000,000 additional bushels of crop being produced. During the past year considerable attention has been given to livestock improvement; 125,500 cows being discarded as unprofitable and more than 200,000 head of stock were bought or sold with the assistance of farm bureau and county agents. Considerable attention was given to cooperative buying and selling resulting in saving nearly three and a half million dollars for the farmers. In one Oregon county for example, the farmers pooled their orders for ten carloads of sulphur to be used as a fertilizer.

In this county Mr. Cate has done splendid work especially in horticulture.

The training of nearly 100 young women in cutting blight and nearly 500 for assisting in thinning fruit is an exceptionally good piece of work in solving the help problem. The home demonstration work by Miss McCormick and the club work carried on by Supt. Ager and Mr. Morris is apparently very effective and greatly appreciated by the people of the county. All of this work will be greatly strengthened when it receives the co-operation of the farm bureau.

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Leave Medford for Ashland daily except Sunday at 8:00 and 10 a. m., and 1:00, 4:00 and 5:15 p. m. Also on Saturday night at 10:15. On Sundays 10:30 a. m., 1:30, 5:30 and 9:30 p. m.

Fare between Medford and Ashland, 30 cents. Round trip 50 cents.

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