

CLOSING DAYS AT CAMP MILLS DESCRIBED
(Continued from page 1)

Mary had met there. We had a nice visit with them and they helped us find other boys we knew.

Evening mess time found us visiting in McMinnville, Or., which was several streets from Salem, Or. I must tell you about our trip back to Salem for it will give you more ideas of the spirit of friendliness prevalent that day.

At the head of each company street was the company mess kitchen, likewise the woodpile. Due to the camp cleaning-up that day, there was a bonfire at the same place. On most of the woodpiles sat soldiers eating their evening meal. We certainly ate our way to Salem. Once in Portland, Or., I found myself between two Irish stew. I have my own ideas about good looking

men, but these ideas failed to make the decision for me. Finally the boys decided it and one fed me a potato and the other a piece of meat. The other girls fared the same way.

Familiar Names Mentioned.

During the afternoon I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel May, whom Miss Kitchener knew very well. We also met his son, Frank and Verne May, the former a lieutenant and the latter a sergeant.

At headquarters company we talked with Allen Jones, Earl Headrick and Herbert Savage of Salem.

Among others we met, talked and shook hands with were Captain Neer, Lieutenants Dana Allen, Francis Banta, Charles Randall, Gallett, L. H. Compton, Paul Wallace, Waldo Finn, Oscar Chenoweth (last three with Dallas company), Sergeants Paul Hendricks, Victor Bradeson, Malcolm Gihbert, Corporals Peterson, Jacob Fuhrer, Roy Keene, Frank Durbin, Frank Zinn, Glen Ackerman,

Richard Hansen, Franklin Miller and soldier boys Whitney Gill, Eugene Gill, Roy Williams, Hilbert Tasto, Kennon, Theoren Hoover, Roy Remington, Breyman Boise, Edgar Rowland, Bill Rinehardt, Carl Chapler, Paul Maurer, A. O'Neill, Claude Johnson, William Smith, Hayward Fogyle, Ed Rauch, Donald Randall, Victor Keid, Weiborn, Phillip Ringler, Will Sherwood, Aubrey Jones, Cole Schaffner, Russell Brooks, George Beck, Frank Prince, Archie Holt, Jack Bartlett and Sim Phillips.

I will skip the last few minutes of our stay and only say that with the help of the boys and Frank Zinn's and Bill Rinehardt's ready wit, we were able to leave with a cheery goodbye—the kind of recruiting officers and returning soldiers talk to the women folks about. However, just at the edge of the company street I ran into Lieutenant Charles Randall, my next door neighbor at home, and I am afraid I "backslid" in the next few minutes and he had to face it for the whole bunch.

It was quite dusk as we left camp. For a block and a half in distance, soldiers were marching out. We knew they were northwestern men. They were heavily laden with baggage and they don't drill at night. These men were surely going somewhere. Perhaps they were carrying some of their baggage to waiting trains, or perhaps they were going to waiting transports. Our eyes tried to tell us many things, likewise our imagination, but at last one gives up trying to understand it all and tends to her own knitting.

Change Is Readily Seen.

We certainly were sure of one thing that evening. Three girls left Camp Mills more consecrated to the service of their God and their country. They had a keener understanding of what service meant. They realized the radical change of plans that had come into the life of those men and boys they had talked with that day. They saw the little luxuries of everyday existence shut out with one stroke.

They knew never before that every woman in the land must enlist and not for spasmodic service but to grasp every opportunity to serve.

Doubtless among the home folks there will be those who will say "Oh, well, I don't see why we should cease all our social affairs, our good times, and go around with long faces and not have any fun, etc." No, a thousand times no, but change the style of your good times. Let your every pleasure come from service and you will find that you have never known what true pleasure is until you begin to serve others.

Thrift at Home Urged.

The boys have appreciated the interest you have taken in their welfare at Camp Mills. That's all well and fine, but from talks I have had with them there are other things of far greater concern to them. The nearer to France they get, the more they will wonder if in their land of plenty, food is being properly conserved; if every man capable of working in a ship yard is hammering there. They will wonder if you are drinking your tea and coffee without sugar once or three times a day. Are there any smokeless (I mean tobaccoless) days in Salem? (Plenty of them in camp over there). Are Oregon folks living on the palatable foods and transporting the kind our great armies need? Are they working from early morning till late at night without a whimper? Are they in plain clothes, eating plain substantial foods, cutting down on laces and frills and silk stockings? Are they depriving themselves of one thing (stop here to think of what the soldiers have cut off their list of heretofore considered necessities) they considered essential to their happiness before the war? Are they buying thrift stamps or liberty bonds out of their daily living expense?

I add our New York address with telephone numbers. We would be glad to have Salem folks who have soldiers or sailors coming into New York, slip it and send it to their boys. It means as much to us to see home boys as it does to them to see home folks.

Office address 204 Franklin street, phone 5685 and residence 415 West 118th street, Morningside 511.

Discipline Is Mastered.

Boys writing home from over there say they feel as if they had done nothing so far for their country.

Third Blanket In Pack.

Unfortunately this cold spell came on after the baggage had begun to move and the third blanket went along. You see, when large bodies of troops move it is necessary to divide the baggage and what is known as "O" baggage which contains all extras is moved before the boys go. Of course our government can't wait on weather when important moves are to be made.

As to the desirability of a camp at that place. That is for wiser heads than mine to say. However, I never lose sight of the fact that transportation facilities are the great consideration here and the health record I believe from what we hear will compare well with any camp.

Common sense tells me that what the boys experienced here has better fitted them physically and mentally to endure what is coming to them later, and they will be just that much fatter along the road than the men who go to France from steam heated barracks in this country.

We never heard a complaint from the boys, even though we could see without being told, what service meant. If any boy went into the army because he thought it would be a lark, he was completely cured before he left here, and in spite of what the Portland lad said, I believe that when our boys gather round some night after they have landed in France, they will say "Say, if we went through any hardships in Camp Mills, I wonder what you can say about the Frenchies?" It will be after a time over there, they will be ready to rub out every black mark they put down against that camp and may even feel humble enough to invade the ones they put down against the old weather man.

when they see what the French people are doing.

Our western men have had intense drilling in these eastern army camps. They have met and mastered mental and physical situations which a few years ago they would have considered impossible. I mean by this their physical endurance, which every thinking person of today admits is a question of mental endurance, has been tested in a manner heretofore undreamed of.

An eastern army officer whose business for some years has been "whipping men into shape" as they call this drilling process, told me he had never worked with a finer lot of men in his life. Of course he knew I was an Oregon girl and proud of our boys, so in order to make sure he wasn't serving soothing syrup or heart balm to the ladies I asked questions. When I said "Why do you say that?" he came back quickly with "Because I mean it," and then fact to? He said, "Your western boys come from small towns and cities and are accustomed to giving an account to themselves. They have initiative and yet they are quick to obey orders and respectful.

Individual Views Differ.

There is one important thing to remember when such rumors come from any camp and that is just what I have mentioned before. Every individual has a different conception of hardship. What might be hard on one boy would not even be noticed by another. You find the pessimistic boys and you find the optimistic ones. You find the boy who is on the negative side of every argument and every condition, the boy who is looking through dark glasses all the time. You find the boy who says he won't be worth a continental after the war and you find the boy who eagerly awaits the end of the war to go back home and try out some of the things he has learned. So it goes—some boys will use their army experience as a stepping stone forward in life and some will hesitate to admit its benefits and thereby hamper their own progress.

Another thing. Living today is full of radical changes in our life plans, be we soldier or civilian. The way we meet these changes is a test of our character. Will we meet it with bowed heads and stooping shoulders or will we put our heads in the air, our shoulders back and look every hardship square in the face and eventually "go over the top"?

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LETTER NUMBER 2.

The New York thermometers registered below last night and we Oregonians rather rejoiced that the Oregon soldier boys were not obliged to have a taste of such weather. I have been where the thermometer dropped much lower but it was not so cold, and cold weather in this great city is an immense problem. I won't attempt to touch on the coal or traffic question. The coast papers will tell you about that but I might say that every individual is called upon to conserve his share of lights and hot water. In the office buildings where I spend my days, lights go off at 7:30 and the elevator service at 6:30, which means candles and a ten story walk if you go back at night. We keep reasonably comfortable during the day but all the girls wear sweaters. I notice the western papers have had a great deal to say about Camp Mills and the hardships the boys suffered there. One letter I read in the Oregonian said "We have no tables or even covering to eat under" and "the boys will always remember the hardships of Camp Mills." Since everyone seems to be rendering an opinion on the subject (and we must never forget that every boy serving takes a different viewpoint on most every topic of the day) I thought perhaps the Salem mothers might like to have my opinion.

Tells Her Own Observations.

First of all I want you to keep this in mind. Mine are the observations of a woman, not a sentimental young thing nor a soured on the world type. I visited camp several times in various kinds of weather and I don't go anywhere with my eyes or ears shut nor armed with prying questions. Neither do I wear pale pink or indigo glasses.

Everybody who goes into the service expects some hardships and since the government can't manage the weather man, there may be some un-

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