

On the Way to the Border

Enroute, Vicinity Shasta Springs.

Wednesday, June 28.

To the Folks at Home Who are Particularly Interested in the Third Battalion:

No doubt you are anxious to know how your boys fared on their first day enroute, and I shall endeavor to give you in a general way the result of our first day's trip. Oregon City greeted us with a healthy number, but no doubt they are saving their more precious farewells for their own boys, who will have left ere this report reaches you.

Unless Woodburn had a floating population of several hundred when we reached there, I have been misinformed as to the size of that little city. It is characteristic of a sailor to have a sweetheart in every port, but I did not realize that a soldier was so far superior in diplomacy that he could have several sweethearts in the same town, until we reached Woodburn. It seemed to me that every member of Company I was trying his best to bid an appropriate farewell to at least three charming members of the gentler sex, who all in turn seemed to show a special fondness for some soldier boy.

Ere the throbbing hearts of the boys of Company I had again assumed their normal beat, and their twitching lips assumed their natural expression, it was time for the boys of Companies L and M to step into the lime light and bid farewell to their relatives and friends who gathered in Salem in goodly numbers to bid their boys a fond farewell. I assure you we were proud of the showing Dallas made. It seemed to me, as the train departed from Salem and I stood gazing at the hundreds of people gathered there, that every other face was a familiar face from Dallas. The boys appreciate it and feel that you are worthy of our best efforts on this mission, whatever that may be.

A similar demonstration was experienced at Albany, where the friends and relatives of the boys in Company K gathered to bid them a fond farewell and assure them of their appreciation of the sacrifices many of the boys were called upon to make.

From Salem to Eugene we experienced quite a heavy rain. People stood in pools of water, many drenched to the skin, having waited for several hours to bid some father, son, husband, brother or sweetheart farewell, but I am safe in making the assertion that no rain could have dampened the ardor displayed by the hundreds of people who greeted us in every town.

Packages, boxes, baskets, containing everything that could make a man sick or well. Sweets for the man with a sweet tooth, sours for the man whose basket was packed with sweets on top, smokes for the man who enjoys it, likewise tobacco in chunks for the man who would rather chew it and squirt it through his teeth in preference to burning it and blowing it through his nose. Fruit of every nature, more packages, more baskets, more boxes and bundles until we could easily compete with any bakery, fruit stand or candy shop in Portland. For all of which we heartily thank you.

There is always some one with a spirit magnanimous enough to look out for the poor unfortunates in this world who do not receive the constant care and attention of some good wife, sister or mother. I refer to those good people who placed packages on board addressed to "Some poor soldier boy who has been overlooked," or "Some boy who has no mother," and others of a similar nature. I sorted these packages to see that they reached their proper destination and I assure you that those packages received special attention, and, if possible, were more thoroughly appreciated than those that were naturally expected.

Our diet does not need any special mention, for with all the good things on board already mentioned we could not suffer were we compelled to stay aboard the cars a week. As for sleeping quarters, I must say that along with the individual, Uncle Sam has learned something by experience. I took a trip of a like nature in 1898 and I assure you the men did not sleep in tourist sleepers between wholesome clean sheets with pillows upon which to rest their weary heads. Money could not buy better sleeping quarters for our men. Every precaution is be-

ing taken to keep the cars clean and sanitary and every officer is on the alert to do anything and everything which concerns the welfare of his men.

During a short stop at Smithson, at about 5 p. m., sweaters were issued to all the men in lieu of their blouses, which were taken up at Clackamas yesterday just before our departure. The men were given a few minutes exercise, after which we all enjoyed a good foot bath in the cooling waters of a mountain stream, after which we returned to the cars and continued on our way.

Nothing more than a headache or two, no doubt caused by the natural inclination of some men to get a little more than their share of the good things on board has been reported at medical headquarters. Several left arms are a bit sensitive and if one desires a clear passage in a crowded aisle an endeavor to get by on the left side will clear the aisle in no uncertain manner.

Government fare interspersed with the delicacies aboard constituted our evening meal. A smoke, a chat, reminiscences, including the folks at home, a few minutes of silent meditation for those of a more serious nature, bed time and sleep, and so ended the first day of our trip to San Diego.

I am advised that we will be encamped at Fort Rosecrans, near San Diego, for some little time and those wishing to write to any of the boys in the third battalion may address their mail to that point. Be of good cheer write cheerful letters to your boys and do not believe any false reports that may come to your ears. We will keep you advised as soon as possible at all times.

Sincerely yours,
E. K. PIASECKI,
First Lieut. Co. L.

Preparedness

Essay by Euian Stone, graduate of the Perrydale high school.

"Self preservation is the first law of nature," and this is no less true of a nation than of the individual. A disregard of this natural and inborn attitude of humankind toward all outside and antagonistic forces, is a disregard of Life itself, whether such position of disregard be assumed by the individual or the nation as a whole.

The wisdom and farsightedness of those noble patriots who framed the National Constitution is well illustrated by the Preamble, which sets forth in language plain and unmistakable, the six great objects to be attained in establishing and adopting that Constitution as the foundation of our present National government. The Preamble reads as follows:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

It is declared by the first Article of the Constitution, that Congress shall have power "to raise and support armies," and to "provide and maintain a navy." With this authority delegated by the States to the National Congress, it becomes the constant duty resting upon that body to exercise it for that purpose for which it was conferred.

At the present time, when the people of a happy and prosperous nation are gratefully honoring the memory of "The Father of his Country," it is well to pause and consider what sort of conditions he considered necessary for its preservation. When, as President of the United States, Washington made his first annual address to the Senate and the House of Representatives, he spoke as follows: "Among the many interesting objects which will en-

gage your attention, that of providing for the common defense will merit particular regard. To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace. A free people ought not only to be armed but disciplined." Also, in his eighth annual address, he spoke as follows: "To secure respect to a neutral flag requires a naval force organized and ready to vindicate from insult or aggression."

I have quoted some of Washington's words because we all believe that what he said was the truth then, is now and will be for all future time. While he spoke under conditions then existing, it seems as though, with prophetic vision, he must have looked into the years to come and discerned from afar, the horrors of the present war of nations.

Preparedness for war is not war. It is for the prevention of war. To be saved from war and bloodshed we devoutly pray, and for perpetual peace we fondly hope, but it must not be at the expense of our nation's honor and dignity. If it is necessary in defending our nation from insult, invasion, or from violation of any of its rights, or for the protection of any American in any of his rights wherever he may be, the sword must be unsheathed.

In ancient times the simple utterance "I am a Roman citizen" carried with it protection to the uttermost parts of the earth, and wherever the banner bearing the Roman eagle floated, the rights of the Roman citizen were safe. Today, wherever a man can say "I am an American citizen," the folds of the flag of his country must give him protection, whether on native soil, on the high seas, or in far countries. The superb loyalty of the American citizen is due greatly to this belief that he is certain of protection under the flag of his country, and in protecting him the government is but protecting itself, for he is one of the units which go to make up the hundred million which constitute this great and powerful nation.

National security, peace and prosperity are constantly menaced, on the one hand by those who, imagining themselves to be the only patriots in the land, are clamoring for war on every pretext, and on the other hand by the hysterical cries of "peace-at-any-price." To the first who avow their patriotism in the name of Washington, take notice of these words which he spoke: "May we never unsheath the sword except in self defense, so long as justice and our essential rights and national respectability can be preserved without it," and to the second I would recall the words which I have previously quoted "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, it must be known that we are at all times prepared for war. It is believed

that if the nations now at war had not for years been making preparations for war, there would not now be desolating war among them. But they did prepare for war, and what would have been the fate of any one of them had it failed to prepare for the conflict in which it is now involved? This war of nations might be compared with a family disturbance. If the members of a family do not agree and a fight occurs, each member must be on an equal footing with all the others, if its rights are to be defended and preserved. So it is with a family of nations. No one nation can remain unprepared for war, when all the other members have prepared for it.

"Haste the day when war and lawlessness shall cease, but until they shall cease, nations must be prepared to meet force with force."

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