

"Over the Top"

By An American Soldier
Who Went

ARTHUR GUY EMPEY
Machine Gunner Serving in France

Continued from page 2
our front line. We checked several casualties. Then they suddenly ceased. Our artillery had taped or silenced them.

During the bombardment you could almost read a newspaper in our trench. Sometimes in the flare of a shell-burst a man's body would be silhouetted against the paradors of the trench and it appeared like a huge monster. You could hardly hear yourself think. When an order was to be passed down the trench you had to yell it, using your hands as a funnel into the ear of the man sitting next to you on the fire step. In about twenty minutes a generous rum issue was doled out. After drinking the rum, which tasted like varnish and sent a shudder through your frame, you wondered why they made you wait until the lifting of the barrage before going over. At ten minutes to four word was passed down. "Ten minutes to go!" Ten minutes to live! We were shivering all over. My legs felt as if they were asleep. Then word was passed down: "First wave get on and near the scaling ladders."

These were small wooden ladders which we had placed against the parapet to enable us to go over the top on the lifting of the barrage. "Ladders of death" we called them, and veritably they were.

Before a charge Tommy is the politest of men. There is never any pushing or crowding to be first up those ladders. We crouched around the base of the ladders waiting for the word to go over. I was sick and faint, and was puffing away at an unlighted fag. Then came the word, "Three minutes to go; upon the lifting of the barrage and on the blast of the whistles, 'Over the top with the best o' luck and give them hell.'" The famous phrase of the western front. The Jonah phrase of the western front. To Tommy it means if you are lucky enough to come back you will be minus an arm or a leg. Tommy hates to be wished the best of luck; so, when peace is declared, if it ever is, and you meet a Tommy on the street, just wish him the best of luck and duck the brick that follows.

I glanced again at my wrist watch. We all wore them and you could hardly call us "sissies" for doing so. It was a minute to four. I could see the hand move to the twelve, then a dead silence. It hurt. Everyone looked up to see what had happened, but not for long. Sharp whistle blasts rang out along the trench, and with a cheer the men scrambled up the ladders. The bullets were cracking overhead, and occasionally a machine gun would rip and tear the top of the sandbag parapet. How I got up that ladder I will never know. The first ten feet out in front was agony. Then we passed through lanes in our barbed wire. I knew I was running, but could feel no motion below the waist. Patches on the ground seemed to float to the rear as if I were on a treadmill and scenery was rushing past me. The Germans had put a barrage of shrapnel across No Man's Land, and you could hear the pieces slip the ground about you.

After I had passed our barbed wire and gotten into No Man's Land a Tommy about fifteen feet to my right turned around and looking in my direction, put his hand to his mouth and yelled something which I could not make out on account of the noise from the bursting shells. Then he coughed, stumbled, pitched forward and lay still. His body seemed to float to the rear of me. I could hear sharp cracks in the air about me. These were caused by passing rifle bullets. Frequently, to my right and left, little spurts of dirt would rise into the air and a ricochet bullet would whine on its way. If a Tommy should see one of these little spurts in front of him, he would tell the nurse about it later. The crossing of No Man's Land remains a blank to me.

Continued next week

G. W. Chesebro tried out his new Ford with a trip to Salem Thursday.

Prof. E. B. Fitts of O. A. C. will address the farmers on April 12 in the morning on "Cow Testing Associations" and in the afternoon on "Silos and Silage."

W. M. Patterson, special agent of the London & Lancashire Ins. Co. of Portland, was a business visitor in Monmouth Wednesday.

Mrs. Hewitt returned Thursday from a visit with her son and family in the Luckiamute valley.

Mrs. G. R. Ellis and son of the Dalles were recent visitors with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Chesebro.

Frank Bush of Independence was a visitor in Monmouth Wednesday.

Miss Ella Auld and Howard Auld grandchildren of G. W. Chesebro, were here from Portland for a visit this week, returning Wednesday. Their mother, Mrs. H. G. Auld comes today for a visit.

A. F. Huber is now a full fledged farmer, has taken off his coat rolled up his sleeves and manifests all the symptoms of a man who is looking forward to a busy summer. Mrs. Huber will join him on the farm shortly but the children will remain with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Hampton to go to

school.

W. O. Bowman was here from Pendleton to attend the funeral of his son, Reuben Bowman. Gordon Bowman was also here from Gardiner for the same purpose.

Bunny Newman underwent an operation on one of his digits at the hands of Dr. Bowersox one day last week.

Mrs. Kiser was a visitor in Monmouth, house hunting Tuesday.

Walter Strain, rural carrier, reports that the roads are drying up.

Mayor Moore of Independence has an original idea, recently sprung, that business men during the war period array themselves in khaki. A conference was held in Independence Thursday night to enquire into the matter.

The children of the Christian Bible School went with a few less eggs than common at meal time Easter Sunday and donated the surplus to the Old Folk's home at Walla Walla. Twenty four dozen eggs were thus collected, beside which some \$20 in money was given.

D. C. Walker left this week to assume his duties as postmaster at Buell.

Chas. Strong was home from Eugene for Easter.

Miss Emma Kramer is in Portland visiting at the home of Judge and Mrs. W. T. Slater.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Guthrie visited with the latter's sister, Mrs. S. E. Rhodes in Salem last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Guthrie and little girls of Corvallis and the Misses Bessie and Ruth McCaw, of Walla Walla but students at the O. A. C. were Easter visitors with Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Guthrie.

Mrs. A. N. Poole and three sons spent Easter in Portland with Mr. Poole who is working there.

Taxes may be paid at the Bank. The first payment will be delinquent after Friday the 5th.

Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Stewart spent Easter at Ranier, with relatives.

Mrs. E. C. Thurston, formerly of Monmouth but now of St. Johns was recently operated on in a Portland hospital.

Mrs. Peter Kurze returned this week from a five months visit with relatives in Iowa, Minnesota and Montana.

Our Bargain Column

For Sale or Trade—4 Lots, 12 room house and Barn, electric lights, bath, etc. See Bessie Nelson, Monmouth, Oregon. Box 107. 2t.

Pure Bred Barred Rock Hatching Eggs for sale. \$1.00 per setting. Leslie Young, Sickafosse place. 3t.

Sale of Thrift Stamps in Polk County

For the Week ending April 2.	
Airlie, - - -	\$265.67
Ballston, - - -	83.80
Black Rock, - - -	70.46
Dallas, - - -	5665.69
Falls City, - - -	485.71
McCoy, - - -	31.95
Independence, - - -	882.63
Parker, - - -	6.50
Perrydale, - - -	380.88
Rickreall, - - -	56.04
Suver, - - -	337.92
Monmouth, - - -	1205.12
Total, - - -	\$9472.37

On another page will be found an account of the contest results and new prizes offered. The County Committee has arranged to finance the sale of War Stamps in all school districts, advancing any teacher requesting the same, \$25 for the purpose of keeping stamps on hand for sale to the children.

Following is a list of the sub-

scriptions by districts of the result of the Armenian Relief Drive as conducted by the Council of Defense: Airlie, \$141.70; Ballston, \$90.32; Falls City, \$638.45; Brush College, \$8.25; Suver, \$147.93; Douglas, \$39.25; Buell, \$142; Buena Vista, \$124.10; Eola, \$18.70; Independence, \$144.06; Perrydale, \$260.45; Dallas, \$1008.33. Total Polk county, \$2,763.54.

Delphian Program

The Delphian and Vespertine Literary Societies of the Normal School met in the chapel Thursday evening, March 28 for their regular program. An unusually pleasing number was "Who Knows" sung by Miss Lorraine Mahoney and Mr. Ernest Morgan. Other numbers of the joint program were piano solos by Miss Lenore Kirkpatrick and Miss Alice Tomkins, and two pretty songs by Miss Alice Grant with violin accompaniment by Miss Philbrook.

The Delphian Society then withdrew to the assembly of the Training School for separate session. Here the program consisted of piano solos by Miss Muriel Paul and Miss Olga Wikberg, and the production of "Jean Valjean", adapted from Victor Hugo's book, "Les Miserables". Miss Reuter's review of the essential parts of the book was a great help in making a background for the scenes portrayed. The leading roles, Jean Valjean and the Bishop, were most skillfully played by Miss Sue Graap and Miss Blanche Morey. Some clever work was shown by the minor characters, which gave the play the air of a professional production. Credit is due Mrs. Joyce Atkinson for the

able manner in which she directed it. To add to the pleasure of the evening, Miss Letha Albee entertained the audience with piano selections during intermissions required for scene shifting.

The Delphian Society may well be congratulated for its success in producing this interesting play.

Vespertine Program

The Vespertine Society held its regular meeting last Thursday night. During the joint program a piano solo was given by Alice Tomkins and a vocal duet by Lorraine Mahoney and Ernest Morgan. These two numbers were well given and were enjoyed by all.

In the regular program a vocal solo was given by Marjorie Holman and was heartily encored by the audience. The last number was the play "Alice in Wonderland", directed by Mabel Eaton and Lucile Dunbar. It was well given and showed careful preparation by all those who took part. The part of Alice, taken by Miss Pettinger, the Hatter by Miss Nelson, and the Dormouse by Miss Glate was very cleverly acted out and afforded much amusement for the audience.

The staging which was done by Miss Taylor was particularly good and portrayed the scenes as one would imagine them to be in "Wonderland". Miss Beekman had charge of the costuming which showed her skill in that line of work. After the play, a good critic's report was given by Miss Allen.

After seeing this play so cleverly acted out it is hoped that all those who saw it will have a clearer idea of what Alice's Wonderland was like.

MONMOUTH HIGHWAYS

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Written and Edited by Students of Monmouth High School

Miss Velma Whiteaker enrolled as a student in the Monmouth High School Monday. Miss Whiteaker ranks as a sophomore and is the 97th student to enroll this year.

Monday evening, April 8, the pupils of Mabel Claire Grounds and Charles South will give a recital in the High School auditorium. No admission will be charged and all are welcome.

A service flag with sixteen stars for the boys of Monmouth High School who have enlisted in the country's armed service has been procured by the girls of the Athena Society. It will be formally presented to the school in a short program given Friday morning.

Mr. Tavenner has just received two boxes of lantern slides from the Social Service Department of the University of Oregon. There are 57 slides on the Boy Scout move-

ment in America, and 31 colored slides showing views along the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. They will probably be shown some evening in the near future to high school students and any others who may be interested. No date has been announced yet.

About April 7 the school will receive from the University the slides of the Passion Play.

The Monmouth census which a committee of High School students composed of Denzel Moore, Clay Moreland, Russell McClellan, Manley Arant and Frances Pyle took for the Red Cross has been completed and turned over to that organization. Seven hundred thirty three names were obtained, exclusive of non-resident Normal students. One hundred and thirty three of these were children under fifteen years of age.

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