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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1918

OREGON WEATHER
 +-----+
 + Tonight fair except rain in +
 + northwest portion; Thursday, +
 + fair; gentle southerly winds. +
 +-----+
 +-----+

SOLDIER LETTERS

American Expeditionary Force,
 France, Nov. 24, 1918.

Dear Father:—
 The wind is howling around my house, the smoke from my open fire, which is cheerily cracking and flaming on the hearth, is occasionally blown out into the room with the fury of the blast and the weather all day has been stormy, perhaps in keeping with the great changes which have come to the world within the past few days and all the world changes can be summed up in the words "The Hun and all for which he stands is defeated." To realize that there is now an end to all the nights and days of wet and cold, of mud and sand, of scorching shell and gas attack is strange indeed. They were brave boys and you of the States sent to us "over here" and all the people of the states may well be proud of them. As I wrote you before I have never heard one of them complain of shot and shell or gas during all of the time

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I had them under me. A night march or night firing were all the same to them; they took it as a necessary part of winning the war and they had no other thought in mind than winning, and win it has been.

It seems strange now to be preparing for the homeward journey even if that journey is not taken for some little time. I can see now the dead Germans lying along the road as we advance. How they were surprised at the Americans' irrestible way of fighting. How they had prepared great cave homes in which they were prepared to spend months of time but their idea of residence was suddenly broken when the artillery went into action and were followed by the wonderful 'dough-boys' Those wonderful fighters were always ready for any kind of hard work and always pushed it through to success. At one of the charges the orders were for the boys to be at a certain part of the line of advance within the Hun holdings at a certain time which was set down as ten minutes to six o'clock evening, and at that time our doughboys were there and reporting backward to our headquarters that they were there. Those hunns left everything behind them on their wild retreat, large and small arms, ammunition for both, and quantities of ammunition it was which they left, clothing also was left; the place looked as if they had just a few minutes ago gone away for a time intending to return.

My present location is a sandy level part of France not very far from the sea, and in the southern part of the country. It is a turpentine bearing section and it is very interesting to go out into the woods and see the workers gathering the resin. The trees are great high ones of the variety known as the needle pine and to get the resin the bark of the tree is cut or scored down to the wood and from the ground up the tree for about ten feet, as the bottom of this scoring is placed a small funnel shaped cup into which slowly collects the sap of the tree, which is the resin. It is very pleasant to ride through these for-

ests which are very sparsely settled and see the great trees cut and giving up their sap for the preparation of the turpentine. Very pretty holly grows also in these forests and it's a beautiful sight to see the bright red berries as they stand out through the woods. I made up a box of the nicest holly I could get and sent it by mail to Ella and hope she receives it in time for the decoration of the home Christmas. I like to ride off through these silent woods and see the collecting of this product. The workers live right in the forests and their homes are to be seen here and there through the woods. If this winter seems to be going to be severe, go over into Honolulu for the severe weather.

ELLIS.
 Major Ellis E. W. Givin, M. C.
 U. S. Army, A. E. F., France.

141 Aero Squadron, Nov. 3, '18.

Dear Mother:—
 Well, the mail isn't coming very regular again. Ted received a letter from his sister a few days ago. He came up for a short visit yesterday and stayed all night with me. Outside the one letter I haven't heard from you folks, although I have written several letters home.

I received a Courier today and have just finished reading about the carnival and parade, so you see it is over a month old, but news just the same. Did you see the train of the German souvenirs? They had quite a collection, didn't they. If the boys here take back all they have collected, all the freight trains on the S. P. couldn't haul them. Amongst our collection is a piano "made in Berlin," and a sewing machine and we have "umpteens" rifles and ammunition of all sorts and makes. The piano sure has a pretty sound and several of the boys play. You know there wasn't any Y. M. C. A. here so we cleaned out an old barn, built a stage out of a few pieces of lumber and put electric lights into it, so have some kind of a show most every Saturday night. You know the people in the states have gotten up what they call the "Over There Theatre League" and so many stage

folks come over to entertain the A. E. F. every month. Last Saturday night there was a vaudeville team here and they were real good. Of course we haven't seen anything like that since leaving the states.

We have been having great weather here the past few days, although it has been foggy of a morning, it has cleared later in the day. Guess it was because we were all issued those hip-length rubber boots; anyway they are real handy when we are late for reveille and haven't time to put on our shoes and leggins.

There is one little Jew here in our outfit that sure looks comical. He could fasten them around his neck.

We had quite a time here, hallo-w'en night. One of the boys went on pass, so we fixed a dummy in his bed. At first we tried to carry a fellow in from another room but he woke before we got him there, almost got us into trouble, for the fellow didn't get back and we left the dummy in the bed, and the officers came through to inspect the barracks. One of them went so far, I believe, as to shake it, thinking that the fellow was asleep.

Well, it's time to go to bed so I'll finish this in a hurry. I am going to write Sis a letter in a day or two. Ted said he had a letter from Marshall, and he was somewhere in England. Think I'll write him a letter in a day or so. I wish you people would write oftener. With love to all, I remain your loving son,

CORPORAL EARL E. WALLACE,
 141st A. S., A. E. F., France.

November, 14, 1918.

Dear Mother:—
 I haven't written to you for quite a while, so I had better get busy. I know you will wonder what has happened to me. We have been quite busy lately and it is almost impossible for me to write when camping out and cold all the time. We were camped up near the old battle field and the mud was something fierce. We had to wade through.

Well, the war is over and everybody feels happy. That doesn't necessarily mean that we will sail back home very soon, although I would like to be among the first to get back. I understand that a lot of men will be sent into Germany. I would like to go over there for awhile, but I would much rather get back home and out of the army. We are in barracks now and it is real warm. It sure was some relief to get out of those cold billets. We would never get a chance for a fire.

I heard the guns fire right up to 11 o'clock and then stop. They sure got loud at the last, too.

We were expecting the war to end so it didn't surprise us very much. Everybody seemed to be happy and the French celebrated in good style. Of course they don't celebrate like we do. They are rather hard hearted and don't have that feeling.

Dr. C. L. won't have a very long stay in the army. Well, it would do him good for a little turn at it. Of course he would have it easier than Cloyd or I.

I am sure anxious to get back home and my own opinion is that we won't remain over here very long. Of course I don't know anything about it. Orders come in at the last minute sometimes.

Well mother, I can't think of nothing more, so will close.

With love,
 D. LESTER SATER.
 Co. B, 23rd Eng., A. E. F.
 France.

DANA AMENT SAYS WORK IS GRIND

France, Nov. 17, 1918.

Dear Sister:—
 I expect you and Edward and Papa think that I have forgotten you, but I have not, at all. Just naturally have not had time to write. This army life is such a rush from morning until night.

The cessation of hostilities does not mean peace for the engineers, but just that much more work—and all of it a grind now that the main object has been accomplished. Sort of like working for a dollar a day and board.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, I do not know which, I was not there for the final "crescendo," but from all reports it was a fine one. At any rate I am mighty glad it is over and I know one thing sure, and that is that there are a lot of dough boys and engineers at the front are able to sit by a blazing fire for the first time during the war, and get partially thawed out.

Of course you are all conjecturing as to when we will be home. Well, so are we, but our hopes aren't very high for an early return, especially the engineers. Too much work. The first of the boys to reach New York will sure receive some welcome. I'd

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sure like to be among them, but by the time I get there it will be ancient history, I guess.

I received the pictures you sent I only wish I had some pictures of myself to send, but I haven't. Also I couldn't send my souvenirs for military reasons, but still have them put away and I may get some off to you later, if I rejoin the company. There sure is "beaucoup" of them over here. If I could only get them off to you.

You know I am going to school for awhile just now, and getting a little late dope, etc. They sure put you through the mill and make you wish you were back with your own company taking it easy on your own little job. You can imagine what it is like here when a man thinks a job up front is easy. Of course we really have it easier here, as we have good quarters and places to eat and study in. But there is no time that you can call your own.

We have our Sundays off and spend them mostly in one of the nearby towns. It is a romantic lit-

tle place and considerable French history is woven about the place. I'll have to tell you all about it when I get home. We buy what we need here, and a lot in the way of eats that we don't need. Think of paying ten cents for one little piece of chocolate such as you get for a nickel at home. Well, we don't buy many of them, but that is the way the stuff costs here.

Well, I must ring off. Love to all.

CHARLES D. AMENT,
 A. C. S. Eng.'s Sec. A. P. O.
 714 American E. F., France.

Swans For the Christmas Table.
 The swan as a dinner dish has been seen on English tables within comparatively recent times. "Up till a century or so ago," according to F. W. Hackwood, "swans were prepared for the table in and around Norwich. The young birds were put up to fatten in August, given as much barley as they would eat, and by November they were in prime condition. If kept longer they began to fall off, losing flesh and fat and the meat becoming darker in color."

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