

Letters from The Boys Who Have Gone to Make the World Safe for Democracy

Letter from Omer O. Akin received last week by Mrs. E. S. May of Cedar Mills:

Base Hospital No. 8,
April 14, 1918.

My dear Mother, Brother and Sisters,

It is time that I was writing again, I have been out of bed for a week and feel fine. The doctor says he will try and send me back to duty in three weeks if everything goes well. It is raining again this morning just like Oregon. I don't know what Ada's address is, and I suppose Henry has moved by this time.

So I will write to you all in one letter. There is not much to write about for there is not much to see here, but the farming that is going on, I have taken several walks around the country and it is quite interesting to see how the French people work, and to see them work with their oxen pulling a big cart with their horns. They do not work them with yokes like they used to in the States. I have never seen a four wheel wagon since I have been here, except what the U. S. army is using.

When the French work two horses they work them one in front of the other.

The native women have fine washing machines, consisting of a small creek or pond and a large flat rock, they get down on their knees and dip the clothes in the water and rub them on the rock.

People here must live a long time, or get old quick for I never saw so many old people as there are around here, the most of them are busy all the time working at something. I have not had any word from Battery C yet, I thought I would be sent to them but from what I hear from some of the boys who have come back from the front I have just about given up all hopes. I just may make it. If not I will be put in with some other outfit.

I have had no special training over here and if I don't get out before they go to the front I don't suppose I will ever see the fellows again, not for some time at least.

Nothing more to write so will quit and go to church, haven't been to church since I landed in France.

There is a fine Y. M. C. A. here with a good library in connection and moving pictures every night. It does not seem like we are in a foreign land, so long as we stick around here. I was down to a small village close by here, the other evening, and it seems queer the way they have been built, and the way things look the people are living in the same houses they did three hundred years ago, the buildings are all made of stone or stucco, and they stand for ages. All the farm houses and barns are under the same roof. There is only one advantage, that I can see, and that is the farmer don't have to go outside when he goes

to milk. The hogs, chickens, cows, horses, and family are all in the same building.

The country is all cut up with roads, and believe me they are good too, all that I have seen are like our highways in the U. S. I have never seen any lumber here except what the United States has used here at this hospital for fences. The farmer has a bank of dirt and lets it grow up with a hedge, or builds his fence of rock.

Will write again in a few days, don't worry about me, I am getting anxious to get up to the front, and see some excitement. Maybe I will be there by the time you get this.

Things are getting pretty warm up there now. Don't answer for I don't know where I will go or what my address will be.

Love to all,
OMER O. AKIN,

GERMAN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR MOST BARBAROUS, SAYS DAVIS

Former Editor of The Times.
Now in France, Writes of
Cruelties Practiced on
Frenchman.

Letter from Leon Davis to his mother, Mrs. S. H. Davis of this city:

"Somewhere in France."
April 29, 1918.

Dearest Mother:

What shall I write tonight? is the question which assails me.

Well, in the first place I am well. I could be no other way. Secondly I have nothing of consequence to worry me except crawling out of bed onto a cement floor at dawn, and wondering whether the day will bring forth three squares or only canned hash and potatoes.

Say, when I get home, never make hash, only stacks of hot cakes, pie and cake and a good steak once in awhile.

I received Dad's watch the other day. The blamed thing must have been seasick on the way over for I had to take it to the hospital the next day. I am very pleased with it and I believe it will fill the bill in good shape. I rather regret your investing your money that way because I am perfectly able to buy for myself over here.

There is no doubt in my mind that you have been watching with much concern the tide of battle as it surges on the western front. So have we.

Through it all I can see no logical or sane hope for an early peace. The allies must concentrate enough men, or kill enough Boches, to outnumber them.

We are fighting no power that has become second rate. Germany is just reaching the height of her power, and she is cunning beyond any conception—as cunning as she is barbarous. But

(Continued on page 5.)



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