

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

Letter received by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Baker from their son, Jesse, now at Camp Meade, Maryland:

—:—
Camp Meade, Md., Oct. 6, 1918.
Dear Father and Mother:—I am well, except I have a little sore throat. There is lots of Spanish Influenza here in this camp. There have been several hundred deaths in this camp so far and there are lots more in the hospital that will die with the disease. It sure is an awful disease when it once gets started. It can bring a person down flat on his back in a very short time. The worst of the flu is over here now, I believe. They are not giving any passes out of the camp on account of the flu. The flu is bad all over the East. They are closing all public gathering places on account of it.

I have been with fellows that had the flu. The big part of our company is out at the base hospital, working in the wards and kitchen. They say that they have to work hard out there. I was sent out there with a bunch of

men last week to clean up the grounds and I saw between 30 and 40 dead men at the morgue.

I do hope you both are as well as usual and enjoying life very much. I am having it easier now than I did when I was in the 63rd infantry. I don't have so much drilling to do. I have drilled only one day and a half in this company with a gun since I have been in it. I go on guard duty tonight with a billy club. I go on at 9:00 o'clock tonight and am on for 24 hours. I am on two hours and off four hours, so it isn't so bad. A quite a bit of the time I am with the policing-up bunch—helping to pick up waste paper and other trash.

The 63rd Infantry are drilling very hard now. They are having lots of bayonet practice now.

What are you doing on the farm now? I would like to be there to help gather in the crops and visit.

I think the war will soon be over, the way things look now. I sure do hope so, anyway. I think that it has lasted about long enough to come to a close

by this time.

Well, I have been in the army 4½ months now and it seems like a year, pretty near. I sure do want to get back home safe and sound, if it is the Lord's will. I sure would like to be home within a year if it is the Lord's will. I don't know how long I will be in this company. They generally don't keep the men in this company very long. It is a company for those that are not now fit to go over there. They examine the men and put them in different classes. I am either in the A or the B class, I don't know which class I am in. A class is for overseas; B is for guard duty on this side; C class is for limited duty in work; D class is for discharge from the army; E class is for a re-examination. When I first came here I was put in E class.

Well, I am still serving my Savior and I am going to always serve him the rest of my life.

I just got a letter from Cora Smith.

Well, I will have to come to a close for this time. Write soon. I remain as ever, Your son,

JESSE S. BAKER.

Letter received by Mrs. E. S. May of Cedar Mills, from her brother, Omer Akin, now in the front line trenches:

On the Front, Sept. 25, 1918.
My dear Sister,—While I have time I will answer your letter of August 24 which found us all some busy but never too busy to read letters from home.

You ask about Steve and Beneka. They are here and are fine. They are sending you and the rest of the folks their best regards.

Your description of the G. A. R. reunion was fine. I would like to have seen it.

I am glad that my letters are enjoyed by the Beaverton people and I would like to have a copy of the Times. Several of the boys of the Battery got Oregonians and other Portland papers, but we all enjoy the Soldiers' News Letter that is sent to us every month (printed by the Oregonian.) We all received a copy yesterday and I see a lot of fellows are being called that I know. I hope that they will never have to come over here and go through what we have and will. We are now in an old position that has not been used for some time. The U. S. have relieved most of the French, so I think that there will be something doing soon. We live in deep dug-outs that are just about as safe as we have ever seen and the first time we have lived in them, but it has been so wet that we are glad to get shelter, it makes no difference what kind it is.

We have been listening to the "music" of Fritz's shells for a few days and we have been quiet and not saying a word and some of these fine days the tune will change.

We were out cleaning some German sleeping powders this morning. We have the most of the shells named but I don't know if the Huns have time to name them or not when they began to drop around them.

I have just found that someone has placed two boxes of fuses under our bed, but a little thing like that will not bother without we give it a kick while we are having a nightmare.

We saw a fine air battle this morning. A German airplane came over and got through the barrage that was trying to stop him. We were all watching him when all of a sudden there came out of the sky above him an Allied machine. Just like a flash he swooped down on the German. They exchanged a few shots and then Mr. Fritz turned his nose to the earth and just before he reached the ground his machine caught on fire. He fell about a mile from us but we could not go over to see it. I don't think there was anything left but ashes for we could see the smoke for a long time.

It is quite a sight to see and very exciting. Just like a ball game. We all yelled like wild men. But there are other times when the wrong man is brought down. It is only a chance after all.

Well, I have come to the end of this paper and I have no more just at present, for I had to borrow this, so I hope you enjoy this just as if it was a real letter.

Give my regards to everyone. With Love, Your brother,

OMER AKIN.

United War Work Next Week!

Now warming 2,500,000 homes

Why?

Because of the comfort, convenience and economy in heating with Perfection Oil Heater. Lights at the touch of a match—gives instant, cozy warmth. No smoke or odor. Easy to carry about.

Steady, comfortable heat for many hours on one filling with Pearl Oil, the ever-obtainable fuel. Oil consumed only when heat is needed—no waste.

THE WEEK AFTER NEXT WILL BE PERFECTION OIL HEATER WEEK

Look for your dealer's special display. Ask him about oil heater comfort, convenience and economy.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY (California)



PERFECTION OIL HEATER

F. H. Johnston, Special Agent, Standard Oil Co., Beaverton, Ore.

These Heaters for Sale by

I. N. Robinson, Tualatin, Ore. E. J. Lawrenz, Sherwood, Ore. Stevens Bros., Farmington, Ore.

Merchants Co-operative Exchange, Sherwood, Oregon.

J. Peters, Wilsonville, Ore. E. T. Turner, Laurel, Oregon.