

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

Letter received by Mrs. Ida May, Cedar Mills.

1918.—Dear Home Folks: After so long a time I will answer your letters, the last one received was dated September 13.

We cannot get any paper to write on, I had to borrow this from Beneka after a long hunt through the Battery.

It has never been like this at any other position. Everything is going fine with us, except too much rain. We have had a plenty, but today the sun is shining like summer.

We are having things pretty tough here, for the Huns are fighting like mad but are slowly giving away.

There is no use talking they have got to. Just now Fritz is sending a few shells over on a hill a few hundred yards to the right of us, and say they are big ones, you have seen explosions something like them when they blow out stumps around there.

As a rule we can hear them coming, if our guns are not firing, for they have quite a whistle. We have shrapnel proof dug outs, but they would crumble if one of those shells would hit them. It would take us a month to dig one that would be safe from them. When we came into this position it was quite warm for we were up with the front lines just a little way ahead of us. It was the closest we have ever been.

The machine gun bullets would whistle around us, which made it a little unsafe for our guns, that means if the Germans could make a counter attack, but we never let anything like that happen. But now they are driven back and we no longer hear the rattle of their infantry fire.

Some of the fellows went out yesterday hunting for souvenirs up towards the front, and they found a piano that used to be in the German headquarters, so when they came back we took a bunch of fellows and carried it back, so now we have all kinds of music. That is we think it is music. If some of the folks at home were to hear us all singing they might call it something else. Well anyway it puts a kick in life. I have been watching battle airplanes most all morning, which is quite a pastime for us when we have nothing else to do, there have been several, for it's the first day we have had for some time that has been clear enough for them to fly.

There is a rumor going around that we are to get relieved for awhile and it sure would be fine. I think four months at a stretch is long enough for the first time. We are all tired out it would do us all a lot of good for we have been working hard and need a rest.

I don't know if we are going to get it or not. We have got our Christmas packages coupons one being given out to each man, allowing us to have a package sent

to us according to directions. I am not saying what I want, In fact I don't care what it is, just send anything that I can use.

You are right about the casualty lists but when a fellow's time comes he will go. I would have liked to have seen the parade, glad to know we are being supported at home the way you say we are, I don't know what the words were that the censor cut out, I always try to write so it will all go through without being cut.

Glad to know that the kiddies are going to school, and I wish Clyde all the good luck in the world when he starts to Beaverton High. As for him being in France, he is a little young yet, and if I don't miss my guess the war will be over before he is old enough. You bet, they must all go after that piano and learn to play for there is nothing like music.

Yo must send this to Ada and Hank it is an answer to all the letters I have received for the last three weeks, also send it to Aunt Mant Butner and mother. I will write to you all when I get some more paper. Tell Wilma I would love to see her and her puppy. I suppose that E. S. Jr. is quite a man by this time.

I have received all of your letters up to date, as well as the rest of the folks. Ada's last one of September 11. Now that I have written to all of you a few words to Ada, personally. Don't bother about sending any money, for I got my pay all in a bunch, two hundred dollars, have salted it away, and now I get paid every pay day. We have no use for more up here, so don't send or bother about it, just take it and buy gas for your Ford. I have not at any time needed money, for I do not see any use for it over here. The way Hank wrote the money was put in the letter, if it was it had been taken out although the letter didn't seem as though it had been opened. I bought a \$50 bond, had it made out to mother, which was paid for in July, don't know if she has heard from it or not, suppose that she will in time. I took out another one this month. Ida "Steve" and Beneka received your cards the day I received your letter, both said they would drop you a line as soon as they could. Sending their best regards. Steve often mentions the dinner we had on the banks of the Clackamas.

Well I suppose you will be tired trying to read this, hope you can make it out, I have wrestled with it from head to foot, and am now lying down. A fellow has quite a time trying to write without a table of some kind. We have started a barrage. I will take my turn at the gun in a few minutes, must close, write as often as you can.

Your brother.  
OMER O. AKIN.

# PHOTOGRAPHS

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Letter received by Mrs. C. F. Neipert of Garibaldi, Oregon. The writer is a former Beaverton boy.

On the Front, October 23, Scene of Fritz's old homes, "France."—My Dear Mother: Just a few lines to let you know that I am still O. K. Every time they do what they have just done, it makes me jump, although I am in a really good dug out. I can't tell you I am up front as I am not; but near it. I was over to see a few of my old friends yesterday. I saw Hendricksen, Evans and five or six of my old comrades from Newport News. They are all in the heavy artillery and are only a few kilometers in back of us. I told you I saw Thornton about a week ago; didn't I? I gave him a bean of a cigarette lighter for a remembrance of me and our old days together. I had a peach of a trip away back into civilization three days ago. We went back about a hundred and fifty the colonel I am working for

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Washington: Notice is hereby given that the undersigned A. C. Allen has been appointed administrator of the estate of C. M. Straus, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Washington County, and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present same, duly verified as by law required, to the undersigned at 714 Swetland Building, Portland, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

Dated and first published this 25th day of October, 1918.

A. C. ALLEN, Administrator.  
Allen & Roberts, Attorneys for Administrator.

gave a lecture there. We got back all O. K. and moved up here when we came back into this neck of the woods. Then I had to make a trip back to get my bed and a few more things and got ruined on the way back up. We ran broadside into a nice big engineers' truck and pushed the front end of a big Winton limousine back where I should have been sitting. I almost made a clean dive through the wind shield. This is a really no good country up here as everything is  
(Continued on page 5.)

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