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Five Cents

LETTERS FROM OUR MORO SOLDIER BOYS

Descriptive Letter by George Tomlin

Orleans, France, Dec. 23, 1918.

Dear Friend:

This being a couple of days before Christmas I thought I would drop you a few lines. Am wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year now, but tho it will arrive late I know it will be accepted.

Things are very lively here now as they are preparing to give the boys a nice Christmas. I sure received as nice a present as anyone. It was about 12 letters from home, and I sure did not lose any time reading them, as it was my first mail. It was August and September mail. The next thing will be money about tomorrow and then we celebrate Christmas as we would at home (not quite).

Well, I have been waiting to tell you some of my experiences in this war right from where I began, and I hope you will appreciate it. I will start when the replacement went into Chateau Thierry on the 18th of June. We went as a bunch of casuals and found our dugouts, as they were already dug, and we no more than got settled than somebody said, "Hey, who's in there?" "Private Tomlin, a new man." "All right, you can come out and stand guard." Well, I

picks myself up outside of my dug-out and the corporal of the guard gives me the orders and shows me my post, and says to me: "Now, if anybody comes up here take no chances. Halt them with the point of your bayonet." We could sit down on our post if we wanted to but we had to keep our eyes open. "Halt, who goes there?" That was the corporal stopping the men bringing in the chow. And he had his gun stuck right in the fellow's face. I'll say he was taking no chances. Well, I certainly was on for about a week, and on the 24th of June we took a forth point of Belleau Wood. The next night they wanted a patrol and I was one to volunteer, because a new man don't want to miss anything. We went out in front of our front line about one mile and the 18th Co. was behind this patrol with shovels and picks to dig in. All this went very nice as we did it so quietly that the boss never knew we did, and they never were the wiser for some time. We then went into reserve and there I met Roy Bowman and we had a d-m good hand shake to meet so far away from home. We were pals till the 12th of July, when

we parted with a hand shake and a good-by, for we were off. Off where? Oh to the reserve, away back behind the lines for a rest. Here comes a lot of cameons (French trucks); we are going to ride, eh. Where to? Oh to the rear! Well, we went to the rear and on the night of July 17 we were hiking in mud and rain, and it was so dark you had to keep your hand on the man in front of you. Gang way! What's that? Oh! a man has been kicked by a mule, or a truck ran over him, and soon we found ourselves into the barb wire entanglements back of the French front line. Next morning at day break over the top with a barrage in front like a hail storm in Kansas. I was not in the front line as there was 20% left behind in case our company got shot up. We went in for support, but were under shell fire all the time and not far behind. There was lots of Huns got caught asleep because it was a surprise attack.

We came out on the 21st of July and made camp in a large woods, and on the 23d they took a salvage detail to gather up the old guns and other stuff that our boys had thrown away. There was an army captain in charge and he led into a ravine which was being shelled with tear and chlorine gas and it was there that I met with fate as well as some of my buddy's, but none got killed in

the gas because we soon made our way out. We did not think much about it until the next morning, when we were sick and our eyes were as black as if we had been shoveling coal. Lieut. Jackson came around and had us report at sick bay. We go down and the medical man sends us to a hospital and we were mighty glad to get to go. We went to Vichy, a summer resort and a swell place, and it had 19 large hospitals. The patients did not do anything but rest, that was to lay in bed. The next six weeks were very soft as we did not do anything but eat and sleep, and that was some class.

I left Vichy along in the early part of September and was sent to a casual camp at St. Agny. It was here that I met Louis Armstrong, a cousin of mine. We were both broke, so we just sat around and talked until I left on the 9th of September for my outfit. I just arrived in time to take a squint at the battle of St. Mihiel up on the Toul sector. That was a walk away battle for the Americans, but it rained all the night before and was a miserable night. I and Bowman came through this all right but I certainly didn't have any idea of coming out without a scratch.

We then made camp in some woods near Minouville for a few days and then marched through Toul to a little town about nine miles from Toul; it was about nine miles for it took us from 6 o'clock one night till 10 o'clock the next day. At this place the rumor was that we were going to Bordeaux for a rest—but nix on that stuff. The only rest we expected to get was in some hole dug for us or in the hospital. We left here for the supposed long trip to Bordeaux and landed the next day in a live sector on the Champaign front. We lay in reserve for the French for one week and then we took a hand on the morning of the 3d of October and made fair headway the first day. On the night of the 3d we were put on the left flank for protection from that side, and that night two Germans came over and gave themselves up. They said that there was five machine guns and a lot of infantry within 200 yards of us and they were supposed to make a counter attack at 4:30 the next morning, but it never happened. We started out with a creep on the 4th and went about one or two miles and we were on a hill when it was being swept by machine gun fire and the company got mixed up and we had to go back 200 yards to reorganize. We were in small timber about 12 feet high and the bullets were cutting twigs off above our heads. We started back and I gave a hand to the stretcher bearers and helped carry a man to the first aid. While we were going along with this man on our shoulders those 77s were going over our heads and lighting 50 yards away. We could not duck or find a hole, nor did we want to. No, we wanted to get this wounded man to safety, and we did.

We found the first aid without any difficulty and I started back to find my company, but I failed to get there for I stopped one of those many machine gun bullets. How lucky it was I don't know but I sure felt better, so I just laid down and laughed. Am still here for that one hit me in the leg in a very bad place, but I have recovered from it very good.

Well, I think this is about all I can tell and get away with, but when I return I can sure give you some spiel. There is not half in this letter that I did or saw. I would like to tell it all here but the censor might scratch it out.

Well, I will leave this war subject and talk about something else. I guess everybody is doing some tall work now being as everything is over. I hear there is an auto truck in town now doing the dray-ing. I guess the folks should worry about it, they will get all they can do and if I ever get back I will be able to instal a real plan to do that stuff. I think I ought to close for this time as this is a very long

letter. Hoping to hear from you soon I am, as ever,

Your friend,

George Tomlin.

43 Co. 5th Reg. Marines, A. E. F.

Soldier's Letter From France

An interesting letter was recently received by W. E. Smith and family from their son, James T. Smith, who writes of numerous different experiences that army life has brought him, chief among which is the following: Montigny-Le-Roy, 26th 26th Division Headquarters Troop, A. E. F. Dec. 17, 1918.

Dear Mother:

I received your letter of Nov. 17th. The Xmas box hasn't come yet. Some of the boys have got theirs but their homes are in the East or Boston.

No wonder I didn't get any answer from Charlie; I was addressing his letters to the wrong regiment. I had a touch of the flu last July and Fritz wouldn't leave me alone, kept poking over a shell once in a while. Was in the Tours sector, then was on the Paris and Metz road. The 4th of July it was our division that started the Huns on their return to Berlin on the drive of July 18. Then we had 10 days rest and went back to St. Mihiel when we run into a Hun division, that is what was left of it, with guns and enough grub to feed them for two months. From there we went up on the Muse river and had a big argument over hill 360. It was a hell, for it was zip, wow! zip bang! day and night, but we staid with the line and took ground away from them every day. Were right on their heels going toward Metz on the 11th day and 11th hour. Then we started for the S O S, where we are now. Good bye. From your son, James.

HIGH TRIBUTE TO AMERICA

Visiting Italian Recognizes Disinterestedness and High Ideals of the People of Our Country.

Capt. Giuseppe Bevilone, now in the United States, has written a friend in Rome as follows: "America shows the friendliest disposition toward Italy at present. The change, if there was a change, has been due to the astonishing peace victory. What I want to tell you, in our friends, is that America has thrown herself in the war and is fighting for a full and complete victory with all her immeasurable forces and with a power of will which is almost religious."

"It is an apostleship of faith which has occurred, as if by the appearance of a new Messiah. But I swear to you that your faith will not be betrayed. We do not realize the extent of this world of limitless resources, inhabited and worked by a new, fresh people, free and well disciplined, proud and resolved to make a sublime history. We have only a vague, unclear and inadequate idea of what lies beyond the seas."

"It is necessary to come here; it is necessary to tread this generous soil, which holds so many treasures, with our own feet. It is necessary to breathe this feverish air, to understand and to believe that through the final, painful sacrifices, the reign of justice is bidding its time, to avert its supremacy in the world."—Italian American News Bureau.

Rubber in Fiji Islands. According to a published statement of his majesty's trade commissioner to New Zealand, who has lately visited the Fiji Islands, the rubber industry is receiving much attention in those islands, and New Zealand farmers have planted large plantations there that have produced quantities of rubber reported to be of very high grade. It is claimed that there are thousands of acres in the Fiji Islands that are well adapted to this industry, and it is expected that extensive developments will follow. The price of rubber at present seems very low, since the market is so greatly restricted because of the war, but it is expected when normal conditions are restored that this will be a profitable industry in these islands, where labor is comparatively cheap.

Luckily, He Wasn't Fired Upon. There was one Yankee private in Thiaucourt who took a chance, but he couldn't resist the temptation. When his mates first saw him they were uncertain whether he was the talsar or the crown prince as they rushed forward to make the capture. For he was riding a German officer's horse, he had on a German officer's helmet, and on his chest was pinned the Iron cross, all left by German officers in their rush to safety. The Yankee, bent upon making an important capture, were a trifle disgusted to find that it was only Private Jones of the infantry.

MRS. McCORMICK



Mrs. Medill McCormick, wife of the senator-elect from Illinois, named chairman of the Republican women's national executive committee.

BAR AGAINST FOOD EXPORTS REMOVED

Washington.—The most sweeping removal of restrictions upon the exportation of foodstuffs made since the signing of the armistice was announced by the war trade board.

Commodities removed from the export conservation list were barley, corn and rye, including flour and meal made from these grains, oats and oat products, brewers' grains, bran and middlings, beans, dried and split peas, sugar and hydrogenated cotton seed oil.

These articles constituted a majority of the food items on the restricted list and their removal is effective immediately.

Attention was called to the fact that wheat and wheat flour remain on the restricted list. There was no indication when the embargo on those commodities would be removed, but it was said that it probably would remain in force until the government's agreement with the farmers for a maximum price on the 1919 wheat crop had expired.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

Nat C. Goodwin, the actor, died at a hotel in New York after a brief illness. Czech troops have occupied Austrian Silesia, having defeated the Poles, according to information from Vienna.

Austin Dowling, bishop of Des Moines, has been named archbishop of St. Paul, succeeding the late John Ireland.

It is estimated that nearly 200,000 men and women are idle in the United Kingdom and Ireland because of strikes in various trades.

Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Wilson, according to the Etette Belge, is suffering from an attack of influenza in Brussels. She is confined to her room in the American legation.

Official tables of major battle casualties of the American forces in France, made public by General March, chief of staff, show that approximately 10,000 men remained wholly unaccounted for nearly three months after the ending of hostilities.

An army of 800,000 men was unanimously decided on by the house military committee as the basis for determining the appropriation for army pay for the year beginning next July. Committee members said the number was expected to be the average force during the year.

All Seattle Industry Is Threatened. Seattle.—A city-wide strike of the majority of 152 labor organizations, involving the greater part of 70,000 workers, was scheduled to begin on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, in support of 25,000 striking metal trades workmen, who left the shipyards and contract shops here January 31 after their demands for higher pay than that given in the Macy federal wage adjustment award had been refused.

Red Propaganda Target of Probe. Washington.—Sweeping investigation of Bolsheviki, I. W. W. and other propaganda was ordered by the senate after a tempestuous discussion, in which several senators declared organizations were plotting to overthrow the American government by violence. The senate judiciary subcommittee, which for more than a year has been investigating pro-German and brewers' propaganda, was authorized by the senate resolution to conduct the new inquiry.

German Troops Attack Poles. Zurich.—German troops have attacked the Poles at several points along the eastern frontier, capturing Grunthal, Wunshein and Grossamokil.

Butter Exports Now Allowed. Washington.—Exports of butter, prohibited during the war, will be permitted under an order issued by the war trade board.

RESUME OF WORK OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Half of Session Has Passed With Few of Really Important Bills Presented.

Salem.—When the legislature assembled Monday for the fourth week of the session there was very little to its credit in the way of bills passed and sent up to the governor. As a matter of fact, very few of the important measures have been introduced in either house.

While the house did considerable work last week, the senate mostly marked time, due largely to the fact that the senate committees reported out few bills for consideration. Both houses from now on must get down to a steady grind and work longer hours if the usual congestion during the last days of the session are to be avoided. Perhaps the most important piece of legislation passed during the third week of the session was the Dimick-Kubli syndicalism bill, designed to suppress Bolsheviki, I. W. W., and kindred radical movements. The bill carried an emergency clause to make it effective immediately when signed by the governor.

The house by a very large vote passed the Gordon red flag bill, which forbids the display of the red flag, the emblem of anarchy and Bolshevism. This bill will undoubtedly meet with approval in the senate.

Senate Passes Anti-Trust Bill. The anti-trust bill passed the senate without opposition, but it is likely to cause discussion in the house and will be amended or voted down.

At this time no one can tell just what may be expected in the way of road legislation. There is lack of harmony about many features, but the \$10,000,000 road bonding bill is being whipped into shape and is scheduled to appear this week. It will provide that 75 per cent of the funds given the highway commission shall be spent on the primary roads outlined in the road building program of 1917, while the remaining 25 per cent is to be used in the discretion of the commission on any roads which it may decide are necessary of improvement. It will provide that the rate of interest is not to be more than 4 1/4 per cent and that the bonds shall be retired at the end of 25 years.

Non-Partisan Judiciary Sought. A bill introduced by Senator Norblad, of Clatsop county, provides for a non-political judicial system in Oregon. This measure is one which has for many years been advocated throughout the state, and the present assembly is expected to enact this bill into a law.

It is provided in the bill that all candidates for these offices shall be placed on a separate ballot at primary elections and this ballot shall be officially designated as the "official primary nominating non-political judicial ballot."

Anti-Lobby Bill Prepared. Complying with President Vinton's request that legislation be introduced curbing the activities of the huge paving lobby that descended on the legislature last week to lobby against measures striking at the paving trust, Senator Dimick drafted a drastic measure prohibiting lobbying.

Authority to construct a new penitentiary building at a cost of \$500,000 is sought in a bill introduced by Senator Rittner. The bill provides that the question be referred to a vote of the people at the next general, regular or special election.

Senator Dimick's bill making it a crime to teach the German language in the public schools and colleges of Oregon, was passed by the senate by a vote of 18 to 11.

Governor Signs Eight Measures. Eight bills have been signed by Governor Withycombe and filed with Secretary of State Olcott. They are: Soldiers' and sailors' commission bill, appropriating \$100,000 and carrying an emergency clause. Now effective.

Measure appropriating \$552,325 to meet deficiency appropriations of the emergency board; Emergency clause attached.

Measure appropriating \$25,000 to pay per diem and traveling expenses of members of the legislature and salaries of clerks and stenographers. Emergency clause attached.

Bill empowering cities and towns, without consent of property owners affected, to annex property that has been or will be surrounded by the city limits. Measure has particular application to Portland.

Two bills by Senator Baldwin placing state bank members of the federal reserve system on the same footing as national bank members.

Measure empowering the state highway commission to sell obsolete or worn-out machinery.

Measure extending the power of eminent domain for county courts and the highway commission so that use may be made of property before completion of condemnation proceedings.

Auction Sale

At what is known as the

Christiansen Farm

Eight miles southeast of Moro, five miles south and a little west of Monkland,

22 Head of Horses

All in the prime of life and ready for Spring work, as follows:

Bay Gelding, weight 1500.
Bay Mare, weight 1400.
Black Gelding, weight 1400.
Black Mare, weight 1600.
Dark iron grey Gelding, weight 1350.
Bay Mare, weight 1250.
Brown Mare, weight 1450.
Brown Saddle Mare, 4 years old.

Two bay Geldings, weight 1300.
Black Gelding, weight 1550.
Bay coach Gelding, weight 1200.
Black Gelding, weight 1250.
Black Mare, weight 1150.
Brown Gelding, weight 1400.
Two black 2-year-old Geldings
Brown 2-year-old Gelding.

Four Mules, 7 years old.

Also the following Farm property:

4-year-old Cow, soon fresh
3-bottom 14-inch John Deere Plow
16-foot Kimball Weeder
Nearly new Double Disc
Benicia 4-disc Plow
20-foot U-bar Harrow

9-foot Spring Tooth Harrow
14-foot Wagon Bed
40-sack capacity Feed Grinder
Two sets Work Harness
One Buggy
Double Bedstead

Two Double Bed Springs

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, '19

Sale Begins at 10 a.m.

Free Lunch at Noon

TERMS: All sums of \$20 and under cash in hand. All sums over \$20 approved note bearing 8 per cent interest due October 1, 1919; or 5 per cent discount for cash.

H. H. CHRISTIANSEN, Owner.

G. B. BOURHILL, Clerk.

C. G. HULS, Auctioneer.