

MEDFORD BOYS ENJOYING LIFE AT FORT COLUMBIA

Narrative Describes Movements of Company Seven Since Leaving Medford—Details of Camp Life Set Forth—Loss of Members Regretted—Still Room for Recruits.

(Special Correspondence.)

Fort Columbia, Wash., Aug. 11.

It is Saturday afternoon, following the usual week-end morning inspection, which the army regulations say must be held in all cases and under any circumstances. At this Saturday morning inspection nothing more serious in the way of a penalty was imposed by the captain than four or five members being required to scrub their soiled canvas leggings, which would indicate that all the rest of us came up to specifications. At least one member of the company fared worse than that last week, when he appeared in the ranks at inspection with a rusty gun, all but ruined. He has thirty days' confinement to camp in which to ascertain the latest and most approved method of combatting rust on Uncle Sammy's 30-30's. Squel, 109 bright, shiny guns this inspection.

Begins at Beginning.

But as this is the first of a promised series of communications for the Mail Tribune, the story should begin at the beginning, as all properly composed stories begin. And the "beginning," as far as the Seventh company is concerned, began with that wonderful, tearful, heart-throbbing and ever to be remembered parting on that "beautifully serene Sunday morning, now seemingly ages ago. The sadness of that parting of family ties, of sweetheart from sweetheart, of brothers from brothers, sons from heartbroken mothers and fathers, left a sadness that clung to and followed the military train for many, many miles. Even yet that wonderful outpouring of Medford's populace, with its touching, spontaneity of feeling for her "boys," is the subject of comment in many a soldier's tent here on the Columbia in the twilight hours when the serious business of war terminates for the day for all but the sentries, who walk their beats the long night thru, and the thoughts again go back to home ties and loves ones far away. If destiny has ordained that some of her boys may not return, Medford by her more than generous outpouring on that morning, has made the last long parting, if it comes, on far-away shores, much easier to bear. The "boys" will know that they are not forgotten, for such people do not forget.

Boys Feel Sad.

But the train sped hurriedly on after departing, notwithstanding the yearnings aboard and behind, pulling together with almost irresistible strength. Who knows how many young heartstrings were broken that morning in the effort to hold back the departing ones? The scene in Medford was only typical of that which was being enacted that same morning in thousands of peaceful communities. Three hundred thousand heartstrings of the nation's bravest boys were being broken that fateful day. But heartstrings have no place in the grim business of war. But we who believe in the absolute and final adjustment of all things, in the "eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth" scheme of adjustment, know that those heart-strings have not been broken in vain, that every heart throbbing must be recompensed in the day of reckoning and that the price to be paid by those who have brought this devastation and sorrow on the world's people will be very, very great and we will be very exacting in the terms of settlement.

Arrive at Destination.

Events have moved more than rapidly since our arrival. The papers have already told of the fine camp site and surroundings at Ft. Stevens, at which place we arrived early in the morning of the following day, after leaving home. But few companies had the foresight to prepare meals in advance for use in the train, as did the Seventh company, so after a fine breakfast, including hot coffee prepared on a gasoline stove in the baggage car, and crates and crates of fruit so generously donated by the home folks which we found on board, we were ready to get right down to the business of making camp the minute the train stopped. Many companies had no breakfast until afternoon, and one captain new at the business spent several hours running about the reservation looking for the department that was to furnish his company breakfast. He has no doubt ascertained by this time

that every fellow helps himself in this business, including cooking his own meals. If not, he has starved to death before this.

Moving Across River.

The few days at Fort Stevens passed quickly, most of the time being occupied in the preparation of the records necessary in the transition from state to federal status, which transition includes even the making of a will by every man entering the federal service. One's life history is pretty much a matter of record by the time the mastering officer gets thru with you. The papers are open to all who may read. Every minute physical defect or mark is recorded with scrupulous care. Forgotten or unknown scars and marks on your body are brought to light in such numbers and entered on your record that you begin to think you are already a battle-scarred veteran of a seven years' war. Your finger prints are taken on specially designed cards, showing the print of each individual finger tip, and then for good measure they take the finger prints of both hands all at once.

20 Doctors Examine.

No less than twenty doctors or attendants take a turn at you, reminding you of running the gauntlet of the savage red man, as told in Cooper's tales. And you stand just about the same chance of getting thru. There is little joke in that remark about running the gauntlet, for the final whack at you is making you run a race with yourself in a two-foot circle on the floor until you are ready to give up the whole business from sheer exhaustion. Then they clamp devices on you that record the blood pressure, heart weakness, gizzard action and a few other things that seem entirely irrelevant to the business of shooting Germans. It is small wonder that such valuable men to the company as army Sergeants Powell, Painter and Cowgill fell by the wayside, and all but got Gates, the first cook, and a few more who were dragged ashore all but gone. The gloom that settled over the company at the loss of such men was thicker than this Columbia river fog at taps. The cook was saved only by the captain agreeing to fit him out with a set of false teeth at a cost of \$60. He is worth ten times \$60 to the company and its health and welfare. Those who were finally rejected are as follows: Sergeants Cowgill, Painter and Powell; Second Cook Carpenter and Privates Childreth, Jackson, Stuart, Amy, McClain, Flynn and Miller. Not one of them but cried like babies at being compelled to leave their comrades and those that passed felt almost as downcast over their loss.

Loss Is Regretted.

The loss of Sergeant Powell was a particularly heavy blow to the company. He has been of inestimable value and probably never will be entirely replaced. If any money consideration could have saved him it would have been gladly given. The loss by physical examination, together with the six men transferred to the Eleventh company of Marshallfield, before we left home, leaves the company just six men short of the required strength of 109. There is, therefore, room for six more Medford men in the company.

While the Seventh company was losing eleven men, all other companies but one have lost on an average of over twenty. Ashland lost 21, Tillamook 23 and Albany 19. The Seventh company was pronounced the best physically, including both officers and men, of any company here which has been examined up to this time.

New Equipment.

After physical examination and the personnel of the company established, equipment was issued to make up the shortage, which previously existed. The Seventh company turned in the old style haversacks, belts, seabags, mess kits, etc., and received the latest and finest equipment. If the home folks could only see us now. They would not recognize us in the new togs. The new pack is carried high up on the shoulders, instead of hanging down

behind, giving you a wallop at every step. It took one whole evening of special instructions to teach us how to arrange the blankets, poncho, shelter tent and personal effects in the pack, but it was worth the trouble. Every one likes them much better than the old pack.

Only a few companies received the new equipment, the others being equipped with our castoff "garments." We felt sorry for them as they marched by and were handed our obsolete things, and not a few admonitions were given the new recipients to treat it gently, as it was somewhat decrepit and required attention befitting its age, and that we would always hold it in fond remembrance.

But this first installment lengthens, and there is much more to tell. Kindly say to those who have sent us books, fruit and dainties that it is greatly appreciated. Yesterday a large shipment of apricots arrived, also several cases of home canned fruit and jellies, all of which makes a pleasant diversion from dried apples and prunes. We sincerely thank the donors in corresponding measure.

BOOT-LEGGER MAKES GETAWAY BY AID OF GUN

There was more excitement up in the Siskiyou late last night when an unknown bootlegger who is still at large, after his arrest pointed a rifle at Justice of the Peace Wimer at Ashland, made the latter get out of the car and then jumped into the car and made his escape, together with a woman who was arrested with him.

According to the story which reached Medford today, Special Liquor Investigating Officer Porter and Justice Wimer, Sheriff Jennings and deputies and Special Liquor Officer Carpenter were scattered over the top of the mountain last night looking for bootleggers.

Wimer and Porter were doing duty together at quite a distance from the rest of the party when a car came along in which were two men and a woman. They halted the car and demanded to know if there was liquor in it. The reply was that they had, and six quarts of whisky were handed over.

The three were placed under arrest and one of the men was ordered out of the car and placed with Officer Porter in the latter's car. Justice Wimer and his prisoners started ahead for Ashland and Porter and his prisoner were to follow.

They had only gone a short distance when the man with Wimer stopped the car and, remarking that he had to fix a light, started to the rear of the car. A second later he held a rifle which had been handed to him by the woman who sat in the rear seat, at the head of Wimer and demanded that the latter get out.

Wimer left the car as ordered and walked a short distance away, also in compliance with orders, and the bootlegger then started the car and speeded away.

Sheriff Jennings and deputies and the police officers of all the valley towns searched all night and today for the bootlegger, but without success.

Officer Porter's prisoner was brought to Ashland, where today he was fined \$50 and costs for importing liquor into the state. He was a stranger and refused to give the names of his companions.

Colonel George P. Mims is in attendance this afternoon at the picnic in Ashland of former residents of the southern states, who reside in Jackson county. Lest he might be mistaken for an Oregonian, Ohloan, Kansan, or other common mortal, the colonel wore his big Texas sombrero to Ashland. He delivered an address to the gathering.

GERARD'S EXPOSE BRINGS CRITICISM FOR THE KAISER

German Press Censures Emperor's Irresponsible Conduct of Foreign Affairs—Censor Also Comes In for Grilling for Suppressing Disclosures—Reply Denounced Weak.

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 15.—Publication of Emperor William's telegram to President Wilson in the memoirs of former Ambassador Gerard, and the same belated attempt at explanation made by the semi-official *Norde Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, calls forth criticism in the German press of what is termed the German Emperor's irresponsible conduct of the foreign affairs of the empire. The various Berlin newspapers comment upon the system which permits a sovereign to pass upon such a question from a neutral power and to draft an important state document without consultation with a responsible minister, or even without the necessary records having been made. The incertitude of the semi-official organ which can only say that "possibly" the emperor may have drafted some such memorandum occasions general discontent.

Criticizes Censor.

The German press also sharply criticizes the action of the censor who prevented the publication of any reference to the Gerard disclosures for nearly a week as the entente and neutral newspapers had printed full particulars and these papers circulate in Germany.

The Berlin newspapers intimate that the question of ministerial responsibility or non-responsibility for Emperor William's autographed document will be raised in the reichstag.

the situation resembling that which arose from the famous interview with the emperor printed in the London Daily Telegraph several years ago, which likewise appeared without the chancellor, foreign secretary or other responsible official having any definite idea of its contents.

Reply Termed Weak.

The Hamburger *Fremdenblatt* criticizes the delay in appearance of the semi-official statement which the newspaper says was neither adroit nor forceful, betrays the embarrassment of the writer and adopts a tone of discouraged defiance.

The *Fremdenblatt* is inclined to question the veracity of the assertion made by the *Norde Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, that the document was not a telegram, saying that if Gerard really characterized mere notes jotted down to assist his memory as a formal telegram from the emperor it would be incorrect, but adding that the semi-official newspaper does not question that the ideas were the emperor's.

Blames Bethmann-Hollweg.

The *Fremdenblatt* concludes that the explanation of the *Norde Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* is not calculated to raise German prestige and admonishes Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann when next he is confronted by revelations by the other side to deny them boldly and stoutly.

Count von Reventlow, writing in the *Tages Zeitung*, shifts the blame for the emperor's irresponsible action from his majesty to Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the former imperial chancellor, who, the writer says, should have been present. The count attacks the ex-chancellor for "failing to warn the emperor about the insidious personality of the American ambassador."

NEW DRIVE SUCCESSFUL

(Continued from Page One.)

the Dixmude road. London also announces gains by entente troops northwest of Bixchoote, in the sector north of Ypres.

Active operations continue on the Aisne front. The French positions between Hurtebise and Craonne were bombarded heavily during the night, but the Germans did not renew the infantry actions which have cost them such heavy losses in the last

few weeks, in their vain efforts to expel the French from commanding positions.

British Official Report.

LONDON, Aug. 15.—Field Marshal Haig's forces attacked the German positions along a wide front early this morning from Lens to the northeast of Loos. The official statement says the British are making progress satisfactorily. General Haig reports that the British troops have carried the German first line at all points of the front attack.

The statement adds: "We attacked early this morning on a wide front from the northwest

outskirts of Lens to the Bois Hugo, northeast of Loos. Our troops have carried the German first lines of defense at all points and are making satisfactory progress.

French Official Report.

PARIS, Aug. 15.—The French attacked in Belgium last night and made a considerable advance in the region of the Dixmude road, the war office announced today.

The Germans directed a heavy artillery fire against the French first lines on the Aisne front between Hurtebise and Craonne.

On the Verdun front the French repulsed German attacks.



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A Peep at the New Fall Apparel for Women and Misses

REVEALS MODES THAT ARE MOST ATTRACTIVE

The styles evolved for this season are sure to appeal to your good taste—and every model in our noteworthy collection owes its presence to its distinctive styling and unusual value.

We are now well fitted to serve you with garments that are of unmistakable beauty and elegance—clothes that will reign in popularity this autumn and winter. With new shipments arriving daily in each department that we purchased by our buyer, who is now in the east, for cash, we can not only supply your wants, but will save you money.

Remember that our large cash buying power will help you more this year than ever before, and all these new goods that are coming in now were future orders, were bought at much lower prices than the present market, and will be sold while they last on that basis. So don't wait till they are sold and pay the advance prices of today's market.

New Fall Dress Goods

Our new line of Silks and Wool Dress Goods and Wash Fabrics for fall are here and represent all the new patterns and fancy checks and weaves for fall and winter wear. All wool and cotton goods have advanced by jumps and bounds for the past three weeks and are going higher.

Fall Underwear

Our new line of Underwear for fall and winter is now here, in both cotton and wool Union Suits and Two-Piece Garments. The underwear for this winter, of course, will be higher than last year, but not as high as if you wait till our stock is sold and we have to go on the market and buy the fill-in stock.

New Fall Shoes

Our line of Ladies' Dress Boots in fancy cloth and kid tops and our Men's and Boys' Shoes for fall have arrived, and they are strictly up-to-date. The prices speak for themselves.

Men's Suits

The men will be delighted with our new apparel for fall. See the chic New Suits. We specialize on the line at \$15 to \$20.



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