

PIECE OF SHELL GOES THRU COAT OF MEDFORD BOY

Nonchalantly and with modesty Gilbert Stewart, a Medford young man in the 4th engineers, in a letter just received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Stewart, relates the active part he took in the closing drives of the campaign in France. In the St. Mihiel drive he received a piece of shell thru his raincoat, and a dud shell exploding near him scared him "out of seven years growth." Once, by the Vesle river he "kissed himself good-bye." The letter in part follows:

"I am writing this from a town in Alsace. Believe me I never expected to be in this part of the country a few months ago. Some collapse to Willie's empire, wasn't it? This is one of the richest sections of Europe with some big steel mills and some fine towns as well as a rich farming country. The censorship is partly off now so I can sketch what has happened since I landed here. Here it is: "Landed in Bordeaux about May 13 and was shipped to Calais and billeted with the English army. Were armed with British guns, English instructors, etc. Were there about three weeks and were given our U. S. guns again, and sent down to the American sector. We wound up in reserve near Chateau Thierry about June 30th. Didn't see any real fighting but heard a few of Heinie's shells. "When the big attack of July 18th started we were first in reserve and then in active service. Some of it was damned active, too. Once down by the Vesle river I about kissed myself good-bye, but it was a little too early and I came thru without being touched. We were relieved on the 12th of August and went back for a rest.

"We moved up again to take part in the St. Mihiel drive. It only lasted a few days and then we moved over to start the last big drive that went clear into the Argonne. We started on Sept. 26th. (There was some artillery fire that morning), and were relieved on Oct. 19. Things were pretty hot there at times. I got a chunk of shell thru my raincoat and a dud shell that lit pretty close and scared me out of seven years growth.

"The work was about the same for each drive—building roads or stringing barbed wire and digging trenches. Of course at times the most important job was dodging Heinie's H. E. shells. That's about all there is to my war experiences. Of course I can add a lot of details later (verbally, I hope).

"Now I'm with the army in Alsace where I suppose I'll stick until peace is signed. Save a job for me sometime in February or March as I am in hopes of being back there by that time."

TRICKS OF HUN BOOBY TRAPS

LONDON, Dec. 22.—(Correspondence of Associated Press.) Detection by British army investigators of German "booby-traps" saved the lives of many an officer or man of the British armies during the period when the Germans were retreating from France. "I am convinced," says one officer, "that we nipped many of the Hun's favorite plans by capturing near Bray a little factory where he made his booby-traps. When we occupied it we learned much from the partly completed traps we found lying about the place.

"One of them was an iron plate. This the wily Hun dropped in a roadway so that it would likely be trod upon by soldier or horse of our advancing troops. The plate was in two parts, with a spring inside, and usually contained a detonator connecting with a heavy charge of explosive. When the weight of the foot was removed, the spring sprang into place and exploded the detonator, and the damage was done.

"These spring detonators were the German's specialty. They consisted of a tube containing a little spring with a hook at one end. Attached to the hook was a string or wire connecting with the explosive charge. Any arrangement by which the spring could be distended and then suddenly contracted served to jerk the string and the charge was exploded."

SEEK PROTECTION OF U. S. RIGHTS IN MEXICO

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Decision to send a committee to Paris to place before the peace conference information showing steps needed to protect American interests in Mexico was reached at a meeting held yesterday of executive committee of the National Association for the Protection of American Rights in Mexico. Edward L. Dohney, head of the Mexican Petroleum corporation, will be a member of the committee.

TAFT OR ROOT MAY BE NAMED PEACE DELEGATE

PARIS, Jan. 22.—While the peace congress is getting into action, the question of President Wilson naming a fifth delegate to act on the American mission when he himself departs, for home has again arisen, and the names of William H. Taft and Elihu Root have been mentioned. Mr. Wilson's decision as to appointment of another delegate depends wholly upon whether he will consider it necessary to return to Europe after the adjournment of the American congress in March. There is absolutely no question that he feels he must return to America in time to sign bills that have been passed at Washington. He has no thought of slitting them here, on the theory that the embassy is American territory.

So far the president has not been able to determine whether to return to the peace congress, but sufficient headway has not been made to indicate what may be hoped for in the approximately twenty days before his ship sails. He has expressed the hope that it would not be necessary for him to make another voyage across the Atlantic. At the same time, however, he has told his colleagues that, as he considers the business of the peace congress most important as concerns his country and the world, he would not hesitate to return if his presence is necessary to the success of his plan for a League of Nations. Until he decides whether he will return, there is no way of forecasting the appointment of another American delegate. If one should be named, Secretary of War Baker or possibly Admiral Benson being made a delegate depends upon whether it is decided that the American navy should be represented.

It is quite probable that President Wilson will take back with him as many American soldiers as his ship, the George Washington, can accommodate. On one of her voyages she carried 7500 men.

AMERICAN SAILORS WELCOMED TO ROME

ROME, Jan. 21.—A contingent of 200 American sailors arrived here today and was most enthusiastically received. The minister of the navy gave a luncheon for the American officers today, while American and Italian sailors were entertained at another restaurant.

TODAY'S CASUALTIES

Died of disease: Sergt. Newman G. Dennis, Dallas, Ore.; Sergt. John D. Fitzmaurice, Condon, Ore.; Pvt. Allen C. White, Kirky, Ore. Wounded severely: Lieut. William K. Nottingham, Carlton, Ore. Wounded, degree undetermined, previously reported killed in action: Pvt. Herman Gardner, North Bend, Ore.



BREMEN IN HANDS OF WORKINGMEN

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 22.—The city of Bremen is virtually in the hands of the workingmen, according to a dispatch to the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger from the German seaport. The workingmen have occupied the barracks, the town hall, the telephone office and the banks and have posted machine guns in the market place and in public buildings.

The soldiers in the barracks were disarmed by the workers. A general strike has been proclaimed at Romscheid as a protest against the killing of Dr. Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. Factories have been closed and traffic stopped.

BOLSHEVIKI THREATEN ALLIED PROPAGANDA

STOCKHOLM, Tuesday, Jan. 21.—Maxim Litvinoff, former Bolshevik ambassador in London, in a statement to the Associated Press today admitted that Bolshevik propaganda had been carried on in Germany, but denied any such activity in neutral or entente countries.

"Now when the entente nations are waging war on Russia and in Russian territory," he said, "however, we feel justified in engaging in propaganda work among the allied troops. Any government in our place would do the same."

MANY ROAD BILLS IN LOWER HOUSE

SALEM, Jan. 22.—Highway bills are coming in strong in the house. Representative Jones of Lincoln and Polk counties, presented a bill providing for a \$2,500,000 appropriation for a Roosevelt coast military highway to extend through Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, Douglas, Coos and Curry counties to the California line, being contingent on the federal government appropriating a like amount and providing for floating bonds for the project.

Sheldon introduced a series of highway measures. One would require the highway commission to keep a system of standard road signs on state highways; another would empower the commission to accept money from counties, individuals or corporations for highway work; a third would allow the commission to sell obsolete equipment. Still another would allow a speed limit of 30 miles an hour on state highways and another would extend the weight of load law to the western Oregon counties. He also has a bill providing for the prompt payment of bills for labor and material and a companion bill furnishing an emergency fund of \$30,000 to assist in such payment. In the senate Pierre introduced a bill providing for salaried state highway commissioners at \$4,000 a year, and to devote their entire time to the work.

PRESIDENT WILSON TO VISIT BRUSSELS MONDAY

PARIS, Jan. 22.—President Wilson, according to present plans, will go to Brussels next Monday, January 27.

POLES ACCUSED BY GERMANS OF AGGRESSIVE ACTS

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 22.—In reply to a British note requesting the German government to refrain from further provocation of the Polish population in East and West Prussia, Posen and Silesia, the German government, according to a dispatch from Berlin expressing agreement with Great Britain that the future of the German eastern frontier depends upon the peace conference. The German note expresses surprise at the request to refrain from provocation and says that the request "can only be attributed to the fact that the British government is inadequately informed of events in the east."

The German note declares that German had done everything to redress Polish grievances and accuses the Poles of continually provoking the Germans. It says that Posen is in a state of upheaval and that the German population has appealed for help from the German government who has been forced to take military measures to restore law and order. The note asserts that while the German government has refrained from action against Polish nationalists who "planned and committed treason and revolt," it cannot "suffer ambitious imperialism to reign supreme."

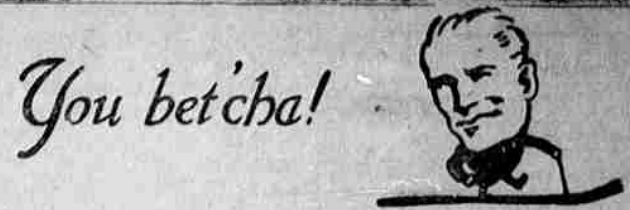
Events in Upper Silesia the German note contends, have nothing in common with national questions and regarding East Prussia there can be no talk of a national Polish movement there. The note concludes:

"All measures of the German government since the conclusion of the armistice have only served to carry out the prescriptions of the treaty toward unjustifiable Polish attempts to bring the Polish question to a head before the peace conference."



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