

Letter From France Tells Hardships in Conquered Country

A letter from an aunt in unoccupied France recently received by Mrs. Robert C. Wright, Beck Apartments, reveals the hardships which the people in that territory are undergoing because of the war. The woman, Mrs. Mary B. Barriquand is an American who with her husband, Felix, went to the Riviera section of France several years ago to retire from business. They are now unable to leave the country.

The letter follows:
"It has been such a long time since I wrote you and since I posted eight letters to the U. S. the same day and have had no answers to them, I have come to the conclusion they did not make port. I had an air mail letter today from Seattle posted December 10th, a letter from Minnesota two days before Christmas and posted there October 14th. Usually we get so many letters around Christmas but not this year.

"The Minnesota letter brought two small packages of gelatin, the first I have seen in France. I made one envelope for Christmas and the other for the New Year; it was quite a treat for us. We were able to buy two oranges the day before Christmas and two the day of New Year. This year the nuts and dried fruits are on the ration card and are given only to those in the cities. The paper has had a little box notice several times that all cards would be given jam this year, this week the little notice said for those in the cities. They also get more meat than we do in the rural communities but they get almost no potatoes and for weeks the only vegetables they can buy is turnips. I am still able to get a little milk.

Suffer in Cold
"We have had the most dreadful cold winter. Oh how we suffer from the cold, and being badly nourished doesn't help us to support the cold. We have received 100 pounds of coal so far and that doesn't last long when it is 20 degrees below (centigrade).

"We have a little wood left that Felix cut but its green and I am obliged to dry it in the oven. Last summer we pulled a two wheel cart about two miles up in the hills, left the main road for a cart track and finally left that for just a foot path almost straight up. Felix cut and cawed the limbs. I gathered them in a gunny sack put them on my back and skidded down the trail to the cart. When it was full Felix pulled the cart and I pushed from the rear end. I was all in by the time we got home, with our clothes and skin torn by the briars. I wonder if Uncle Sam would give us a job as pack mules in his army? Speaking of Uncle Sam, I wonder if the entrance of the U. S. in the war has affected you. I am so anxious to have news of you. I pray that you over there will never suffer as we do here. I hardly think that the U. S. will ever find itself in the position in which France now finds herself.

"It's just impossible to find for the new born babies and so little of it that I wonder they live—and the dark colors, it's horrid. It is said in today's paper when you ask for a ticket to buy shoes, the inspector will come to your house to see if you have any old shoes that can do you for a longer time. I have asked for the ticket and I can show them my shoes with almost all the sole gone. Life becomes more and more impossible. The daily paper five days a week is on one single sheet, the other two days two sheets.

Tree Honors Story Teller



An ancient redwood tree in California, in North Dyer's Flat, southern Humboldt County, has been dedicated to Irvin S. Cobb, right, internationally famous humorist. Participating in colorful ceremony was S. O. Johnson, left. Tree was appropriately named "Teller of Tales."

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It is the Lyons paper I speak of. Paper is almost impossible to find now.

Soap Unreceived
"I wonder if this letter will ever reach you. In October I received a letter posted January 9th, 1941, in Spokane. It was from Olive Ray Peterson. She enclosed some darning cotton wound on flat cardboard, it came through okay. Mrs. O'Conner sent thread the same way. Olive sent some bars of Ivory soap but I never received that. When her letter came I was darning a pair of brown stockings with some green embroidery floss which I found in my work basket. Sure a bit of green is always dear to the heart of an Irishman, be it on hat or hose.

"Mending Felix' clothes is the bane of my life. He needs coveralls and finally found some in Rive de Gier, but it took all his tickets for clothes and some of mine for one pair of trousers and they are of rayon. Imagine they will go to pieces at the first washing.

"Poor Felix! Tobacco is on the ration cards since last spring—they get 40 grains every ten days. Felix is a heavy smoker and doing without just kills him. He saved corn silk, dried it and filled in with that but it is gone now and he is very unhappy. They smoke dried potato leaves, tomato leaves and walnut leaves also.

Makes Own Soap
"We went to Lyon last week to see if they were still sending the Americans back but the consul said it was finished last February, but if anything should turn up we would be notified. He had just returned from the U. S. and I asked him how he had the courage to leave a country where they still had plenty of soap.

"It's horrid when you can't keep your person clean to say nothing of your clothes and house. I finally got hold of a recipe for a kind of soap made with ivy leaves, a box of soap powder and a candle. You can't get candles but I found in my trunk 12 little ones that I used for the illumination in the windows December 8th, 1938. You know in that region of Lyons on December 8th everyone puts lights in the windows. Lyons is a great sight on that night. The entire city lighted; it is quite thrilling. The church Foulverie sits on a high hill overlooking the city and the cardinal comes out on the balcony and gives his blessing to the city—all the hillside, the bridge and the Rhone, the streets and pavements are crowded with kneeling people. It's a sight I shall never forget. The hill on which the church is built is the hill where Caesar had his palace when the Romans ruled France.

"About 10 years ago there was a dreadful landslide on this hill and many people were buried under the earth and falling buildings. In digging out the bodies they found an old Roman city, theatre, all sorts of pottery, mosaics still in perfect condition, etc. I saw many of the monuments, etc., in the museum. This church is the loveliest I have ever seen, the walls have eight religious scenes done in tiny mosaics. They look like paintings. There is the scene of Jean d'Arc's life—The vow of Louis XIII, the immaculate conception, etc. Speaking of the immaculate conception, it was a Lyons woman, Pauline Marie Jaricot who predicted that it would be a dogma of the church. She is the founder of the 'propagation of the faith'. I have seen her house which is near Foulverie, and the little chapel she built and where the body of Saint Philomene is. We have the body of Saint Victoria here in St. Didier brought from the catacomb by a former priest. She is very pretty, a Roman Virgin martyred at the age of 13. About two years ago the priest had new clothes made for her, had her hair marcelled and out her in a lovely glass casket. The people here get many favors through her.

"We get the news from London every night and the Pacific News Service every morning. There is a big fine if one is caught listening to an English broadcast. We can't believe all we see in the paper.

"I wonder if this will ever reach you and we will get any letters now that the U. S. is up to its ears in war.

"I think you must live in an especially lovely part of the West."

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Specializing in
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JAMES EDMISTON MISSING IN RAF

Friends of James Edmiston, former Medford youth, will be sorry to hear that he is reported missing in enemy territory in Europe after participating in a bombing raid out of London. Eng. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Edmiston of San Jose, Calif. His father was a recent visitor in this city.

miston, was a recent visitor in this city and now resides in San Jose, Calif.

Young Edmiston was a graduate of Medford high school and had many friends in Medford and vicinity. He joined the RAF and was reported missing after the bomber of which he was a member failed to return after a raid over some part of Europe. It is not known whether he is being held prisoner of war or if he lost his life in line of duty. His father was secretary-manager of the C. and E. Fruit company, while a resident of Medford, living at 922 South Oakdale avenue.

WHITE ROBIN ON NORTH PEACH ST.

A group of residents on North Peach street were interested last evening in a young albino robin which was found hopping on the lawn of Mrs. Nellie Wall, 117 North Peach street. The freak in the robin family was entirely covered with white feathers and had red beaklike eyes and according to those who described it was perfect in other ways.

The bird remained on the grass for some time and Mrs. Wall picked the bird up in her hands while watering the lawn. Mrs. Violet McKinney of North Fir street also saw the bird. Mrs. Wall said today that while traveling in Pennsylvania in December of 1935 she saw two albino deer which had been shot by a man and his wife in that state.

An armored division may use up as much as 600 tons of ammunition in a single day of fighting—an amount which, loaded into freight cars, would require a train of 17 cars.

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Pleated or flared styles of soft, warm wool! Slide fastener closing. Fall tones.

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Charming styles to suit your every activity! Casual and dressy frocks in the change-of-season mood! Fall shades and black. 12 to 20.

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Pullover and cardigan styles in new fall colors. Sizes 12 to 40.

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Military Slack CLASSICS
Soft, comfortable, leather-soled—buckle strap for good fit! **3.49**

School Girl's Pet OXFORDS
Grained leather trim for smart sturdiness! Sanitized* lining! 12-3. **2.49**
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