

TO THE FRONT AND IN PADIS.

A Very Interesting Account of a Trip Made by a Member of Co. I.

Contres, France, July 17, 1918.

I returned last night from a 6 day trip to the front and to Paris. The Paris part of it was accidental, as it was necessary to go through there on our way to that part of the front that we headed for. I think I told you that I was going in my letter of July 7th. Four officers and 15 non-commissioned officers accompanied about (deleted), who were sent to the front as replacements for the Division. These men had only been here about ten days, but were pretty well trained before they left the U. S., were mostly from the Southern States and were a fine bunch of fellows. We were scheduled to leave here Monday, July 8th, but did not get away until Wednesday evening. Left here about 7:30 in the evening and marched the nine miles to St. Aignan, arriving there about 11 o'clock. The men had been issued traveling rations for 4 days, which they had to carry on their backs, their sacks however were sent along on auto trucks, which helped a lot as one's pack is pretty heavy as it contains everything that a soldier takes to the front with him. Every one, including the officers and non-coms, had to take their gas masks and steel helmets with them. Of course as the non-coms were not to stay up there we did not take anything with us except a small bag containing articles and a lunch. When we arrived at St. Aignan we found that there was no place to sleep in, and men who were very tired laid down in the road and grass along the railway and slept very soundly. As I had no blankets I broke into the depot and along with several others tried to get a little sleep on the waiting benches. At 6:30 next morning we boarded a troop train and started for our destination, which no one knew. French cars are rather smaller than ours and are divided up into small compartments holding about eight people each. The privates were put into 3rd class coaches, the non-coms into 2nd class ones and the officers had a first class carriage. There is very little difference in them, all being fairly comfortable, but no so comfortable as American cars. We saw a number of American army cars built here by our engineers for use of the army, they looked very large alongside of the French freight cars, which do not hold more than a good sized truck load. Later I will tell you what the Americans are doing in the railway construction line. We passed through a town, which was formerly just a small station, but is now the chief construction place for the A. E. F. railway. It is said that here is the very largest railway yards in all Europe, and is all American built for our railroad. The A. E. F. engineers are certainly performing wonders in the building and construction line; at every station we saw their work.

We passed through a very beautiful part of France, it looks very green with well kept little farms and endless groves of small trees. France contains lots of forests but they are all of small trees, as they have been set out by the government not a great many years ago. It is said that a hundred years ago that there was no trees at all in this country. These forests represent a lot of money and are very carefully kept, all the underbrush is kept carefully cleared out it being cut into uniform lengths and tied into bundles which are sold for firewood. Fuel is very high and it is quite wonderful on how little of it the average Frenchmen are able to cook their meals and heat their homes, when, indeed, they are heated, and it gets quite cold over here at times. Even now in summer the nights are always chilly and blankets feel good. We circled around the outskirts of Paris, on the east side of it, and arrived for the night at a suburb about 8 miles out, called Naisy-le-Sec. Here we stayed and tried to sleep in the cars. We found out here where we were headed for. Friday morning we left early for our sector of the fighting front, eating breakfast on the train, using the travel rations that we had brought along. At nine o'clock we arrived at a little town about 18 kilometers from the front line, where the troops were unloaded. This was as far as we who were accompanying them went. The troops were after a while loaded into trucks and taken further to the front to the various units where they were to be attached. I was very much disappointed that it was not possible for me not to get nearer the real fighting, but it was impossible to get leave to go any further. I saw a great many American soldiers of all branches and heard wonderful tales of the fighting qualities of the division that was holding this sector. They have done wonderfully well, have licked the Hun badly every time they have been engaged with them. The Germans have never yet gained any ground through forces composed of all American soldiers. This division that I have been speaking of have already become famous, and it is the one that our original bunch of privates, who came over with us from the states, went to as replacements. Several of the boys from Company I have been wounded but only one so far has been killed (deleted) of near Mt. Angel. Every one that I talked to had a good word for the Oregon Soldier. It is too bad that we could not have gone to the front as a

unit. We left this town at 4:39 in the afternoon and arrived in Paris that night at 6:30. We ate supper in the station at the American Red Cross canteen, which was free. The Red Cross is very good about looking after soldiers back from the front and if one wanted to could eat at their dining rooms in the various stations of Paris, gratis for some time. The lieutenant in charge of our party told us that if we cared we could stay in Paris until Monday night and that we were free until that time. I for one was very glad of the chance to get a little stay in that city, as it didn't seem that one had been to France unless they had seen something of Paris. The only way an enlisted man can get into Paris is on business as no one is permitted to go there on his leave, unless he has relatives who live there. This is the same of all the large cities of France.

The Y. M. C. A. (American) conducts several hotels for officers and soldiers in Paris, and we went to one, the Hotel du Pavillon which is located very centerly. Before the war this hotel, which is quite large and nicely furnished, was a German headquarters, that is it was the hotel where most of the Germans staid while in Paris, however, it is now used for better purposes. Two of us got a very comfortable room for four francs each which included use of bath which was a luxury that I very much appreciated. Everything is very high in Paris, and especially in foodstuffs, so that eating is expensive. The Y. M. C. A. conducts the restaurant that was formerly part of the hotel and serves very excellent meals at cost. The cooking and service is all French, the dining room very attractive with all its pre-war time silver and cut glass. It seemed very good indeed to get into such a pleasant place and made one feel all human again. That night (Friday) I went to a show, a big musical review at the Folies Bergere I guess it was good, but I did not understand much of it. The music was very good however. It was an enormous big place. Seats were from 39 francs down to 4, which last was my figure. Between the acts everyone crowded into the cafe, which was a part of the theatre, and got a drink, or a dozen, as fancy suited them. There was a great crowd there, lots of well dressed people and about a million American officers and soldiers. I got back to the hotel at midnight, mighty tired and you bet it did feel good to get in between sheets once again.

I had planned to get up early Saturday morning as I had planned a big program of sight seeing, but only got up just in time to catch the Y. M. C. A. "Rubber Neck" auto that left the hotel at 9:30. The trip was very interesting, taking in all the places of interest about the city. To name every place that we visited would take an hour, at the more famous church buildings and cathedrals we stopped and went through them. I had always wanted to go through the Louvre, but now it is all closed except the hall of statuary, which that afternoon I saw pretty thoroughly. From the morning trip we got back to the hotel at noon. Had a mighty good dinner, started bumbling around by myself, saw the Louvre, the Luxembourg Gardens, went through Napoleon's tomb and the museum of captured guns and aeroplanes which is all a part of the "Hotel des Invalides." I got lost several times but that did not bother me as I was having a good time and was seeing Paris and when the time came for me to get back to the hotel I finally found a man who could talk English and he started me back on the right road. One of the most interesting things here is the great number of sidewalk cafes on the main boulevards. The sidewalks are at least 50 feet in width in some places and over half of this space is taken up by these cafes, which place small tables and chairs there. How so many of them can exist is a wonder, they only serve drinks and a person can seemingly keep a table all afternoon by buying one glass of wine or beer. There is very little strong spirits sold in France during the war and then only during certain hours of the day. From six o'clock on, the main street and boulevard are crowded with people who do not seem to be going any place in particular, but just bumbling around, and it is then the cafes do the most business. At the time I was in Paris there was a great many soldiers of every nationality there for the big national holiday of France, July 14th—Bastille Day. That evening I attended a big entertainment given in the theatre whose name I can't spell, for American and English soldiers. It was excellent.

Next day Sunday, was of course the big day, July 14th, which the French people celebrate as we do the Fourth. In the morning was a big review of some units of all the various allies. I counted soldiers from seven different countries, even there was some Japanese troops in line, was not, however, any German troops. There was one regiment of American troops and it seemed to me that they got more applause than any other nation. They certainly were a fine looking bunch, the best I think of any that were in the review. The day was somewhat spoiled by several hard showers of rain and hail. After the parade I went for a boat ride on the Seine along with a big bunch of soldiers, the boat was too crowded to be enjoyable and we did not see any place of great interest. Got back about the middle of the afternoon

and strolled around in the "Jardin de Paris" until six o'clock, when I went to the "Palace de la Concorde" where the president of the republic was scheduled to make a speech. All I wanted was to see him as I knew that I would not understand anything that he said so I lined up on the curb where he was to pass and got a good look at his honor anyway. As he went past there was no cheering, only every man took off his hat and bowed and the soldiers saluted. I had dinner at the Y. M. C. A., which was good, even fed us some ice cream, was the first I have had on this side. That evening I did not do anything but just sit around and watched the people, seemed that everyone in Paris was out that evening, but as all the cafes and other places are compelled to close at 9:30 and all lights out, people had to go home early. That night I awoke and partly heard the big bombardment that started that night, although the battle line was only 30 miles away. I failed to see any place in Paris that looked like it had been damaged by either airplane raids or by the long range gun.

Monday I slept late again but got up in time to go for another sight seeing trip where we saw about all that we missed on the previous trip. After dinner I and the rest packed up to go to our train which was to leave from a station pretty far out to one side of town. While we were at the depot for our train a shell from the Big Bertha struck quite near us. Sounded as if it were in a hundred feet from where we stood. We found out afterward that it really had landed about 5 blocks away. We were unable to find out whether or not any damage had been done by it. That was the third shell that had landed that afternoon. The French people paid absolutely no attention whatever to it. I guess by this time they have gone through so much that nothing can shake them. We left Paris at 6:15 p.m. on the Paris and Orleans railroad. We went through Orleans about 7:30, our train stopped there about 15 minutes, I got off and sponged a cup of coffee off the Red Cross canteen that was in the station. There are no American soldiers there except a few M. P.'s. That night at 10:30 we got into the city of Bruges, a place of about 10,000 people. Here we stayed all night in the American Red Cross barracks. Got up early the next morning and the R. C. again gave us our breakfast and caught the American special train at 6:25. This American special is an American engine, and manned by an American crew for use of the A. E. F. We got into St. Aignan at 9:30 and so were back at home once again. I had a very enjoyable trip indeed and was very lucky that I had gotten the chance to go. We rode back to this village in an auto truck.

There is another big battle on and while we don't get much news of it what we do get is good and it looks like we were going to give the Hun a good licking. I hope so. We have another bunch of soldiers just over from the states, they will go forward in a few days. It begins to loog like we were here for some time yet. My, I would like to get into action with the regiment as a unit. This is getting to be an awful long letter, I hope that it is not wearing you, I had a lot in my system that I had to get out. I have a lot more that I wanted to tell but am afraid that you will never wade through this thus far so had better finish it at some other time. Well must close. Hope you get this.

Billy.

Liberty Loan Will Use the Round-Up

Pendleton, Sept. 2—Oregon state Liberty Loan headquarters are making extensive plans for featuring the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign before the crowds at the ninth annual Round-Up in this city Sept. 19-21. Their tentative program includes bringing to the city the military band from Camp Lewis, a trainload of trophies from the battlefields of France and a number of speakers to make short talks from the crowds-nests at the stadium.

Milton R. Klipper, state speakers' manager, called upon the directors of the Round-Up to lend the fame of their show to advertising the Fourth Loan, the campaign for which will open the week after the Round Up. The directors, having already pledged all profits to the Red Cross, gave the Liberty Loan officials free leave to advance their campaign in any method they choose and will cooperate in preparing some novel and attractive features for the parades and shows.

Wanted.

Stenographers who have had legal training. Men qualified for special or limited service only to be accepted.

Only white men qualified for special or limited service will be accepted under this call.

Men who qualify under this call will be assigned probably to the Judge Advocate General's and Provost Marshal General's Departments and they will be required to report court martial cases and attend to other matters pertaining to military law in the field. The work is interesting and will give invaluable experience to the fortunate applicants. Qualified registrants are urged to present themselves to their Local Board and have their names listed for service.

Not In America!



May the Joy of Freedom, whose inspiration has given American troops the valor which already has terrified the German, never be eclipsed by the threat of Hun triumph!

In thousands of homes in poor, stricken Belgium, and in similarly ravished Northern France, Cartoonist Yardley's conception above has been the too brief prelude to scenes too terrible to think of.

Hun hopes to leave the same mementoes of his secretly planned visit to America must be slight at present. As you desire the Teuton punished for his frightfulness, swell your subscription to the Fourth Liberty Loan.

STARTING A LIFE HABIT



This Polu, probably a Halsey sergeant attached to an American regiment, is about to try, not without evident trepidation, the great American doughnut. Probably future generations of Marie Celestes and Madeleine Fantines will not think of serving up supper without doughnuts.

The scene is in a Red Cross "hut" near the front lines, very likely in imminent danger of a shell upsetting things. Back up the Franco-American courage that jests in the face of death with an over-subscription to the Fourth Liberty Loan.

DREAD ELBE HUNGER STONE



While the German armies are getting the licking of their history from Rhelms to Flanders, the Huns at home are shaking their heads over the gloomy prophecy of the Elbe Hunger Stone, left dry by the shrinking waters of the Elbe.

"When you gaze on me, then weep," says the inscription placed upon the stone in 1417. In the 501 years that have followed, the legend says, plague and famine have followed every drought which revealed the stone. The Fourth Liberty Loan will give Germany something else to worry about.

- For Foch and Freedom—Buy Bonds. Idle dollars are pro-German.
- Beat the Boche with Bonds. Buy a Bond or be a Boche.
- Whip the Kaiser with Cash. "We will raise an American army of five million men and end the war next year," said Secretary Baker. "Okeh here," said President Wilson.
- Own bonds or wear them. Make your approving ballot a Fourth Liberty Bond—and make it an emphatic vote.
- Bridge the Rhine with Bonds. Down in your pockets or down on your knees—Liberty Bonds.
- Free Belgium with Bonds. Shekels for Freedom—Shackles for Serfs—Which?—Liberty Bonds.
- Lend as they fight.
- Arm the Yanks with Bonds.
- Bonds will help the Hun retreat.

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