

# THE BOSSIER BANNER.

Established by W. H. Scanland.

A Weekly Newspaper for the Common People—Untrammelled, Progressive, Conservative.

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BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1918.

Number 44.

Day and Night 'phones, 892

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PLAIN DEALING ... LOUISIANA

## Letters From the Soldier Boys

Dr. Bledsoe Writes.

Here are two short letters of interest from Dr. J. A. Bledsoe, son of the well known and well loved H. (Cade Tip) Bledsoe, of Haughton. We are not informed as to how long the young man has been in France. But think he is a recent arrival. Anyway, since he is now abroad his friends will be doubly glad to hear from him. The two letters follow:

British Expeditionary Forces, France, September 8, 1918.

My Dear Papa and Aunt Eliza:

As yet I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you since my arrival in France. However, I appreciate that it is inconvenient for you to write. I try to write you once a week so that you may know that I am getting along all right and that my thoughts are with you though I am far away.

I have often heard you speak of hearing the bullets flying past your head, but now I appreciate what it means. But war now and sixty years ago are somewhat different, for you did not have the heavy guns and shells and bombs from the planes to "dodge." I am quite sure Sherman knew what he was saying when he expressed his opinion of the war. Though we are now pushing the Boches back all along the line, and shall never stop until Kaiserism has been crushed.

I shall never regret rendering my poor services to my country and the Allied cause, though we can never know from one minute to the next what will happen. "Come what may, I know I am keeping up the brave name of my father, and shall do my duty to the last, for I love our good name, and shall never see it go down in shame, but shall uphold it—as you did fifty to sixty years ago.

The weather is none too pleasant just now—too cold and wet. But am feeling fine. Hope you both are as well as could be expected.

Write me when possible—42 Field Ambulance, B. E. F., France.

Haven't time to write more. —JIM.

Your devoted son,

British Expeditionary Forces, France, September 15, 1918.

My Dear Papa and Aunt Eliza:

Only a line this morning as I am very busy, and must also write to others.

Am getting along very well. Have a very good digestion. If the weather would let me alone I would have a better chance to sleep, as we have all gotten used to the big guns and shells.

Am up the line at first aid post, and, as you might know, there is not much time I may call my own. But always remember that I am thinking of you, and trust you are both as well as could be expected.

We are giving old Fritz a merry time nowadays, and I hope they will continue, and march through Berlin—and make it look worse than the trail left after Sherman's march through Georgia.

Would appreciate a letter. Much love to all of you. Your soldier boy, —JIM.

James A. Bledsoe.

First Lieut. M. O. R. C., U. S. A., 42nd Field Ambulance.

From Dayton Rogers.

The Banner's neighbor across the street, Mrs. Cynthia Rogers, has one son with the colors. He has but recently reached the battle front, and here is a short letter he has written his mother, under date of September 21st:

Dear Mother: Haven't heard from you as yet, but expect I haven't had time to do so, as it takes quite a while for a letter to reach here from the States.

The weather has been quite cool for the past few days. It remains on the fall season at home. But we are told it does not get so very cold here. There has been considerable rain the past few days.

Haven't been able to see Kelly and Gillum yet; don't even know where they are located. However, one night when we were moving I did pass Gillum, but he was asleep, and as we were to stop at the station for only a few seconds I would not awaken him.

Most of the boys have been a little ailing with colds, on account of such a change in climate. Had it myself, but am just about straight again.

Could write much more, but it would perhaps be censored. Can't say anything about the country or the French way of living.

Write as often as you can, and tell me about all the people at home, and give them all my best regards—and here's hoping that I will be back in the States shortly.

Will close for this time—with lots of love for all of you. Your son, DAYTON.

Private Andrew D. Rogers, Company F, 114th Engineers, American E. F., France, American Postoffice 904.

A Louisiana Landmark.

Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La., October 12, 1918.

Dear Friends: I have just finished reading a brief history of Jackson Barracks, and believing the same would be interesting to the readers of the Bossier Banner, have sent a written copy to the editor for publication.

Would much rather you could all have the opportunity of seeing these beautiful and historical places yourselves, but you could hardly get a better description of them than is given in the souvenir booklet from which this brief sketch was taken.

Our base hospital is not quite so crowded since a number of the New Orleans ladies volunteered as nurses to relieve our overworked Red Cross nurses and medical corps men. Those who have recovered from attacks of influenza speak well of the treatment they received while under their care.

We men at Jackson Barracks want nothing less than an unconditional surrender by the Kaiser, for that is, in our opinion, the only guarantee for a safe peace.

Your friend,

Private R. A. Moore, Fourth Company, C. A. C.

HISTORY OF JACKSON BARRACKS.

Jackson Barracks, with all of its old, antique buildings, its record of having harbored, trained and sent forth fitted men to the battlefield through four of our wars, and with its beautiful situation and surroundings, on the Mississippi River, makes it one of the most historical and beautiful army posts under the supervision of the United States Government to-day.

During the year 1835 the United States Barracks were completed. These barracks were situated on the city limits of New Orleans, on the Mississippi River, near the Chalmette National Cemetery, and were

named Jackson Barracks in honor of President Andrew Jackson. They are also situated on one of the most beautiful places in the vicinity of New Orleans.

For some time Jackson Barracks was Gen. Andrew Jackson's headquarters, and to-day some of the old antique buildings which are all constructed with two-foot walls that were used by Gen. Jackson are still in good condition and are being used daily by Uncle Sam's fighting men, where they are now training to help organize one of the mightiest war machines in existence, and with a purpose in view that must be accomplished—to free the world from autocracy and establish a world-wide democracy.

The white, square-shaped buildings, with the tall pillars, are very interesting to the public, and are the attraction of thousands of visitors from all parts of the United States. The buildings exhibit an excellent piece of architectural and constructional work of olden days.

Up until a short time ago there was a wall eighteen feet high and three feet thick enclosing the Barracks. At each of the four corners were stationed look-out towers. These towers were three stories high, with portholes for small cannons and storage room for ammunition on the ground floor, the second floor being designated for rifle-men, and the third floor, or roof, for the protection of look-outs. Directly in front of the Barracks and facing the Mississippi River was a large two-story brick building, which was used as the Administration Building. The high walls that enclosed the Barracks connected with this building on each end. Through the center of the building, on the ground floor, was a large arch-like porthole, which served as the main entrance to the Barracks. There are two of the towers and the old Administration Building were destroyed during 1908, when the levee washed away, taking the front wall with it. The other two towers are still standing and are in very good condition.

Jackson Barracks is also noted for the sick and wounded it has sheltered during our wars of the past. It was used as a base hospital during the Civil War, first by the Confederates, and then by the Federals. During our war with Mexico it was also used as a base hospital.

Up until 1898 Jackson Barracks was an infantry post, and at that time the Government saw the need of having heavy artillery stationed at the mouth of the only waterway that leads to the interior of the United States—the Mississippi River—consequently, since then it has been exclusively a coast artillery post.

The batteries stationed at this post are assigned to batteries at Fort St. Philip and Fort Jackson, which places are near the mouth of the Mississippi River and protect New Orleans, as well as various other cities in the interior of the United States, from invasion by water.

The batteries are almost invariably, and have quite a history attached to them. They have been attacked during two wars—the Mexican War and the Civil War. Some of the hardest fighting that occurred during the Civil War between land and water forces took place at these forts when Federal forces possessed the Mississippi. The cannons, carriages and much of the ammunition that was used in this attack are still there. The old forts to-day are in excellent condition.

At Fort Jackson is one of the first rifled cannons used in the United States.

The most striking of the old Spanish style fortifications that were used even back in our War of 1812.

One of the most beautiful and historical points about New Orleans is the Chalmette National Cemetery, which lies about a mile and a half below the Barracks. There are many graves of soldiers here. One may take the Rampart and Dauphine cars to the terminus, and then take an automobile and drive down along the riverfront. On pleasant days the walk is exceedingly enjoyable.

Along the route the visitor passes beautiful gardens and fine plantation homes of the colonial type. Notably, the ancient home of the Beauregard family, where the distinguished Confederate General first saw the light. The place is easily recognized by its broad galleries, great white columns and beautiful grounds.

Enjoying the gentle Southern breeze that creeps slowly from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi being located in such beautiful locality, and last but not least, being mingled with people, as are found in the city of New Orleans, who seem to fully understand and appreciate a soldier, and show their appreciation in every instance. It is an honor to any soldier to have had the pleasure and opportunity of being stationed at Jackson Barracks.

—Extracts from "A SOUVENIR OF JACKSON BARRACKS."

Thursday of last week the Allied forces were reported to be having trouble in keeping in contact with the enemy on account of the flooded condition of the country. They were being fast driven to their own frontier. Valenciennes was gradually being enveloped. Gen. Haig made a big advance between the Scheldt Canal and the Scheldt River, capturing 7000 Germans.

At Archangel the American and British forces repulsed heavy attacks by the Bolsheviks on the Divina front.

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Secretary of War Daniels announced that the United States Navy is forming on the Belgian battle front the most formidable mobile land gun in the history of warfare. These guns were originally intended for cruisers, but a change in design of the vessels left the guns unsuited for that use. An entire train is required for the monster.

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Austria-Hungary and Turkey were facing a big drive by the Allies. The Italians alone had captured more than 5000 prisoners, and during twenty-four hours 2102 men and forty-two officers. In addition, were taken prisoners. This drive, no doubt, is the cause of Austria's war for peace.

The Antislavery Diplomatic Council will be held at Versailles, and they will agree as to armistice terms, if any shall be granted, and it is generally believed the terms will be such that if Germany accedes to them she will be compelled to take what she is offered.

## THE EUROPEAN WAR.

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It was announced Sunday that Gen. Ludendorff, the military dictator of Germany, had resigned.

The reports of rioting in Germany have become common, with internal conditions growing worse.

The peace note by Solf to the President says: "The German government has taken cognizance of the answer of the President. The President is aware of the far-reaching changes which have been carried out in the German constitutional structure, and that peace negotiations are being conducted by a people's government," and other such not, "and that the German government now awaits proposals for an armistice," etc. Note.—When you "stack um" you will get um.

Austria is now crying for a sudden end of hostilities and a second note, asking for immediate negotiations, is on the way. In fact, they appear to be somewhat in a hurry, as they are unwilling to wait on Germany's appeal.

Operations on the Italian front resulted in the capture of 3000 Austrians and fifty-one big guns. Here is additional reason for Austria speeding up her peace "spiel."

Belgian wood was reported to be completely in the hands of the Americans. The Germans, at that time, still retained a foothold in Oranout wood, and artillery fighting was violent along the entire front east of the Meuse.

It was announced Tuesday that the Allies had agreed on the main points of an armistice, and the decision of the Versailles conference is anxiously awaited. The main peace terms will be submitted simultaneously with Germany and Austria.

More than 15,000 Austrian prisoners were reported to have been taken by the Allies.

Yesterday's dispatches stated that Turkey had made a complete surrender (even before Thanksgiving).

The Allied forces captured 50,000 Germans and hundreds of guns.

The enemy's entire 6th corps was reported as in a critical condition, and probably faces surrender or annihilation.

The Americans are making great gains in the Verdun sector.

All in all, the news from all fronts is most encouraging. —J. T. M.

## More Food to Be Produced.

Department of Agriculture Reader.]

A 10 per cent increase in the production of wheat and wheat during 1919 was pledged by the Deere Men's Organization of Madison County, Indiana, in two round meetings recently held in Anderson, that state. Spring wheat in this county yielded as high as 33 bushels to the acre.

## Proclamation!

By the GOVERNOR.

The nation's annual fire loss of approximately Two Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars is nearly equivalent to the interest upon Six Billion Dollars' worth of Liberty Bonds. This loss impairs America's financial resources at a time when war conditions call for the utmost retrenchment and thrift.

Fire causes enormous direct destruction of grain and other food-stuffs, lumber and a large variety of other war supplies.

Fire cripples productive industry engaged upon war orders to a far greater extent than is generally realized. While causing a vast impairment in America's fighting efficiency, fire loss is, in the main, unnecessary. Through the adoption of proper preventive measures and particularly through the cultivation of habits of carefulness, it could be greatly decreased. Fire prevention, therefore, becomes the patriotic duty of every citizen.

The co-operation of newspapers, churches, civil bodies, and particularly of school systems, will contribute powerfully to this end. At many points fire prevention education has become a well recognized feature in school work.

Considering the foregoing facts, and the universal custom throughout the United States of fixing an annual fire prevention day, I, R. G. Pleasant, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby name Saturday, November 2, 1918, as Fire Prevention Day in the State of Louisiana, and call upon all interested organizations and citizens to observe same.

In faith whereof, I have caused my hand and cause to be affixed to the Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this, the 23rd day of October, 1918.

R. G. PLEASANT.



## Gunner Depew

THE MOST AMAZING STORY OF THE WAR

By the Fighting, Laughing American Sailor Boy ALBERT N. DEPEW

GUNNER DEPEW, a sailor of the Legion, tells a thrilling story of what he did—what he saw—what he endured—in two years packed solid with fighting and adventure on land and sea. His description of the Yarrowdale with its cargo of human wretchedness is the first complete account written by an American who lived through the indescribable horrors of that now famous voyage. Gunner Depew writes of the German Prison Camps as only a man can who has lived and suffered in them—who has been face to face with the misery of the half-starved men—who has himself been the victim of the inhuman cruelties which the Huns heap on their prisoners of war.

Don't Fail to Read This Vivid and Gripping Narrative OUR NEW SERIAL!

Big Fund Must Be Raised. Publicity Bureau, Southern Department, United War Work Campaign Hdqrs.]

The influenza epidemic will not be allowed to interfere with the plans for the great United War Work Campaign for \$175,000,000 for the seven civilian welfare organizations, according to a telegram received from the national campaign headquarters in New York by Maj. A. P. Oakes, executive secretary for the Southern Department Campaign Publicity Bureau. The telegram, which quotes Dr. John R. Mott, Director General of the United War Work Council, to the effect that "the disadvantages of putting off the campaign outweigh any apparent advantages of such delay," follows:

"The date of November 11th to 18th, originally set for the United War Work Campaign, will be adhered to in spite of the country-wide influenza epidemic. This announcement has just been made by Dr. John R. Mott, Director General of the United War Work Council. This decision was reached only after careful consideration, wide consultation and a personal conference with President Wilson and members of the War Department. The disadvantages of putting off the campaign outweigh any apparent advantages of such delay," Dr. Mott stated. "Although health regulations will probably prevent the holding of large mass meetings, the local leaders throughout the country can be depended upon to exercise their best judgment and ingenuity in adopting plans to meet the changed conditions. The Fourth Liberty Loan was carried to a stupendously successful issue, even in the midst of the epidemic. Certainly the United War Work Campaign will not be adversely affected by the unfortunate conditions prevailing."

"The lack of large mass meetings to push the campaign will leave people more time to read, think and decide," Dr. Mott continued. "The press will be called upon and will voluntarily lend even greater advantage than they have planned to do, for a wider mass of the people of the United States to help offset the lack of big meetings in carrying the campaign through to a successful finish."

## War Stamp Sales in Louisiana.

Department Circular.]

The U. S. Treasury Department announces that the total sales of War-Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps through post-offices and Federal Reserve banks for September in Louisiana amounted to \$1,310,865.55, or 79 cents per capita, and the total sales from the beginning of the campaign to September 30th in Louisiana were \$9,935,247.85, or \$7.32 per capita. The total sales in the entire United States for September were \$90,552,918.33, or 86 cents per capita, and the sales since the beginning of the campaign \$72,713,977, or \$7.34 per capita.

Louisiana is not doing as well as the majority of the states. It is thirty-fourth on the list for the sales during September, and thirty-eighth for the total sales from the beginning of the campaign. The members of the state committee are fearful that our sales during October will not be nearly as good as they should be, on account of the influenza epidemic, and it is hoped by the committee that every one will not only remember their pledges but that after they have bought the stamps according to their pledges, they will purchase additional stamps between now and October 31st.

Posters calling attention to the necessity of fulfilling war-savings pledges have been

## Another Bossier Couple.

Old friends will be both pleased and surprised to learn of the marriage of Miss Florrie Martin, who on the 20th was wed to Mr. C. G. Peyton, in Texarkana, Ark., where they met by appointment. Miss Florrie and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Martin, recently removed to Little Rock, Ark., to reside, and her mother accompanied her on her trip to Texarkana to witness the ceremony. The groom has for some time made his home in Shreveport, but is a former resident of Bossier Parish, being a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Peyton, of Ward Four. For a number of years the bride resided in Benton, but they will make their future home in Shreveport. Both have many friends among the Banner's readers, and all will join the writer in an expression of well wishes.

## Colored Trooper's Indorsement.

A negro soldier, Gus May, from Ruston, wrote back to his father from Camp Pike: "If you are still helping the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. just continue. They are the two greatest organizations standing behind the boys. They are to me and others what you and mamma are at home."

## W.S.S. WAR-SAVING STAMPS ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT