SOLDIER BOY LETTERS

From Bert Ray McKern's Captain to His Father.

May 3, 1919.

Mr. Charles McKern, Leon, Iowa.

Dear Sir: It is believed that in a very short time the 88th division will leave France and sail for home. Very soon arfter arrival of the division in the United States your soldier will receive his honorable discharge and return to you.

He is bringing back many fine qualities in body and mind, which he has acquired or developed in the military service. The army has done everything it could to make him strong, fine, self reliant, yet self controlled. It returns him to you a better man.

You have been an important member of that great army of encouragement and enthusiasm which helped to make him and us all better soldiers. You can now be a great help in keeping alive the good qualities he is bringing back from the army, in making him as good a citizen as he has been a soldier.

He will be permitted to wear his uniform home and keep certain articles of his equipment as remembrances of his service.

The government will permit him to keep up for the benefit of his family, his insurance at the very low rate he is now paying.

His return to civil life will bring new problems for you both to solve. The qualities he brings back will help you now as your encouragement helped him while away and in your hands and his rests the future of our country.

As his commanding officer I am proud of him. He has done his duty well. I and his comrades will bid him good bye after he returns home. That spot in a man's heart no other place can fill.

Sincerely yours.
C. C. Snead,
Capt. of Supply Company,
352nd Infantry,
Commanding Company.

From Arthur Marshall.

U. S. S. Bobolink,
Europeant Waters, April 25, 1919.

Dear Mother: As I have a few spare minutes I will try and write you a few lines. I arrived in Scotland all o. k. and I received a letter from you this morning. We have been so busy I just couldn't get time to write before. We leave here Monday for the Shetland Islands and from there we go to Norway and Sweden. We expect to return to the states in eight or nine months at least. This is a very nice country but everything seems so queer. Of course, they talk the English language but they use a brogue which sounds so funny. They call us Yanks. It is a very rough country, mountains all around us and they are covered with snow the year round. We can look any direction and see snow on the mountain tops and down in the valleys they are farming, it is so warm, I said warm, but we think it is chilly, but it is really warm for this country. It is now about 9:30 and the sun is just setting and it will come up about 2:30 in the morning. The days are awfully long but before long the sun won't set before midnight and will start to come up again about 1:30 in the morning. Well, I am out of ink so I will close for tonight; will write again soon. I am o. k. and hope this finds you the same. So don't worry about me. Your loving son, Arthur.

From Willard Chastain.

Kirrch, Germany,
April 24, 1919.

Home Folks: Will answer your letter I received yesterday. I am alright. We moved from Bitburg, Sunday. Have been turning in some of our equipment. Suppose part of the division will be starting home in a few days. Don't know when we will start. Not until among the last, I guess. It is raining here today, but has been nice weather for a week. I sunburned my face moving down here. The wind was blowing and the sun was shining all day. General Pershing inspected the division a day or two ago. I haven't any papers to see what he said about it. Some of the boys said he told them they would all be home in thirty days. We were not there as we have 600 horses to look after. We are supposed to turn them in about the first of the month and then we will be ready to go. How is all the folks? I sent a box to you folks the other day with a few souvenirs in. I have a few more cards from France I will send in this letter. This will be all for this time. I will write again in a few days. Willard Chastain,
314 Mobile Vet. Sect.,
A. P. O. 761.

From Herbert L. Hubbard.

Condsdorf, Luxemburg,
April 20, 1919.

To My Dear Home Folks: How are you? I received your letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from your and to know you were all right. Well, I am o. k. at present and hope you are the same. I got a letter from John a few days ago and he is all right, or he was when he wrote the letter and it was dated April 8th, and I haven't got any more letters from Willie since I got that old letter that he had sent me on November 18th, and he was all right then when he wrote the letter. Well, I am glad you got my papers that I sent to you. If you don't get any more letters from me I guess we will be moving in a few days and I am sure glad of it for the old U. S. is the place; looks better to me. Oh, yes, you wanted to know if I was staying in private houses. I am, and the people sure treat us fine and this Easter I didn't have any eggs to eat at all, but when I get back home I will make up for that. Well, you can call everybody and tell them that they won't get any more letters from me till I get across the blue water. I will send you a letter as soon as I get across, so you will know I am all right. We will start moving about the 26th of this month to get on the boat, that sure sounds good to me, how about you? For I want to get back so I can go out and help Angy thresh this fall, as I got a letter from him the other day and he wanted me to help him and I want to go out anyway to see them. I will close for tonight, hoping to see you soon. From your son and brother, Pvt. Herbert L. Hubbard,
Co. H, 132nd Infantry,
American Exp. F., via. New York.

From John E. Hubbard.

April 22, 1919.

Dear Home Folks: Well, I received your letter a few days ago and was sure glad to hear from you and to know you were all well. I am o. k. and sure hope when these few lines reaches you that you are the same. I got a letter from Herbert yesterday and he is all right but haven't never heard from Willie yet. I sure would like to hear from him. Well, how is everybody back home? Well, I guess I will close for this time, hoping to hear from you soon. From Pvt. John E. Hubbard,
Co. A, 604th Engineers,
American Exp. Forces, France.

May 1, 1919.

Dear Sister and Brother: I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I am o. k. and hope when these few lines reaches you they will find you and Ralph both the same. Well the weather is awful bad here; it rains or snows nearly every day. Well I am working on the roads over here and don't know when I will get home. We were ready to go home in April but orders were changed. We will be home this summer some time. I got a letter from the [illegible] few days ago and he s[illegible] on his way home the[illegible] Trepassey but at that he may not [illegible] at until in June sometime. We[illegible] will close for this time. Good bye. From your brother, J. E. Hubbard.

Locating the Permanent Roads.

Jasper county is practically agreed that it will build some miles of permanent road but a row is on over the location. One faction wants the road to run between Newton and Monroe, another wants it between Colfax and Newton. And so they are fighting over it, according to reports from the seat of war.

Incidentally the row raised over locations demonstrates how valuable to a community a permanent road is considered, but rows rarely settle anything and often spill all the beans in the pot. That's the danger of a real row over the location of permanent roadways.

Naturally each community wants the road and if it is up to date and alive will try for it but it should be a contest and not a row. In the end if conducted in good temper and decently the contest will probably locate the road to the best advantage of the most people and the road will be built. It is better to have ten miles of road built in the county than none at all, even if it doesn't run by our own farms and into our own villages. There's another year and more road a comin'.

Counties looking toward road improvement and persons interested in better roads should foreclose on the danger that an actual row may defeat the main purpose of making the road. The stretch of permanent road is the first thing to be considered, next the location. When the location is finally settled then turn in and build it and next year build another and a few years hence when we have a system of decent roads available to all parts of the county congratulate ourselves that we went about this important movement toward a greater prosperity and comfort in Iowa with good temper, good sense and in a broad and systematic fashion.

Contest the locations but don't fight over them.—Marshalltown Times-Republican.

Martha Washington's Will.

Mrs. H. C. Quiett, of Leon, has a copy of the will of Martha Washington, as registered in the clerk's office at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and for the benefit of our readers we are permitted to publish it. It reads as follows:

The Will of Mary Washington, as registered in the Clerk's office at Fredericksburg, Virginia:

In the name of God! Amen! I, Mary Washington, of Fredericksburg, in the County of Spotsylvania, being in good health, but calling to mind the uncertainty of this life and willing to dispose of what remains of my worldly estate, do make and publish this, my last will, recommending, my soul into the hands of my Creator, hoping for a remission of all my sins through the merits and meditation of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind; I dispose of my worldly estate as follows:

Imprimis.—I give to my son, General George Washington, all my land in Accokeek Run, in the County of Stafford, and also my negro boy George, to him and his heirs forever. Also my best bed, bedstead, and Virginia cloth curtains (the same that stands in my best bed room), my quilted blue and white quilt and my best dressing glass.

Item.—I give and devise to my son, Charles Washington, my negro man, Tom, to him and his assigns forever.

Item.—I give and devise to my daughter, Betty Lewis, my phaeton and my bay horse.

Item.—I give and devise to my daughter-in-law, Hannah Washington, my purple cloth cloak lined with shag.

Item.—I give and devise to my grandson, Corbin Washington, my negro wench old Bet, my riding chair, and two black horses, to him and his assigns forever.

Item.—I give and devise to my grandson, Fielding Lewis, my negro man, Frederick, to him and his assigns forever, also eight silver tablespoons, half of my crockery ware and the blue and white tea china, with book case, oval table, one bedstead, one pair of sheets, one pair blankets and white counterpain, two table cloths, six red leather chairs, ahlf my pewter and one-half of my kitchen furniture.

Item.—I give and devise to my grandson, Lawrence Lewis, my negro wench Lydia, to him and his assigns forever.

Item.—I give and devise to my granddaughter, Betty Carter, my negro woman, little Bet, and her future increase, to her and her assigns forever. Also my largest looking glass, my walnut writing desk and drawers, a square dining table, one bedstead, bolster, one pillow, one blanket and pair sheets, white Virginia cloth counterpains and purple curtains, my red and white tea china, teaspoons, and the other half of my pewter and crockery ware, and the remainder of my iron kitchen furniture.

Item.—I give and devise to my grandson, George Washington, my [illegible] best glass, one bed, bedstead, [illegible] one pillow, one pair sheets, [illegible]et and counterpain.

M. A[illegible] I devise all my wearing app[illegible] to be equally divided between my granddaughters, Bettie Carter, Fannie Ball, and Milly Washington,—but should my daughter, Betty Lewis, fancy any one, two or three articles, she is to have them before a division thereof.

Lastly, I nominate and appoint my said son, General George Washington, executor of this, my will, and as I owe few or no debts, I direct my executor to give no security or appraise my estate, but desire the same may be allotted to devisees, with as little trouble and delay as may be desiring their acceptance thereof as a.l the token I now have to give them of my love for them.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 20th day of May, 1788.

Mary Washington.

Witness, John Ferneyhough.

Signed, sealed, and published in the presence of the said Mary Washington and at her desire.

John Mercer.
Joseph Walker.

Resolutions of Respect.

Again the angel of death has visited our chapter and called Sister Ellen Turpen, one that was dear and precious to us all. Our tender, loving sympathy goes out to the deeply bereaved and devoted husband and children, to them especially the loss is irreparable as she was the center of their love and affection. She was queen of a throne in her household. Few mothers exert a more noble influence over their children than did she. The loving influence and comradship that existed theretofore can but make an impression that will follow her family throughout life. Hers was a beautiful life filled with the goodness of God's wonderful love. Be it therefore,

Resolved, That this Chapter extend to the bereaved family its sincere sympathy in this sad hour, and be it further.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Chapter, a copy placed in the hands of the family, and a copy sent to the Journal and Reporter for publication.

We read the lesson through God's own hieroglyphics in every rejuvenating nature. While our bodies shall crumble into dust, yet the soul, the God-like attribute is a unit to which the law of decay does not apply. Temporarily it is incarcerated in its earthly prison, only to wing its flight to higher realms, beyond the compass of human thought and vision, when the frail shell shall have been broken. So we believe we can say of each one that has solved the great mystery.

Passing out of the shadow into
purer light,
Stopping behind the curtains, getting a clearer sight.
Passing out of the shadow into
eternal day,
Why do we call it dying, this
sweet going away?

Fraternally submitted,
ESTELLA MACY,
GRACE PARSONS,
E. C. HOLLISTER,
Committee.

When an energetic hardworking man feels unduly tired, half sick, "blue" and discouraged he thinks he is getting lazy. It isn't laziness, the trouble is in the stomach and bowels; they are disordered. To restore energy, vim and activity the right remedy is Prickly Ash Bitters. It is a man's remedy for regulating the system. Price $1.25 per bottle. E. E. Bell, special agent.

You can't make the old soldiers of the civil war believe that Chateau Thierry was anything like as bad as Gettysburg or Shiloh.

Lots of men say they have a habit of saying right out what they think, and they have nothing else to recommend them.

BOOKS NEEDED DESPITE RAPID TROOP RETURN.

Replacement of Books on Transports Necessary Throughout Summer Because of Heavy Losses.

Even if the return of all American troops now in France is accomplished by fall, in accordance with recent reports, it is stated by the American Library Association that half a million more books must be added to the library service for the army, navy and marine corps.

The additional books will be needed chiefly for returning troop transports, which can not be supplied from the stock of books which has been sent overseas.

Due to the heavy use they are receiving, books now in France are deteriorating very rapidly. When the fighting stopped the use of books increased enormously and has continued to grow in volume. The men have little to do to occupy a great amount of leisure time. Reading is one of the most substantial and profitable forms of diversion for the men in the present situation in France and the use of books and magazines is being encouraged by officers everywhere as a means of offering competition to the wine shops and counteracting the tendency to gambling.

Wholesome, exciting fiction is the sort which the men read most readily under the conditions now existing overseas. Good books of this kind are passed from man to man and soon go to pieces through sheer handling. It is necessary for the overseas organization of the A. L. A. to make constant replacements of these worn out volumes. As a result, the actual stock of available books in France dwindles steadily and none can be spared to put aboard transports for the homecoming troops.

Every transport is fitted out with a library in the American port where it docks. The demand for books aboard ship has been so great that these libraries are now being increased to the ratio of a book for every man. It is necessary also that the book collection be renewed at the end of each trip, as frequently a large number of volumes disappear in the course of the voyage.

For the transport service wholesome, entertaining fiction is needed. Books left at the public library will be forwarded promptly.

Additional Allowance For Travel is Granted.

Washington, D. C.—Having practically completed the $60 bonus payments to discharged soldiers from the army, so far as demobilization has progressed to date, the war department's director of finance is now settling additional travel allowances due enlisted men under the act of congress approved February 28, 1919. Under this act, settlement is to be made on the basis of five cents a mile to actual bona fide home, residence or place of muster into the service, at the option of the soldier.

Under this act, the soldier receives an additional allowance of one and a half cents per mile, and all soldiers who were mustered out before payment of this allowance was begun are entitled to the additional amount, upon filing claim with the auditor of the war department.

A bank form of application, which includes the necessary affidavit for the additional travel allowance, may be obtained from any army recruiting officer, the Red Cross or other agency organized to aid soldiers. This affidavit must be accompanied by a true copy of the soldier's discharge certificate, certified as such by a recruiting officer, or the original discharge certificate, which will be returned with the check.

While payment will be made on the original discharge certificate, claimants are advised that the use of a copy will eliminate the possibility of the loss of the original. A certified copy of discharge certificate submitted for payment of the $60 discharge bonus and now on file in the Zone Finance Office will be accepted in lieu of other copy or original certificate. Men who have submitted these certified copies should so state when forwarding claim.

In the payment of the $60 bonus granted by the government to discharged men, the director of finance had paid out more than $800,000,000, as the number of discharges up to this time have approximated 1,400,000.

A torpid liver is a heavy handicap to a working man. It robs him of strength, energy and mental alertness. To remove the burden the proper remedy is Prickly Ash Bitters. It is a fine liver, stomach and bowel medicine. Price $1.25 per bottle. E. E. Bell, special agent.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to say: "I eat so much it make me poor to carry it around?"

Your Battery's Different

There is one part of your new car that is different from all the rest—your battery.

For storage batteries are chemical—not mechanical.

The time to begin taking care of that battery is the first day that you get your new car. If you do this, your battery will not only last longer, but it will give you better service as long as it is in use.

So when you buy your new car, the very first thing to do is to come to us for full instructions. We will register your battery, and at the same time will be glad to give you a copy of the booklet, "Willard Service and You."

T. W. COLBY
East Side Square, Leon, Iowa

Willard STORAGE BATTERY SERVICE STATION

RED PEP'S PHILOSOPHY

"There isn't much sympathy for the worm that met the early bird."

Setting a "hot pace"

THE young men say we're outdistancing them all; that our styles are way in the lead---and young men know when it comes to style. We know something about it ourselves; one of them is---that

HART SCHAFFNER & MARX

have produced the livest models ever shown; better see them.

Shoes--Hats--Underwear

G. B. PRICE

The home of Hart Schaffner & Marx clothes

GIFTS FOR GRADUATION DAY BIRTHDAYS WEDDINGS ANYTIME

THE other day a pleased customer described ours as "the store of a thousand gifts." Almost everything in this store was intended as a gift, something to treasure, something to give happiness, something beautiful. Silver, gold, jewels, glass, china---every beautiful and valuable material worked in charming designs for gift purposes.

The prices are not nearly so high as you would expect to pay for goods of such quality and workmanship.

If it is your task to choose a gift soon, let us help you make your selection as we have something that is sure to please at the price you wish to pay.

YOU are welcome if you only look.

FINE REPAIRING A SPECIALTY — THE STORE WITH A GUARANTEE

B JEWELER

C. R. BARNUM
LEON, IOWA

I was there to make a sketch of her. Luncheon was just over, and she was talking to a little knot of women. The first words I heard, as I slid quietly into a nearby seat, were "National Biscuit," recalling pleasantly my own tasty Uneeda Luncheon. I liked her, and [illegible] fortably as she spoke again, my pen [illegible] and ears [illegible] daylight,' [illegible]

Bringing to the door of your dining room—as close as your own kitchen—the matchless facilities of the best and most wholesome bakeries in the world. Uneeda Biscuit come to you as fresh and immaculate as when they were taken from the oven.

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

[illegible] is just a [illegible] us happily, [illegible] is all, and made us sure they [illegible] coming every day—for both know we must feed [illegible] children, as we must [illegible], if we would [illegible] after their [illegible] ways like [illegible] ready to [illegible] up in [illegible] tent. [illegible] hour [illegible] it seem [illegible] navy enough [illegible] her, but always [illegible] always dainty, al- [illegible] appetizing as only National Biscuit Products can be. During the years when my babies were growing up we never missed the Children's Hour with its tasty feast.

"You see, even little [illegible] went on, "are much like little [illegible] mals. They are most lovable and most tractable after they've had something to eat. National Biscuit dainties always begin our Children's Hour like a feast. For the tiny toddlers there is a varied menu, sometimes Uneeda Biscuit and milk, sometimes Graham Crackers, Oatmeal Crackers or Lunch Biscuit. This is changed on special occasions to Old Time Sugar Cookies, [illegible] Newtons and, rarest of all, there are days when we had ice cream and Nabisco, and those were our party days.

"Don't think my [illegible] is just a [illegible] mouth. It starts us happily, [illegible] is all, and made us sure they [illegible] coming every day—for both know we must feed [illegible] children, as we must [illegible], if we would [illegible] after their [illegible] ways like [illegible] ady to [illegible] up in [illegible] tent. [illegible] hour [illegible] it seem [illegible] navy enough [illegible] her, but always [illegible] always dainty, al- [illegible] appetizing as only National Biscuit Products can be. During the years when my babies were growing up we never missed the Children's Hour with its tasty feast.