

NEWS OF OUR SOLDIER BOYS

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but you ought to see me. My last shave, bath and change of clothing was at Camp Upton, and that was two weeks ago and I've been living in mud for a week! If I shave or wash now I'll catch cold sure, as I'd lose so much covering. I understand we are going to move into more permanent quarters soon, where we will have shower baths and barracks. My! what a luxury that will be. I may be sent back on a hospital ship to help take care of the wounded—I don't know what I am going to do.

Dec. 6.—We left New York City on Friday, November 15 in the evening. Sailed on the S. S. France, the largest and fastest of the French liners. Arrived in the harbor of Brest, France, on Friday morning, Nov. 22. As the ship was too big to come up to the docks we were transferred to a smaller steamer and taken to shore. We marched through the narrow, dirty streets of the city out into the country to the rest camp at the old French Vontenege barracks.

We left this camp on Sunday, Dec. 1, a cold drizzly morning, and marched with our packs to the railroad station at Brest. Here we took the train. I rode with six other non-coms in a third class compartment of a third class, four-wheeled coach, or buggy. One entered from the side, all the same as a hack. There were no cushions on the seats, just plain wooden benches, no heat, no aisles and no wash rooms. We rode and slept in this compartment for two days and two nights. The road followed the coast line south. The farther south we went the prettier the country got, the better the towns and cities were, and the neater and cleaner the people seemed. Nantes on the river Loire was especially pretty. Here we saw the sun for the first time in France. It sure cheered us up. We arrived at Bordeaux early in the morning, then started east, finally arrived at Perigueux, our destination, at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Here we detrained and marched through town to our quarters.

There is a dandy Red Cross building here where one can go to write or play games or visit around the stoves. One night they had a dandy band concert and another night a movie show. There is no "Y" or K. C. hall and no canteen. Tobacco is about the only article here one can buy. There is no candy. There are French peddlers who sell grapes, apples, figs, nuts, etc., but the prices are so high one cannot afford to buy very often. Chewing gum is not to be had nor have I seen any since leaving the States.

From Fletcher Mingus.

Nov. 10—I have not much to write

about this time, so will give you a description of what is going on over here; that is, as much as I am allowed to tell. The traffic is something immense and our trucks are sure doing great work and there are scads of them, too. In one place where we waited by the road all day our trucks went by in a steady stream on both sides of the road about twenty feet apart. On the main roads it reminds one of the main streets in the cities, traffic is so congested. The French have a great number of trucks also, but they are getting old and worn out and do not compare with ours in strength and size. Sometimes when a division is moved by trucks the trucks are lined up in a solid column for five or six miles and sometimes more. Our tractors sure do great work also in moving heavy artillery. They are very large and of the caterpillar type and have some power.

Talking about motor trucks, accidents will happen sometimes. I saw a soldier getting off of one that was pulling a big gun which had wheels about a foot wide. His foot slipped and he fell and the wheel of the big gun ran right over his head. But that is one accident in many. Most all our movements are made at night without lights and we get some merry rides sometimes. Thirty of us get into a truck with our packs and instruments, which makes a tight squeeze.

I saw a boche aeroplane over our lines the other day taking observations. Our anti-aircraft guns were shooting at him, but he was not very scared, as they only bring one down in about 5000 shots. Suddenly five of our planes dropped down out of the clouds on top of him and I soon heard his engine quit on him and two of our planes followed him clear to the ground to make sure he wasn't fooling. I also saw another one brought down the same day. The Hun also got one of our observation balloons that afternoon about a mile from here, and I saw the two observers come down from the balloon in their parachutes. The balloon burned up in about a minute. The balloons are filled with an explosive gas and they are set on fire with a special kind of bullet and burn very rapidly.

In the place we are now we have the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A and Salvation Army, from which we can purchase a limited amount of chocolates and cookies and a few other articles. But I believe the Salvation Army does the most good for the funds it receives.

Nov. 11.—The war ended yesterday at 11 o'clock. Had a big time and the band played on the street.

Nov. 30.—I thought of you all on Thanksgiving day and knew you were thinking of me. I spent a very pleasant day and had a nice dinner. In the afternoon we (the band) played for a football game and gave a concert in the evening. I played while a fellow

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is gone on a furlough, which seems pretty good.

We landed in London, when we came across and went to Southampton, where we crossed the English channel to Le Harve, France. After spending a day in the rest camp there we went to Bourges, near the center of France, where we were billeted three weeks. From there we were sent to the 28th division of Pennsylvania and joined them just as they were going into the Argonne Forest, in which engagement they played a big part. It was a difficult place to take, as the French and Germans had been in the same place for four years and had dug themselves in very securely. Our men sent one of the worst barrages over during the war. It started about 10 o'clock and lasted until daylight in the morning, and was one big roar, like the ocean, only much louder. The Germans had concrete dugouts that were fixed up like palaces, with pianos and everything in them. From there we went to a place called Pannes, just in front of Metz, where we were until the armistice was signed, which, if they had not signed, we would have taken in a very short time, because we had artillery hub deep and large ones too. From there we moved to a place near here in some German billets, which they had fixed up nice, for two weeks.

Buxieres, Dec. 15—Our division has been picked to reinforce the occupation troops going into Germany, so do not know when we will be sent home. The division has also been given the name of the "Iron Division" by General Pershing for their good work during the war. We are also one of the red fighting divisions and wear the red keystone on our left shoulders.

We have a very nice view from a high hill close by here. We can see all over because the rest of the land is low. Fifteen towns are in sight, but the towns are close together, sometimes not more than a mile apart, and are not very large. The view reminds one of Freezeout hill, only much larger. Another fellow and I are going over to Mount Sec this afternoon and see the trenches and dugouts. They say the Germans had tunnels clear through the mountain.

The orchestra is going to Nancy tonight to play for a show. They went to Toul last night and may go to Paris. One of our battalions has been picked to parade before President Wilson in Paris.

CASH IN ADVANCE.

One of the mistaken business practices which newspapers have followed in the past and which the exigencies of war conditions relegated to the discard was the habit of continuing subscriptions on and on after their original term had expired. Especially was this true of weekly newspapers pub-

lished and circulated in communities comparatively small and limited.

The publishers were always between two fires. They could not demand cash in advance because a large proportion of their subscribers were personal friends and many of these would have resented such a course as a reflection upon their own credit and good intentions. In order to avoid suspending these friends the publisher was ordinarily compelled to adopt the rather shiftless policy of allowing the name to stand until something happened to get it paid up or stopped.

Under orders of the war industries board last fall this practice was summarily stopped. The country weekly newspaper was told that, regardless of whom it might offend, it must discontinue subscriptions which were in arrears.

The paying in advance method is much preferable from the standpoint of the subscriber as well as of the publisher. He buys a subscription for a certain length of time and if not renewed at expiration it ceases at that date. No further obligation is incurred. Under the old plan the paper would continue to come to him for a year, two years or many years and eventually he would have to pay the accumulated bill or be marked down as a bad egg on the books of the publisher. Under the new scheme he renews if he wants to and does not renew if he doesn't want to.

Now that the war is over and war restrictions have been removed, The Index will not return to the old credit system. We are convinced that nobody ever cared much for a newspaper or anything else, he got for nothing, no matter how good it might be.

Credit will be gladly extended to those deserving of it, but it must be arranged for. This paper will not be forced on anyone who does not care for it enough to pay for it.

Watch the label on your paper; it tells when your subscription expires. If you don't want to miss an issue renew promptly, either by paying cash or arranging for a short credit.

Cured at a Cost of 25 Cents. "Eight years ago when we first moved to Mattoon, I was a great sufferer from indigestion and constipation," writes Mrs. Robert Allison, Mattoon, Ill. "I had frequent headaches and dizzy spells and there was a feeling like a heavy weight pressing on my stomach and chest all the time. I felt miserable. Every morsel of food distressed me. I could not rest at night and felt tired and worn out all the time. One bottle of Chamberlain's Tablets cured me and I have since felt like a different person."

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