

Letters from Soldiers

Written to the Home Folks From This Side and the Other Side of the Water.

From Al Ehlers.

Mrs. Fred Vater, Whiting, has received the following letter from her brother, A. W. Ehlers who has just arrived in France:

Somewhere in France, Sept. 19, 1918. Dear Sister:

This is the first opportunity I have had to write to you and tell you how things have been going since I left Camp Mills. We have been traveling most all of the time the last three weeks, but I guess we will stay here for awhile. We had a dandy trip across the Atlantic. It was very calm almost all the way and the boat we came on was the second biggest afloat (in fact it was a floating city). We were in England only a short time. Then we crossed the English channel, which was quite rough, and landed in France in one of their rest camps. We then rode in box cars for about three days and are now in the southern part of France, which is some pretty country. The people are very nice to us and are anxious to learn English so we are to learn French. It's very hard to buy anything here as the people don't have anything in their stores that we can eat and what they have they charge enough for. They charge twenty cents for a piece of soap the size of a shaving cake soap and forty cents for a small can of sardines, and you can't buy any candy or cookies or any kind. They don't have any sewers either, but we have a nice stream of water that we can bathe in and wash our clothes, for which I am very thankful. I don't think it gets very cold down here in the winter time as the days now are quite warm, although the evenings are cool.

Well, this is all the paper I have, so will have to close. Lots of love to you all. Your brother,
ALFRED W. EHLERS,
Co. A, 334 Reg., A. P. O. 905,
A. E. F., France.

From Fred Bohn.

Mrs. Wm. Bohn received the following letter from her son, Fred Bohn, who is somewhere in France:

France, Sept. 17, 1918. Dear Folks:

I'm writing a few lines to send with the letter I wrote yesterday which I could not mail. I said in that one, we may get orders to leave here at any time, we sure got them just as we were going to bed. We got orders to strike tents and move. We just got our packs ready and waiting for orders to start when a German aeroplane came along and dropped a few bombs around us which did not feel very good. The company left eight of us behind to care for some rations which they are going to send wagons for.

Sept. 15.—Did not finish for wagons arrived and so did another aeroplane which dropped a few more bombs but thank the Lord they missed us again. We are now up close to the front and expect to stay awhile. We have a good bit of shelter here so let the Germans come and we will try and send them to their happy hunting ground. Will close with love to all and hope you are all well.

Your loving son,
FRED.
P. S.—Will write more later.

From Martin Eggers.

Mrs. Fred Eggers received the following letter from her son, Martin Eggers: Winchester, England, Oct. 6, 1918.

Dear Mother:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still fine and dandy. Today is Sunday and the weather certainly fine, a great one to be taking a hike out the country roads as we did yesterday afternoon.

We didn't do any flying yesterday on account of the snow which lasted all day and in the evening it rained. We

received your letter yesterday and mighty glad to hear that you are all well, as this letter leaves me the same. From the letters I have been receiving and by THE TIMES the flu epidemic here has hit Hammond mighty hard and hope that it is under control by this time. We had quite a bit at the Overland building in St. Paul, but not near as much as at other camps of equal size. We only had one case at the field.

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HOW TO FIGHT SPANISH INFLUENZA

BY DR. L. W. BOWERS.

Avoid crowds, coughs and crows, but fear neither germs nor Germans! Keep the system in good order, take plenty of exercise in the fresh air and practice cleanliness. Remember a clean mouth, a clean skin, and clean bowels are a protecting armour against disease. To keep the liver and bowels regular and to carry away the poisons within. It is best to take a vegetable pill every other day, made up of May-apple, aloes, jalap, and sugar-coated, to be had at most drug stores, known as Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. If there is a sudden onset of what appears like a hard cold, one should go to bed, wrap warm, take a hot mustard foot-bath and drink copiously of hot lemonade. If the development is in head or back, ask the druggist for Auric (anti-uric) tablets. These will flush the bladder and kidneys and carry off poisonous germs. To control the pains and aches take one Auric tablet every two hours, with frequent drinks of lemonade. The pneumonia appears in a most treacherous way, when the influenza victim is apparently recovering and anxious to leave his bed. In recovering from a bad attack of influenza or pneumonia the system should be built up with a good herbal tonic, such as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, made without alcohol from the roots and barks of American forest trees, or the French (iron tonic) tablets, which can be obtained at most drug stores, or send 10c to Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., for trial package.—Adv.

well by this morning's paper it looks as though there is going to be something doing very soon with both Germany and Austria asking for a conference for peace, so get those grease and ducks fattened up, because I don't believe I have missed it very much. I am sending you the "Stars and Stripes," dated Oct. 4, with this letter. I guess that there is a lot of dope in that paper from the front that you don't get in the daily papers. Well, ma, there is no news that I might write as it is the same every day, only that the Hunns are fading fast, so will close, hoping this will find all of you in the best of health. Your son,
MARTIN EGGERS,
4th Casual Co. B. L.,
Morn Hill Camp, Winchester, England.

From O. R. Williams.

Camp Hancock, Ga., Oct. 2.

Dear Mother:

Recently I have noted in papers pertaining to "Smokes for Soldiers," that a great many people are realizing that there are other ways to pass away the time than by smoking "fills" and that the soldier likes candles and other eats too. I wish to express my satisfaction at this for I believe that entirely too much attention has been paid to the cigarette alone. People who have always been opposed to the use of tobacco in any form and fathers and mothers who absolutely forbid their boys to smoke are now buying cigarettes for the soldiers. Thousands of men will testify that they never smoked until they entered the army where the cigarette is offered them by almost every one, no matter where he goes. Many others who once conquered the habit by a heroic effort have again fallen victims.

I have been in service three months, but in all this time I have been given five apples but times without number I have been offered cigarettes which I do not use. Sometimes they were offered by friends in packages, but most often they were offered by fellow soldiers. I hope the people at home will realize more and more that there are many other things which will more than take the place of the cigarette. Yours very truly,
ALLEN R. WILLIAMS,
4th Casual Co., Port. Reg.,
Camp Hancock, Ga.

From Corp. Heckelman.

To Miss Ida Heckelman, Hammond, from her brother, Corp. Ed J. Heckelman:

Flying Field, Osseo, Minn., Oct. 27. Dear Sister:

Received your letter yesterday and mighty glad to hear that you are all well, as this letter leaves me the same. From the letters I have been receiving and by THE TIMES the flu epidemic here has hit Hammond mighty hard and hope that it is under control by this time. We had quite a bit at the Overland building in St. Paul, but not near as much as at other camps of equal size. We only had one case at the field.

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The boys are certainly pushing the Boches back. But it is not all pleasure, at least up here, for we surely get our share and sometimes more, of projectiles and gas, might after night, we are sent out to put on gas masks—far as shells are concerned, they make sleeping a pleasure.

I can find you are receiving some of my letters. I try to write something every week, but often under difficult circumstances. I will see about the STARS AND STRIPES. You should get a regularly as I paid for the paper some time ago. I got in a requisition for some things I wanted you to send me, but the colonel would not sign it as he thinks we can buy what we need. Well, maybe I can if I can find time to write out a few wooden nickels.

Glad you received the picture all right. Now you will know what to expect when John comes marching in. The chevrons you noticed on my coat are for six months' service on foreign soil. I will be entitled to another stripe soon. Some of the boys have two stripes now and they look good. We have just been ordered to turn in all our clothes except one suit, one pair of shoes and hat, two pair of socks and underclothes. All this we have to pack on our backs as we are not allowed barracks bags hereafter. They have the Germans in a pocket now and our army will be in Germany when this letter reaches you.

Beloved to learn that you received my little present all right, as it was rather expensive, and I was uneasy for fear it would never reach you, but you are mistaken about the red paper it was wrapped in. That paper is part of a German balloon and I wish you would keep it for me as a memento—I will send these paper balloons up to see how high they can go. I was rather excited when I saw the balloon for our chamber. About a while ago I had not slept in a spring bed since I left home, I must say that I have a very comfortable bed. I must tell you how I made it. I went out in the woods and cut two springy poles, seven feet long and made a frame, then I stretched fence wire from either side much like a bed spring and then suspended the ends to a rafters with two making a hammock, then I made a mattress out of old blankets and filled them with straw—"necessity is the mother of invention"—I find—and I slept just fine. But Ye Gods, it may be the making of another American farmer, when I return, as I will surely not feel at home without the odor of the hayrack.

We had some excitement here a few days ago. Two German planes came over and attempted to shoot down our observation balloon, which is anchored just back of my billet. The observer cut loose with his parachute and came down like a shot. I imagined I could see him falling on the ground to make it drop faster. Just as he landed two French planes came in sight, from no where seemingly, and then a real fight began right over our heads. I have seen hundreds of them at a distance but nothing like this before: they would rise high in the air like a bird, circle the spot where they were to make a landing, then they would come down with machine guns as they passed. The Germans finally started for home but before they got very far we saw one of them fall. The other escaped with a whole hide, evidently. It was a great sight, but only adds one to the list of exciting things I have witnessed. I forgot to tell you that I have received my promotion, that of wagoner, which also increases my pay a few dollars. I have charge of the truck train and I generally have a driver now and ride on the head truck or leader, etc.

Thanks for the little money order, Mother. It did a lot of good. I can now I could "cash" one with each letter, Ha! Thanks again. I am certainly feeling fine and trust that all of you at home are well as usual and as it is nearly time to stuff the candle, I will shut up and dig around in the hay for my pajamas, what do I mean by pajamas? Well, I like 'em.

Will try and write a few lines every week, but it usually is under difficulties and easy to put off until tomorrow. Hope you will not try such methods, however.

With love to all and best regards to those enquiring, I am as ever,
Your son,
GARDNER.
Wagoner—Gardner W. Voorheis,
Battery B, 42nd Artillery,
C. A. C. A. E. F., France.

From Lawrence Keilman.

Mr. and Mrs. Keilman of 677 Tyler street, Gary, have received the following letter from their Sergeant Laurence H. Keilman. He is with the Motor Company, Clermont, France, and has been there since early summer. Another son, Sergt. Fred A., is in France also, but as yet they have not met "over there". They are but two hundred miles distance from each other.

Dear Mother:

I wrote you a letter some days ago, but owing to an error it was returned to me. In the meantime I received two letters from you and one from father, so am considering myself very lucky. Needless to say they found me well and able to get away with my portion of the rations.

Your No. 14 as a nice long letter and sure drives away the cold rainy days as we have very often here in fact, if you know how much real "Win or Die PEP" such letters imbue a man with you would feel amply repaid for all your efforts in that direction. These three letters were the first I had received in more than three months and I was positively hungry for news from home I assure you. Something is wrong with the mail service, but now they have started I hope they will come more regularly.

I have just returned from a long trip which I informed you of in a previous letter that I was going to make. I drove something over 600 miles up through the S. O. S. with officers on an inspection of the front trenches, etc. It took us four days of steady driving on the return trip and I just kept

both eyes and both ears open and my mouth closed all the way. I sometimes wish I was home and could see you all, but aside from that I would not miss the excitement and the wonderful sights that I have witnessed for anything in the world. You say that all the boys are allowed to disclose their whereabouts, etc. Yes, those in the S. O. R. can, but not us. When I go back to "service of rear"—if I ever do, I will then write you a more intelligent and interesting letter.

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FEEL MISERABLE FROM THAT COLD?

Colds and coughs are quickly relieved by Dr. King's New Discovery

Nobody should feel "perfectly miserable" from a cold, cough or bronchial attack for very long. For it takes only a little while to relieve it and get back on the road to recovery when Dr. King's New Discovery is faithfully used. It soon loosens the phlegm, relieves irritation, soothes the parched, sore throat, brings comfort.

Half a century old and more popular today than ever. 60c and \$1.20.

Make Your Bowels Behave
Make them function with gratifying precision. If regulation of the diet does not relieve their torpidity Dr. King's New Life Pills will. They are a perfect bowel trainee, cleanse the system surely, comfortably. 25c.

The two boys are cousins of the late Herbert Keilman of Dyer, who died of wounds received in action September 28, of which word was received last week: Clermont, France, Sept. 27. Dear Mother:

Received another letter the other day but its as old as limburger cheese— from July 17th. Yesterdays some other fellows and I made two trips to Puyde-Dome, a large mountain to get lumber. We started up the winding road from about 1000 feet up and up for three hours, and we were just at the base of the mountain then. We kept going up on slow speed but coming down we had to use the breaks. Twice the chauffeur stopped to cool the burning breaks. We were high but there were others who were twice as high as we were and then some. It was quite cold up there, and all kinds of fresh clear water rushing out of rocks and it certainly is good