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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1918.

OREGON WEATHER

Fair, except rain in northwest portion tonight; Friday fair; gentle southerly winds.

SOLDIER LETTERS

BEN W. COUTANT FAT AND HAPPY

In a letter written Nov. 9, Wallace Coutant says:

"I thought we were to move back into the S. O. S. where we can write more than here at the front. No chance, for I guess we will be in the Z. of A. for the duration of the war. Have seen many truck loads of refugees coming back from the country recently left behind in the Hun's rapid retreat.

Don't worry about me being well, for I believe that I feel just as spry as ever, eat three squares a day and am fat and happy—just as happy as is possible and work on the pick and shovel with the war going on.

"We have moved a couple of times and the last one was a hard one. We hiked in the mud for 12 or 15 miles in five hours. I am just getting over the effects of it now. We slipped

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and splashed through the mud at a pretty good rate.

"Am now living in the kitchen of a French house with three other fellows. It is rather small, but we have a cook stove, table, chairs, four bunks and a sink. So we can wash our dishes, etc. without going out doors. It is a block from the kitchen but it sure is a relief to sit down to a table after being compelled to eat standing up, or kneeling, or sitting on the ground.

"Our chief diversion at present is dodging trucks, while supplying our detail with rocks for patching roads.

"I sure hope there is a bunch of good news by the time you get this, and, as a doughboy wrote in his letter: 'If you don't get this letter let me know, and if you do, write anyway.'"

SMOOTHING THE WAY TO GERMANY

On duty with the American Troops, France, Nov. 16, '18.

Dear Folks:—Received your letter of October 6th, the day I wrote you last. It had enclosed the mailing list and clippings and I enjoyed reading the latter.

This is the first chance I have had to write you since the armistice was signed, as we have been very busy during the day, and it is too cold at night to write much. We are repairing the road east of Verdun where there was so much fighting for such a long time. It was in terrible shape and at present it is frozen too had to work well.

Yesterday I had a bunch of negroes cleaning ditches and drains, so as to make the road have the peace time appearance. Today I was helping unload tools and load rocks. No telling what tomorrow will bring forth.

There is no telling when we will be home, until after peace is declared and the mode of returning the troops is given out, and then you will no doubt know as soon, if not

sooner, than we will.

Our last move made our home life more disagreeable as the same four fellows are in what looks like an old smoke house, but later used by the French for a kitchen.

Nov. 17, 1918.

Before I mailed the above I found a letter from you and thought I'd wait and answer it. The date is Oct. 20 and it had enclosed the clippings of Robert Granville, etc. He must be a chip off the old H. Edward, and is unusual in the roll of an American soldier. It may be different back in the S. O. S. however.

Met a Y. M. C. A. girl today, who is an old friend of Mrs. Nick Taggart at Mt. Pleasant. Mrs. T's sister and she were school mates. She is head of foreign languages at Smith's College at present. We sure had a jolly good talk, and I guess she enjoyed the chance meeting and it sure seemed good to see and talk to an honest to God U. S. girl.

Saw "Pete" Smith and "Britt" on our move up here and it was the rumor that they were bound for Germany. We may follow them, too, but it is hard to tell what is going to happen.

Had some "shines" out on the road patching and cleaning it up today. They have only been over a couple of weeks and are ready to go home now.

Don't worry if you don't get mail regular, for there are many more important things at present. But will write when I can.

Lots of love.

WALLACE.

Somewhere in France, Nov. 17, '18

Dear Mother:—Received your letter and birthday card and thank you very much for them both.

By the looks of things the war is over and I tell you that it was sure some glad feelings among us all when we heard that it was over.

I was up at the front where there has been some of the hardest fighting and I can tell you that it is sure some h— of a place to see how

things are blown to pieces. The people in some of the villages just moved out and left all that they had there. The people in the states do not know how bad that the French people have suffered for the last four years, but they have stood it to the end, so they can live in peace for a good many years, as the Huns have made their last great fight to lick the world.

The weather here is sure fine, although the next day after the firing was finished the sky was as clear as could be, so that it must have been the firing on the front that caused all the rain that we have been having ever since we have been in France.

They say that we may be home in a short time, but they have not signed peace yet, and it is hard to tell when they will.

Just before time for them to cease firing, the hardest fighting that we have had for a long time was going on and at 11 o'clock everything was as still as if it was Sunday.

Well, mother, I will close for this time as it is time to go to bed and I will write soon again. I remain your loving son Joe.

COOK JOS. O. BOESCH,
354 Aero Squadron, A. E. F.
France.

BAVARIANS FEARED ALLIED AIR RAIDING

London, Dec. 19.—Fear of air raids by the allied forces is believed by the Royal Air Force to have induced Bavaria to condemn the German rulers who brought the empire to disaster. It is pointed out that the Bavarians realized that the aerial invasion might begin any day or night. The collapse of Austria, it is stated, sent a cold shiver of apprehension through the Bavarian cities whose inhabitants dreaded the terror and tragedy of the warfare they had waged and vaunted. The people of Munich realized that their great war factories were doomed and that perhaps hundreds of working people would be killed.

MUCH LIVESTOCK IS GRAZED IN FORESTS

Nearly 2,140,000 head of cattle, and more than 8,000,000 sheep were grazed under permit on the National forests of the country during the 1918 season, according to the report of the secretary of agriculture for 1918, which has just been received by District Forester George H. Ceel at Portland.

In two years there have been placed on the forests approximately one million additional head of livestock, representing about 25,000,000 pounds of beef, 16,000,000 pounds of mutton, and 4,000,000 pounds of wool.

This material increase in the production of meat and wool on the forest ranges was brought about after careful observation of range conditions and studying of the methods by which the most complete utilization of the forage might be secured without over-grazing the forests.

The season of 1918 illustrated in a striking manner the advantages offered by the National forest ranges to the western livestock industry. Because of drouth conditions, the ranges throughout the west outside the forests were generally in bad shape. Owners dependent upon the open public range find the livestock business becoming so precarious that many are closing out and the number of range stock is being reduced. On the other hand, the use of the National forest ranges is increasing and their productivity is rising under the system of regulation. The wisdom of government control of these ranges was never more manifest than at the present time, according to the secretary.

Good Reports Please Grants Pass

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AT THE MOVIES

"TOYS OF FATE"

(Reviewed by Jos. F. Kelley)
"She's some punkins"—this Mme. Nazimova. If you don't believe it, see her in Screen Classics' late one, "Toys of Fate." "Revelation" put her on the map with a good slice of territory for recreation. In her late work, she just naturally reaches out and grabs another acre or two for a garage or other incidental property found in the stars' list of taxable property. A few more grabs like this and—well she may be listed above a certain other well known "ampy" star who pays a few cents income tax. No kidding, Mr. Exhibitor—just you watch this little lady run the gamut of emotions (as the well-trained press agent would say in his first copy to the press) and see if you don't agree with me.

Add to the emotional "pep" displayed in her "War Brides" (stage production): the vivaciousness displayed by the leading ingenue of comic opera hit; the coquettish pranks of a Marguerite Clarke and a little bit of every characteristic embodied in the real artist's work and you have a mental picture of Mme. Nazimova of "Toys of Fate"—a mighty good picture.

Madame Nazimova lets nothing come between her and a successful performance in this screen offering. She's in evidence, even when she's off-stage. You sit and wait for her and when she springs with the agility of the tigress within the focus of the camera rays she rewards the few moments of waiting with some of the finest bits of screen acting ever presented for review of the critic, and we take off our hats to said Mr. Baker in the quality production he has given Mme. Nazimova's picture. He has spared neither expense nor atmosphere. His scenes showing life in the gypsy camps are ideal. This production comes to the Joy Theater Friday and Saturday of this week.

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