

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

VOLUME XL

ST. JOSEPH, MO., SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1919

NUMBER 33.

FROM CAMP FUNSTON TO SCHWEICH, GERMANY

The Many Trials and Achievements of Company A of the Famous 336th Infantry

In Graphic Language Sergt. Fred Wanger of This City Tells of the Great Undertaking

Beginning with this issue the readers of The Observer can learn direct from pen of Sergt. Fred M. Wanger of this city, now with the army overseas, of the part that Co. A of the 336th Infantry, 89th Division, played in the great war drama that has brought about freedom to the peoples of all of the earth. Sergt. Wanger is a nephew of John L. Zeidler, and for several years prior to and up to the day of his induction into service, was clerk of the probate court here. The company with which he is serving is made up of St. Joseph and Northwest Missouri boys. The story will be published in installments each week until completed.—Editor's note.

On the 23rd day of May, 1918, Company "A" of the 336th Regiment of Infantry, 89th Division, departed from Camp Funston, Kansas, where we had trained for the past nine months, to add our might to the thousands of other liberty loving Americans then being rushed to the assistance of the heroic French and British armies, who, for the past four years had grappled with the hordes of barbarians from Germany on the battle-fields of France and Belgium. We left our homes and loved ones to fight for the principles of Liberty, Justice and Equality, and we were confident of success.

After traversing the grand old state of Missouri, where the majority of us lived, we traveled through Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, crossing the Detroit river and landing at Windsor, Canada, on the 26th day of May. An interesting trip through Canada and then we crossed back into the states at Niagara Falls, proceeding from there through the scenic hills of New York state and down the Hudson river to Camp Mills, on Long Island. We spent a busy six days here in being properly equipped for "getting the Kaiser's goat," and on the 3rd day of June, 1918, we went on board the English ship "Coronia," and the next day slipped quietly out of the harbor for a destination unknown to us. Our trip across the "big drink" was highly interesting but uneventful. None of the dreaded "U" boats were sighted and after some twelve days of cold and squally weather we sighted the coasts of Scotland and Ireland and all breathed freely again. We put in to the harbor at Liverpool, England, on the 16th and departed on the 17th day of June, 1918, from where we hiked to Knotty Ash, a so-called rest camp. We spent several days here in the rain and mud and were glad when an order came for us to entrain for Southampton. This journey will long be remembered by us as a most interesting one. Our itinerary led through a picturesque part of England to the coast. Spent miserable night in the rain at Southampton and on the next day, June 20th, we embarked on the speedy boat "Viper" and took a thrilling ride across the English Channel to La Harve, France, arriving there at 3 a. m., June 21st. An interesting hike thru this old coast city gave us an opportunity to see the wonderful morale exhibited by the French people as they went about their daily tasks while a million or so vandals were pillaging and plundering their cities and murdering their men, women and children. On June 22nd we piled into our "8 chevaux or 4 hommes" cars and after a day and a night ride found ourselves at Laffol le Grand, France, which was to be our training sector for the next six weeks.

The Start to the Front
August 4th, 1918, having been pronounced fit for battle, we were loaded into trucks and started for the front. We unloaded at Boucq, France, stopped here over night and on the night of August 5th, made our first trip into the front line area, in the Tole Sector opposite the famous strong-point, Montee Hill, where thousands of Frenchmen had been sacrificed in a vain attempt to hold it. The hike to our position in support at Newton Cross-Roads was made under circumstances which brought us to realize for possibly the first time that we were actually in a zone where history was in the making; where men made the supreme sacrifice willingly for the cause of freedom.

As usual it was raining and dark and absolute silence prevailed, except for the tramp, tramp, tramp, of the dough-boys as we plowed our way through the mud. We marched over a much camouflaged road, lighted up every few minutes by flares and rockets and from the hills around us many search lights played upon the heavens in an effort to locate a boche flyer who was hovering over us. Now and then the stillness would be broken by the report of a distant cannon or the rattle of a machine gun somewhere along the line. We arrived at Raucourt about 10 p. m., and stayed there a night and day, moving out to our position at Newton Cross-Roads the next night.

Their Baptism of Fire

We remained in this position until the night of the 15th of August, when we were ordered to take over a sector in the front line opposite Xivray and Montee. During this relief a few stray shells came our way, but no one was injured. Headquarters was established at Rambucourt, where not a house remained untouched by artillery fire. Our daily reports contained the usual "intermittent artillery fire," and we were beginning to think that our stay here would be a very quiet one, but in this we were doomed for a disappointment. On the early morning of the 19th day of August, the boche artillery opened up on our sector and threw over about a hundred hardware stores and we were expecting a raid on our position, but the boche must have had cold feet as he did not venture forth. This was our "baptism of fire" and the boys stood it like veterans. Our first and only casualty was sustained by Private William E. Hellyer, who had a slight shrapnel wound in the arm. During our stay in this position we gained much valuable experience for later trials. Patrols were sent out nightly and many thrilling moments were passed, especially when Corp. Bernard P. Gifford got caught in the enemy wire and tore down about an acre of it extricating himself. Air fights were numerous and we witnessed our first boche plane being brought down in flames by an American aviator. We were relieved on the night of August 23rd and took the narrow-gauge railway back to Cornieville, where we remained for about eight days before doing another turn in support at Newton Cross-Roads. It was about this time that we first became acquainted with "Mr. Cootie" and his millions of cohorts, which were destined to give us about as much worry as the boche. They would "fall in" on our chests, do "right dress," "as skirishers" and then "dig in."

Found the Americans

September 8th, after our second stay at Newton Cross-Roads, we hiked to Ansaerville, where, after a mysterious stay of two days, we discovered that we were a unit of the All American Army for the St. Mihiel offensive. Our battalion took position in Hazel Woods on the 16th day of September, 1918, and awaited the order which would send thousands of Americans swarming towards the Hun lines. At 1 o'clock a. m., September 12th, 1918, the American Artillery laid down one of the greatest barrages in the history of the war. Thousands of guns, from the marvelous French 75's to the 12-inch American naval guns belched forth a stream of iron upon the well prepared positions of the enemy. For miles the sky was lighted up by the exploding shells and the flash of the guns and it was a wonderful and terrible sight. With ever increasing fury the barrage lasted until 5:30 a. m., when it lifted and the boys went "over the top," full of confidence that nothing could stop them. It was not long until the roads to the rear were lined with boche prisoners who had pulled the "Kamerad" cry and the merciful Americans let them live that they might see the error of their ways. The boys, after the first few moments of nervousness, caught the spirit of battle and went forward with a will. It was near Elzevir, France, that a death occurred which cast gloom over the First Battalion. Major William J. Bland, formerly

FILLMORE'S NEW MAYOR

Elmer E. Pennington, Formerly of This City, Elected Mayor of Andrew County Town.

There are many friends here of Elmer E. Pennington, formerly a barber in this city, who will be pleased to learn that at the recent Andrew county elections, he was selected as the mayor of Fillmore by a unanimous vote and before accepting the nomination, his policies regarding the placing of "Fillmore on the map" were agreed to—and he was elected with that understanding.

Mayor Pennington is one of Andrew county's "live wires" and is one of the self-made men of that county who started out with but two hands and an ambition. Today he is comfortably fixed in worldly goods and is one of the liveliest good roads men in that county.

Mayor Pennington's ideas about Fillmore embrace the paving of every street and in leading to that place, the establishing of a municipal park having blooming flowers for every spring, summer and fall month, hand concerts every Saturday afternoon and evening in town on a movable band stand, the building and maintenance of an ice plant, clean alleys and the best school system possible to obtain.

Mayor Pennington Monday conferred with Savannah leading officials and business men, then came here for a conference with Mayor Whitell. Mayor Whitell gave his Andrew county colleague many helpful suggestions.

Mayor Pennington stated to an Observer reporter that the St. Joseph autoists and automobile clubs would have his individual assurance of courteous treatment when passing through his city and did not need to worry about being "pinched" for trifles—in fact, he would encourage and offer inducements for them to come to Fillmore for Sunday drives and dinners in that neighborhood. He said: "The more St. Joseph autoists patronize our town and meet with our townsmen, the more courteous and favors will be shown. Let them try out hospitality and see if they regret coming."

COL. CLAY C. MACDONALD RETURNS

Lieut. Colonel Clay C. Macdonald, weather beaten, but straight as a pine and hardly showing the effects of his hard usage on the other side, came unexpectedly to this city Wednesday and for a few hours was the delight of his hundreds of friends. Col. Macdonald was on his way to Charleston, South Carolina, where his son is in school and where his sister, Miss Kate Macdonald, now resides. His characteristic modesty would not permit him to tell of the many dangers through which he had passed.

The mortgage recording tax was defeated in the house by a vote of 69 to 49. This measure was expected to produce revenue of about \$400,000. Senator Bowker, of Nevada, has passed the income tax providing for a tax of one per cent on incomes of married men amounting to \$4,000 per year and of single men who make \$3,000. He has also passed the corporation franchise tax which provides for a tax of \$1 per \$1,000 of their capital stock. These two measures will provide additional revenue of about \$1,250,000.

The Board Exonerated

The investigation of the Highway Commission into the charges made by A. C. McKibbin, former secretary, resulted in a complete exoneration of the members by a non-partisan committee. McKibbin's opposition to the board narrowed down to a complaint because he was replaced on the board by Governor Gardner.

The McCullough-Morgan road bill providing for \$60,000 to be apportioned to the counties of the state during the next three years has passed the House and will go through the Senate. \$20,000 of this amount will be available each year and will be expended on roads to the amount of \$1,200 per mile.

After several discussions behind closed doors the senate has engrossed the bill of Senator Greene aimed at the regulation of venereal diseases. An amendment adopted prohibits the marriage of afflicted persons without a certificate from a physician that a complete cure has been effected.

A nonpartisan committee of the House drafted and passed a bill limiting the number of clerks of that body to 75 in addition to the regular officers.

The Senate has passed the same bill providing that persons must have license to fish in addition to hunt. All women and boys, under 18 years, are exempted from the license charge.

(Continued next week.)

HACKMANN IS AGAIN UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS

Trying to Mislead the People of the State in Regard to Deficiency Bill

THEREBY DISCREDIT GARDNER'S ADMINISTRATION

The Method That He Is Using Is So Thin and Gaudyly Transparent That It Will Fool Only Those Who Are in the Market to be Hoodwinked and Whose Partisanship Is Causing Them to Grasp at Any Straw That Holds Out a Glimmer of Hope for the Scheme.

JEFFERSON CITY, April 17.—

(Correspondence).—An effort is being made by Auditor George H. Hackmann to leave the impression that there has been a deficiency in state affairs for the years 1917-18 of an aggregate of \$800,000. The facts, an investigation discloses, are that the administration of Governor Gardner has only \$130,497.15 of the deficiency that make up the amount of the bill and it is all that could have been paid had the treasury been bursting with money.

Of the amount in the measure, \$2,566.30 is chargeable to the years 1915-16; \$285,883 were over-appropriations and \$384,747.59 for which no appropriations were made at the last session.

The effort of Hackmann and some other Republican politicians to try and lay the blame on the Gardner administration has fallen flat. Those familiar with this administration know that the affairs of the state have been conducted in a business-like manner and in the interest of the taxpayers of the state. Democrats about here agree that the party will be in good shape to go before the people on the record of Governor Gardner and the administration in general on the matter of business efficiency and economy.

"Superiority" of Blacks

The twenty-eight negroes are still receiving \$3.50 per day to watch the coats and hats of Republican members of the house, while white men are scrubbing the floors of the state house at the rate of \$2 per day. Such inequality has never before been known in the state.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch says the Republican members of the house from St. Louis are not disposed to look at legislation from other than a personal view, which is frequently due to narrow partisan politics.

The mortgage recording tax was defeated in the house by a vote of 69 to 49. This measure was expected to produce revenue of about \$400,000.

Senator Bowker, of Nevada, has passed the income tax providing for a tax of one per cent on incomes of married men amounting to \$4,000 per year and of single men who make \$3,000. He has also passed the corporation franchise tax which provides for a tax of \$1 per \$1,000 of their capital stock. These two measures will provide additional revenue of about \$1,250,000.

The Board Exonerated

The investigation of the Highway Commission into the charges made by A. C. McKibbin, former secretary, resulted in a complete exoneration of the members by a non-partisan committee. McKibbin's opposition to the board narrowed down to a complaint because he was replaced on the board by Governor Gardner.

The McCullough-Morgan road bill providing for \$60,000 to be apportioned to the counties of the state during the next three years has passed the House and will go through the Senate. \$20,000 of this amount will be available each year and will be expended on roads to the amount of \$1,200 per mile.

After several discussions behind closed doors the senate has engrossed the bill of Senator Greene aimed at the regulation of venereal diseases. An amendment adopted prohibits the marriage of afflicted persons without a certificate from a physician that a complete cure has been effected.

A nonpartisan committee of the House drafted and passed a bill limiting the number of clerks of that body to 75 in addition to the regular officers.

The Senate has passed the same bill providing that persons must have license to fish in addition to hunt. All women and boys, under 18 years, are exempted from the license charge.

VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL LEVY TODAY

Many an election that should have carried has been lost because the voters did not go to the polls. Today you who want your children properly educated should go to the polls and vote for the tax levy.

No increase in the existing tax rate is asked, only permission to hold the same rate as in the last two years, \$1 on each \$100 valuation; the law requires that any rate of school tax above 40 cents on each \$100 valuation shall be voted upon every two years; as the rate of \$1 is over 40 cents it is described as an increase; as a matter of fact it is not an increase over the rate now in effect.

What if the election is not carried? Four months' school next year, the board says, or none, as schools could not be organized for only four months.

THESE ARE CHOSEN

Mayor Whitell Decides on Some of the Members of His Executive Family.

When the council meets next Monday night Mayor Whitell will present to that body the names of those whom he has selected for members of his official family circle for the coming year—or longer in some cases.

Monday marks the beginning of the city's fiscal year and therefore it also marks a period of anxiety for those who would be—and are chosen. This time Mayor Whitell has taken great pains to select the men with whom he is obliged to conduct the city's affairs, and they are of his own choosing—none of them being inheritances from former administration appointments. So far those he has selected and whose names he will present are: City counselor—Louis V. Stigall.

Assistant city counselors—C. W. Meyer and Grover Hamm. Evidence officer—Louis Kranitz. City assessor—George W. Akers (re-appointed).

Plumbing inspector—L. B. Pattillo (re-appointed).

Roller inspector—N. H. Monroe.

Member board of public works—J. J. Byrne (re-appointed).

Members of examining board of engineers—H. B. Lewis and G. A. Tenny.

Member board of moving picture censors—J. A. Melbourn.

So far he has not announced whom he will select as city engineer, or health officer. At the Monday meeting he will deliver his annual message on which he has been at work for some time, and which will include many suggestions of benefit to the city.

Sergt. Leslie Anthony, the soldier who was arrested Wednesday, charged with bigamy, is now in jail here being unable to furnish bond.

A charge of \$1 to both hunt and fish is provided for in the bill. The amount secured by the bill will increase the revenue of the Game Department and the surplus will go to the fund for purchase of a state park and maintenance of fish hatcheries.

Gops Killed Constitution

A new constitution has been doomed by the Republican House committee which refuses to report the measure to the membership for consideration. The thwarting of public opinion regarding this matter is regarded as serious by those familiar with the matter.

The plan of Sam Lazarus for an organization of working Democrats in St. Louis is being well received here as all realize that Mr. Lazarus has only the best interests of the party at heart. He hopes to start with a meeting of 100 leading business men of the metropolis and add to it from time to time until a complete organization can be formed.

Despite the fight on it by Representative Speer, Republican, the Confederate pension measure has been passed by the House. In a letter to ex-Confederates, Auditor Hackmann maintains that he is looking after this measure for the old soldiers but it is known here that the measure has had plenty of sincere friends and has not had to depend on politicians for success.

Republican members of the House are holding up the revenue bill of Governor Gardner at the instance of Auditor Hackmann, Republican, who wants all patronage placed in his office. Hackmann and his henchmen have been playing politics since the session began but have as yet accomplished nothing and it is not believed that he will.

The House has defeated the mutual racing bill which applied to St. Louis only.

CHAIRMAN KING SAYS THAT ALL IS READY

And That Promptly at Noon on Monday the Great Victory Drive Will Start

AND NO LET-UP UNTIL THE GOAL IS REACHED

Andrew G. Politz Sets the Pace for the Foreign Born People of This City by Subscribing for a Block of Five Thousand and Calling on All of His Countrymen and Other Foreigners to Come to the Rescue of Their Adopted Country Now That It Stands in Need of Their Help.

Last night Chairman E. A. King of the Victory Loan committee announced that all things were ready for the great drive—and when he says so that means just what he says for he has several years ago gotten over the habit of talking first, and thinking and doing afterward—for now he thinks and does first—and then does his talking. His right hand man, John Wunderlich, stands squarely behind him and sees that there is no deviation from the plans laid out.

At noon Monday he will give the word that will set all of the wheels of the big drive in motion—and they will be kept revolving until every dollar of the \$2,500,000 allotted as St. Joseph's quota and the \$630,000 apportioned to Buchanan county is safely tucked away in the big receptacles provided for just such funds, and is ready for the use of Uncle Sam. As usual the banks have agreed to take care of all of the subscriptions that desire such service and this makes it so that no one will be able to say that he or she is not able to subscribe to the great undertaking.

Attractive Terms Made

And Uncle Sam has also seen to it that those who purchase can have almost their own terms and time in which to pay. The plan that the government announces is as follows:

1. In full on or before May 20, 1919.
2. Ten per cent with application on or before May 10, 10 per cent July 15, 20 per cent Aug. 12, 20 per cent Sept. 9, 20 per cent Oct. 7, 20 per cent Nov. 11, with accrued interest on deferred installments.

The Victory loan bonds will be issued in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$100,000. The fourth Liberty loan issues were of the same amounts. This arrangement which practically gives six months in which to complete payment places the bonds within the paying power of any individual. The rate of interest is a good one and the bonds if desired may be converted into the 3½ issue which will make them exempt from taxation of any sort.

Politz Good Example

There has already been received by Chairman King a number of subscriptions, some of them running as high as \$30,000 made as advance purchases by firms and individuals, but the one particular subscription which Chairman King prizes the most highly is that which he on Thursday received from Andrew G. Politz, the well known Greek confectioner of Eighth and Edmond street. The reason Chairman King appreciates it so highly is from the fact that it comes from a foreign born citizen who each day follows his avocation and who has made what he now possesses through the fact that he has had the opportunity which he could have in no other place except in America—and he is now showing that he appreciates it and invites all foreign born to come to the rescue in this time of need. Here is his letter which tells the whole story:

"I deem it a Privilege"

"Mr. E. A. King, chairman Victory Loan Committee, St. Joseph, Mo.

"My dear sir: Realizing the great part that America has played in the war for universal freedom and the right of all peoples of the earth, I feel that the very least that we who have been saved from the yoke of servitude can do, is to respond to the utmost when this country which has saved us needs our help—as it does—and that is NOW.

"No peoples more so than the foreign-born, of which I am one, should appreciate the great service that America has done for us for in this land we are permitted to enjoy the pursuits of life and happiness in a freedom such as was never enjoyed in the land of our birth, and the privileges

TWENTY-NINE VETS

The St. Joseph Veterinary College to Hold Its Graduation Exercises Next Tuesday.

On next Tuesday the St. Joseph Veterinary College which has flourished under the able direction of Dr. Moore, will hold its annual graduation exercises in the auditorium of the college at Ninth and Mary. At the same place tomorrow Dr. H. Jensen of Kansas City will deliver the baccalaureate sermon and the alumni banquet will be held at 7 o'clock Monday night. The graduating class numbers twenty-nine, who are:

V. O. Cudd, C. J. Doherty, C. P. Fay, Daniel H. Fix, H. M. Hale, A. H. Hefflin, Howard J. Hearrington, C. J. Henderson, G. C. Hine, Gilbert S. Kirby, J. R. Hockenberry, Fred L. Knapp, N. L. Larsen, George H. Lohre, J. N. Matney, C. H. McKelvey, W. R. McCutcheon, A. N. Orthberg, J. L. McGrath, E. E. Peacock, Carl C. Perry, G. J. Schaff, Henry F. Schmitz, J. A. Skordahl, A. J. Taylor, E. A. Williams, E. H. Williams, S. W. Wiest and G. E. Yallaly.

The St. Joseph Veterinary College is one of the best in the West, and St. Joseph takes great pride in its success.

SERG. BOOHER RETURNS

Feels That He Is Glad to be at Home in Good Old St. Joseph Again.

"The sweetest word I have heard spoken for a long time was when some one on deck called out 'America' as we were in sight of New York," said staff Sergt. Charles F. Booher, who arrived here Sunday night after an absence overseas in the heavy tank service for over a year. The young man, who is a nephew of Congressman Booher, looks well and says he feels well, "but I do not care to duplicate my experience unless it is necessary, when I am ready."

During his absence Sergt. Booher probably visited as much of foreign soil as any man who left these shores. He was for the principal part of his time assigned to the regimental staff, which gave him much latitude. After a few days' visit with friends here and his parents at Burlington Junction, he will resume his old position as a conductor on the K. C., C. & St. J. electric line.

KIMBALL ADDRESSES PUBLIC OWNERSHIP LEAGUE

The council chamber was well filled Wednesday night when the St. Joseph Public Ownership League met to push matters looking to the public ownership of public utilities. The principal speaker of the evening was George E. Kimball of Kansas City, who dealt at great length with figures to show that other points where public utilities were owned by municipalities were paying propositions. He estimated that \$300,000 would amply equip a lighting plant for this city which would cut down present rates to a great degree. Horace Merritt, J. R. Burleigh, William Albionson, Albert Marshall and others made addresses along the same lines.

LESLIE ANTHONY IS TOO MUCH MARRIED

A WARRANT was sworn out in Prosecuting Attorney Owen's office Tuesday by Miss Grace McWilliams of Quincy, Ill., who was a nurse in the army, for top sergeant Leslie Anthony of Waterloo, Iowa, now held for extradition at Council Bluffs, Iowa. The warrant alleges that while both she and Anthony were at the training from they fell in love and while on a furlough came here and were married Feb. 19 by Dr. Gordon L. Grainger. It now turns out that Anthony has a wife living at Waterloo.

Louis Streckbein, one of the old citizens of St. Joseph, died yesterday. He had lived here since the close of the war, and would have been 89 years old May 1.

thus enjoyed have given us the opportunity to thrive and prosper in such measure as we never could hope for in any country except free America; therefore, I feel that now that our country needs our help to bring back the gallant men who so nobly risked their all, and to pay the debts incurred in the winning of the great conflict, that we may still enjoy the right to live and prosper; we should respond promptly and in the greatest measure.

"As one of the middle class (one who works with his hands each day), I deem it a privilege to include you my check for one thousand dollars (\$1,000) as the initial payment for five thousand dollars (\$5,000) of the BHI—The Victory Loan.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) ANDREW G. POLITZ."