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Interesting Letter from Camp Brumbaugh

An Interesting Letter from the "Watchman's" Special Correspondent.

Camp Brumbaugh, June 28.—Knowing that you are expecting an account of the doings of the boys in camp, I will endeavor to furnish you some facts, but first want to say that if anything ever got on a fellow's nerves, it was the parting scene at the P. R. R. station at home.

The Lock Haven troopers, on the same train, then came in to visit us and we older fellows having met them before at previous camps, joined in relating experiences of former affairs and discussed what we might expect in this fracas, until instead of being soldier boys off to help their Uncle Sammy hold up his hands, as they did in bible times to conquer an enemy, you would have thought us bound on the railroad excursion to Tolchester Beach.

Some of the boys indulged in a card game, and it must have been Old Maid, for they would ask for two or three cards at a time. I heard one of them say that he "stood pat," although I know he voted for Roosevelt four years ago.

"Pop" Hampton, assisted by his able corps—Jeff Tierney, Morrison, Casper and "Chee" Emenhizer, sang "There's a Land That is Fairer Than This."

Arriving at Tyrone at 8 o'clock the Sheridan Troop was picked up, and the boys were all delighted to see us. We arrived at Camp Brumbaugh, Mt. Gretna at 12.30 p. m., and the boys were all ready for action.

How different this camp from other years, when the camp had always been put in readiness by an advance detail. But with light hearts and much cajolery the canvass and equipment was soon unloaded and what was once a field of wheat was in a few hours transformed into one of the greatest military camps this glorious State has ever seen.

Our camp is located at Colebrook, three miles from the infantry at Mt. Gretna, with all tents up and equipped as one would hardly expect under the circumstances. Almost any hour may come the order of departure for southern territory, and it will find us all ready and anxiously waiting.

The health of the troopers has been excellent. George Wise, of the Gap, was chosen official dentist, and finding a snapping turtle he decided to keep it for use in extracting teeth. His office will always be open for the accommodation of his friends.

We are now awaiting the mess call for dinner, so will have to close, assuring you that the boys all appreciate what the folks at home did for us on the eve of our departure, and kindly thank the W. C. T. U., the Elks and all the others.

Frank Crissman wanted to know the difference between the National Guard and a National biseuit, and was referred to Capt. Curtin or First Lieut. Taylor for the answer.

Corp. H. J. COHEN.

They are all good enough, but the WATCHMAN is always the best.

Troop L Given an Enthusiastic Send-off.

Big Farewell Reception at the Elks on Saturday Evening.

Thousands at the Train Sunday Morning to say the Last Good Bye.

One hundred and forty years ago Centre county soldiers fought in that great struggle for our national independence. Thirty-six years later the sons of Centre county assisted in driving the invading army of Great Britain from American soil.

Troop L mobilized at the army in this place last Thursday and Captain H. Laird Curtin went before 'Squire G. Wash Rees and took the oath of allegiance to the federal army. He later swore in first lieutenant E. R. Taylor and second lieutenant Claude S. M. Huff.

The farewell reception to the Troop planned by the Elks was held at the Elks home on Saturday evening and proved a rousing send-off as well as patriotic affair. The Elks home was resplendent in its decorations of flags and the national colors.

Headed by Our Boys band of Milesburg the Troop marched from the armory and came to attention on the pavement in front of the Elks.

Burgess Edmund Blanchard presided and made a brief speech telling the purpose of the meeting and exhorting the soldier boys to do their duty when at the front.

In part Col. Taylor spoke as follows:

Officers and Men of Troop L, First Pennsylvania Cavalry, and my Fellow Countrymen. What means this vast assemblage of people, this great outpouring of citizenship? It means that dark, grim, brooding war again overhangs this Nation. At this time such scenes as we have here are being enacted in every county and State in our great Nation.

Look at the great record of this State, the "Keystone State" of the Union. Was it not on Pennsylvania soil that the first Continental Congress met, where the Declaration of Independence was signed?

Centre county again gave the great State of Pennsylvania that great citizen, jurist and soldier, General James A. Beaver, who as Colonel of the 14th Pennsylvania, when only twenty-one years old, reported to General Hancock for the assignment of his regiment and he saluted and said, "Sir, I desire that my regiment be placed in the front, where they can see and maintain the discipline in the future which I have taught them in the past."

Centre county furnished the great General, John I. Curtin, one of the finest military men I ever knew and one of the ablest while in the army, so that again history repeats itself, as in every war this country has had since its foundation a "Curtin" has been in her ranks.

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Again, Centre county furnished the War Governor in 1868, great citizen, lawyer and soldier, General D. H. Hastings, who with untiring effort and with loyalty to the Nation and to the citizens of his State, assisted with all his ability and was the first Governor in the Nation to report to Secretary of War Alger that Pennsylvania's quota was ready to respond.

Therefore, you have before you the record of great men and soldiers to uphold and sustain, and I know you will do it. You will follow in their footsteps and return the Flag for which you fight unswayed while in your hands. I know it will never be deserted nor dishonored.

The fundamental principles of success in a military organization in time of peace or war, is absolute obedience to your superior officers, always obey every order without hesitation, and maintaining your health by care and training; this means much. You will have many hardships to undergo, many sad hours, when far away from home but always remember that your friends and a great patriotic citizenship is behind you.

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Now, on behalf of all here assembled, your friends and all citizens, I bid you God-speed.

and may the day be hastened when you will return to us again, having performed your duty to your home, your country and your God. Farewell.

At the close of Col. Taylor's address ex-Judge Ellis L. Orvis was introduced and in behalf of the Bellefonte Chapter D. A. R. presented to the Troop a regulation national flag. In response Capt. Curtin thanked the D. A. R. and said that it would be the aim and endeavor to bring back the flag as unsullied as it was received.

The Troop was scheduled to leave for Mt. Gretna at seven o'clock on Sunday morning, and notwithstanding the early hour about two thousand people gathered at the Pennsylvania station to see them off and bid them Godspeed. Prior to leaving the armory Rev. William K. McKinney visited them, held a brief prayer service and gave each man a little booklet on the Gospel of St. John.

As soon as the train was made up Capt. Curtin gave the order to entrain and every man marched with soldierly tread and got aboard. A few minutes later the bell clanged and trumpeters Donald M. Snyder and Frank B. Crissman stood on the platform and trumpeted out the final call just as Frank Taylor did eighteen years ago, and with the band playing "The Star Spangled Banner," the train pulled out.

Wet eyes and heavy hearts were left behind and the prayer of every one in the multitude gathered to see the soldier boys off was that every man of them return, war or no war, and that they then be crowned with honors worthily won.

The Troop train arrived at Mt. Gretna at 12.30 p. m. Sunday and the boys had their camp in order the same afternoon. Monday afternoon they were inspected and every man firmly responded "yes" when asked if he was willing to go to the front.

Second Lieutenant Claude W. Smith and W. Lester Musser remained behind to finish recruiting and on Monday they received orders to leave for Mt. Gretna on the 1.08 train Tuesday with the men recruited up to that time.

The same honor shown the original members of Troop L was shown the recruits. Headed by a band they marched to the Elks where a public farewell reception was given them. Burgess Blanchard presided and brief speeches were made by Col. Taylor, Col. W. R. Teller and Father

McArdle. On behalf of the Elks Col. W. Fred Reynolds presented each one of the "rookies" with a big yellow kerchief. From the Elks they marched to the depot where the parting scene was even more heart-rending than that of Sunday morning, but they finally entrained and got away amid cheers and the strains of music.

The "Watchman" has secured the services of Corp. Harry J. Cohen to furnish a weekly letter, especially about Troop L.

Col. H. S. Taylor has started a list for the recruiting of another company, if needed, and already has quite a number of signers.

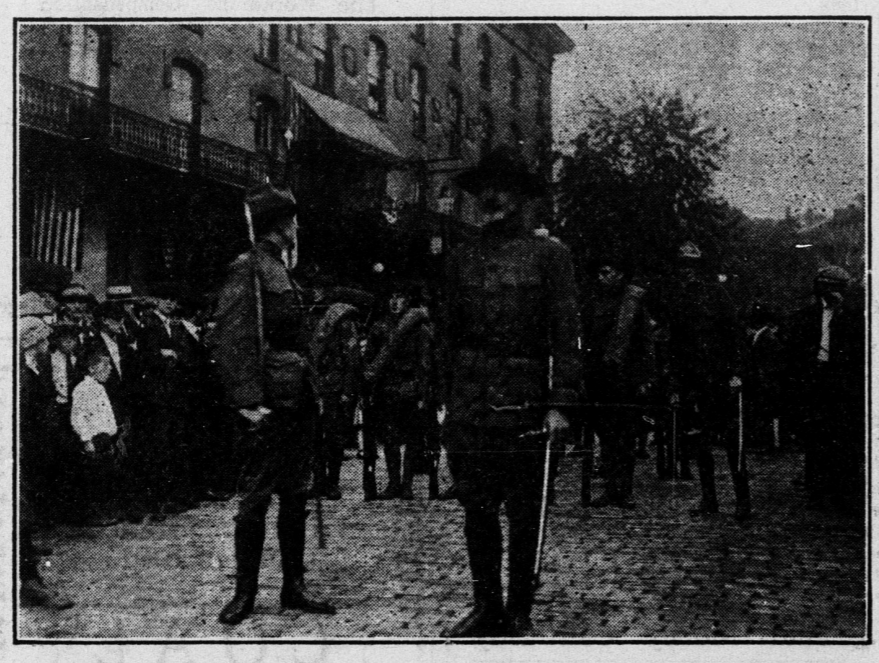
Col. J. L. Spangler gave the Troop \$25.00 for tobacco; the W. C. T. U. gave each member a "housewife," A. G. Morris Jr., contributed a lead pencil and holder to each member and the Preparedness League will send each trooper a number bag in which to keep the curry comb and brush for his horse.

Following is a complete roster of the Troop:

- Captain—H. L. Curtin, married, Bellefonte. First Lieut.—Edward R. Taylor, married, Bellefonte. Second Lieut.—Claude W. Smith, married, State College. First Sergt.—Wilbur E. Saxton, married, Bellefonte. Quartermaster—Sergt.—Paul L. Wetzel, single, Bellefonte. Sergeants—Lee R. Smith, married, Milesburg. W. C. From, married, State College. Harry W. Schreffler, married, Bellefonte. J. Homer Decker, single, Pine Grove Mills. Corporals—Uriah N. Stover, married, Bellefonte. Harry J. Cohen, single, Bellefonte. Roy H. Grove, married, Bellefonte. Fred E. Taylor, single, Bellefonte. Willis W. Emlinger, married, Bellefonte. Wilbur R. Decker, single, Pine Grove Mills. Cooks—Harry E. Whiteman, married, Milesburg. Wilbur G. Rhoads, married, Bellefonte. Farrier—John Morrison, married, Bellefonte. Horse-shoer—Stewart Hampton, married, Bellefonte. Saddler—William Shutt, married, Bellefonte. Trumpeters—Donald M. Snyder, single, Bellefonte. Frank B. Crissman, single, Bellefonte. PRIVATES. Carey C. Alexander, single, Unionville. Earle Bain, married, Lemonsburg. Raymond J. Bryan, single, Curtin. Charles Brown, single, Bellefonte. Howard L. Casper, married, Bellefonte. D. C. Cochran, single, State College. Harry G. Cox, married, Coleville. Luther H. Crissman, single, Bellefonte. Arthur Deering, single, State College. William R. Devine, single, Pine Grove Mills. Peter Delal, single, Bellefonte. Robert T. Garman, single, Bellefonte. Alonzo M. Gummo, single, Bellefonte. Lingle H. Gummo, single, Bellefonte. Thomas H. Hanley, married, Bellefonte. Joseph L. Howard, single, Bellefonte. Joseph S. Hull, single, Bellefonte. Chester A. Johnson, single, Pine Grove Mills. Claude M. Johnson, single, Bellefonte. Howard J. Lannen, single, State College. Sherman Lovry, single, Bellefonte. Fearon Lyons, single, Bellefonte. Clair F. McKinley, single, Milesburg. Boyd A. McMurtrie, single, Coleville. James G. Marshall, single, Bellefonte. Harry C. Martin, single, Bellefonte. Herbert S. Miller, single, Bellefonte. Newton A. Miller, married, Bellefonte. Wray A. Reed, single, Pine Grove Mills. William Rote, single, Bellefonte. William H. Royer, single, State College. John G. Sanford, single, Jamestown, N. Y. Calvin R. Rice, single, Bellefonte. William H. Royer, single, State College. Clair Smith, married, Milesburg. Alfred Frank Smith, married, State College. J. T. Storch, single, State College. Paul D. Stover, married, Bellefonte. Edward Sunday, single, Bellefonte. Walter Switzer, single, Bellefonte. Charles Tierney, married, Lyontown. Geo. B. Wise, married, Pleasant Gap. Fred C. Yeager, single, Bellefonte. J. Calvin Young, married, Bellefonte. John G. Young, married, Bellefonte. Walter Weaver, married, State College. RECRUITS. Walter M. Smith, single, Howard. L. T. Shawley, single, Bellefonte. Harry Rice, married, Bellefonte. Glenn Weaver, married, Bellefonte. George J. Keeler, single, Bellefonte. John Gillen, single, State College. Hugh Hanley, single, Bellefonte. T. E. Kelley, single, Howard. J. G. Poorman, single, Coleville. H. H. Ryan, single, Bellefonte. D. M. Hendershot, single, Bellefonte. James Dickerhoff, single, Pav Paw W. Va. Geo. R. Norris, single, Bellefonte, R. D. 4. J. I. Logue, single, Unionville. J. Z. Watson, married, Bellefonte. C. E. Rothrock, single, West Decatur. Carlisle Devine, single, Philadelphia. William A. Lucas, single, Axe Mann. George A. Young, single, Philadelphia. Jerome A. Robinson, single, Milesburg. J. F. Jodon, single, Milesburg. W. Lester Musser, single, Bellefonte. James Reed, single, Bellefonte. J. M. Shank, single, Milesburg. Harold W. Thomas, single, Milesburg. James H. Fox, single, Milesburg. Charles S. Saxton, married, Bellefonte.

TWELVE "ROOKIES" RETURN HOME.

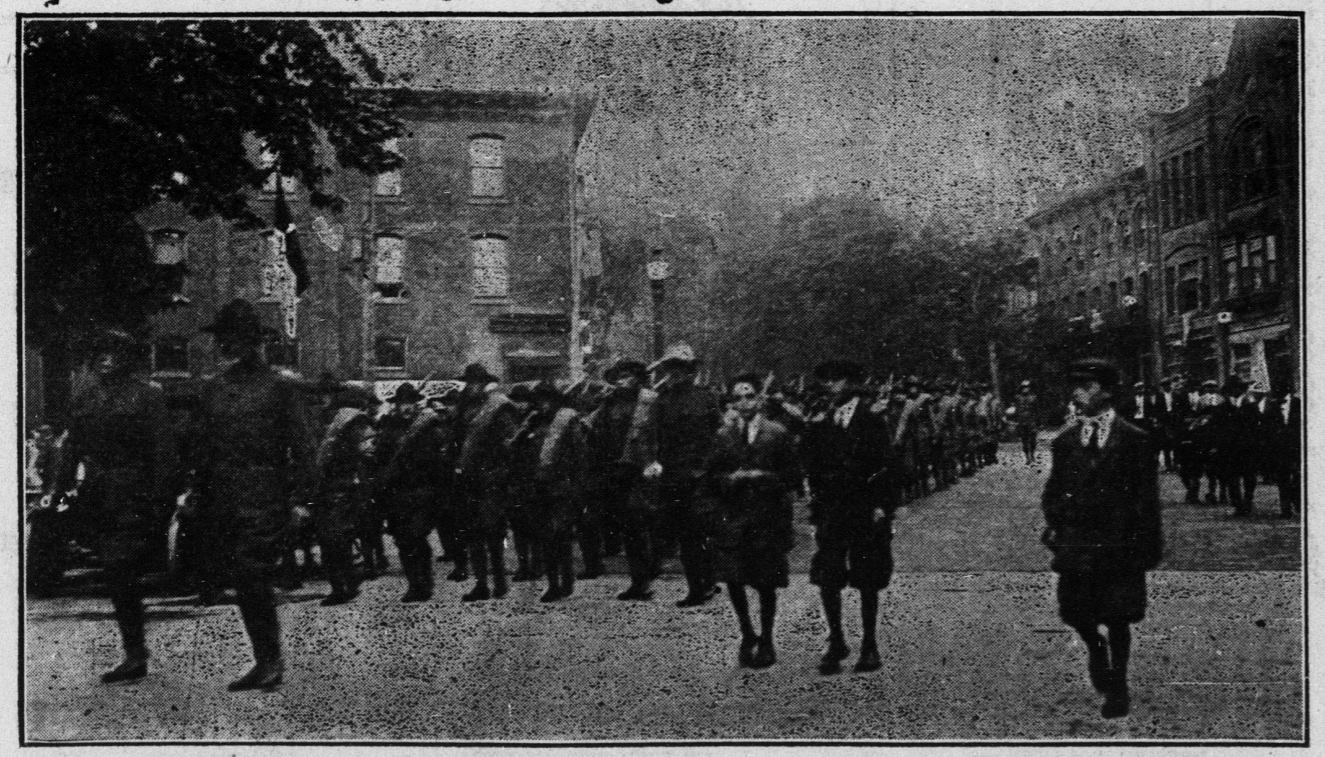
Twelve of the recruits taken by Lieut. Claude Smith returned home on the 4.20 train last evening. The list includes Pat. Ryan, George Keeler, J. F. Jodon, L. T. Shawley, Chas. Saxton, John Gillen, James H. Fox, Harry Rice, J. I. Logue, John T. Watson, and three others whose names could not be learned.



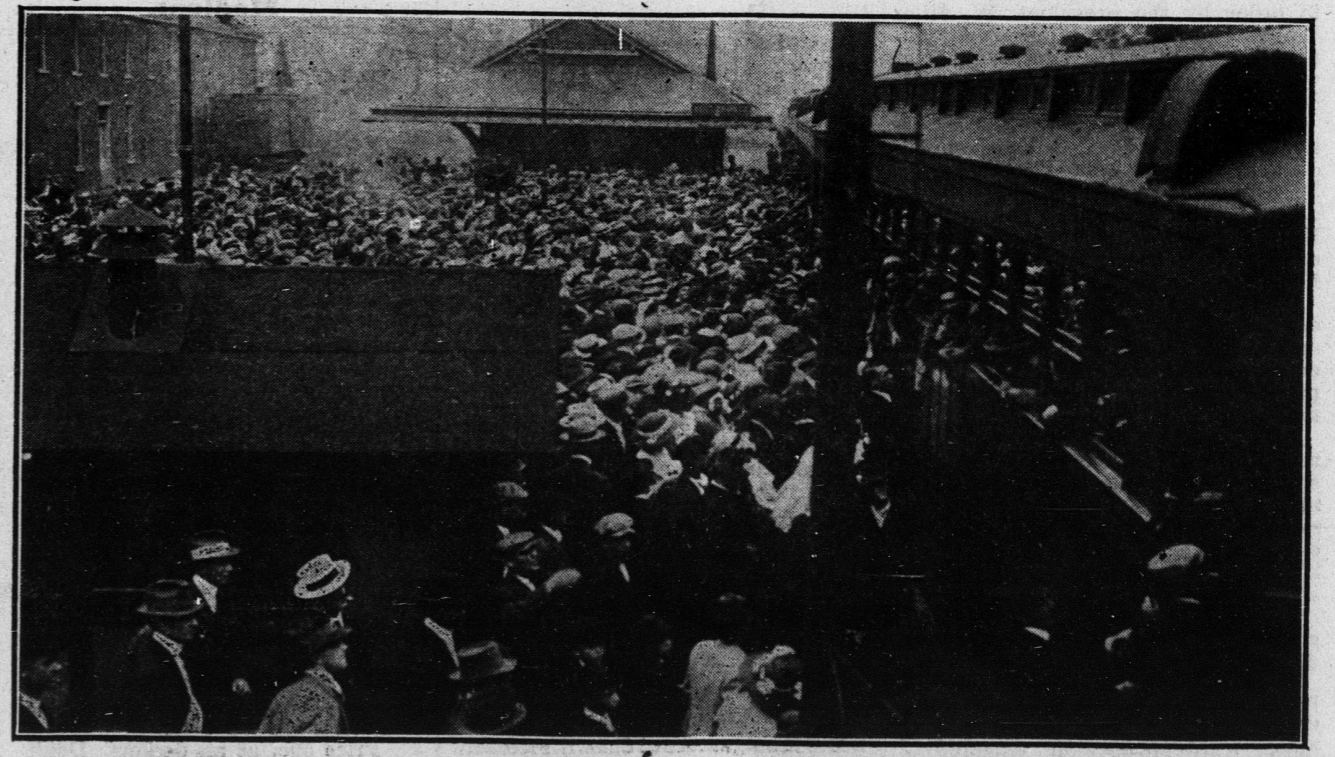
[Photo by Smith, State College, Pa.] Capt. Curtin just in the act of giving the command that broke the Troop from a column of fours into single file and started the boys to entrain. Lieut. Taylor to the right, repeated the order.



[Photo by Smith, State College, Pa.] Sergeant Shreffler with the Troop Insignia leading the First Trooper Paul D. Stover to entrain. Capt. Curtin can be seen at the end of the platform directing the movement.



[Photo by Smith, State College, Pa.] Troop L just as it appeared in front of the "Watchman" office on the way to entrain for Mt. Gretna. Capt. H. L. Curtin and Surgeon Huff are leading the Troop. Lieut. Taylor can be seen at the first file and 2nd Lieut. Smith at the last.



[Photo by Smith, State College, Pa.] The Last Handshake. After the Troop had boarded the cars there were a few moments before the train departed and you can see how the Troopers employed them.