

To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

F. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

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NEWS FROM SUNNY FRANCE.

Interesting Incidents and Impressions as Told by Miss Rebecca N. Rhoads.

The following excerpts from letters written to friends at home by Miss Rebecca N. Rhoads, who is engaged in Y. M. C. A. canteen work in France, will be read with interest by her many friends in Centre county.

In France, Aug. to Nov. Well, I've done it! My very first sale over a canteen counter was tobacco—Bull Durham. Think of that! It was like going over the top. Really I gasped; actually did, then laughed. Certainly the irony of things. And on a Sunday afternoon, too.

Already it seems as if I have talked hours to hundreds of boys. Of course, that may be exaggerated, but it is wonderful, and oh, how glad they are to talk to an American woman, and your heart comes up into your throat when you think that in all probability you will be the last woman of their own well-beloved country that many of them will talk to, for so many of them go directly from here to the front, and many never return. But they are the bravest, manliest fellows.

I have to be very careful what I write. Dare not say a word about the military, what we have here, how many eat, etc., or where we are located. But I can say it is considered the finest of all the camps, the most desirable to be in, and there are such nice women and men here in the "Y," and it's great. We mess, and breakfast and mid-day meal with the officers, in a nice big building, all together at long tables, with tablecloths, napkins, etc. And such plentiful, good fare that I am in despair of ever getting thin over here. The chocolate, which is delicious, is served in big bowls, plenty of sugar, butter, etc. and oh, blissful delicious big, hot, white biscuit or buns for breakfast and white bread other times. Our suppers we canteen. "Y" workers, men and women, eat in a little back room of the canteen. Good cheer is the order of the day and night and all the time, so you can imagine the pleasant times.

Our hut No. 1 is a great long, wide wooden building divided in half, front and rear. I wish I could describe fully this lovely region of France within the war zone, quite near the front. Boche planes fly over here once in a while they say, though I haven't seen any yet.

The work here is enough to make one willing to die with fatigue, just to see the faces of these heroes of men change from a grave, rather lonely expression to a bright, grateful smile when we American women speak to them. They just crowd around the canteen and trustingly hand out their money in their open palms for us to pick out the price of what they buy, and then hang about and talk and show pictures of their wives, children or sweethearts, as the case may be. Some days are of course more interesting than others and it is often hours and hours that we are kept standing. I certainly can sympathize with the boys in their desire to hear from home and their disappointment when the expected letter doesn't arrive.

But, oh! these wonderful men of ours in the army! So patient, cheerful and uncomplaining. They are certainly remarkable. It makes one feel ashamed of ever having complained about anything. They are practically all the same brave boys—rich or poor, high or low, white or black, cultured or uncultured, it makes no difference. Just before I left the hospital tonight I smoothed the headache away into a quiet sleep of a great, big, burly negro, black as the ace of spades. And so it goes. This is "the life," sure enough.

The other night we made fudge. Most everybody here craves candy. That has been another of my surprises, to see that the boys really seem to prefer candy, especially chocolate, to tobacco. They take tobacco when they can't get candy, of course, which is much of the time, but they seem to crave candy.

Every day and every hour has its interesting occurrences and if only I could tell of them. One incident I can tell, though, as it somehow impressed me as one of the most pathetic I've experienced since I have been over. The other day a haggard-faced, tall, war-worn French officer came to the officers' hut where I was in charge and after lingering around a little while said he "just wanted to hear a woman laugh." (I had, as usual, been laughingly talking with some of our American men and he had heard us across the street and came over just for that.) And then it flashed across my mind that the poor women of France, almost all in mourning and the better classes seldom seen in public, had no heart to laugh, saddened as they surely are with the loss of millions of their husbands, sons and sweethearts, and my laughter was very nearly turned to tears. Almost immediately afterwards another emaciated, pale-faced French officer wearing the croix de



JOSEPH J. QUIRK SNOW SHOE BELLEFONTE Killed in Action in France On October 31st.

Private Quirk was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Quirk and was born in Snow Shoe July 3, 1887. He was called into the service June 29th, went over in August and met his death in the Argonne campaign. Before enlisting he was mine boss for the Lehigh Valley Coal Co.



LUTHER D. MILLER BELLEFONTE Killed in Action in France On November 10th.

Private Miller was a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Miller and was born in Bellefonte twenty-four years ago. He was called into the service on May 28th, trained at Camp Meade and went across in July, being assigned to Company H, 314th infantry, 154th Depot brigade.



JACK B. LYON BELLEFONTE Twice Wounded and Gassed in Action in France.

Private Lyon is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lyon, of Bellefonte, and is about thirty years old. He enlisted at Syracuse, N. Y., over a year ago in the ambulance unit of the 9th infantry, (Fighting Ninth) and has been in France almost a year.



FRED MULFINGER PLEASANT GAP Wounded and Shell Shocked in Action in France.

Private Mulfinger is a son of John C. Mulfinger and was born at Pleasant Gap February 11, 1895. He went out with Troop L, trained at Camp Hancock and when the cavalry was disbanded was transferred to the 109th field artillery, going across in May.



JOHN ARTHUR WAITE BELLEFONTE Reported Severely Wounded in Action in France.

Private Waite is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Waite, of Bellefonte, and is about twenty-four years old. He was called into the service on Nov. 5th, 1917, and trained at Camp Meade. He went to France early this year, and has been in the fight six months.

guerre and other badges of honor and brave service well performed, came along and said appealingly: "Don't stop laughing."

But with it all you can't imagine how we long for news from home—every one of us in this far-off interesting old land. That is another thing that impresses me, the age of the country and the people, too. We Americans, all of us, seem like children of a later civilization. There is a certain pathos in even the beautiful and in youth, itself. Perhaps it is because they have been so long at war, and yet I think it is more than that, for it seems to emanate from the very buildings in Paris as well as in the villages.

The work here is much more fascinating and absorbing than I ever dreamed of. So many, many different personalities from all of the always interesting people of this land. And then our wonderful army. How proud you people at home would see of your boys over here if you could see them as I have. The manner in which they accept all that comes to them, their marvelous patience not only in suffering (you know I have been nursing in the hospitals now about six weeks) but in the monotonous duties every day when not in actual active fighting.

I often think what a privilege it is to be over here helping in what I can do. The weather has been wonderful lately and the air is simply great. I wish I could write freely but I'll have to wait until I get home—real home—once more.

REBECCA N. RHOADS.

How She Spent the Money.

Several months ago the Patriotic League of Bellefonte sent to Miss Bertha Laurie a sum of money to use in her canteen work in France and this week they received the following letter of acknowledgement:

France, Oct. 22, 1918.

I have just received your letter enclosing check from the Patriotic League. It was the greatest surprise to me, also a great satisfaction to feel that the people of my home town trust me to spend their money wisely in trying to give some comfort and happiness to the boys who are so far away from their homes and families.

I wish I could tell you what a great pleasure it is to us to have some money to spend. We have been buying loads of wood and have two open fire places burning in our canteen every evening. The rainy season has started and although it is not very cold, it is muddy and dreary, and it would do your heart good to hear the boys when they come into the canteen and see the fire burning on the hearth. One stopped in the doorway and said: "My, this looks like heaven." The man with him said, "No, like home." And as they sat before the fire drinking their hot chocolate and eating sandwiches we could literally see their weariness leave them.

We are to move this week into a larger house, where Miss Watts and I are to manage the enlisted men's club. With part of your money we will have a party for the men on Halloween. With our larger kitchen and two stoves we will be able to give away that one evening. The boys will love it. They appreciate every little thing we do for them, even sewing on buttons or mending their clothes, they never forget, and we get letters from them months later reminding us of what we have done for them. Thank you very much again and please thank all the people who were interested in giving the concert to raise the money.

BERTHA A. LAURIE.

The Bellefonte electric fire alarm is again in service. The work of putting in repairs was completed on Sunday and it was tested out during the afternoon. Naturally residents of the town who did not know that the alarm was being repaired thought a fire had broken out, but such was not the case. And now that the alarm has been fixed it is quite probable that a little oil will be applied to it at intervals frequent enough to keep it in shape.

LAST DAY OF THE FIGHTING.

Corp. Robert T. Willard Details Incidents of that Memorable Time.

At the Front, Nov. 14, 1918.

Your letter dated October 17th was received a few days ago, but since that time the war has ended, as you will know long before you receive this letter. It ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918.

We were in it when the last shot was fired, and there was an awful barrage put over by both sides just before it ended. Some of the shells were lighting pretty close to us, in fact, a dud lit within about ten feet of where I was lying beside my emplacement. It actually raised me off the ground, and we were mighty lucky that it was a dud. As it was we did not have a casualty in our whole company on the last day.

Before we went into action we had heard that the Huns had until eleven o'clock the next day to sign the armistice, so it was with anxiety that we waited to see whether it was to cease or continue. When the firing ceased we received word that the armistice had been signed we were certainly a happy crowd.

In the afternoon some of us took a walk to the German lines and swapped souvenirs with them, such as buttons, cigarettes and coins. They were all tickled to death that it was over, and one could see all around crowds of Germans and Americans talking together.

As yet we have not started to move back any, but instead we are moving forward to follow them up. I don't know how far we will take them, but I don't care much, now that we don't have to "jook" shells, etc.

Johnny Woods said that he was going to send a cablegram home telling that all the Bellefonte boys are well, so I presume you know of it before this. He is back a little ways, where he can do it. My whole squad is sitting here writing letters and reading, beside a big bon-fire, as it is pretty chilly now. About a week ago we would have been picked off for having a fire this close to the Boche. It seems funny to go around at night and light matches and have fires. I am hoping to be home soon.

ROBERT.

How They Celebrated in France.

The first letter to reach Bellefonte since the signing of the armistice came from Charles E. Gates, who is in the ordnance department and located at Calais. He wrote as follows:

France, Nov. 11, 1918.

As I write this sitting in my bunk I can hear the wonderful sound of a hundred or more steamboat whistles, together with all the factory and railroad engines in Calais blowing the news to the world that the war is finished. They have been shooting the cannon and carrying on now for about an hour. I am out of luck, as I had a touch of pneumonia instead of the flu, and the doctor absolutely refuses to allow me to go out and see the celebration that is already going on. It is now nighttime.

To think that it is over is almost beyond my comprehension, and as I don't believe my mind has been dwarfed by the war I think I will shortly be able to grasp the magnitude of the event. I can imagine the celebration that will be taking place back in the big cities in the States, as well as Bellefonte, but they won't be a drop in the bucket to what we see here among the people who have fought and suffered the past four years.

I suppose the next thing now will be the time when the boys start home, which, I am afraid will be a long way off for me, as our branch of the service, it is believed, will have to stay and do the tidying up.

I hope to be out of bed in a day or two, but as the weather is damp and cold the doctor don't want me to get out and suffer a relapse, so I had better take his advice. Listen! The whistles are still blowing. Think how great it is. Love and kind remembrances to all.

CHARLES E. GATES.

KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE.

Private Joseph Quirk, of Snow Shoe, Paid Supreme Price.

The "Watchman" last week carried a brief announcement of the fact that private Joseph J. Quirk had been killed in action in France. The news of his having paid the supreme price came to his parents in an announcement from the War Department, and the fact that he was killed on October 31st is taken as evidence that he was in the big drive in the Argonne sector which virtually brought about the end of the war.

Private Quirk was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Quirk and was born in Snow Shoe on July 13th, 1887, hence at the time of his death was 31 years, 3 months and 18 days old. He was educated in Snow Shoe and later went to work in the mines of the Lehigh Valley Coal company. He was energetic and progressive in his work with the result that at twenty-two years of age he was appointed mine foreman. He filled that position for nine years, until called into the service on June 29th, 1918. He trained at Camp Lee and was sent overseas the latter part of August. In France he was assigned to Company I, 363rd regiment of infantry. The fact that he was killed in action shows that he did his duty as a soldier just as he did in private life.

He is survived by his parents, a twin brother, Patrick E. Quirk, who was also a mine foreman for the Lehigh Valley Coal company when called into service on July 22nd, and one sister, Miss Ellie M. Quirk, a stenographer in the office of the same company.

LUTHER MILLER KILLED IN ACTION

NOVEMBER 10th.

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Miller, of Spring township, received notice from the War Department last Friday that their son, Luther D. Miller, had been killed in action on November 10th, the day before the signing of the armistice. The young man was called into the service on May 28th and sent to Camp Meade for training. He was transferred overseas in July and assigned to Company H, 314th infantry, 154th Depot brigade. He evidently was in most of the fighting in the Argonne sector as letters written to friends in Bellefonte late in October stated that he had been through some fearful scenes.

Private Miller was born in Spring township and was 24 years old in June. When but seven years old he was taken by his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Tibbens, and they raised and educated him at their home. He graduated at the Bellefonte High school with the class of 1915. Following his graduation he taught school two years at Roopsburg and one at Clarence, expecting to return there for the current school year. Following the close of his school last spring he went to Williamsport and applied for enlistment in the navy. He passed a good examination and had his papers all made out. He preferred enlistment to induction into the service but while he was waiting for his summons from Williamsport he was called by the local board and like a good soldier responded. He leaves to mourn his death his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Tibbens; his cousin, Earl Tibbens; his parents, living in Spring township, and the following brothers and sisters: George, Albert, Caroline, John, Lee and Edgar.

FRANK CRISSMAN WOUNDED, DEGREE UNDETERMINED.

Some weeks ago word reached Bellefonte through some of the soldier boys serving in France that Frank H. Crissman had been wounded, but no particulars were given. His father, W. Homer Crissman, endeavored to find out from the War Department about his son but got no reply until Monday morning of this week when he got a message stating that the young soldier had been wounded about September first, degree undetermined, which leaves him about as much in the dark as ever as to his son's condition.

Frank was one of the old Troop L boys, having gone out as a bugler. When the cavalry was broken up at

Camp Hancock he was assigned to the military police and it was with that organization he has been serving in France.

ONE SON KILLED, ANOTHER WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Woomer, of Orviston, have received word that their son, Merrill Woomer, was killed in action in France while another son, Floyd Woomer, is in a base hospital seriously wounded. Both young men were well and favorably known in Curtin township and the sympathy of the community is extended to this family, which has been stricken hard, or than any other known at this time in Centre county. The young soldier is survived by his parents, his brother in France, another brother, Harry, at home, and a sister, Mrs. Ethel Confer, of Orviston.

GOTLIEB HAAG WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Haag received a notice on Wednesday that their son Gotlieb had been wounded in two places in action in France on November 10th, one wound being in the left wrist and the other in the right shoulder. Fortunately neither wound is in a critical place. Private Haag left Bellefonte with a contingent of national army men early in July for Camp Meade. He was there but five weeks when he was sent across, where he was assigned to Company H, 314th infantry. He was on the fighting line twelve days before he was wounded.

WOUNDED AND GASSED SOLDIERS.

Among the Bellefonte soldiers in France who have been wounded is Fred Mulfinger, son of Mr. John C. Mulfinger, of Pleasant Gap. The young soldier, who was born at Pleasant Gap on February 11th, 1895, went to Camp Hancock as a member of Troop L and when the cavalry was disbanded he was assigned to the 109th field artillery. He went across in May and got into action in July. He was wounded on August 17th and after recovering and going back to service was shell-shocked on September 15th. At last reports he had again recovered and was back on duty.

Last week the "Watchman" published an item relating to John Arthur Waite, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Waite, of this place, having been wounded and gassed in action, but from letters received by members of the family it was not believed at the time that his condition was serious. The War Department, however, on Monday announced him as being severely wounded, and now the family are in suspense as to just how bad his condition is.

The last word received from Jack B. Lyon, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lyon, was that he was still in a convalescent hospital, but improving. Jack enlisted at Syracuse, N. Y., in the ambulance unit of the 9th infantry and went across early in the year. Last May he had a portion of one of his ears torn off by a piece of shrapnel while driving an ambulance and after recovering and going back into active service he was again wounded and gassed on July 24th.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DEAD SOLDIER.

Special memorial services will be held in the Bellefonte Methodist church on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in honor of Edward B. Brooks, the young soldier of Boggs township who was killed in action in France on September 22nd, while in the performance of his duty as a member of the supply company of the 108th field artillery. The services will be in charge of Dr. Ezra H. Yocum and Rev. C. C. Shuey, while Major H. Laird Curtin will also bear testimony to the dead soldier's career while a member of Troop L, First Pennsylvania cavalry. The Bellefonte mounted machine gun troop will attend in a body, and it is quite probable Col. H. S. Taylor will be present and make an address.

LIEUT. TAYLOR BACK IN FRANCE.

"Am well and safe in France." Such was the cablegram received on Sunday by Mrs. E. R. Taylor, from her husband, Lieut. "Dick" Taylor, who has just returned to France via

Switzerland from Germany, where he was confined as a prisoner of war. Lieut. Taylor was captured July 16th while making observations and was first imprisoned at Camp Rastatt. Later he was removed to Camp Villingen. He was released the last week in November and is probably by this time back with his company.

NEWS NOTES OF MEN IN SERVICE.

John Payne, who has been in service in the U. S. navy, will be discharged on December 21st and will go direct to Norfolk, Va., for a short visit with his mother, coming from there to Bellefonte to spend a few days then proceed to Pittsburgh where he has a good position awaiting him in one of the large steel plants.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bechdel, of Blanchard, last week received word that their son, Joseph R. Bechdel, had been killed in action on November 10th.

R. S. Taylor, a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Taylor, of State College, was wounded on October 30th when a piece of shrapnel pierced his left side and entered his body, while another piece struck him in the left shoulder. He is now in one of the Australian hospitals.

David Richards, of Marthas, and Albert R. Lucas, are also among the list of wounded.

Among the first Centre countians to return home from the other side were John Love, of Bellefonte, and Edmund Evey, of Valley View, both of whom arrived on Sunday. They were in the aviation branch of the service.

Lieut. Elliott Lane returned home last Friday, having been discharged from the officers' training school at Camp Lee, Va.

Annual Meeting of Centre County Farm Bureau.

The annual meeting of the Centre county farm bureau, held in the court house last Friday, was not as largely attended as it should have been but notwithstanding this fact two very interesting sessions were held. The forenoon session was taken up with reports of the president, secretary and treasurer and the farm agent; while a number of farmers who had co-operated in demonstrations and various kinds of work took occasion to tell about it for the benefit of others.

At the afternoon session there were several very interesting talks on dairying and farm bureau work in general. Prof. Rasmussen, of State College, who is a member of the dairy division of the Public Safety committee, gave a very interesting talk on dairying as a business and offered some good suggestions as to dairy improvement in Centre county. Prof. Rasmussen is a native of Denmark and one of the principal reasons for the success of the people of his native land in dairying he attributes to co-operation. The formation of blooded bull associations and breeding clubs are phases of work which he avers should be adopted in Centre county as a means of increasing the quality of the dairy stock.

M. S. McDowell, also of State College, gave a very interesting talk on farm bureau work as a state and national proposition. Mr. Gray, of Butler county, and Mr. Ross, of Lackawanna county, also gave interesting talks of the work and worth of the farm bureaus in their counties.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

President—John S. Dale, State College.

Vice President—C. R. Neff, Centre Hall.

Secretary and Treasurer—W. C. Smeltzer, Bellefonte.

Executive Committee—Milo R. Campbell, Pennsylvania Furnace; Col. W. Fred Reynolds, Bellefonte; John Meek, Waddle; S. G. Walker, Spring Mills; D. O. Eiters, State College; J. Will Mayes, Howard.

The hunting season is about at an end, but cheer up! Fishing season will open on April 15th, 1919, if the coming session of the Legislature doesn't monkey with the fish laws.

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