

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

F. GRAY MEEK, Editor

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HOLDING FORTH IN GERMANY.

Sergt. Clarence Smith Writes of His Wonderful Experience in the Big War Overseas.

The following letter from Sergt. Clarence Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Smith, of Bellefonte, will doubtless be read with a great deal of interest by his friends in Bellefonte. Sergt. Smith is a member of Ambulance company No. 2, attached to the First division, which was in action through most of the war.

Montabaur, Germany, Jan. 2. I received the Christmas box on the 31st of last month. It certainly did come in handy. Candy is almost unheard of here, the people have had none since the beginning of the war.

I am now on detached service with the First division headquarters. I have three men with me. There is also a doctor here who ranks as major. We have been on detached service since the 20th of November.

It has been a wonderful experience to go through. I want to say right here that we have been in all of it. The First division has not missed anything.

Centre county has always been proud of her soldiers, proud of their patriotism and bravery as displayed on the battlefield and proud of their loyalty to the green valleys and rugged hills of Central Pennsylvania.

So, when we arrived at Coblenz and found that our major had taken rooms for us at one of the best hotels in the city, you can imagine our surprise.

The scenery along the Moselle river in Germany is beautiful. The river is flanked on both sides by high hills. From the river's edge to the top of the hills is one stretch of vineyards, planted on terraces.

What a pity that such a gentleman did not have the chance to go through a war more brilliant than this one. I can so vividly picture him dashing against the enemy on a splendid charger, fitted out in a glittering uniform, and smiling in the face of death as he would at a fine lady!

All his acts were inspired by his affection for his country and for the person of his general. Being of an age that allowed him to escape the hardships of war and possessed of immense wealth, which permitted him to enjoy all this world's goods, Captain Boal left everything, forgot everything to come and fight in the fair land of France he loved so much.

General, Captain Boal was your worthy assistant.

Bugler Frank Crissman Reported Alive.

Notwithstanding the fact that bugler Frank Crissman, son of Mr. W. Homer Crissman, of Bellefonte, was officially reported dead by the War Department on January 7th, reports from some of his comrades in France state that he is not only alive but getting along all right.

Lieut. Butterworth further stated that according to information they had received the entire Twenty-eighth division (old National Guard of Pennsylvania) will be sent home during the latter part of February and not later than the first week in March.

the gas shells break and the deadly fumes rise from the ground. Once we were enveloped with the gas but we quickly adjusted our masks and in a few minutes it was all over.

After waiting four or five hours we received orders to advance. We started up the road from the town and went up a hill. When we reached the top of the hill we were shelled again. This time we had no protection. The boche knew all the roads and could put the shells anywhere, and he put them on the road, too.

While waiting this time a bunch of boche planes came over, flying low. At first we thought they were American planes but they soon showed us different. Their machine guns began to rattle and the bullets to fall around us.

The boche seemed to be master of the air for a while. Our anti-aircraft guns were shooting at them and shrapnel from these shells fell all around us. I later found a hole which the boche had fixed up as a telephone station where I was pretty safe.

It was a wonderful experience to go through. I want to say right here that we have been in all of it. The First division has not missed anything.

Praise for Capt. Theodore Davis Boal.

Centre county has always been proud of her soldiers, proud of their patriotism and bravery as displayed on the battlefield and proud of their loyalty to the green valleys and rugged hills of Central Pennsylvania.

I feel that I ought to say a word of your aide-de-camp, Captain Boal, that cultured gentleman, that staunch patriot. He would walk with the same elegant ease under machine-gun or shell fire as when decorating a mess table.

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EXPLORED A SUBMARINE.

Former Centre County Woman Writes of Her Work in London, England.

Mrs. Willis Weaver, of Windber, has received another letter from her sister, Mrs. Harriet Holmes Schaub, a native of Centre county, in which she tells of the many interesting things she has seen and experienced in her work in London, England. Her letter follows:

London, England, Dec. 29, 1918. I had the wonderful experience of being taken over the famous U-boat 155, which is anchored here in the Thames. She was the Deutschland, the first submarine the Huns sent to America, you remember.

The next most thrilling experience was to be here for the arrival of President and Mrs. Wilson. It was almost as exciting as being in New York on Armistice day.

The night patrol has been doing day and night duty for a week because the International Hospitality League had 1,500 invitations from private homes for men in uniform.

Boxing day is the day after Christmas and is quite as much of a holiday as Christmas, so we really had a longer day than we had Christmas.

Robert S. Walker surprised his Bellefonte friends by arriving home very unexpectedly on Tuesday evening. So far as general knowledge was concerned Mr. Walker was still in Scotland, but it seems that he was returned to this country very unexpectedly.

Charles McCoy, one of the Bellefonte overseas young men who turned out to be alive after having been reported killed in action, returned home on Tuesday.

The "Watchman" is happy to be able again to reassure a number of parents and friends as to the whereabouts of their boys on the other side who have not been heard from for so long as to cause anxiety.

Our connection with the Home Paper Service of America has been worth while. It affords us opportunity to render service to the public that is worth while and in rendering this service the "Watchman" furnishes another proof of its claim so generally acknowledged by persons who know that it is the really worth while paper published in Centre county.

Has no casualty report. His unit, Co. G, 362nd Inf., at latest reports was at Lateret-Bernard, Belgium, with the 91st Division; the entire Division being on the priority list for early return home.

Has no casualty report. His unit, Supply Co., 60th Coast Artillery, sailed January 26th, for New York on the Cedric which was due to dock on Tuesday of this week.

His unit, the 33rd Inf., is at Panama. The casualty bureau has no information as to condition of members, nor is it possible to say when the 33rd will return to this country.

David Lauck was reported killed in action November 1st, but his parents have had some doubt as to the accuracy of the report.

out any probation work there. Of course I am more than willing to stay because I came to work wherever I am needed most, but wasn't Lady Ward nice about it? I was glad to stay on my own account, too, because, as I wrote you, working nights and sleeping days does not leave much time for sight-seeing and certainly this is the most wonderful town in the world.

News of the Soldier Boys.

James E. Stein Jr., of Sunbury, landed in Hoboken last week, being one of the casualties sent home for further treatment. The young soldier will be better remembered by Bellefonte people as "Jimmie" Stein, son of Rev. and Mrs. James B. Stein.

Lieut. Paul E. Seanor, who was badly injured in a motorcycle accident in Riverside, Cal., several weeks ago, is recovering nicely and it is expected will be able to leave the hospital in the near future.

Lieut. Commander A. Trood Bidwell, of Bellefonte, who has been on duty in the Adriatic sea the past year or more, was given a nice Christmas present by the Admiral in charge of the Far East fleet.

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More of the Lost Boys Located.

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We regret that our information furnishes no substantial ground on which to base hope that the first report might be incorrect. There has been no alteration of the original report.

AT WORK IN MILLIERES.

Miss Rebecca N. Rhoads Tells of the Work in Her New Location.

Millieres, France, Jan. 3. I had a strange New Year's day. It was mild as spring almost, and sunny and nice most of the day. I was to have left Nogent for here several days before I did but asked to stay one day longer and then was ready to leave on Tuesday, December 31st.

I can never cease to be thankful that I did not allow personal inclination to keep me at Nogent, now that I see how very much needed a "Y" woman is here.

Just a long wooden army barrack for our "Y" hut. There is not even a floor in it, no platform or canteen counter, and scarcely a shelf; absolutely bare walls, about four trestle tables, a few plain benches, several army stoves which smoke terribly, one tiny candle was burning, about twenty men hugging the stove and no supplies in sight.

This is certainly very much like the real front line work. Over at Nogent the boys all said they would get drunk if I left, and while it was gratifying to know they didn't want me to leave, they are in Paradise compared to these equally fine fellows over here.

First of all I decided we must have more light and determined on some kind of a holder for candles. I found a boy from DuBois, Pa., who made out of cigar boxes three "chandeliers" for the ceiling of the building and six side lights, all lined with tin to act as reflectors.

During the day I had drummed up some musical talent and with a violinist and a splendid male quartette we really had a wonderful evening.

We kept the one telephone wire hot with our insistence that supplies be sent here at once and tonight they came, and also a moving picture. In the month and a half these boys have been here they had only one moving picture entertainment before this and only one local talent performance.

To the only girl we have seen in a month and a half: We give you a standing invitation to join our little party in the Y. M. C. A. hut. A short talk on what is going back in the U. S. A. will greatly relieve our homesickness. We remain, etc.

The "Y" secretary has secured the nicest room obtainable for me, in the same house with the major. It has an open fireplace and is so filled with dishes, bric-a-brac, beautifully carved and heavy furniture, that one can hardly turn around, but it is very comfortable as long as it does not get colder.

Other inquiries that have come in since the above were received will be answered just as promptly as we can get thorough investigation made.

Military and Naval Discharges.

It is of great importance to each soldier and sailor in Centre county, who has received an honorable discharge from the military or naval service of the United States, that a permanent record of such discharge be preserved.

We are glad to announce that William H. Brown, the present recorder of deeds, will record all such discharges of all soldiers or sailors from Centre county, without any charges to them for his service, and will be able to do same as soon as he can get the necessary record book; all discharges to be taken to said office and same to be called for.

STRICKLAND.—Franklin Pierce Strickland died at the Blair county hospital on Saturday evening of apoplexy, aged 66 years, 5 months and 1 day. For a number of years he resided at Snow Shoe, this county, and was a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of that place as well as the Methodist church.

ADAMS.—Robert Adams, only son of William and Julia Gray Adams, died at his home on Penn street on Sunday of tubercular meningitis. In October he had an attack of influenza and from it developed the disease which caused his death.

BROUSE.—Edward Brouse, son of William and Mary Brouse, of Boalsburg, died on Sunday evening of diabetes, aged nine years. The boy had been sick only twenty-four hours and being an unusually bright child his untimely death is a sad blow to his parents.

BRUGGER.—Mrs. Emma Thompson Brugger, wife of John Brugger, died at her home in Johnstown last week. She had been an invalid for many years. She never had any children and her only survivors are her husband and her mother.

Brief Meeting of Borough Council.

Every member was present at Monday night's meeting of borough council with the exception of Mr. Cherry. There were no verbal nor written communications.

Mr. Harris, of the Street committee, reported that men were at work cleaning out the Thomas street sewer and outlined some changes which would in a measure prevent its clogging up. The committee was instructed to make the necessary changes.

The Water committee reported fixing a number of fire hydrants and also submitted their recommendations on the various requests for water tax exonerations, with the recommendation that on the requests disallowed property owners be given fifteen days in which to pay the tax and if not paid at that time the water will be turned off. The recommendation of the committee was accepted and approved by council.

The Finance committee reported a balance in the hands of the borough treasurer on January 20th of \$1300, and also asked for the renewal of a note for \$2000 for six months from January 2nd, and a new note for \$5000 for three months to meet current bills, both of which were authorized.

Secretary Kelly read a notice of a meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Boroughs to be held at the Penn-Harris hotel in Harrisburg on February 25th and 26th, with a suggestion that council send a delegation to the meeting. Council voted to send the burgess, solicitor and the chairman of the Street and Water committees.

President Walker appointed A. Miles Barr an auditor for the Pruner orphanage.

A complaint was received from the Pennsylvania Match company regarding the condition of the railroad trestle above the passenger station, which in a time of high water is liable to clog the stream and flood their premises. Inasmuch as the railroad company is now working at this trestle to get it cleared out the matter was referred to the Street committee and borough solicitor.

Bills to the amount of \$4521.16 were approved and council adjourned.