

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., August 8, 1919.

P. GRAY MEEK, - - Editor

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

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WEARY DAYS IN FRANCE.

Soldiers Disgruntled at Delay in Sending Them Home.

Is-surtile, July 20, 1919.

Editor "Democratic Watchman":

I have been a constant reader of your paper for the past fifteen years, as it was always a welcome visitor to our home and I looked forward each week to the day when the "Watchman" made its appearance, with not only the news of the county, but the news of the State and the United States. And after I left home and joined the army your paper has been more appreciated than ever, and especially since I have been in the A. E. F. in France, for when one is over four thousand miles from home, with the deep sea lying between him and his loved ones, any and all news from the U. S. A. is sure welcome. And it is some treat when you are fortunate enough to pick up a home town paper.

And so as I lie here on my bunk tonight, in an army camp in rainy France, having just laid aside a copy of the "Watchman," my thoughts just naturally turned toward home and loved ones, and all friends in my home town. Of course you all know that the war has been over now for almost nine months, that we have won and that the peace terms have been signed, but I am still in France with the prospects of going home not much brighter than they were the day the armistice was signed.

And I cannot help but think that there are questions arising in the minds of my friends and that they are wondering why I am not at home with them now, so with the object in view of leaving everybody know what I am doing here now I am writing this letter. It will explain why it is necessary for me, as well as others, to remain over here for probably five years, at least.

When I left home in June, 1918, and became a member of the national army, I was sent to Newark, Del., where I took a short course in mechanical training, at the completion of which I was sent to Camp Joseph E. Johnston, at Jacksonville, Fla., where I was assigned to the motor transport service and sailed for France shortly afterward. My commanding officer was a man who had been an insurance agent in private life and jumped into a second lieutenant's commission over night almost, and a better stickler I never saw, as we have been trying to drive him off ever since but we cannot get it accomplished, even with the aid of the fair Mademoiselles here in France, so he is still with us.

After putting in eighteen strenuous days on the ocean bobbing up and down we landed at Brest, France, and then chased over different parts of that country, eating canned willie and sleeping in mud holes until after the armistice when we were assigned to the Meuse hospital centre which was located somewhere in the central part of France. This was the largest hospital centre in that country at the time and when we went there there were about forty thousand patients. This number was later increased to about sixty thousand. We were told when we went there that we would be there only a short time, that the hospital would be evacuated and the camp closed by February 1st, 1919.

We were placed in charge of the transportation in the central portion, and our equipment consisted of about everything in the line of motor conveyance from a Ford to a seven ton truck. We worked through rain and snow, in mud up to our knees, both day and night, putting in anywhere from fifteen to twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and the first of March still found us there. They were evacuating the hospital slowly and we heard all kinds of rumors as to when the camp would close, when along comes an order from G. H. Q. stating that any organization then stationed at a permanent camp in the A. E. F. would have to remain there until the camp was closed when they would immediately sail for home.

So we worked along patiently as possible until the middle of May when the camp was cleaned out of patients and nobody left but the M. T. C. Of course we tried to stay as long as we could but there was nothing left for us to do, and to keep up the good reputation this company has always had we could not remain idle, so the only thing left for us to do was to move, and we packed our belongings, said good-bye to the friends we had made among the French people and left for Lems, with the expectation of going home.

When we landed in Lems we were sent out into the country about twenty miles to where the 81st division was camped awaiting sailing orders for the U. S. A., with the understanding that we were to be attached to that division and go along home with it. We remained there about two weeks, saw the 81st, the 7th division and several batteries of air service men leave for the port of embarkation and we were still there watching them go. At the end of a fortnight we received orders to return to Lems and upon our arrival there we were

sent to a forwarding camp and told that we were going home, and for the second time we said good-bye to France.

But unfortunately for some of us, the day before we were to leave for Brest an order came in for one company of M. T. C. men to report in Paris for duty. The call was extended to four or five different commanding officers of M. T. C. companies that were in camp at that time and they all turned it down. Then our lieutenant heard of it, and as Paris and its many pretty Mademoiselles have always had quite an attraction for him ever since we have been in the A. E. F., he volunteered for the job and the next morning found us all on the train bound for gay Paree.

When we landed there and reported for duty to the Paris commandant he or nobody else seemed to know what we had been sent there for or where we were to be stationed. We found about 800 men stationed there and about 150 of them working. We laid around there several days when they found work for twenty of us and the rest were idle. In fact I might state that I saw our commanding officer only once during our stay in Paris. We spent our time riding around the city, joy-riding officers until two and three o'clock in the morning, and the majority of them were such good sports that they wouldn't pay the price of a sandwich and a cup of coffee for us to help pass the time away, while they were showing the French people how much wine they could drink and how the American people spent their money; or in other words, he was "a good sport" in front of them.

This lasted about a month when we got orders from G. H. Q. to proceed to Brest on the tenth of July, so again we said good-bye to the girls of fair Paris, with thoughts of being in our own homes in the States by the first of August at the latest, but before we got started along comes another order to go to Is-surtile and pick up some West Point cadets from the U. S. A. and drive them on a sight-seeing trip, including the different battle fronts, and that would mean about three more months over here for us.

So we arrived at Is-surtile about five days ago and as yet we have seen no cadets to haul, and if we stay here and do nothing we may wear out our welcome so our lieutenant is busy trying to find something for us to do. I can conscientiously say that about all I have done in the last five months has been driving taxicabs, burning gasoline and tires on the roads of France and you people at home are paying the bills, and will be paying them for years to come, and I will also have to help.

As to when I am coming home, that is very uncertain, judging from past experiences, but the sentiment of the entire company along this line is very similar to mine. With best wishes to all home folks.

C. R. FLOREY.

Returned from Service Abroad

Miss Rebecca Naomi Rhoads returned to her home in Bellefonte last Friday after almost a year's service in Y. M. C. A. canteen work in France. Readers of the "Watchman" will recall with pleasure a number of letters from the pen of Miss Rhoads which appeared from time to time in the columns of the "Watchman" and they told the story of the work she did over there better than we can tell it. She left her comfortable home in this place and at her own expense went abroad to minister to the wants of the American soldiers, sick or wounded, homesick or in want, and she performed her duty in a manner which won for her many words of praise from all commanding officers with whom she came in contact. That she is glad to get back to her native land, and her home and friends in Bellefonte, is unquestioned, but her experiences abroad will always remain with her as a priceless treasure in her memory.

As president of the county organization W. C. T. U. she will doubtless have many interesting incidents to relate when that body of women meet in the future.

Misses Margaret and Martha McKnight are now entertaining Mrs. Alexander Gailey and son, Nelson Gailey, of Philadelphia, relatives of Mrs. Robert McKnight, of that city. The young man just returned last week from fifteen month's service overseas and was discharged after a term of two years in the army. In France he served as a gunner with the 14th regular artillery and had the thrilling experience of having had his wrist watch shot off without doing him any injury. Gunner Gailey had two brothers in the service, one who is just now on his way home from France and another who failed to get across.

John Scholl, who went across last October and was stationed at Tours, France, during all his service abroad, returned home on Saturday, bronzed and browned in his trip across the Atlantic but in the very best of health. Benedict Beezer, who went across with Scholl, is now on his way home and will likely reach Bellefonte in the near future.

Harry Nighthart, who has been in the government hospital at Carlisle ever since his return to this country in May, owing to a badly injured leg, has been discharged from service overseas. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis, of this place.

Lawrence Jones has also returned from service abroad and after his discharge at Camp Dix stopped in Philadelphia to visit friends before coming to his home in Bellefonte.

Corp. William McGovern, who served abroad in the 16th artillery, 4th division, arrived home on Tuesday and

has been busy receiving the greetings of his many friends the past two days. Corp. McGovern is considerably enamored with soldier life and is seriously considering re-enlisting for a term of years.

AMERICAN LEGION.

Attention, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

A meeting of all soldiers, sailors and marines of Bellefonte and immediate vicinity, who were in the military or naval service of the United States during the period between April 6th, 1917, and November 11th, 1918, will be held in the G. A. R. rooms, Bellefonte, on Monday, August 11th, 1919, at 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to effect a permanent organization of the American Legion Post of Bellefonte. The time has come to get our organization going. Every man eligible is urged to be present Monday evening.

W. FRED REYNOLDS JR.,
Chairman Pro tem.
JOHN G. LOVE,
Secretary, Pro tem.

Bad Weather for Flying.

The rainy, cloudy, foggy weather of this week is the kind that tries the nerves of aviators on the air-mail routes. On Tuesday pilot Ellis came from Cleveland, Ohio, and from the time he arose in the air at that city he never saw the earth until he reached Clearfield. There he saw what aviators term a hole in the clouds and he went through to find out where he was and discovered he was at Clearfield. He came down and after spending fifteen minutes there again took the air and came into Bellefonte. Although he didn't admit the fact he must have been sailing pretty close the tops of the mountains some of the time as leaves and small twigs were sticking on his machine.

The funeral services were held in the Black Oak church at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning. Rev. J. C. Moses officiated and burial was made in the Black Oak cemetery.

TATE.—Frank T. Tate, a well known resident of Pennsville, died at his home near the Red Mill in Potter township on Saturday night. On Saturday morning he went to the home of Mr. Detwiler, on the D. R. Foreman farm at Potters Mills to help haul in grain and thresh. While working in the field pitching rye he fell to the ground and it was at first believed he had suffered a sunstroke. He was taken home and during the night he had another stroke which resulted in his death. While the cause of his death was paralysis the physician avers that it is possible it was caused by a ruptured blood vessel in the head.

Mr. Tate was forty-nine years old and a farmer by occupation. He was a member of the Reformed church and a good citizen in every way. He was married to a daughter of W. H. Runkle, of Centre Hall, who survives with two children, Merrill and Mary. Funeral services were held at his late home at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning by Rev. S. C. Stover, of Boalsburg, after which burial was made in the Tusseyville cemetery.

Ever—Finkbinder.—Quite a pretty wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Finkbinder, on Pine street, at 11:30 o'clock on Wednesday morning, when their daughter, Miss Edna Sue Finkbinder, was united in marriage to Ralph Clifton Ever, of Tyrone. Two dozen or more guests were present to witness the ceremony which was performed by Rev. Wilson P. Ard, of the Lutheran church, the ring service being used. The bride was gowned in white Lorraine satin with a corsage bouquet of pink rosebuds.

Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at twelve o'clock and at 3:10 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Ever left on a wedding trip which will take in New York and a trip up the Hudson. The bride for several years past has been one of the efficient operators in the Bell telephone exchange and has many friends in Bellefonte. Mr. Ever was the first manager of the McCrory 5 and 10 cent store in this place but is now in charge of the Altoona store and it is in that city the young couple will make their home.

Among the guests present at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Eyer and Donald Eyer, of Tyrone; Miss Betty Simf, of Williamsport, and Mrs. Chandler and daughter Marie, of Bellefonte.

Wissinger—Miller.—Clifford R. Wissinger, of Akron, Ohio, and Miss Roberta B. Miller, of Port Matilda, were married on Wednesday morning at the Methodist parsonage on east Linn street, by the pastor, Rev. Alexander Scott. The ring ceremony was used but the young people went to the altar unattended. They will make their home in Akron, Ohio.

Milan P. Walker has accepted a position as book-keeper for the Beatty Motor company.

Gehret and Lambert are at work on a new building at the aviation field to be used as a motor testing house.

All the papers were filed on Wednesday morning in an application for an appeal of the Gray case to the Supreme court.

Frank M. Crawford has been in Detroit this week purchasing a new Chalmers car which he will drive home. He traded his Franklin in on the new purchase.

W. R. Malin, who three weeks ago went to the Cresson sanitorium, is improving in health, according to word received within the week by members of his family.

The Altoona Tribune of yesterday announced the recent marriage of Miss Vida Davis, of Bellefonte, and Clyde L. Brady, of that city, who recently returned from service overseas. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis, of this place.

David Finklestein, proprietor of the pool room in the Bush Arcade, got the big Pierce Arrow car disposed of by the Logan Fire company on Saturday evening and the company realized a little over twenty-five hundred dollars therefore. He held ticket No. 350.

Twin boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Shuman Davis at their home on Thomas street, Tuesday of last week.

A little boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Warren Weaver, Friday, August 1st, at the home of Mrs. William McClellan. It is Mr. and Mrs. Weaver's first child.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

GATES.—Mrs. Nancy Jane Gates, wife of George Gates, died at her home near Black Oak, on the road from Port Matilda to Philipsburg, last Saturday evening, of sarcoma of the liver. She had not been in good health for some time but had been confined to bed only two weeks prior to her death.

Her maiden name was Nancy Jane Cowher and she was born at Port Matilda on August 25th, 1860, hence had reached the age of 58 years, 11 months and 7 days. She was married to Mr. Gates about thirty-four years ago and all their married life had been spent on the farm. She was a member of the United Brethren church all her life and a woman who was held in the highest esteem by all who knew her.

Surviving her are her husband and five children, namely: Harry, Allan, Miriam, Walter and Thompson, all now at home but the daughter who is married. Two of the sons, Allan and Walter were in service in France nine months and returned home just about the time their mother was taken quite ill.

A peculiar thing in connection with their return is that they had not heard from each other for weeks and neither knew of the other's whereabouts until they met in Tyrone on their way home. Both had been discharged the same day and returned home on the same train. In addition to her children she also leaves the following brothers and sisters: Miss Orelia Cowher, of Tyrone; Mrs. Alfred Shultz, of Williamsport; Miss Martha, who made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Gates, and Daniel Cowher, of Bellefonte.

The funeral services were held in the Black Oak church at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning. Rev. J. C. Moses officiated and burial was made in the Black Oak cemetery.

The Water committee presented the treasurer's receipt for ten dollars for a sewer permit on the property of the Louis Doll estate, and also read the report of the borough manager so far as it related to work done on the streets, which included various improvements of a permanent character which have been badly needed for some time.

The Water committee presented the report of the borough manager so far as it affected that department, which showed a number of repairs made, and also included a request for permission to purchase a new crank shaft for the Dean pump at the Phoenix mill pumping plant, which council authorized.

The Finance committee presented

Brief Meeting of Borough Council.

Just five members were present at the regular meeting of borough council on Monday evening. There were no verbal nor written communications.

The Street committee presented the treasurer's receipt for ten dollars for a sewer permit on the property of the Louis Doll estate, and also read the report of the borough manager so far as it related to work done on the streets, which included various improvements of a permanent character which have been badly needed for some time.

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The Finance committee presented the report of the borough treasurer which showed a balance on hand on August 4th of \$2,801.34, after having paid during the month two \$500 bonds and the last note of \$570 to the Buffalo-Pitt Roller company, which cleans up the debt on the steam road roller. The committee also recommended that the tax rate for the coming year be the same as for 1919, namely: Six mills for street purposes, five for interest and three for borough, and the recommendation was approved by council.

The Water committee also recommended that the water rate for 1920 be the same as for 1919, which is ninety per cent. of the maximum schedule, and council so ordered.

The question of the purchase of the Phoenix mill plant was then taken up but the question of the legality of any action that might be taken was discussed owing to there being but five members of council present, and in order to be on the safe side Mr. Richard called Col. Reynolds by telephone and that gentleman agreed to grant an extension of the option for a period of thirty days, which will carry the time to September 10th in which council will have the right to settle all details in connection with the purchase of the plant, if they decide to exercise the right of their option.

Mr. Flack suggested that a new member be elected to take the place of James D. Seibert, who recently resigned as a member from the Southward to accept the position of borough manager, but owing to the fact that there were only five members of council present this action was also postponed.

Chairman Flack called attention to the fact that the most dangerous crossing in Bellefonte is the one from the Bush Arcade to the bridge and so far it has been unprotected with no "caution" or "danger" sign displayed anywhere near it. Several of the councilmen supported Mr. Flack in his assertion, even going so far as to characterize it as a regular death-trap, and that it had been more providential than otherwise that no serious accidents have occurred there.

Mr. Flack, as chairman of the Fire and Police committee, was instructed to have a danger sign put up at the most conspicuous possible place, so that automobile drivers will have no excuse for evading it and rounding the corner at the Arcade at high speed.

Bills to the amount of \$3447.11 were approved and council adjourned.

Randolph Breese is a surgical patient in the West Chester hospital, having been operated on Wednesday.

CENTRE HALL.

Mrs. Fred Kurtz, of Lewisburg, is a guest of Miss Grace Smith.

Miss Mildred Meyer, of Altoona, is a guest of her aunt, Mrs. William McClellan.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer, of Altoona, were week-end guests of their mother, Mrs. Philip Meyer.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox and two children of Cleveland, Ohio, were guests last week of their friend, Miss Sara Goodhart.

Miss Rebecca Kreamer, of Lewisburg, spent a few days at the home of her grandfather, Mr. Henry Kreamer, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart, of New Bloomfield, were guests of Mrs. Stewart's sister, Mrs. Lucy Henney, last week.