



LIEUT. W. "NED" KELLER'S IMPRESSIONS OF FRANCE ; WRITES WONDERFUL LETTER TO HIS MOTHER.

Valor of French People Remains, He Says.—Soldiers Quartered with Livestock.—Novel Way of Conveying News to Peasant Class.—Hun Airman Sweeps Down on Moving Train and Pours Lead into Coaches ; Escapes.

The following intensely interesting letter has been received by Mrs. J. W. Keller, at Linden Hall, from her soldier son, Lieut. W. "Ned" Keller, in France. Lieut. Keller has the faculty of giving his readers a clear and vivid impression concerning the things of which he writes.

Somewhere in France,
Sept. 7, 1918.
Sunday, 4:30 p. m.

Dearest Mother O'Mine,
This being a day of rest I shall take time to keep you informed as to how I am getting along since I landed in France. I wrote a long letter last Sunday and I shall never quite forget the joy the day brought forth. First because I had received your first letter and then it was the first time in a month that I had an opportunity to write to you. Since then there has been no mail received in the regiment and we are very much concerned for it seems that that is all we have to live for.

I shall tell you first of all that we have come to a great country with a wonderful history, with a splendid record of which the French people have just reason to be proud. They are worthy of our respect and of our admiration. My first impressions of the French people have changed since being with them a few weeks. After landing at one of the largest ports in France, we traveled across country in trucks and cattle cars. We drove over roads in peace times the best in the world—now much injured by heavy travel and lack of repair. We passed among fields which for almost four years have been cultivated by the willing arms of the women, the children, and the old men. We went through villages where houses are closed forever, fathers and sons having been killed at the front. We met aged men, who have lost their sons, women who have lost their husbands and young girls who have lost their sweethearts. All the joy for these people has gone out of life. Their valor remains.

In some places the houses, the trees, the ground itself, have been shattered and hopelessly wrecked by the cannon of the enemy. The trees have often been deliberately cut down to the roots. Thus as we passed through we could not judge what France used to be. We can only touch her desolate soul which we have come to help restore.

For the time being we are being quartered in a little village not so many miles from the front lines and we continue our daily intensive training we can hear the big guns day and night. Anytime we look up we can see the aeroplanes in large numbers circling over our heads. In fact we go about our work without giving them much notice, for they soon became commonplace around here.

Our drill schedule keeps us very busy from early morning till late at night and when we are not on the drill field we are attending night school for officers. Every evening we assemble at a little school house and for a time our thoughts are of home for just before school opens we gather around a large wall map of the world and try to point out to each other just where the garden spot of the world really is.

I have had very little time to devote to the study of French but it is surprising to note how well one can get along with these people and still not speak their language. I am billeted in a little village about a mile from the rest of the company and it was necessary for me to secure quarters and food for my platoon, on our arrival. Well, it was really funny to hear them all talk at once and all I could say was "we-wee", which means "yes". I finally found room for the men in lofts, barns and sheds. All buildings are under one roof and since they keep the fodder, hay and grain on the second floor it is necessary for the folks to live next door to the farm stock. The barnyards take up the ground just in front of the house and needless to say the sanitary conditions are not what they might be. I was very much impressed with the fact that the French people sleep with their windows shut and very generally have no running water in their houses. All buildings are made of stone and as a rule are very old. The roofs are thatched, that is, made of straw and covered with moss and all floors are made of stone.

I am staying with a little French woman who is seventy years young and it's marvelous to see how she lives. Every morning she starts out to the grain fields with a large basket on her back and for hours she roams over the hills picking up wheat and oats heads and by noon she has her basket filled partly with grain and any little bit of dead wood she can find on her way home. About once a week she takes a

mallet and pounds the grain from the straw and thus she manages to get feed for her rabbits and chickens. She has no stove but cooks what little bit of food she eats in an open fire place. In four weeks she has only made fire two or three times, so saving are they with the wood. Her winter fuel is made up of many small bundles of dead pine boughs she has gathered during the summer and placed in the barn. Many times as I come home from night school she is standing in the door way eating her supper of perhaps a small piece of dry bread or a bowl of bread and milk.

So far it has been very difficult to secure any daily papers and of course we hear very little what is actually going on at the front. Since leaving the States I have only seen one or two papers and we are willing to pay most any price to get one in our possession. The Reporter or even a North American would certainly look good to me. The safest way to get them over here would be to place them in envelopes and send as letters.

The French peasants very seldom ever go out of their own villages and very few papers come in and so they convey the news by having a drummer go through the streets beating a drum and after the people all gather in the public square the mayor who happened to get the news will convey it to the public. Every little village has its church but for many years they have not been used for worship. The corner stones indicate that they are from four to six hundred years old, and we have been told that some haven't been used for a hundred and fifty years. The peasants do not regard Sunday as a rest day but go on with their work just the same and it's remarkable how they are able to work so hard seven days in the week.

For three weeks after we arrived in France it had not rained and everything was suffering very much; even the wells were practically all dry, and as a result the crops are not near what they should be. I think that accounts for the fact that I have never seen a French peasant take a drink of water since we landed here. They have their wine three times a day, and when calling on them they never fail to offer you wine on leaving. It may serve as a food to them but for my part I prefer the water. I usually get all the milk I want and it's quite reasonable, only six sous (six cents) a quart. The milk wagons in the small towns and villages consist of driving several goats and cows through the street and milking the milk right into your bucket or cup; no middle man here—produce direct to the consumer.

I visited a famous old chateau the other day; the owner, a well known French countess, was certainly kind to us. There were three of us officers. The caretaker told us to enter the gate and be seated on some rustic benches under a wonderful arbor; that the countess was always delighted to see Americans. Presently she came out and we were glad to find her a very pretty young woman of about thirty. She looked just like an American girl and spoke beautiful English with that delightful French accent. She served us tea and cakes and then personally conducted us through the grounds—several miles of them. Her husband and two brothers are at the front, but she hasn't heard from them in a long time and doesn't even know if they are alive or not, and yet she was as cheerful as could be and always smiling. Such is the spirit of the French people. They look sad and their faces show signs of mental suffering; but when you speak to them they brighten up and have always a cheery word for you. Too bad the majority of our people are not that way.

September 18, 1918.

Never had time to finish your letter for we were ordered to make a hasty move toward the front and had to put my writing aside until convenient to write again. Since then we have moved up and are now located but a short distance from the salient which was held by the Germans for four years but now taken over by the Americans. The country here is very rolling and wonderful to carry on modern warfare. Occasionally we have an air raid but we always make it so warm for the raiders that they hesitate about coming within range of our automatic rifles which are always ready for them. Only yesterday as a troop train pulled into the station one of the Hun planes swept down from behind a cloud and before any one saw him he flew up along one side of the train and circled around the engine and then down the other side, all the time pouring a stream of bullets into the moving train. All this happened in the early morning and sad to say he got

(Continued on inside page.)

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HELP WILSON WIN THE WAR.

“ Marshal Foch’s supreme and centralized control of the allied and American fighting forces is hastening the downfall of Prussian military power more than any other single factor in the war.”

“ The collapse of Bulgaria if directly traceable to the unity of command which has now coordinated all the allied military moves and linked in perfect harmony with American assistance.”

“ The opinion is expressed that Germany would have given fifty fighting divisions or more if the Allies and the United States had not put into effect the unity of command plan first suggested by President Wilson.”

“ The fact that President Wilson perceived this disadvantage before the military strategists in evidence of his clear vision.”

“ German unity meant victories.”

“ It is so striking an example of the advantage Germany had in this respect that it served to reinforce President Wilson’s appeal for unity of command at the Interallied War Conference last year.”

“ So says the New York Sun of October 6, 1918.”

“ Unity of Command ” at home ” as well as abroad is the essential fundamental of success in the war. It produces harmony of action and harmony of action produces strength—effectiveness.”

“ Unity of Command ” prevails at the front.

The American people’s task in the pending elections for members of the House and Senate is not only to maintain Unity of Command at home but to intensify it—if possible.

This can only be done by sending to

Washington, men whose willingness to act in harmony with the President and his administration is an assured fact. Men of the President’s party can be relied upon to do this.

It was the slogan in our former wars. It was the claim made for Washington, Lincoln and McKinley.

Girl Has Thrilling Experience.

Last Thursday evening a girl of seventeen years, Miss Wilma Hasinger by name, appeared before the door of a Phillipsburg home and by means of a noise drew the attention of the family who found her securely bound with a rope about her arms and lower limbs and a handkerchief tied over her mouth. Her story was that she was forcibly taken into an automobile by unknown parties, after first being bound and blindfolded. She claimed to have cast herself from the car and worked herself with great effort to the house. She seemed positive that she was not criminally mistreated.

A peculiar feature of the affair is that although the girl claimed to have thrown herself from the auto while moving at a lively rate, her clothing was not soiled and she suffered no bruises of any kind.

Bringing out the panic scare is the limit. Vote for Tobias, who will sustain the Wilson financial policies not questioned by a single Republican who is acknowledged to have brains and wits.

When was there a worse panic than that of 1907 under Roosevelt? Bringing out the panic scare now is the best indication that Republican party has nothing on the Wilson administration.

YOUR VOTE THIS FALL.

From Successful Farming
We rarely mention politics, and then only in a non-partisan way, but we feel that there is a great responsibility upon every voter this fall when he comes to vote for Congressman.

First, we should vote only for loyal Congressmen, no matter to what party they belong. Men should forget they are Democrats or Republicans, but ask whether the candidate for Congress has supported or would, if elected, support the war and uphold the hands of the Administration. Everything else being equal, we would prefer the man already in office if he has proven himself. He will have had the experience, and the very fact that he has voted right in the past gives us confidence as to his actions in the future.

But aside from this there is another phase that is worthy of serious consideration. It is so well put by the Washington Post that we will quote from it:

“ There will not be any great change in the Ohio delegation in the next Congress; in my opinion,” said John F. Giddings, of Canton, at Washington. “ I have been a life-long Republican but I expect to cast my vote this year for a Democrat for Congress. I believe that if the Republicans should succeed in carrying the House this election the news would be flashed abroad that the President, the Commander-in-chief of our Army and Navy, had been repudiated by the American people. This would hearten the German official class and the German Army, and the war would as a result be continued six months or a year longer than it would otherwise and our boys in France would be kept from returning home that much longer. There is no argument to this, and while I am for the war and for a decisive defeat of autocracy, I also want our boys back as soon as possible. Hence I shall sustain our Commander-in-chief by voting for a Democrat for Congress this fall, my first vote of the kind.”

We are fighting the propaganda of Germany here at home, so why give them the best kind of propaganda material to spread broadcast over Germany by seemingly repudiating the President and his administration. That is a serious thing in this election of Congressmen. It is far more important to win this war than to elect any particular man to Congress, yet a mistake in this election might help to delay a speedy victory.

Trial List for December Term.

- Commencing Monday, December and
J. B. Colt & Co. vs. A. C. Kepler, assumption.
I. M. Bierly vs. Nathan Iscovitz, appeal.
Gordon Bros. vs. Kelley Bros. Coal Co., assumption.
J. E. Jodon vs. Kate From, appeal.
Clyde G. Gray vs. The Penna. R. R. Co., trespass.
J. S. Condo vs. D. H. Shivery, trespass.
E. S. Bennett vs. C. W. Korman & Son, appeal.
Spencer Thornton vs. Adams Express Co., appeal.
F. E. Naginy vs. Bell Telephone Co., appeal.
Burdine Butler vs. Leather Bros., assumption.
H. K. Mattern vs. The Penna. R. R. Co., trespass.
W. C. Holt vs. The Penna. R. R. Co., trespass.
James H. Weaver vs. Adams Express Co., appeal.
George W. Solt vs. New York Central R. R. Co., trespass.

Captain Leitzell Wounded.

Captain Wilbur F. Leitzell, formerly with the Boal Machine Gun Troop, and now of the 10th Machine Gun Battalion, was slightly wounded in action on the battlefields of France, according to a cablegram received by his wife at State College, a short time ago.

Notice from Board of Health.

Notice is hereby given that all places of business within the borough of Centre Hall must be closed every evening at six o'clock.

By ORDER BOARD OF HEALTH.

300 Cases of Flu in Milroy.

A delegation of Milroy citizens on Monday evening visited Red Cross emergency headquarters at Lewistown and notified the director in charge of the fight against the spread of the disease, R. A. Bantle, that conditions were getting worse in Milroy and that there were now in that town between 250 and 300 cases of influenza; that there was only one doctor and he was being worked to death.

The delegation was instructed to immediately open an emergency headquarters at Milroy and the Red Cross would do its very best in sending another doctor to the town as well as nurses. Milroy has opened a headquarters at Dr. Boyer’s office and a strong organization is being secured to fight the spread of the disease.

Next Tuesday is election day. It is important that you vote.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

We are now running on the good old sun-time schedule.

Pennsylvania Day, the annual autumn festival at State College, will be celebrated November 9th.

In a day’s hunt, last week, Forrest Burrell, of near Centre Hall, shot six grey squirrels and three quail.

J. F. Zechman, the Boalsburg undertaker, was recently appointed a justice of the peace of Harris township.

Twenty-one of Haines township’s young men are now overseas. Ten of the number are from Woodward.

Rev. Weaver, the Lutheran minister at Aaronsburg, is slated for the principalship of the Aaronsburg High school.

A vote for Tobias, for Congress, will be an expression that you are in sympathy with President Wilson’s peace terms.

Victor A. Auman is back to his work at the Bradford & Son flouring mill after having been housed up for several weeks on account of the “flu”.

Last week was another fine one for out of door work. Farmers have been as busy as bees, fearing that every warm sunny day will be followed by cold and rough.

The Spring Mills National bank notes are circulating and are being accepted at face value for subscription on the Reporter. President Grover C. Walker’s signature is the finishing stroke to the new papers.

In order to send a Christmas box to any of the boys in France, you must first secure a red label from the soldier himself. After you get the red label, go to your local Red Cross Auxiliary who will advise you.

The Farmers National Bank, of Millheim, handled 201 subscriptions, amounting to \$65,000, and The Millheim Banking Co. handled 239 subscriptions, amounting to \$57,050, in the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign.

To-morrow (Friday) the season for rabbits opens. Ten is the limit for a day and sixty for the season. December 15th is the last day for killing them. Locally, the cottontails are said to be quite plentiful and some big kills may be expected.

The following attended the burial of Mrs. Nancy Jane Welsh, which took place in Centre Hall on Friday: Mr. and Mrs. James H. Lohr, daughters Misses Nellie and Mabel, of Rutledge; Mr. and Mrs. James E. Stewart and son Herbert, of New Bloomfield.

The Rebersburg hotel was sold recently by W. J. Carlin, the executor of the estate of C. E. Long, deceased, to Mrs. Long for \$2,019 and the gasoline pump and tank was also sold to Mrs. Long for \$105. The Jesse Long homestead and farm land were sold to Sterling Miller for \$2,710.

Harry Ulrich, of Coburn, was a caller at this office the latter part of last week. He is the Atlantic City Refining Company’s right hand man on the south side of Centre county. Mr. Ulrich had word from Clarence W. Musser, formerly of near Spring Mills, that he was located in Paris and is getting along fine.

C. M. Bierly, postmaster at Rebersburg, has sent his resignation to the department. Mr. Bierly will have served his first term of four years in the near future and was the first one to receive the appointment under the new civil service ruling for that office. The premises he now occupies will be sold privately just as soon as his successor is named.

George Hess, of near Lumber City, Clearfield county, was the first hunting victim in this section of the state. While hunting near Lumber City on Monday his automobile stalled on a hill and he got out to push the car, his gun being jostled to the ground and accidentally discharging, the charge tearing away the left side of his head. He leaves his parents, three sisters and four brothers.

A loaded rifle in the home of a farmer near Centre Hall fell into the hands of two youngsters, a short time ago, and the only reason there is no need to chronicle the death of one of the children is that the element of good luck was present. One of the children snapped the trigger and there was a loud report, the bullet whizzing past the other child and lodging in the ceiling. It’s a grave mistake to have loaded weapons about the house, especially where there are children. No thoughtful parent will permit it.

The Reporter is in receipt of a copy of the Setubenville (Ohio) Herald-Star, containing an article showing the wonderful record of Jefferson county, in which Liberty Loan campaign. The quota of the county was \$3,590,250, and the people went over the top and exceeded their quota by \$800,000. Our young friend, Guy W. Jacobs, is a member of the War Board, an organization which takes hold of everything Uncle Sam wants in a financial way, and always succeeds in putting it over.