



LETTERS FROM OUR BOYS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Centre County Boys Write Interesting Letters from Battlefields of France and from Southern Training Camps.—Overseas Boys See Beginning of the End.

From D. Ross Bushman.

(To E. S. Ripka, Centre Hall.)
Somewhere in France
Tues., Sept. 10, 1918.

Dear Friend and Brother:

I was very glad to hear from you; your letter reached me just as we were getting ready to leave the States so could not answer it sooner. Have not gotten any mail for a month but the last two days there have been a few letters coming in—none for me, however. Will seem mighty good to hear again but suppose the mail service is rather uncertain a best; really do not see how it could be otherwise.

If Centre Hall has not lined up for a Y. M. C. A. drive it ought to because they are doing a wonderful work. The "Y" huts and workers are live wires—something doing every evening and religious services Sunday and such services as we do have. Over here we work on Sunday the same as any other day but manage to get to the service in the evening. The Red Cross are doing their work in a splendid way too. If every person in the States could see what I have seen of the work of both organizations they would all become enthusiastic boosters.

The Masons and Moose seem to be working over here but haven't heard anything of the other organizations; maybe I merely haven't gotten in touch with them but the ones I mentioned advertise their existence.

You asked whether I received Camp news. I do not but imagine second class mail would be very hard to get through so will depend upon you and some of the other Brothers to keep me posted. Had a letter from Bland which I meant to answer yet this evening but will have to leave it until some time again as it is time to turn in. Reveille comes about daylight and am busy from that time until about 7:15 in the evening.

With best regards to all,

PVT. DAVID R. BUSHMAN,
Co. E, 29 Engrs., A. P. O. 714,
American E. F.

From John Guy Wieland.

(Formerly of Linden Hall, to his aunt,
Mrs. J. M. Garbrick, of Bedford.)
Centre Hall, Pa., Sept. 21, 1918.

Dear aunt and all:

To-day I received my first mail since I have been in France and one was the letter you had sent to Camp MacArthur and had been sent back to be re-addressed. Well I can hardly tell how glad I was to get them all for it was a month on the 15th since I had received any mail. I got two from my wife; they were written at my home, so were the same as letters from home too, one from my father-in-law and one from cousin Pearl.

I don't know for sure if I have written to you or not since I came over but will tell you as near as I can what all we have been doing. We landed at Bordeaux, in south western France. We were near there for three days and then came to where we are now. We are stationed in a village. I don't know what it was used for, but by the looks of it was probably used at one time for a stone house or something like that. It is a real nice place any way.

Yesterday they opened a "Y" in our village real close to our quarters and we can get most anything we want, candy, tobacco, etc., also writing paper, reading material, etc. We were here several weeks before we had any, but where ever there are soldiers any length of time, they come. I don't think the people in the States realize what they and the Red Cross are doing for us, but it sure is wonderful. Just a week or so we didn't have any, hardly knew what to do without it. The boys are lined up for 100 feet outside of the building for the last hour and coming in and getting things. They give you one article of each kind they have for sale, if you want it, at a time. In the next town to us, about one and one-half miles from here, they have a "Y". It was the first one around here and opened up last Sunday evening.

Last Saturday evening some of the soldiers around here got up a kind of a minstrel show and it was real good. After it was over a chaplain announced that there would be services here each Sunday morning at 10:30. So I went up. He is rather a young man and is a good preacher. It was the first opportunity I had to go to service since I left the States and I was glad to go to it. There was a fair crowd there but should have been more for the number of soldiers around here. I finished reading the New Testament this morning I started to read it through when I came away. I had started before but never kept at it, this time I did. The psalms are in the back of the one I have; am going to read them now. It is worth reading all right, wish I would have started to read it before.

We have three and one-half hours

From W. E. Montgomery.

(Former Forester at Potters Mills,
writes the following to William F. McKinney, at Potters Mills.)
France, Sept. 24, 1918.

Dear Billy:

Well, after about a year of waiting, "over there" is changed to "over here". We left the States nearly a month ago and after an uneventful voyage landed at an English port. We took a ten-hour railroad trip across the country and went to a rest camp. I am not strong for England but they certainly have a beautiful and extremely neat and well-kept country. Also, the trains with their tiny coaches and dinky-engines are very comfortable and make surprising speed.

After spending a few days at camp we crossed the English channel at night, and spent the next day or so in another rest camp. Then we took a twenty-four-hour trip on the railroad and arrived at our present location, not far from the city of Chateau Reau.

The camp is very new and just at present we are engaged in helping to construct it—building barracks, roads, and all sorts of different kinds of work. I have charge over one hundred men, making road.

Charlie Meek is located about 100 miles north of here—at least he was when I last heard of him. I wrote to him yesterday and probably we may be able to make arrangements for meeting and spilling a little "bull" concerning the good old Centre county days.

I suppose right now you are in the midst of fire-season. Let us hope that you have good luck and do not receive a visit from the "consuming element". I also imagine that you all are starting to think about the hunting this fall. How are the prospects? Think I'll try to get a few Huns instead of the usual game this year.

Well, must close; guess this will reach you in due time, probably a month or so. Write when you get the time and have the inclination, and let me have all the Centre county gossip. Remember me to all my friends. With best regards to yourself and family.

Sincerely,
"Monty"
335th Field Artillery,
American E. F.

From Paul R. Byers.

(Letter to Mrs. E. S. Ripka, Centre Hall.)
France, Sept. 19, 1918.

Dear sister and all:

I suppose you think I am never going to write anymore. Writing paper is very scarce over here so far. All we get we have to buy. We have been here over a month now and I haven't seen a Y. M. C. A. yet. Of course, you must remember we are not in the States now. Things don't come to you every day. You take what you get and be glad for it. And pay day, I don't know it is ever going to come again. I haven't seen a pay day since May.

How is everything around Centre Hall? I suppose all the boys have been called into the army. If you can get any of their addresses send them to me. I may get to see them. I haven't seen anyone yet that I know. I saw a few boys from Williamsport. They knew some of the boys that I know. This is a wonderful place for rain—nearly every day.

I received two letters since I arrived here. We went through Erie and Scranton on our way to the coast. Those were about the nearest to your place. I don't suppose it will be long till we see the Statue of Liberty again, the way it looks to me now. It is hard to tell when Sunday comes. Every day is the same here. Every four months we can get a week's furlough, but a soldier don't have a cent railroad fare.

We left the States the last of July and landed here the middle of August. Had a fine time. The old boat sure did rock. Some of the boys were sick as dogs. I pulled through all o. k.

No such things as candy. I don't think they get candy over here. All I have seen was Bull Durham tobacco and Piedmont cigarettes. But the boys will make up for it when they get back home again.

I suppose you are getting all the news. We get papers from Paris and the New York Herald. I think I have told you all I can at the present time, so will close. Love to all.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,
Your loving brother,
PAUL R. BYERS,
Co. D, 5th Reg. Engineers,
American E. F.

From Claud L. Whitehill.

(To his mother, Mrs. Charles Whitehill, at Oak Hall Station.)
Somewhere in France,
Sept. 23, 1918.

Dear Mother:

Just a few lines to let you know that I received your letters two days ago; also one from Edith. Was glad to hear that all were well. As for me, I am in the best of health.

You wrote of hot weather back home. It is getting real cold here and very damp—lots of rain of which makes me think they made a mistake when they named it sunny France.

Wish I could take part in chasing the rabbits back home but I guess I will have all the hunting over here that I can handle.

The enemy airplanes have been doing some dirty work near here. I have seen quite a bit of the ruination they have caused. They are as thick as black birds at times.

Well, mother, I was glad to know that you heard from Edward as I was anxious to know where he was located.

Tell the others that I will answer their letters when I find time, but that may not be for several weeks.

You asked me how I liked this country—well, if I was back in the good old States, that would be good enough for me.

With love to all,
PVT. CLAUD L. WHITEHILL,
Co. A, 314 Inf., A. E. F.

From Max Herr.

(At Camp Lee, Va., to E. S. Ripka,
Centre Hall.)
October 22, 1918.

Dear Mr. Ripka:

I received your letter on October 10th and was glad to hear from you. I was in the camp hospital two weeks with the "flu" and then I cut my hand, bleeding about a quart before I got stopped. I am having all kinds of hard luck down here.

Hoping this finds all well.
MAX HERR,
Camp Lee, Va.

(Continued from previous column.)

French instead of German; it sure would come in handy now.

Will close, with love to all,
Your nephew,
Guv.

Pvt. John G. Wieland,
Co. E, 7 Div. Supply Train Motor,
American E. F.

THE DEATH RECORD.

KIMPORT.—Arthur B. Kimport, former Prothonotary of Centre county, died in a Philadelphia hospital on Monday, following an operation for hernia. He was fifty-three years old October 4th, last, and was born in Illinois, a son of Samuel and Perriscene (Brandon) Kimport. The parents moved to near Boalsburg when the subject of this sketch was quite young, where they died a few years later. Mr. Kimport was then taken into the family of his uncle, James Kimport, and reared to manhood. In 1904 he was elected on the Democratic ticket Prothonotary of Centre county, serving a term of three years. In 1907 he was re-elected for the new term of four years, being followed by D. R. Foreman, the present Prothonotary. Following his second term of office, which he filled to such complete satisfaction, the family removed to Obelisk, Montgomery county, where Mr. Kimport purchased a farm of one hundred acres and had since been engaged in farming. His wife preceded him to the grave eleven years ago, being buried at Boalsburg.

Five children survive, namely, Perriscene, Adam, Margaret and Nellie at home; three sisters, Miss Ella, in Illinois; Miss Narcissus, of Kansas City, Kansas, and Miss Bettie Kimport, of State College.

The remains will be shipped to Boalsburg for interment.

YOUNG.—The news of the sudden death of Miss Virginia E. Young, at the home of her parents at Mann's Narrows, Mifflin county, Wednesday afternoon of last week, was received with profound sorrow by all in Centre Hall who knew this sweet-mannered and lovable young lady. During the past summer she was employed at the local hotel. October she received the news of the death of her brother, Rowe Young, at Camp Greenleaf, and left here to attend his funeral at the parental home. She contracted influenza, the same disease which claimed her soldier brother, and after an illness of two weeks, passed away.

Deceased was the daughter of David P. and Mary (Royer) Young and was born near Colyer. At the time of her death she was aged nineteen years, eleven months and seven days. She spent some time in the state of Michigan a few years ago and worked as a domestic at State College and here. Only the best reports were ever heard concerning the character of this fine young lady. Her sunny disposition and ready smile made her a desirable companion. Her untimely death is keenly felt.

She leaves, besides her parents, four brothers, Frank Young, in France, and Earl, Fred and Lowell, at home.

GILBERT.—Mrs. Amanda Gilbert, relict of Moses Gilbert, died Wednesday morning of last week at the home of her son-in-law, Charles Harter, at Madisonburg, of pneumonia, after only a few days' illness, aged seventy-two years.

The husband died about six months ago. She is survived by the following sons and daughters: William and Thomas, of Wolfs Store; Mrs. Annie Kaier, of Beech Creek; Mrs. Addie Spangler, of State College; Edwin, of Booneville; Charles, of Greenburr; Mrs. Harry McCool, Rebersburg; Mrs. Charles Harter, of Madisonburg; and Mrs. Charles Zimmerman, of Aaronsburg. A brother, James Frantz, of Antes Fort, also survives.

BRAUGHT.—The body of Paul M. Braught, formerly of Penn Township, was shipped from his late home at Dewart, where he died of influenza, to Millheim, Saturday, where interment was made. The young man was aged nineteen years.

M. L. Smith Sells Home.

Wednesday evening of last week M. L. Smith sold his handsome brick residence, near the railroad station, to Herbert Grove, who lives on the Rishel farm near the Stone Mill. Mr. Smith moved here from Johnstown, last spring following his purchase of the property from L. L. Smith. He made a number of important improvements on the property so that as it now stands the home is one of the most beautiful and most desirable in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are anxious to return to Johnstown where the former has interests demanding his attention.

Boosted W. S. Sales.

The sales of War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps at the local post office boosted during the month of October to the extent of 767 War Savings Stamps and 297 Thrift Stamps, bringing up the aggregate sales of War Saving Stamps to \$869, having a maturity value of \$44,345. That is a mighty fine figure, one of which we need not be ashamed.

Regardless of these larger sales, all pledges for stamps must be redeemed. Do not put this off until the very last day; there is always an advantage in being on time.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Instructions Which Must Be Observed in Sending Christmas Gifts to Our Fighting Boys.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FOR SOLDIERS

Only one package will be allowed to each American soldier now in service overseas.

Each soldier is being provided with a coupon containing his name and address which he will mail direct to the relative or friend whom he selects as a forwarder of his Christmas package. No other person can ship a Christmas package.

The relative or friend receiving this label must present it at the nearest chapter, branch or auxiliary headquarters of the Red Cross, where a paste-board box, 3" by 4" by 9" in size will be supplied. This box must be used for shipping the Christmas articles, which should not weigh complete more than two pounds, fifteen ounces.

When the box is packed, it should be taken unwrapped and unsealed to the nearest collection centre indicated by the Red Cross, together with the addressed label forwarded by the soldier, and sufficient stamps to carry it by parcel post to Hoboken, New Jersey. It is there inspected, wrapped and the label and stamps attached. The complete package must not weigh more than three pounds.

No Christmas package will be accepted for shipment after November 20.

Do not try to send intoxicating liquors, inflammable material, including matches or cigarette lighters, or liquids. And do not attempt to enclose a written message. Remember, all packages will be inspected before being wrapped, and prohibited articles will not be passed. Dried fruits, hard candy, fruit cake and other edibles which will keep should be packed in small tin or wooden boxes before being placed in the Christmas package. Do not enclose articles packed in glass. Gifts should be wrapped in khaki colored handkerchiefs, 27" inches square. Should several relatives or friends of the same soldier desire to ship Christmas articles, they must pool their gifts and forward them in one box, as only one package will be allowed as above specified.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FOR SAILORS

Packages for sailors in the home or foreign service may be shipped by parcel post or express.

Express packages are limited to twenty pounds in weight and should be enclosed in boxes well strapped and with a hinged or similar top, to permit quick inspection. Parcel post packages must comply with the postal regulations and should be enclosed in similar boxes. Parcel post packages should be addressed according to present postal regulations. Express packages should be forwarded in care of Supply Officer, Fleet Supply Base, 29th Street and Third Avenue, South Brooklyn, New York. All packages must be plainly marked "Christmas Box", and with the name and address of sender. No perishable foodstuffs, excepting those enclosed in sealed cans or glass jars are permitted. Packages will be carefully examined at the Supply Base. They should be shipped to reach New York not later than November 15th and as much earlier as possible.

Marines assigned to Army service overseas will each receive his package on the same basis as soldiers. All other marines will receive packages on the same basis as sailors.

Daniel Bloom "Over".

The latter part of last week Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bloom, of near this place, received the official notice of the safe arrival overseas of their son, Daniel Bloom, who a few months ago left with a Centre county group of selectives for Camp Lee, Va.

Potato Wart Disease in 26 Pennsylvania Towns.

Scouting for the new potato wart disease reported for the first time in the United States about Hazleton, Pa., is nearly completed for the season. Twenty-six towns and villages in the Hazleton district were found infected, reports Prof. J. G. Sanders, Economic Zoologist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, who is in charge of the eradication of this dangerous potato pest.

Government authorities will apply to Congress for a considerable appropriation to aid in fighting the disease in Pennsylvania, and for scouting in other States where imported potatoes have been used.

Quarantine of the infected towns and villages prohibiting removal of potatoes, manure and potato refuse outside the affected zones will be established soon. Potatoes can be grown in the quarantined areas only under State permit to be issued next spring and annually thereafter until the disease is exterminated. These permits will be issued by the Economic Zoologist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pa.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The November weather so far has been much like that of last month—warm and frequent rains.

The Auditorium, Millheim's moving picture theatre, has been leased by Walter H. Wood, manager of The Pastime at State College.

The remains of Mrs. Sara Courtney, mother of Rev. G. L. Courtney, of Boalsburg, were interred at New Berlin, her former home, on Friday, the 25th ult.

A cablegram has been sent to Stuart M. Breen, who is with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, announcing the arrival of a daughter at his home in Millheim.

E. L. Stover, the Aaronsburg thrasherman, finished hulling clover seed for the Brush valley farmers, last week, having hulled a total of 334 bushels of the high-priced seed.

Supt. D. O. Eters has been obliged to cancel the teachers' institute which was to have been held next week in Bellefonte. The State Board of Health notified Supt. Eters to that effect.

The Reporter failed to mention last week that Rev. E. Roy Corman, as well as Mrs. Corman, came up from Cressona for a few days' visit at the home of Mrs. Corman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Fisher.

John F. Breen, on the Conley farm, played the Good Samaritan act, last week, in going into the corn field of Harry McCleanan and finishing up the latter's sickening while he lay sick with the "flu".

Union county is mourning the death of its sixth soldier son who has made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of France. He is Oscar Yoder, and he met his death on September 29th, being killed by a bomb explosion.

Large auto trucks from the Loysville Orphans' Home have been busy the past week gathering in the donations made in Penns Valley by the various Lutheran denominations. The donations in every case have been very generous.

A postal card from William B. Kerr, of Omaha, Neb., mailed at Salt Lake City, Utah, to the writer, says, "Will this cause you to think I am taking an extended vacation? You had the wrong idea—these are not pleasure trips and nary a bit of vacation have I had".

The several grand organizations which are working for the physical and moral welfare of our boys "over there" are united in a common cause. Remember this, and don't let your prejudice stand in the way of your giving. The campaign for the United War Work opens next Monday. Give!

Your Reporter is only half its regular size this week, which is our way of meeting the demands of the War Industries Board for saving the fifteen per cent. of paper. You will have the four-page paper only once a month, or until such a time as we may find a better method to effect the required saving of paper. We dislike exceedingly to cut you off from the four pages of good state, national and world news, but the other alternative works too great a hardship on the publishers.

Captain Wilbur Leitzell, mention of whose wounding in France was made last week, has written to his wife at State College stating that his wound was received in the shoulder and was the result of being struck by a bursting shell while he and his company of men were bucking the Hindenburg line. A wound the size of two hands has kept him in the base hospital where he reports his condition as favorable. Had he been struck a half-inch farther in the breast death would have resulted.

The War Department's committee on education has designated the Pennsylvania State College to receive applications and examine candidates for the government military academy, at West Point. President Sparks has announced that examination papers will be sent there, and the mental tests will be conducted by faculty members, who will rate the candidates. A number of State College students who are more than twenty-one years old, and consequently ineligible for the S. A. T. C., will apply for admission to West Point.

In a letter to the Reporter, remitting on subscription, Rev. S. A. Snyder, of Hellam, York county, a former pastor of the local U. E. v. charge, says among other things: "We are all fairly well; Mrs. Snyder had the influenza, being confined to her bed for about one week, but is very much improved. Grace was also a victim of the disease, and was admitted to the York county Emergency Hospital, reputed to be the best in the state, where she was given the fresh air and sunshine treatment, which resulted favorably. Mrs. Snyder and I spent over Sunday in the National capital visiting relatives, and our son, Elston, who recently has been promoted to the rank of sergeant".