

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

OFFICIAL REPORT OF DEATH OF SIMPSON FROM FRANCE American Expeditionary Force November 2, 1917

Dear Feigy: It is very probable that by this time you have received news of the death of Charles Emerson Simpson. However, I knew that you would be interested in the official report of his death and burial, so having secured a copy of that report from headquarters, I am sending it over to you. It might be well to have the same published in the Collegian and a notice of his death sent to Ray Smith for publication in the next quarterly.

As you know, "Hick" and I were mighty close friends at college and following Commencement we corresponded regularly. I have at home all those letters and I hope that sometime I can give you an opportunity to read them, for "Hick" was a master of description and his letters read like fiction.

Last fall we planned to spend the winter together in the Northwest, but when about completed, his permanent appointment as Assistant Ranger in District 3, shattered our plans. We continued our correspondence, which became a triangular affair involving me, "Hick," and "Mike" Dunn, who for a time had been swallowed by "the wide, wide world." Uppermost in our minds there was that desire to get together, and so when the announcement concerning the Forestry Regiment was made, our slogan became "France by fall, together."

Toward the last of May I received a letter from "Hick," telling me to be sure to see to it that I enlisted in the Tenth. And a short time later I availed myself of an opportunity to visit "Mike," who had concrete dope concerning enlistment.

On July 7th Ben Gipple and I received notices to report to the Tenth at the nearest recruiting office. We were both kept very busy for several days, cleaning up reports and getting things in shape to leave, so I was unable to find any time to look up "Mike."

When next I heard from "Hick," he was in Williamsport. He had received word that he was being sent as a first class sergeant in the 20th Aero. However, that didn't suit "Hick." He made a flying trip to Washington and arranged a transfer, willingly accepting a reduction to private so that he could go with the pioneer regiment. In the meantime, "Mike" had enlisted and was shipped to Fort Slocum, where "Hick" later joined him. Ben and I had to wait several months to get together when our regiment was mobilized at Camp American University, Washington, D. C. There we had more than one little reunion party and had visions of many more in France.

It was not until we were more than half way across the ocean that "Hick" went into the ship hospital. His condition became so serious at once that he was allowed no visitors.

I saw him for the last time shortly after the regiment had landed. I was standing on the dock at attention in formation when he was borne by in a stretcher. He seemed pretty far gone, but I tried to make myself believe that his rugged constitution would pull him through. It was not until some days later that I heard of his death, which was then officially confirmed.

During the course of a recent interview with the Major Surgeon of our regiment, I learned that "Hick" was said to have been buried with the honors accorded to a Major in the British Army. The enclosed report tells the rest of the story.

Pvt "Hick" Simpson has passed out, but to his many friends his memory will always be a treasure, for a finer, cleaner, straighter chap will not be found in ten thousand. "Hick" was a "moose" in the woods and always commanded respect. He had a host of friends and enjoyed a marked popularity. He was indeed a prince of fellows and a man among men.

At our recent State banquet "some where in France," I was called upon to respond to the toast "The Missing Men." At that time I concluded my remarks with the reading of the enclosed report of the death of Simpson, the first of the State Foresters to be included in the roll of the "World War." It was the wish of all those present that I should pass this report on to you.

"Jimmy" Miller '13, as the oldest grad present was assigned the report of the banquet and a letter on "Penn State in the Tenth."

Dob Billen '20 was left behind in the hospital. He is convalescing from the same disease which killed "Hick." He was indeed fortunate and has much to thank his lucky star. He will probably rejoin us soon.

The regiment is now on active service somewhere in France. The rigid censorship prohibits my telling much else, so I may just as well close.

I sincerely hope that the base censor will pass the report. It was written by the British authority for the comfort of the friends of the deceased, so there is hope for my attempt to pass it on to the States.

Remember me to my old friends. Upon my return to the States I hope to pay a visit to the college. In fact, I think that such a time would be the proper occasion for a general reunion of the Penn State Foresters.

Good luck and best wishes
Wagoner H. E. Richards,
Attached C. Co.

10th U. S. Eng's A. E. F. in France
P. S. I am in the headquarters Company, but at present I am detached from duty.

1918 MAN TELLS ABOUT QUARTERMASTER'S WORK

The following are several extracts from a letter received by Mr. H. B. Shattuck, Associate Professor of Railway Engineering, from Linden V. Fisher, a former member of the class of 1918, enrolled in the Civil Engineering course.

Sanitary Squad No. 2,
Camp Hancock, Ga.
January 14, 1918

"The longer time that one spends in the Army the more he becomes of its affairs. At that time the civilian would hardly know what the Quartermaster's Dept. of the Army actually was. The rookie only has a slight idea of that branch and other branches of the Army. However I have recently learned that there are many different branches of the Quartermasters that I had never dreamed of. We are clothed, sheltered, fed, paid, etc., by the Q. M. Transportation, equipment and various other things are taken care of by them.

I have recently learned that an engineer does not have to be in an Engineering Regiment to practice his chosen profession while in the Army.

"The Q. M. takes care of building these camps and cantonments. They have charge of the maintenance of the water lines, buildings, fire systems, filtration plants, etc., and it is with the hope that I may be assigned to such work, should I be lucky enough to win a commission. The chances are only fair since that particular branch of the Q. M. is only a small part. However, as far as I have been able to learn, there are about a thousand applicants for half that number of positions, and so the chances are about fifty to one.

"We had quite an experience down here last Friday night. Two wind storms or hurricanes I believe they call them down here struck camp one after the other. It reminded me of some of the sand storms that we experienced down on the Border last year. Our outfit got off rather lucky during the storm. None of our tents was blown down but they leaned quite badly and it required the joint efforts of the six fellows in our tent to hold ours fast to the ground. We certainly were glad if for a cold snap followed the storms and we were at least under canvas, which in fact is not much protection from the cold winds. Another one is scheduled for tonight but I do not want to go out again to hold our happy home to Mother Earth. If I were in the Aviation Corps I probably would not mind going up in the air but since I belong to the Sanitary Corps my place is on the ground.

"By the way did you notice that I have a new address. For a Christmas present the Army transferred me from the Hospital Co. to the Sanitary Squad. I believe, although I would not stake anything on it, but it is said that we are the only outfit of this kind in the U. S. Army. We do not have a clear idea of what our duties are going to be. The Division Surgeon, under whose immediate supervision we come, does not know just what we are to do. In general, however, we are to do general Sanitary Engineering work around this camp and the camp on the other side. We have to take care of the sanitary condition of the water supplies, etc. We already have six men detailed at the filtration plant taking care of an improvised hypo-chloride machine, and also the chlorinator. The latter was out of commission due to the lack of chlorine and the improvised machine was put in operation a week ago by several medical men from the Navy, sent here by the Government. We also have another detail of twelve men located in probable breeding places for mosquitoes, although the weather is quite cool now and the possibility of that insect breeding is slight, a little effort spent in advance may be worth more than it costs. At present I am working with a small detail getting some dope on garbage incineration and we hope to finally design an incinerator that will be worth while. The ones that were built by the contractor were not efficient. They consume too much wood for the amount of garbage they incinerate. It certainly is mighty good work and work that requires a little common sense rather than an extra amount of gray matter.

"I suppose that the first semester is nearly over by this time. I certainly wish that I could have completed my college course before we entered upon this war. As it stands now I must look forward to another year of college work after the war is over and the chances of getting some mighty good experiences during that year will be lost to me. I believe that a young engineer's chances in the few years after the war are going to be mighty good and those who get in on it at the start will have the advantage.

"How many stars do we now have in our Service Flag? I suppose that the spaces are gradually being filled up with new stars. We have four Penn State men in our little outfit now and the possibility of several more. Those who are already with us are: Don Cochrane '08, "Bill" Brocius '16, T. N. P. Keenan '18, and myself. Several State College boys are also with us; among them are Lytle, Thomas and several others from Bellefonte, Millersburg and other places around there."

Sincerely,
Linden V. Fisher

ANOTHER FROM CAPTAIN E. D. WALKER IN FRANCE "Somewhere in France" December 25, 1917

Dear Shattuck:

Your welcome letter of Nov. 17th reached me in the course of time and also the card from you and Mrs. Shattuck. These things mean a lot to us over here. All of the "State" men of my company happen to be away on passes for Christmas but I have given some of them your messages before they left. J. A. Watson, Civil, is a corporal in my company and so is Tom Watkins who graduated in Forestry. Jenkins who was a snip civil last year and Brenner who I think was a sophomore Ag are under my charge, too, both privates. Brenner has proved efficient as an interpreter and I use him a good deal for various details requiring a speaking knowledge of French, when our official interpreter is not available. D. O. Davis and Leon Swartz are Master Engineers in the Regt. and Davis is attached to the First Battalion and working under my direction most of the time. I haven't seen Swartz for several months and don't know whether he is at a station of the 2nd Bn or on some special detail.

Jim Corbett who was a member of 1907 P. S. C., I think during the Freshman year, is a lieutenant in "C" company and now in the same camp with me. He had a letter a day or two ago from "Bugs" Arnold, E. E. 1907, if I remember right, saying that he was sending a package for him to divide with "Weary." The package has not turned up yet but the mail is of course especially congested now. The package you mention from the members of the department has not come yet but will be very welcome when it arrives both for the contents and the sentiment which prompted it. Our work is very interesting but of course we can not tell about that at present. We are located near a fairly large place and the men are able to get in on Sunday usually and about twice a month besides. The officers are sometimes better and sometimes worse off in the matter of absences depending on the state of work. Of course, we are less numerous and less easily spared on that account as well as others possibly. I have seen a little of France having been stationed in four places so far but we are so busy that I did not get much time to actually see some things that are within a few

miles. There are some interesting things in the city near us which I hope to get a chance to see before we leave this locality. So far, I have been unable to spend more than a few hours at a time there and then only on business.

I have been riding some lately and was a bit stiff for a few days. I had intended to take a ride this morning but changed my mind when I saw the condition of the roads. We had a few inches of snow fall and my horse is not very surefooted as it is not fully shod yet. We had several falls of snow but no accumulation yet and work goes on just the same.

We had a Christmas tree last night for the kids of the village where we are and invited the people as well as our own men. There were presents and candy for the youngsters and some music and, of course, speeches by French and Americans. Everybody seemed to have a good time. To-night there is an entertainment on in the Y. M. C. A. tent but I decided to write letters instead of taking it in. Among the people whom I have met over here is M. Higly who was M. Bazin's assistant on the experiments and who later succeeded Bazin. I have an invitation to visit the laboratory which I hope to be able to accept some time if in that neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,
Elton D. Walker,
Capt. Engrs, U. S. R.

HARRISBURG FARM SHOW SUCCESSFUL

The exhibit of farm products which was sent to Harrisburg under the auspices of the Extension Department has attracted widespread attention on the part of the farmers of Pennsylvania and other eastern states. The exhibit was in every way the best which the Pennsylvania State College has sent to the annual farm products show and showed very well the work of the Agricultural school.

The animals and material which made up the exhibit were of the very best. The sheep on exhibition were the ones which took the prize at the International Show. The hens in the poultry exhibit were animals which had been especially bred and reared for this occasion. One interesting feature was the comparison between two hens. One hen was the very best possible and the other was an average bird. The records of both animals were placed beside the exhibit showing the difference in the productivity of the different birds. The tractor exhibit was especially well attended and great interest was manifested in the uses to which these machines are put. The Home Economics Extension department had a varied exhibit of food and clothing adapted to farm wear. The Corn Show and Farm Products Show, of which the exhibit formed a part, was better than any held heretofore.

GIRLS' GLEE CLUB AT WORK ON OPERETTA

The Girls' Glee Club is working hard on the musical operetta which will be presented on Saturday, March 22 in the Auditorium. The offering this year is a Chinese production—"The Feast of the Little Lanterns"—and is again under the supervision of Miss Mary Dunham and C. C. Robinson, who were in charge of "The Feast of the Red Court" last year, which had to be repeated several times. Miss Dunham is in charge of the staging and Dean Robinson is directing the music. The solo parts will be taken by Misses Anna V. Geist '20, Anne E. Dreher '20, Helen Bruckman '21, and Henriette J. Weber '21.

MAJOR HUGO DIEMER LOSES THREE FINGERS

Late reports concerning Major Hugo Diemer, formerly Head of the Department of Industrial Engineering, state that the little finger of his left hand has been removed and that two other fingers will have to be taken off to prevent the spread of the infection. Major Diemer has been doing inspection work in one of the government munition plants in Massachusetts.

TYPEWRITER NEED REPAIRS?

A splendid opportunity will be presented to students and other owners of typewriters during the next two weeks. T. M. Findall, of Avoca, N. Y., an expert repairman of typewriters and adding machines, is staying at the Dush House, Bellefonte, and a phone message there will bring him to your room. Repairs and adjusts any make of typewriters—Adv.

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BELLEFONTE ACADEMY DOWNED BY FRESHMEN

In its second game of the season, the Penn State Freshman basketball team decisively defeated the Bellefonte Academy five last Saturday evening in the Army by a score of 48 to 16, thereby avenging the two defeats suffered by the first year men of last year at the hands of the Academy aggregation. The Freshmen presented a change in the line-up from that used in the Bethlehem Prep game, Captain McCollum being shifted to forward, and Replogle and Killinger, new men on the team, the latter from Harrisburg Tech, filling the positions of center and guard respectively.

The game was interesting throughout, but it was evident from the start that the visitors were entirely outclassed. Eighteen double-deckers were registered by the first year men, and so close was their guarding that their opponents were unable to score more than five.

McCollum was high scorer for his team, getting five field goals, and making twelve fouls out of eighteen tries. His work in the latter department was a decided improvement over that of the former game when he landed but four out of fifteen attempts. Replogle was second in getting his team's points and he assured himself of a permanent berth by his stellar work from the floor, scoring six field goals. For Bellefonte, Captain Huntzinger was the outstanding star, with two field goals and five fouls.

The first-half was decidedly all Freshmen, for during that period they scored eleven times from the floor and eleven free ties were converted into six additional points. Bellefonte scored three two-pointers and one free toss, the score at half time being 25 to 7. The second half found Bentz in place of Killinger at guard. The defense of the visitors stiffened for a time, but soon went to pieces again, and the Freshmen scored almost at will, Replogle getting three two-pointers and each of the other three one. Toward the close of the game, several Freshman substitutes were sent in.

The line-up:— Freshmen—48 Bellefonte—16 McCollum, Capt., P. Huntzinger, Capt. Replogle, F. Bentz, C. Killinger, G. Killinger, G. Bentz, G. Barnhart. Substitutions:—Freshmen, Bentz for Killinger; Friedman for Farley; Korb for Friedman. Bellefonte Academy:—Have for Reinhold.

Field goals:—Replogle 6, McCollum 5, Rtner 3, Killinger 2, Bentz, Korb, Huntzinger 2, McMaster 2, Reinhold, Bentz 1, Killinger 1, Bentz 1 out of 18, Huntzinger 5 out of 19; McMaster 1 out of 6. Referee—Fluhrer of Yale.

Faculty and Student Directories are now on sale at the Music Room. 64 cents.

HENNEY TO BE IN CHARGE OF BOXING

The call for boxing candidates for the various class teams will soon be made by the respective class managers, and R. F. Henney '19 will be in charge of instructing the men in this art. It is quite probable that the Interclass Boxing Match will be held about the middle of March, or as soon thereafter as Henney is able to round the men into shape. This phase of work was under the charge of Dr. Kennedy the past year, who has entered the service of the government, and it is an enormous task to carry on the work successfully. However, Henney is considered one of the past masters of the art at Penn State and with some material that remains from other years to work with, he is sure to make this sport leave its impression with the students. The Freshman class is believed to have some very likely material, and much interest will be shown at the Interclass Match.

"Doc" Holland, the Sophomore boxing manager, has left college and as yet no one has been chosen to take his place.

THREE SENIOR DANCES IN MARCH AND APRIL

The Senior dance committee announced March 2, March 30, and April 13 as the dates for the Senior dances, and reported the first one as being a financial success at the class meeting held last Thursday in Old Chapel.

C. A. Nickle was elected a member of the Student Council to take the place of R. S. Clarke, Jr., who left college some time ago to enter the last ordnance course. The motion introduced to increase the salary of the Interclass treasurer was passed. A letter from Maurice Baum, asking the cooperation of the students in keeping better order in the movies, was read.

WILL PLAY ANOTHER GAME Owing to the fact that the final score of the basketball game played between the Seniors and Sophomores last Wednesday night was a tie, there will be another game played as soon as a satisfactory date can be agreed upon.

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News From Other Colleges

SYRACUSE—The Syracuse chapter of the Y. W. C. A. has instituted the custom of holding "after examination teas" during examination week. The object of the tea parties is to provide a means of mental and physical relaxation from the strain of examinations. Over fifty women students accepted the hospitality of the Association on the first day. Members of the various societies act as hostesses at the teas.

PENNSYLVANIA—During the period of the fuelless days prescribed by the national fuel administrator six buildings of the University of Pennsylvania will be closed.

PRINCETON—In response to popular demand, the question of holding the annual Junior Prom at Princeton was submitted to the undergraduate body to decide at a special election, and the decision was in the affirmative by a vote of 285 to 171. About one half of the students voted.

PENNSYLVANIA—"Resolved, That the government should exercise the power to restrict the expression of public opinion in war time" is the subject that has been chosen by the

Triangular Intercollegiate Debate League of which Cornell, Pennsylvania and Columbia are members.

SYRACUSE—Representatives of twenty-three different fraternities at Syracuse University met last week and agreed to walk to the annual Senior Ball and to persuade their fraternity brothers to do so. The plan is in accordance with the recent recommendations for economy made by the Chancellor of the University.

PRINCETON—For instructors of the student battalion during the second semester, the University has secured the services of Lieutenant DeForest, a retired Canadian officer. Besides the two foreign officers, Ordnance Sergeant Frank S. Helm will be detailed to the University by the U. S. Government.

LACROSSE MEETING TOMORROW All lacrosse players and men expected to play next spring at 109 A Main Street in the Engineering Building at 6:30 tomorrow evening.

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