

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

NO TIME TO LOAF FOR MILITARY POLICE Co. "B", Military Police, Camp Meade, Maryland, January 21, 1918.

My dear Prof. Gardner, Your good letter reached me several days ago, and I was very glad to hear from you and to know how things are going "on the hill" at State.

It is just a little more than four months since I left our school at Honey Brook and left the furrows of Chester county to prepare for work in the trenches of France.

At first, I was assigned to the 304th Ammunition Train, but after about two weeks of service there, I was among the first hundred selected from the entire camp for service with the Military Police.

This is considered the most responsible branch of the service here at camp, and I doubt if there is any organization here at Camp Meade, whose members have had as interesting and varied experiences as our boys have had in these past four months.

A Big Job Our biggest job is taking care of the outposts of the camp, no matter how one approaches camp, day or night, he is met by a soldier of the Military Police wearing the blue M. P. brassard.

Just about one-half of our time is devoted to this Police Work the rest of the time we spend in drilling. We have gotten considerable infantry drill, and for the past six weeks have had a larger amount of horse drill, for we are a mounted organization.

And then the Measles! Today, I was in a group of ten, selected from those who have volunteered for immediate Military Police Service in France. We were to leave for Camp Greens today and go across probably within a fortnight.

I trust that this cold winter weather has brought nothing but health to State College and that the fine spirit of the school has not been marred by the somewhat depleted numbers. With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Gardner, to Dean Watts and my other friends "on the hill",

Very sincerely, Willis R. Skillman.

"BOC" LEWIS IS ENJOYING THE WORK AT CAMP LEE Camp Lee, Va., Jan. 20, 1918 My dear Dr. Sparks:

After one month of active Army service I have decided that this is no place for a man that is afraid of work. Opportunities stare one so constantly in the face that it is hard for me to understand how some fellows can be content with doing just the amount of work that conforms to orders, no more, no less.

Several Saturdays ago I was in Petersburg (population about 40,000) and for an officer to go there when the streets are full of soldiers almost wears his arm out returning salutes. As I was going down street I heard some one exclaim in my rear "There goes 'Doc' Lewis." In almost every case their salutation is a mixture of "Doc" and the hand salute. I am not going to tell you with how much dignity I return such salutations. I know I am mighty glad to meet them and we part with the feeling that it is mutual. It is always a bright spot in the day's work to run across old friends.

Long '17, was sent here to attend the Officers' Training School, from his company (I think at Camp Meade). I school is for engineers only. What I regret out to say was that, knowing him so well (he lived with us during his four years in college)—the military morale has been so instilled in him since last September that during the half day or more that we spent together, not once did I catch him forgetting himself either in manner or speech as a soldier.

We had a good time, enjoyed each other's company, but mutually, without words, decided to play the game. Will now tell you about Camp Lee. I believe that they have ordinarily 40,000 to 50,000 men. On a pinch they could probably accommodate 15,000 to 20,000 more. In the Depot Brigade they have planned to carry about two war strength Regiments, 5000 to 6000 men.

Please remember that we have been pretty busy and this line of work, or the surroundings at least, are new to me, hence outside of my own personal experience and observation, don't know much about what is going on. As a whole, Uncle Sam is taking very good care of his boys here. Plenty to eat, coal and wood to burn, and most of them are well provided with clothes.

FROM ONE OF LAST YEAR'S FRESHMEN 24th U. S. Infantry, Columbus, New Mexico, January 18, 1918. Mr. R. H. Smith, State College, Pa. My dear Sir:

I was very much pleased to get your letter and information concerning the Alumni Association. Even though I am not a graduate of the College, by any means, I still have hopes of being one at a future date. If I never become one I am interested in the work of the dear old school just the same.

State stood by me last year by helping me through with work after I had my leg broken, and after I got far behind in all my subjects. So if this war ever ends, I hope to be able to walk on State's green campus once. I also hope to give commands to Freshies once, to repay myself for any inconvenience the "Sophs" caused me.

However, Mr. Smith, I feel that I have been very successful this year, even though I'm not in school for this army life, as an officer, surely does give me a chance for experience. What we all are after, anyway? Then, too, I feel that I am lucky, because there are not so very many "Freshies" who got commissions in the Training Camps.

Very truly yours, R. R. Louden.

DON ENOCH TELLS OF PENN STATE MEN BEING PROMOTED 314th Infantry, Camp Meade, Md., Jan. 27, 1918. Dear President Sparks:

I am writing to tell you of the enviable record made by the State men in this Division. No doubt you saw in the paper today an account of the promotions of the Officers at Camp Meade but just glanced over it. Several of the Officers here are State men and in these advancements I am positive that we are far ahead of any other college men here in the proportion of men promoted. In my Regiment, the 314th, there are eight State Officers and six of them were promoted and the percentage all over the camp ran almost as high. Several were made captains, among whom were H. M. Smith '16, and A. E. Dambly '18.

FRESHMEN LEAD IN BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Table with columns: Won, Lost, Pct. Rows: Freshmen, Juniors, Seniors, Sophomores.

The inter-class basketball season advanced another step last week when no less than three games were played. As a result of these games, the Freshmen are now leading the league with two games won and none lost.

The game between the Seniors and Juniors played in the Army last Wednesday evening resulted in an easy victory for the Juniors. The final score was 31 to 19. During the early part of the game, the Seniors seemed to have a decided advantage, but just before the end of the first half, the Juniors began to improve in their work and the first half ended with the Seniors only three points in the lead.

The line-up: Eichelberger, F.; Vogel, Galbraith, C.; Donnelly, Bowman, C.; Coolidge, Boyle, G.; Williams, G. Goals from floor—Galbraith 5; Bowman 3; Boyle 4; Eichelberger, Boyle, Vogel 3; Donnelly 4; Williams 2; Foul goals—Bowman, 1 out of 3; Williams, 1 out of 3. Referee—Brumbaugh '20.

Freshmen Vs Sophs The Freshmen won their second game when they defeated the Sophomores last Friday evening by the decisive score of 39-14. The Sophomores were outclassed throughout. Early in the game, the Freshmen showed their superiority in handling the ball and shooting. The first-year men displayed fine team work, which was greatly aided by Ritter's passing. Ritter was also the Freshmen's leading scorer.

The line-up: Freshmen: Ritter, F.; Young, C.; Schumaker, Killinger, C.; Beard, Farley, G.; McGuire, G. Field Goals—Ritter 5, Young 3, Killinger 3, Killinger 2, Korb 2, Friedman, Benz, Young, Martin, McGuire, Schumaker 3. Foul Goals—Ritter 3, Beard 2. Referee—Eichelberger.

MANY APPLICANTS FOR CHAUTAUQUA LECTURES Penn State's Chautauqua circuit is now in successful operation, with twenty-two professors and twenty fraternalists on the list. The professors who have undertaken the work are C. R. Anderson, T. C. Blaisdell, W. O. Crockett, M. V. Eddy, J. A. Ferguson, M. M. Harris, T. I. Maria, A. E. Martin, E. S. Moore, L. O. Overholts, F. L. Patten, Mr. and Mrs. Ridenour, Mrs. C. C. Robinson, C. W. Robinson, R. L. Sackett, H. B. Shattuck, E. R. Smith, N. B. Zane, G. F. Zook, H. J. Wood, and J. T. Marshman.

FRENCH SOCIETY TO MEET The Cercle Francais will hold its fortnightly meeting Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock in 226 Main Building, where the trials will be held for the French play. This will be followed by the regular program. The speakers will be Miss Rhoda Crawford, "Selection"; John L. Stewart and Kenneth E. Paget. Boston, on request, will repeat his solo of an old French song entitled, "La Chanson." The feature of the evening will be a reading, "Les Fetes du Ramadan au Maroc" (The Festivities of the Ramadan in Morocco) by Jules Guyard, read by Mercer-S. Maloney.

REGISTER FOR POSITIONS The newly established Board of Recommendation is ready to register students who wish to secure teaching positions at present or for next year. Many calls are now being received for teachers in various lines of work and the salaries offered are attractive. Those who desire positions should register at the earliest opportunity, in order to be in line for the openings now being reported.

For the convenience of those interested, I will be in my office, Room 11, Liberal Arts Building, all Thursday afternoon, and Monday afternoon, February 7 and 11. As many as can do so should report on one of these days. David Allen Anderson, Director.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS The fire protection of the College buildings and of State College borough is vested solely in a student volunteer fire department. In order to make this organization a success, the students must cooperate to maintain the safety of the college buildings as well as the dwellings of the borough. The Penn State Volunteer Fire Department will hold a meeting in the basement of the Library tomorrow night at seven o'clock. All students who can help in this service are urged to attend.

LOST AND FOUND The following articles are now in the Y. M. C. A. office, and can be had upon identification: 2 odd cat-links, 1 clip-cap, 1 D. H. Manual, 2 odd gloves, 1 pair black kid gloves (women's), 1 pair brown leather gloves (worn), 1 large black pocket-knife, 10 keys, 1 small pearl-handled pen-knife, 2 brown purses, 1 black purse, 1 scarf pin, 1 fountain pen, 1 rosary, 1 pair spectacles with black case, 1 black pocket Testament.

BAGDAD RAILWAY LONG A BONE OF CONTENTION

project which would open up the vast uncultivated areas of the Tigris and Euphrates valleys to their ancient fertility. The day on which the Bagdad Railway was opened Europe would have another source of grain supply equal to that which came from the Russian wheat-fields. The Russians would then have an active competitor for their chief article of export. This consideration weighed heavily with the Russians, but not so heavily as the fact that the railroad would enable the Turks to throw troops into Armenia along the Caucasus border, a district which the Russians have long considered legitimate prey as soon as the digestive system of the Russian Bear proves equal to the meal.

England's objections to the Bagdad Railway were somewhat more diverse. She realized that the project would mean the complete economic domination of Asia Minor and the Tigris and the Euphrates Valleys, and that this would probably lead, as in so many instances it has, to that part of Turkey's becoming nothing but a German colony. In any case, the terminal of the railroad at the head of the Persian Gulf might easily become a German naval base and as such a menace to England's domination of India. Furthermore, the railroad would enable the Sultan of Turkey at any time to threaten to arouse the sixty million Mohammedans in India against the English government. Considering all these objections and the fact that the increase in Turkish customs from eight to eleven per cent in order to float the Bagdad Railway bonds would fall upon the English especially, since they imported more than one-half of the Turkish imports, one Englishman exclaimed bitterly, "not often" has there been a nearer parallel in real life to the case, of being made to pay for the razor to cut one's own throat."

Great Britain therefore persisted in her opposition to the railroad even after she had agreed to the raising of the Turkish customs. Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, succeeded in making a treaty with the local Sheikh of Kuwait in which the latter agreed not to allow any but Englishmen to build a railway through his dominion. This was important because Kuwait was commonly regarded as the only suitable terminal of the railroad and the Sheikh of that place disclaimed the owing of any allegiance to the Sultan of Turkey. As proof of his independence, he showed that neither he nor his predecessors had ever paid any taxes to the Sultan. Here indeed has been a bone of contention. Germany maintained that Kuwait belonged to Turkey and that she would build the railway to the sea at that place. On the other hand, England contended that she held exclusive rights in that district and that the Bagdad Railway should never reach the sea at Kuwait. How many people know that that little ragged village of Kuwait at the head of the Persian Gulf was such an important place?

As the Germans pushed the railway steadily across the Taurus Mountains they became more insistent on their position. One finds the Vossische Zeitung making the following statements regarding the Kuwait affair: "It England does not withdraw her opposition, the great line will be carried over England's head to its naval terminus on the Persian Gulf."

Great War Prevents Agreement From recent disclosures it seems certain that Great Britain and Germany were in a fair way to end their differences over the Bagdad Railway when the present international conflict broke out. In June, 1914, Sir Edward Grey and Prince Lichnowsky drew up a treaty in which it was provided that the Germans should complete the Railway to the City of Basra about sixty miles from the Persian Gulf. Goods were to be transported from Basra to the sea by opening the channel of the Euphrates River to a Turkish navigation company in which the British were to hold forty per cent of the stock. The British were also to be allowed to have two members on the managing board of the Bagdad Railway Company. And thus this question seemed in a fair way of settlement just at the moment when the ill feeling and hatred existing between the English and German people for which it has so largely been responsible burst into violence and bloodshed.

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

Supplies of All Kinds Typewriters for Rent Just What You Need Now Laundry Boxes Edison Diamond Disc Phonographs Size "B" Book Covers. Come In. Penn State Book Store L. K. METZGER '15, Prop.

WANTED: MAN to handle, on commission basis, sale of five-cent candy to retail dealers. Excellent product and good seller. Liberal commission. Sophomore or Junior preferred. Lorient-Cartier Incorporated, 18 East 41st Street, New York.

The Right Place For the Right Goods At the Right Price. Oewine's Hardware BELLEFONTE, PA. Dealer In HARDWARE Stoves, Paints, Oils, Glass, Coach Makers' Supplies, Etc. DOCKASH STOVES and RANGES

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News From Other Colleges

PRINCETON—A branch laboratory of the Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior was recently instituted in the Chemistry Department of Princeton University. The investigations that are being carried on consist chiefly in the preparation of materials used in connection with the gases in warfare investigations of the government.

D. C. Munro, Professor of Mediaeval History at Princeton, is the editor of a Government pamphlet entitled "German War Practices," which has recently appeared. The pamphlet is the first of a number of publications which will be published by the United States Government, exposing German barbarities in warfare.

PITTSBURGH—The War Department has established an Officers' Reserve Training Corps at Pittsburgh University and has detailed Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Stickle to take charge of the work.

CORNELL—The senior class of Cornell University, in accordance with a decision of the Student Council, will not wear the accustomed cap and gown this year at Commencement.

Persian Gulf," and again, "If England persists in her demands Germany will know how to act despite England." The Frankfurter Zeitung expressed itself as follows: "England must get out of the way or be swept out of the way." The following declaration from Lord Lansdowne is no less belittling on Great Britain's side: "Where we have figured as the first of peoples, (in the Persian Gulf) we cannot accept the permanent position of a brilliant second." Surely these mutterings of war as they rumbled back and forth across the North Sea did not conduce to better international feeling? Indeed one of the most vexed questions in the relations between Germany and England since 1899 has been the matter of the Bagdad Railway.

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ART OF READING TOLD BY PROF. MARSHMAN

CORNELL—A total of 239 students withdrew from Cornell University this year between the opening of the first term and the beginning of the final examination period of the same term. Of this number 80 per cent withdrew for military service.

LAFAYETTE—A list of national champions in all forms of athletics compiled by Physical Director Bruce of Lafayette College contains the names of two Penn State men. They are Harold '18, in the 120 yard hurdles and Dexter Very '18, amateur heavy weight wrestler.

M. A. C.—At a recent re-union of Short Course students at the Michigan Agricultural College, a Short Course Association was organized with a membership of one hundred and seventy-five. The leaders of the new organization have planned to co-ordinate their work with that of the College Alumni Association.

PRINCETON—With the opening of the mid-year examinations last week, Princeton celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Honor System.

PROFESSOR MARSHMAN NEXT SUNDAY'S SPEAKER "What Constitutes an Excellent Spirit" will probably be the subject of Professor Marshman's talk on Sunday, February 10th, when he will be the speaker at Chapel services. In outlining his probable talk to a "Collegian" representative, Professor Marshman said that he would present to the students the fact that men who have really accomplished something great in the world and most of the great men of history were men imbued with that intangible something which for want of a better name, he calls the "Excellent Spirit."

JACK HORNER IN EUROPE John M. "Jack" Horner '15, former secretary of the Penn State Y. M. C. A., who resigned recently to undertake war-work at the front, has arrived safely in Europe. This news was contained in a telegram sent by the War Work Council to his brother, a copy of which was also sent to President Sparks.

Y. M. C. A. LOSES SECRETARY Kenneth Keeper, former business secretary of the Y. M. C. A., has left to take up a position in Pittsburgh. Keeper will be greatly missed, especially at the present time, as his departure will leave the Y. M. C. A. without either a business or graduate secretary.

SATURDAY SPECIAL! \$7.00 Storm Calf Shoes AT \$5.25 The College Boot Shop

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