

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

PENN STATE FORESTERS ARE BUSY OVER THERE

On Active Service With American Expeditionary Force Somewhere in France. Nov. 13, 1917.

My dear Mr Ferguson:— No doubt you have heard of our safe arrival in this country by this time. Three months ago today I could not imagine myself ever being here, especially within so short a period.

The sea voyage soon became one of monotony, as there was nothing to look at but water, water, and our ship. Of course the monotony was occasionally broken when I was compelled to join the fish feeding detail, or when a submarine was supposed to be hard on our trail.

Believe me, the first sight of land seemed to be the grandest sight I ever saw. They say green colors are resting to the eye, and such was old Ireland. The banks of bonny Scotland made a fellow appreciate the fact that the world is not all salt water. England seemed so homelike that I could scarcely believe myself on this side of the Atlantic.

It would be a regular circus for you to see the trains we traveled in. Each and every one was a third class side door pullman. And talk about the size of 'em! They look like a toy car alongside of a Ford in comparison to our box cars.

Until the present we have been constantly on the move since leaving the U S. Today we are in our permanent camp. We are sure dumping out the logs in a jiffy now, and the mill as well on its way to completion. The regiment has been split up in several detachments. L. D. Dunn and I are the only State men in this detachment just where the others are I do not know.

The timber here is not very heavy. It consists mainly of Scotch and Maritime pine. These tracts have all been planted and I'll say they look fine. Long clean boles, and planted in perfect rows. Evidently the French know something about Forestry.

These people strike me as a very sociable and courteous. I can only guess this from their actions as their lingo is more or less like monkey chatter to me. I am gradually learning to understand some of it, however, as I have a Self Taught Grammar, which I manage to study occasionally.

Lately, war doings have been quiet here, but when we first came to camp we were entertained by the music of the big guns and passing of many airships.

I have often wished that I could be back with the class this year to enjoy all the miseries and pleasures of the little building by the woods. Of course I am glad to have this experience which will doubtless lighten the load of work I hope to finish.

I have often wondered how large your Freshman class is this year. I'll bet it

has nothing on last year's numbers (or quality either). Wishing you a very successful year I remain as ever Yours truly J. R. Duke '20

First Detachment 10th Engineers (Forestry)

"CASEY" JONES WRITES TO BILL MARTIN FROM FRANCE

Somewhere in France.

My dear Bill, Just a line from the old frontier to let you know I arrived without mishap and am still juggling around with the living people over here.

It seems like an age since I spent that Sunday at college and I am now ready to spend another week end with you all. I am quite satisfied and all that but since I have become separated with old Bob I get sort of lonesome at times even if I am with an outfit. I know back in the States you know I don't have anyone one to freight like to the relays with this year and feel sort of disgusted that I will have to miss them. I know our mutual friend "Nig" will miss us.

Bill, I haven't heard a word about college since the Dartmouth game and that was over a month ago. I hope as a Christmas present I hear the Thanksgiving scores but suppose it will take almost until the middle of January for such news to reach me.

There are about eighteen State men here with their own outfits. They are made up of State's select and some of them are "idle" Davis, Sutton, Hartman, Whitely Thomas, Caldwell about 1913 from Indiana, Rouland who was there last year, and the others I do not remember their names. We find a new one every day. I also ran into "Red" Hastings and some other Pitt fellows at the other day.

You should see me trying to talk to these French people. It is a joke but I get along all right. Sort of a shame I took German at College.

This country is quite a place and not so different from America, except for the people and their customs. We were in here for a short time but did not see enough of the place to mention it. I am planning a trip up there as soon as I am allowed a day or two off.

We are just getting settled here and are longing to get to real work. The planes are pretty common so they do not create much excitement when they go up. Just like a shy horse, we soon get accustomed to strange sights.

I am not permitted to say much about anything because of the strict censorship, but am saving my prize stories for fanning gees when I return. Won't I go good on Sunday afternoons if I can get up 20,000 feet and get down before supper?

With kindest regards to yourself, Mrs. Martin and the family, I beg to remain Your sincere friend, Cadet Ben C. Jones, Aviation Section, Signal Corps, American Expeditionary Force

SEVERAL CASES OF MUMPS AT HOSPITAL

The Infirmary is well-occupied at present with seven patients, the majority of whom have the mumps. Those confined are W. L. Hart '20, W. C. Meerkle '20, H. B. Moulter '20, T. Chynings '21, S. H. Gaul '21, and M. C. Jones and C. F. Stoll, the latter two being members of the first-year two-year Agricultural class.

PENN STATE REPRESENTED Fred Rasmussen, Professor of Dairy Husbandry has recently been appointed a member of the Public Safety Committee of the United States Food Administration. Mr. Rasmussen spends three days of each week in Philadelphia working with the other members of the commission.

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WEEKLY FRENCH LESSON

LESSON V

Review of Lessons I-IV (At this point time, should be taken for a thorough review of material covered so far. Conversation of the question-and-answer type should be carried on between teacher and student, or better between two students under the supervision of the teacher. The questions and answers given below will serve as a model.)

NEW WORDS

Oui—yes mais—but non—no une assiette—a plate non—where un verre—a glass ne, pas—not une tasse—a cup n'est-ce pas!—is it not so? le garçon—the boy (waiter) un couteau—knife une cuillère—a spoon une fourchette—a fork

Veuillez-vous...—Will you have? (Pl. Desirez-vous...?) Apportez-moi ma note—Bring me my bill. Garçon, l'addition, s'il vous plait—Waiter, the bill, please.

Donjour, monsieur! Je me trouve bien, merci. Et vous, qu'avez-vous? Je n'ai rien. Ou allez-vous? Je vais au restaurant

Avez-vous faim? Non, je n'ai pas faim. J'ai soif. Je vais boire une tasse de café.

Garçon! Que voulez-vous, monsieur? J'ai froid. Donnez-moi une tasse de thé.

A-t-il faim? Oui, il a grand faim. Il desire un rinflet et des pommes de terre.

Desirez-vous un cigare? Non, je préfère une cigarette. Du feu!—A light? S'il vous plait—Yes, please.

Merci—No, thanks. D'où venez-vous? Je suis Anglais, mais je viens d'Amérique

Parlez-vous allemand ou (or) français? Aux Etats-Unis nous parlons anglais. Je suis de Belgique et je parle français et anglais.

Les Canadiens parlent anglais, n'est-ce pas?

LESSON VI

Present Indicative Se réveiller—to wake up (awake) Se lever—to get up (arise) Mettre—to put (put on) Je me réveille, me leve Je me réveille; te leves Il se réveille; se leve Nous nous réveillons; nous levons Vous vous réveillez; vous levez Ils se réveillent; se levent

Je mets Tu mets Il met Nous mettons Vous mettez Ils mettent

Note 1 Verbs with "se" in the infinitive in French are reflexive verbs. In English "self" is used. This "self" is same person and number as subject. The form is same as object pronoun except in third person when it is always "se."

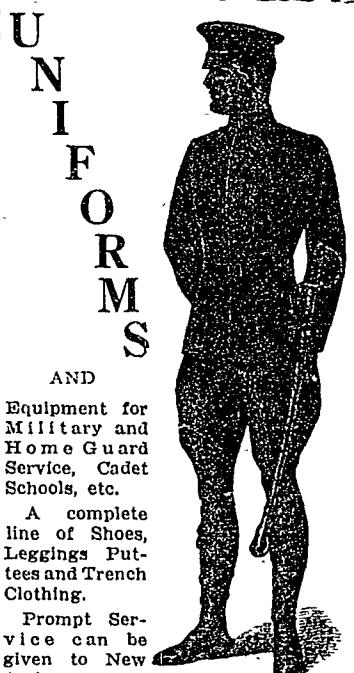
Note 2 The forms in French for object pronouns are:

a. Direct object: me (me); te (thee); le (him); la (her); il; nous (us); vous (you)

b. Indirect object: me (to me), te (to thee), lui (to him, her); nous (to us), vous (to you)

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FRESHMEN SELECT COMMITTEES Note 3. The pronouns precede verb except in affirmative imperative. Note 4. The indirect precedes direct except when both are 3rd person. Le matin, je me réveille—In the morning, I wake up alors je me leve—then I get up Je mets mon caleçon—I put on my drawers mes chaussettes—my socks votre pantalon—your trousers vos chaussures—your shoes mettez-vous votre gilet!—Are you putting on your undershirt? Oui je le mets—Yes, I am putting it on. ma chemise—my shirt les vêtements—the clothes la tunique—the blouse l'habit—the coat le pardessus—the overcoat le capote—the cape (soldier's) le manteau—the cape (officer's) le casque—the helmet la casquette—the cap le chapeau—the hat les gants—the gloves le ceinturon—the belt le linge—the linen ma enfante—my breeches vos jambières—your leggings je me lave les mains—I wash my hands sa brosse à dents—his tooth brush brosser les dents—to brush the teeth

SOPHOMORES SIGN UP

The main business accomplished at the Freshman class meeting last Wednesday was the appointment of committees to consider the designs for the class pipe and to attend to cases of men desiring to enter the class during the year. It was also decided to appoint a committee to arrange for next year's posters, but the final selection was finally laid over to the next meeting.

BASEBALL MEN REPORT

Starting on Saturday, March second, all baseball men are asked to report for practice to Manager Allison at 3:30 P. M. in the Army.

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