

Kansas Memory



Letters from Kansas Boys, World War I Soldiers

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

These two volumes, entitled Letters from Kansas Boys: European War, 1914-1918, contain letters from soldiers serving in World War I. The letters were printed in Kansas newspapers between 1914 and 1918 and clipped and compiled by the staff of the Kansas Historical Society. The clippings are organized alphabetically by soldier's last name.

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Champaign, Hobart Vere
Champe, L.I.

Oketo Eagle
Sept. 25-1918

Topeka Capital
Dec. 24-1917

A Letter.

From Pri. Hobert Vere Champaign, Co. E. 2nd Bat. 11th Regiment, M. B. Quantico, Virginia, Sept. 16th 1918.

Friends of Oketo and community.

My Company has been assigned to the 11th Regiment and soon expect to be engaged in the great conflict over there. Camp Quantico is among the hills of Virginia. We can hear the echo of cannons as it passes through the ravines. The country is quite different from Kansas the soil is a light red color, and they raise peanuts and cotton mostly. There are still a few old colonial mansions, some are still in fine shape and still beautiful, some of the oldest are in the hands of negroes, I saw the place where Andrew Jackson died. It was an old log cabin, about sixty miles this side of Richmond. The chow call just sounded and I can't miss that. Letters will be welcome from any one.

Buddie

LETTER FROM A COUSIN IN FRANCE.

Miss Alvia Hults, of Topeka, has lately received a letter from her cousin, Corp. L. I. Champe, who is a member of Battery A, Sixth field artillery, of the New York division, now with the American expeditionary forces in France. The parents of Corporal Champe live in Greeley, Kan. A part of his letter to his cousin describes the condition in France which is most strange to us.

"Parts of the country are very productive," he says, "while other parts are all wine gardens and vineyards. In traveling from one town to another it is one continuous line of wine cellars and cafes—"gin mills," as the soldiers call them. It is the custom in this country for all people to drink their portion of wine."

Continuing, he tells of seeing women taking the places of men in all sorts of work, both in the city and the country, and says he is getting accustomed to seeing people in wooden shoes. The following paragraph gives one an idea of one side of a soldier's life "over there."

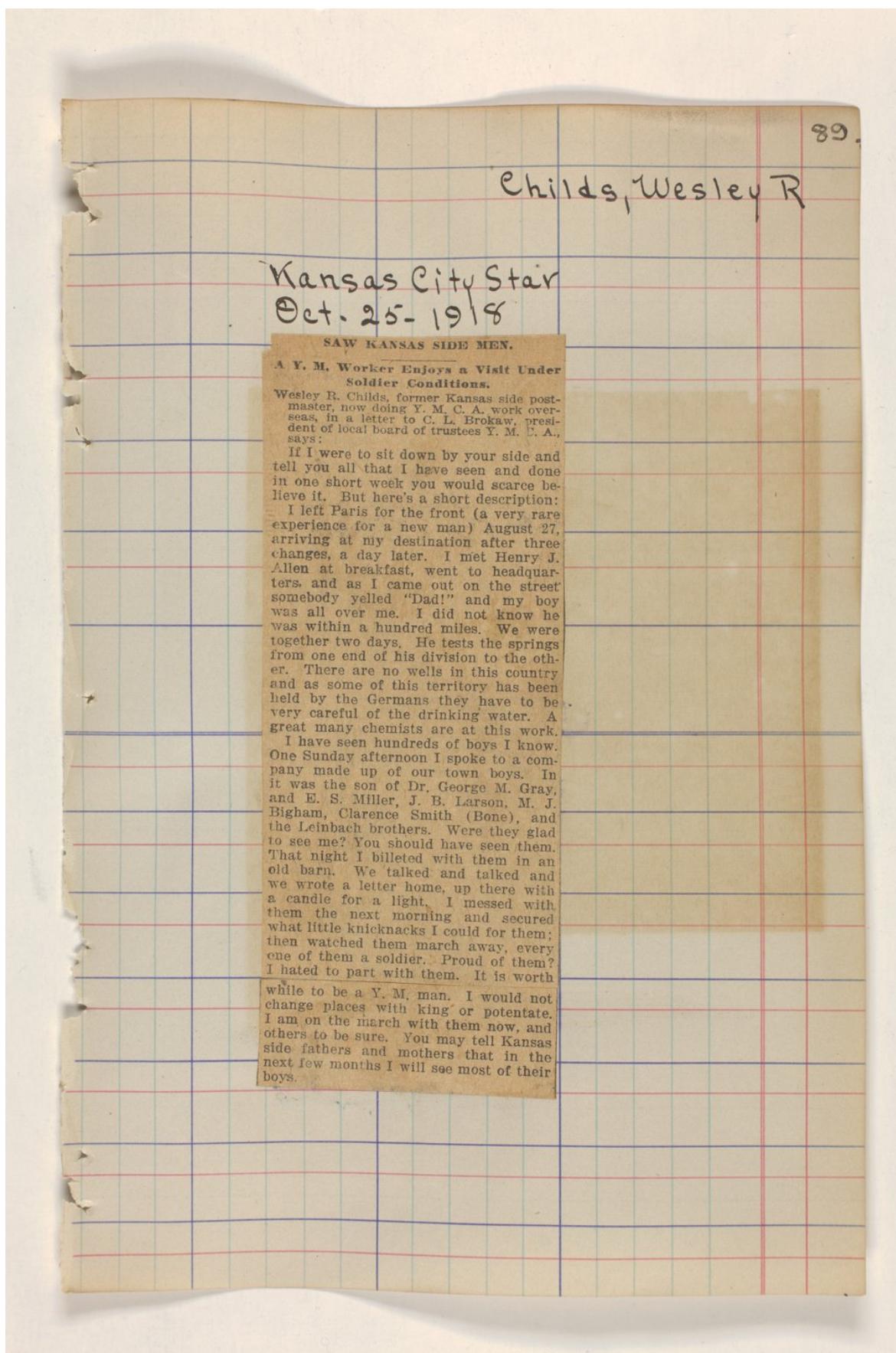
"Have been at the front, but now back and in winter quarters in a small village. We sent our regards to the kaiser in the form a three-inch shell and received an answer in the form of what appeared to be a six-inch shell. You cannot realize how it is out there. You hear the rat-a-tat of the machine guns and the boom of the larger pieces all day and night, but you soon get accustomed to the noise and do not think of it. You hear the whistling sound and wonder just where it is going to strike, then all at once there is a big explosion and you see stones and dirt flying in all directions and you begin to wonder how much closer the next one is going to drop, but duty keeps your mind off that and you soon forget it."

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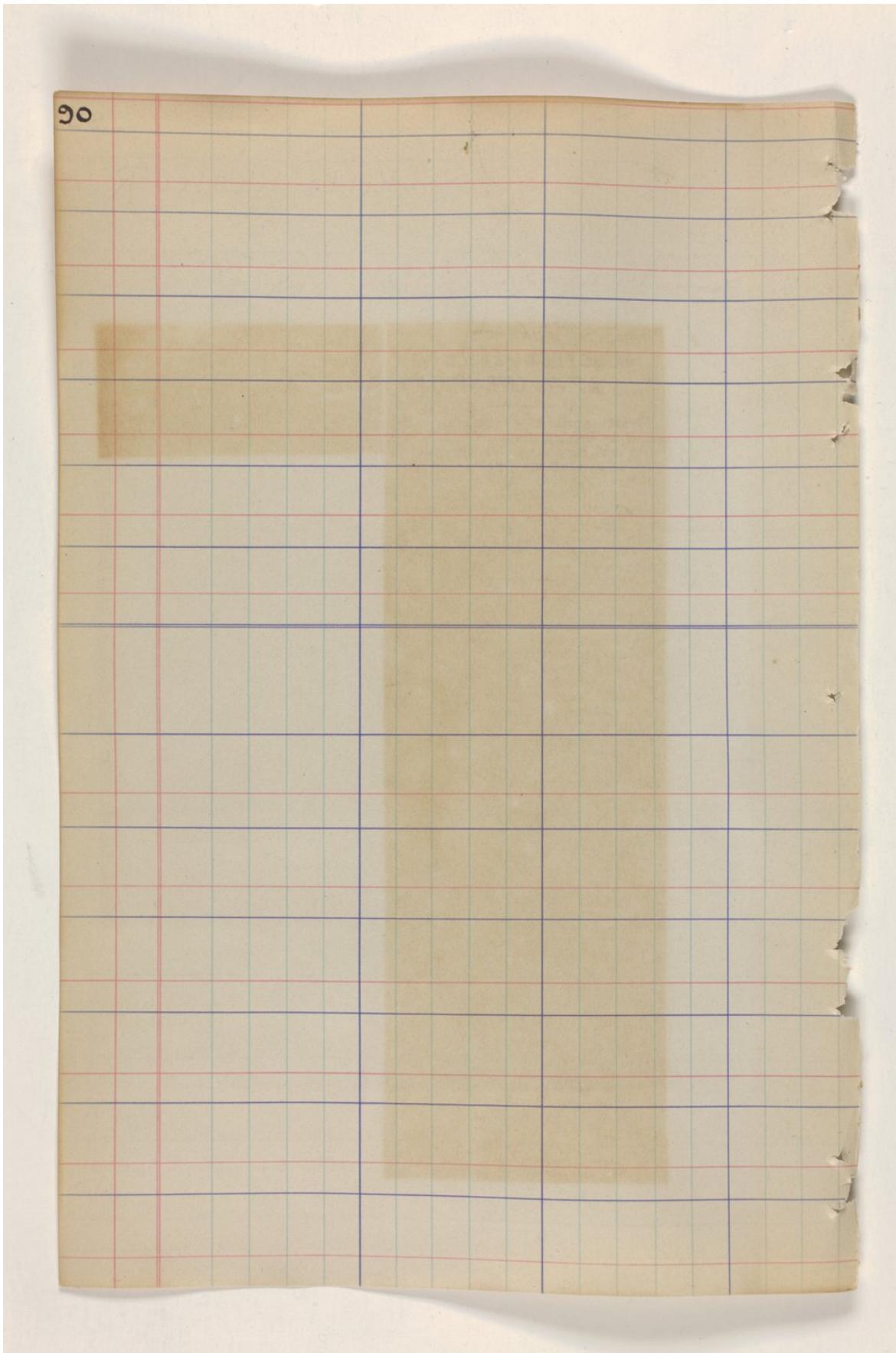


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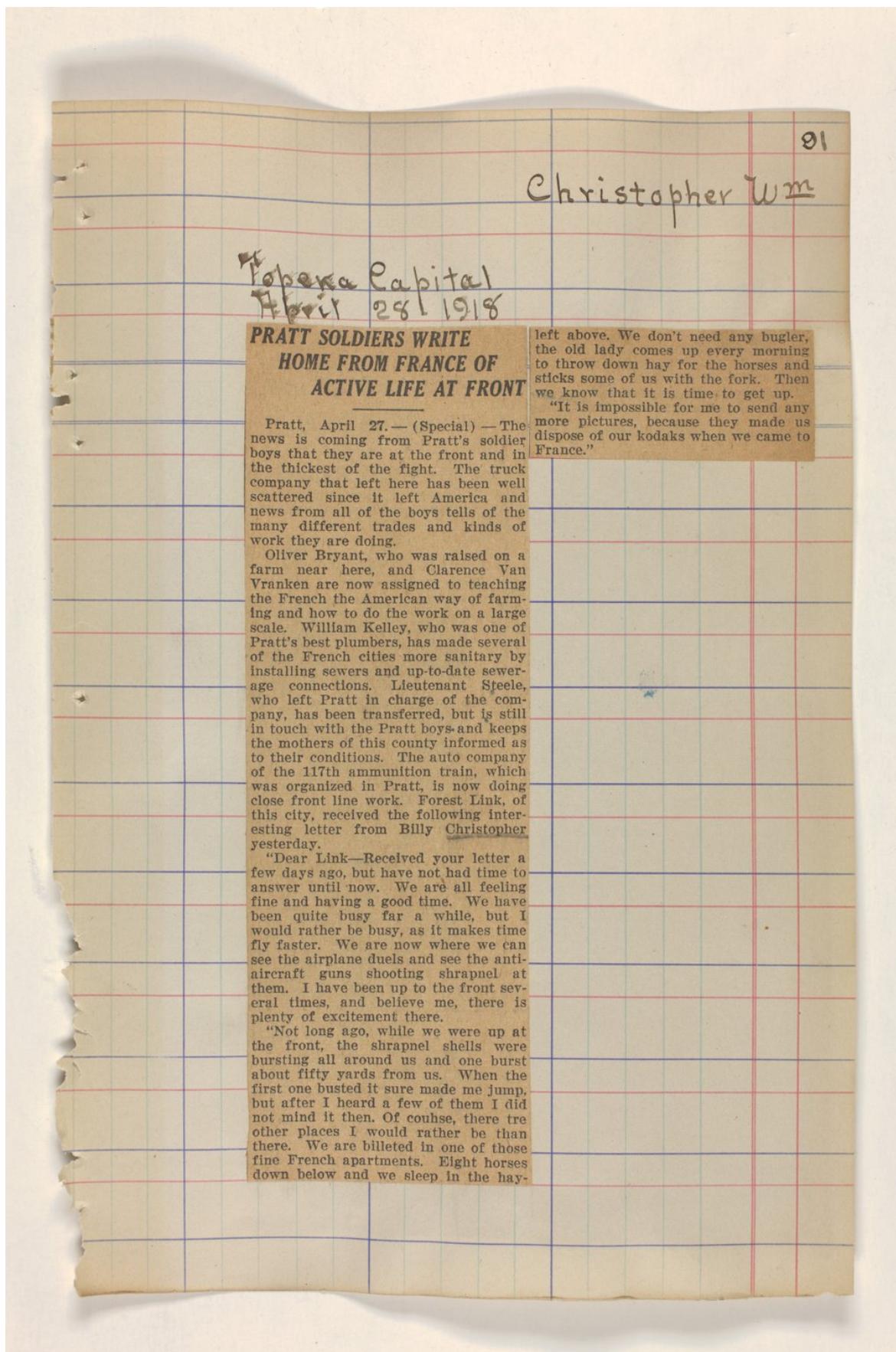


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Clarke, Andrew
Clarke, Ex. Co.

Topeka Capital
Sept. 22-1918

Topeka Capital
Feb 9-1919

KEEPING BLACK KANSANS OUT OF FIGHT NO EASY JOB FOR THE OFFICERS

BOYS OF THIRD SURPRISED TO SEE GLASS IN WINDOWS

Leavenworth, Sept. 20.—(Special)—Word was received here today from Private Andrew Clarke, colored soldier, with the 806th infantry, that he had been seriously wounded in battle in France. He was so badly injured that he was brought home and is now in a hospital at Mineola, N. Y. He tells about being wounded and that he hopes to recover, in a letter to his mother, Mrs. Della James, of this city. He also mentions the anxiety of the colored soldiers to get into the fight against the Germans. He says, in part:

"I am suffering from a very bad wound, but I hope to pull out of it all right. We have a good outfit, the 806th infantry, made up of Kansas and Missouri boys. The company commanders had a hard time holding them back when the other regiments went in (meaning the fight), and they commenced singing 'The Blues.' and 'It ain't no use standing here forever.'

"The company commander told them they might all get killed—when the boys told him to go back home if he was afraid—that they were not afraid of dying and they did not want to be over here longer than Christmas and Easter. It is the same as trying to keep a pack of lions together as to try to keep them from moving to the front."

"The commander then sent word to the general that he didn't know what he was going to do with the black boys and some of the whites; that he couldn't hold them much longer and that every time one of them got shot it made the whole thing much worse. They are waiting for General Pershing to say the word and he had better hurry up—if he don't, the fire will be out and the whole thing will be over before he knows what happened. They are only 100 miles from Germany's last standpoint, and they are going in closer and closer every chance they get."

Private Clarke closes his letter by saying that he wants to get well so as to cross over again to join in the fight.

Contrast Between France and Germany Was Sharp.

Regular Army Division Was in Thick of the Fighting Until Armistice Was Signed.

Junction City, Feb. 8.—(Special)—The Third division, regulars, had been so long in the devastated areas of France that it looked odd to them when they marched into Germany and saw glass in the windows of the houses, according to E. K. Clark, for many years a sergeant stationed at Fort Riley. In a letter to his wife, he describes vividly the destruction wrought by the Hun vandals in French towns in the battle zone. Montfaucon, a large city near Verdun, is in ruins. There is not a single building that was not hit by shells or bombs. Avocourt, a smaller town in the vicinity, was wiped completely out of existence. There isn't even a wall standing, and a dozen other villages in the vicinity are in the same condition.

"We would get orders to go to a certain town and when we arrived there all we would find was a pile of bricks holding up a hastily scrawled sign bearing the name of the town. The signs were military necessities. They were the only means of identification."

Trained Only Six Weeks.

The Third division was in the thick of it, according to Sergeant Clark. The third night out from Hoboken, his transport was rammed by another ship. Both put back to port and the men of the division were hastily transferred to other vessels and started across again. After six weeks of training the Third went to Chateau Thierry and took part in the battle of the Marne. The division fought steadily until August 4 when it was relieved and went back to a rest camp. One month later, on September 4, the division began a march to the St. Mihiel sector, arriving in time to take part in the big American drive, and then hastened

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Cole, Harry J
Collar, Louis H

Kansas City Star
March 25 - 1918

to Verdun, to participate in the battle that began September 26.

They're in Germany Now.

Altho the infantry units of the division were relieved a month later, the artillery, to which Sergeant Clark is detailed, remained to back up the Fifth division, and the big guns of the Third were in it right up to the time the armistice was signed. Then, without chance for recuperation, the artillerymen were sent into Germany, arriving at Polch, twenty miles west of Coblenz, a week before Christmas.

HIS LIFEBOAT WENT DOWN.

A Wisconsin Soldier Saved a Kansan When Tuscania Sank.

Prof. Harry J. Cole of Enterprise, Kas., who was on the *Tuscania* when that ship was torpedoed near Ireland, writes:

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, ENGLAND, Feb. 18.—I landed safely after much difficulty. We were torpedoed near Ireland. The first lifeboat I got in went under, but I hung onto a little rope until a Wisconsin lad pulled me into another lifeboat. It was about full of water and two of us had to dip water mighty fast to keep it from filling up. After three hours a patrol boat picked us up and landed us safely in Ireland at 6 a. m. February 6.

Nobody can say anything against the Irish now around me.

Kansas City Star
April 25 - 1918

WILL SEE KANSAS SIDE FLIERS.

Message From Home Delivered in France by Henry Allen.

The care taken by the Red Cross to deliver messages to soldiers is shown in a letter received today by Mr. and Mrs. Ira T. Collar, 925 Barnett Avenue, Kansas side, from their sons, Louis H. Collar and Ira Thorne Collar, in the aviation service in France.

When Henry J. Allen passed through Kansas City on the way to France to take up his work among the soldiers Mr. Collar requested him to get in touch with the two boys.

The letter from the two brothers says:

We have received a letter from Mr. Allen. He wrote it from Red Cross headquarters and said you had given him our address and asked him to look us up if possible. He said he expected to be at this camp in about ten days, but invited us to come and see him in the meantime. I wrote him we could not get away, but would be on the lookout for him.

Thursday on the way to camp I picked up Mr. Robert Lyle Finch from Kansas City. He is with the Red Cross, giving lectures to the soldiers. He knows Uncle Lou Chapman and Aunt Tot and we had a long talk. He is going home and I suppose he will visit you and tell you about our work over here soon after you get this letter.

The arrival of our mail varies from nineteen to ninety-eight days, but the average is about three weeks or a month. Sometimes we get fifteen or twenty letters in a bunch, all mailed on different dates.

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Collins, John J

Topeka Capital
Dec. 2 - 1917

Chase County Youth Says Huns Are Losing Grip.

German Prisoners Declare Their Officers Tell Them Allies Are Being Starved by Submarines.

Cottonwood Falls, Dec. 1.—(Special)—John J. Collins, one of the Chase county boys in France, has written a letter to his sister, Mrs. W. F. Workman, of Saffordville, telling something of war conditions on the firing line.

Mr. Collins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Collins, of this county, and served three years in the regular army, two years of which were spent in the Philippines before going to France. He has been in France since last August.

His letter follows:

With the Twelfth Engineers Railway Company, H. Q. D., American Expeditionary Forces, in France.

Dear Sister: I'm camped within a very short distance of the firing line, operating the narrow gauge track, taking supplies up to the trenches. The firing is continuous almost day and night. Almost every hour in the day we can see our allies firing at the German airplanes, which never tire of trying to get over our lines to take photos of our position and the location of our big guns. It is very seldom, however, that our guns will bring down one of them, for they make such small targets and the German birds men are very wary.

Allies Are Not Losing.

We don't know everything which is going on at the front, but we do know this much, that the allies haven't lost any ground since we have been here, but have been continually gaining and "going over the top" time after time. Nearly every night the allies bring in good-sized bunches of prisoners from the raids they are constantly making on the German lines.

This country was a beautiful place before the war, but it certainly is a devastated place now. At the coming of the Germans, who swarmed over the country so unexpectedly and with movements so swift, no one had time to get away. Every thing the people had was taken by the Hun raiders. They drove all of the old people out of the country, took the young girls back of the firing line and took many young French boys and actually cut the leaders in their wrists so they would be helpless to take up warfare against them. They also put poison in the drinking water.

As the Germans are now being driven back by the allies, they are doing all the damage to the country possible as they fall back. They blow up every building, cut down all trees,

while city after city is leveled to the ground. No one lives around here and for miles back the country is deserted of inhabitants.

Before the Germans came, the people had prosperous farms and large homes. Nearly all their buildings were of concrete or brick construction, with high brick fences around the houses. The streets and roads were paved.

Germans Lie to Troops.

French people who have recently made their way back to France say the Germans tell all their own people and the French and English who are held prisoners, that the German government has full control of the seas and that no Americans or American ships can cross over to England and France any longer. It certainly surprises these people when they are told the true conditions and see the Americans who are already over in France helping the allies.

One of the German prisoners told us that their government tells them they are starving the allies out and that we cannot last over a few months longer.

However, we are well supplied with provisions and everything we need. We have enough provisions in stock to last a year and ships are coming in port every day from the United States bringing supplies.

I know the Germans are losing their grip on the western front. We, of the American expeditionary force, do not have to take anybody's word for that for we can see it ourselves.

Topeka Capital
Dec. 1 - 1917

AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN FRANCE WRITING HOME

John J. Collins, of Chase Co.,
With Railway Engineers.

Writes to His Sister About Hun Barbarities—W. H. Thorp Praises Allies in Letter to Governor.

American soldiers in France are seeing some curious and wonderful things and the letters coming back to Kansas show that they are drinking in the sights with keen appreciation. Mrs. W. F. Workman, of Toledo, Kan., is in receipt of a letter from her brother,

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John J. Collins, who is helping to operate a narrow gauge truck line between the standard gauge railroad and the firing line. In this letter he tells some interesting things of their work and the big fight now going on with the Germans.

"The engines we work on sure are funny looking little machines," he writes, "as they are so small compared with our engines in the United States. We travel thru the valleys and the tunneled high ridges so as to keep out of the sight of the Huns and their heavy guns.

"I have been fired at several times, but haven't received an injury as yet. It sure makes one feel queer, and it is not easy to keep the cold chills from running up one's back when those bullets fly all around him.

"We have German airplane raiders to contend with nearly all the time. Every few days we witness airplane battles between the German raiders and our men, and they are certainly the most exciting battles. We are close enough to the firing line to hear the big guns continually.

"The allies are still gaining ground and bringing in German prisoners every few days. Of course, we lose men, too, but we have been almost entirely on the offensive.

"This part of the country which we have been wresting from the Huns is a most desolate looking land. The Germans are doing every conceivable thing to destroy and wreck and leave nothing in the path of their retreat. They even go to the cemeteries and blow down the vaults, taking the remains out of the vaults and throw them aside and then rob the coffins of the metal they contain. It really seems there is nothing too cruel for the Huns to think of and carry out.

"It is the general belief over here that when the weather gets good next spring, one good drive by our men will send the Germans up in smoke.

"In this desolate country, the sight of a woman or child would probably cause a greater commotion than an earthquake. It really seems like this country is as near 'no man's land' as the Huns can make it."

Another interesting letter from Somewhere in France, comes to Gov. Arthur Capper. The writer, W. H. Thorp, of Kansas City, Kan., says:

"Recently, I had the pleasure of reading an article in the Daily Mail, a Paris newspaper, of a big meeting held in Convention hall, Kansas City, Mo. Both Governor Gardner and yourself were mentioned in the article. As I understand it, the meeting was for the purpose of telling the people of Kansas and Missouri that the British were still "on the job."

If you remember, I wrote you shortly after the United States entered this great struggle, and told you of my intention of enlisting, which I did. I was living in Kansas City, Kan., at the time. Now I am in France, and

have been here for some time. I am certainly glad I came here, for I have witnessed enough to convince me that we are at war with a powerful and unmerciful foe. Some of the deeds that have been committed by the Germans in this locality are almost unbelievable.

About the English soldier, I have a chance to mingle with them every day, and will say they are a brave and generous bunch. They have the spirit of sacrifice that is one of the requisites of a good soldier and citizen. They come out of the trenches covered with mud, and stiff with cold, for a few days' rest, only to return to their duties with a cheerful face. They are not doing these things for pleasure, but because it is their duty.

I am proud to say that I am an American soldier, but will take off my hat to the English and French fighting men. We get along fine together, and I feel that this spirit of fellowship between the soldiers of three great nations means sure defeat for the Germans, and if any man, or number of men, in the United States accuse any of the French or English people of trying to shift the burden, they are not doing an injustice to the French or English alone, but to our own nation and humanity.

I feel that Kansas will do her full share in ending this great war, and that a bond of fellowship that is sealed with blood from the men of these three great nations, America, France and England, will mean a permanent peace, and that I, with others, may return and take my place with loved ones in Kansas and the good old U. S. A.

W. H. THORP,
Company E, 12th Engineers, Railway
American Expeditionary Force to
France.

Topeka Capital
June 28-1918

READING MATTER IN DEMAND.

John J. Collins, a former Saffordville, Kan., boy, who is now a member of company C, 12th engineers, of the American expeditionary forces in France, where he is operating a narrow-gauge engine that takes supplies to the fighting lines on the western front, writes in letter to his sister, Mrs. W. F. Workman, of Saffordville:

I am enjoying the best of health and weigh about ten or fifteen pounds more than I did when I left home. I am faring better than I thought I would when I left the United States. I have plenty to eat altho the menu is a little monotonous. It's "bully" meat and hardtack one meal and hardtack and "bully" the next.

It is foggy and rains here nearly every day. The little engines we work on have no cover, so when it rains we get soaking wet. We boys dug a dugout where we go to change and dry our clothes.

We have two gas masks, one a box respirator and the other a P. H. The box is the best, but is easily damaged and when it is put out of commission then we use the P. H. This latter is made so that nothing but a shell can

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damage it.

If you have any old books or papers and can spare them please send them to me, no matter if they are ten years old. They will be at a premium over here. There is no place to go after working hours and if a person has no reading matter he is out of luck.

Topeka Capital
Feb. 9 - 1918

Willing to Sacrifice.

I am getting along well and before long will be out again and able to take on my share. I wonder as we stand on the threshold of another year, what it holds for me. God grant that I may come safely thru, but if it is His will that I have to pay the sacrifice I am not afraid to face my Maker, and the life is sweet, we bow our heads and say, "His will be done." The only real kick I have is that after all we went thru France, we have to come to this country. I simply detest it.

BUSY AT THE FRONT.

J. J. Collins a former Chase county boy, who is now close to the fighting line in France, on the western front, where he is in the railway service on the narrow gauge used in bringing up supplies for the fighting men, has written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Collins, under date of December 17, 1917:

That birthday box you sent was sure fine. You do not know how I enjoyed the cigars and how pleased I was to get the presents from the United States, for they all seem better when they come from home, you know. When I received that box, I ate candy and cake until I was about sick, for you know we do not get anything like that over here and so they are a great treat.

I only wish I had something to send back to you in return, but I am so busy with my work and will be for some time that I will probably not be able to get anything for another month or two. When I can I will get some pictures of some of the latest ruins in this part of France which I know you will find interesting.

Snow Is 18 Inches Deep.

We have a big snowstorm on just now and about eighteen inches now covers the ground, and snow is still falling. The temperature is 4 degrees below zero and some of the roads are blocked. We work all the time in keeping the track clear but they are blocked again about as fast as we can clear them.

We have plenty of good warm clothing so do not mind the weather, but it sure gets the boys in the trenches. They have good dugouts, but cannot have any fire on account of the smoke which would signal the enemy and reveal our positions. We have just heard of several of our men freezing to death while standing at their posts.

Big Guns Booming.

There is not much fighting going on at the present time, which gives the soldiers a little rest. But our big guns are sending over a few rounds right along to let them know we are still here.

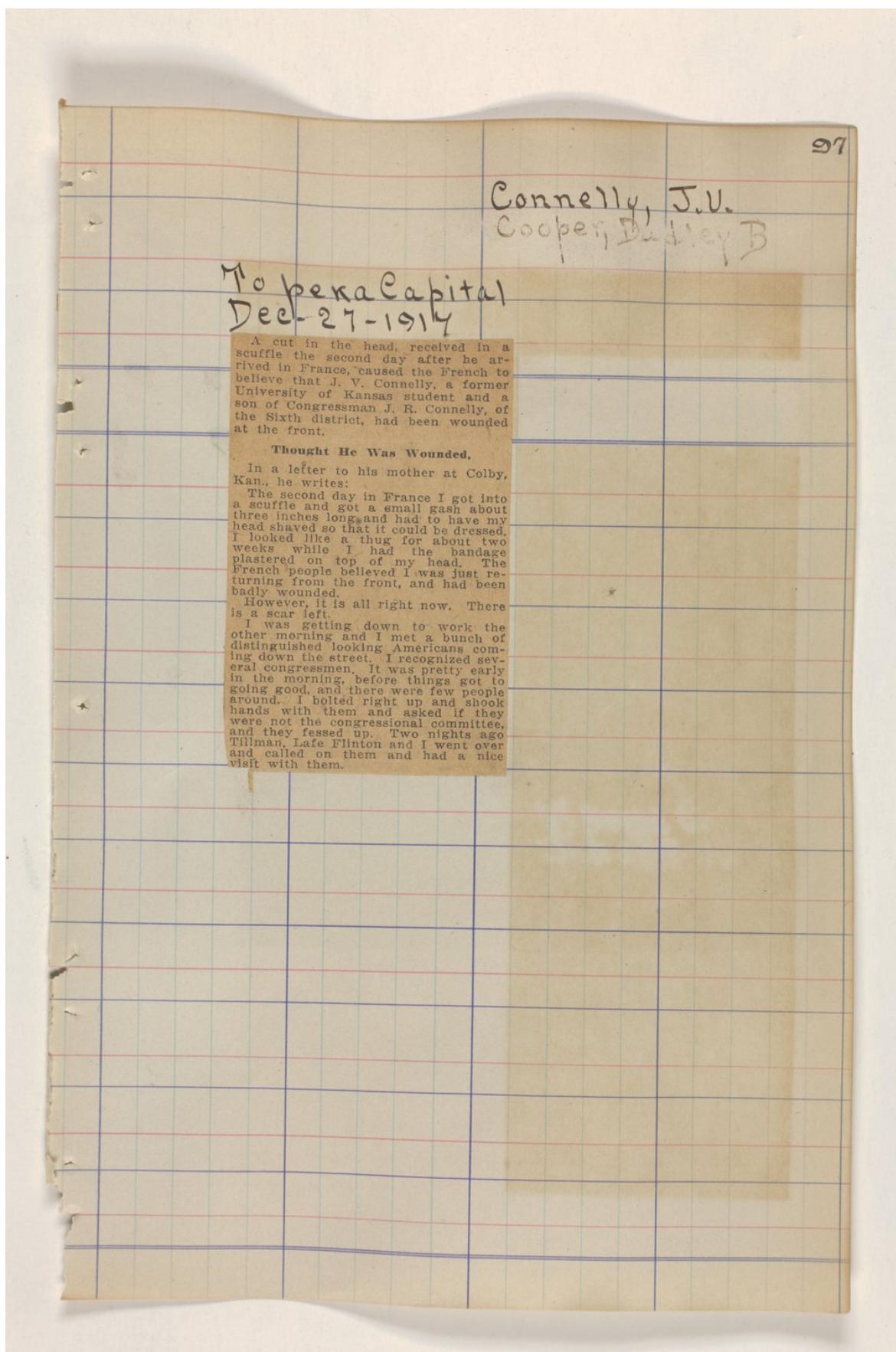
The allies have not lost any ground since I have been here. We get shelled once in a while but the allies are pushing the Germans so fast that it takes most of our guns working on the trenches and battery bases, so the enemy does not disturb us much, excepting by air raids.

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Cooper, Dudley R

Topeka Capital
Nov-15-1918

Topeka Fireman Reports On Big Blaze in Europe

The account of the world war just finished, as reviewed and compiled by a fire fighter, was received yesterday by Fire Chief Joseph Hanlon, in a letter from a former member of the fire force at station No. 1, Sergt. Dudley R. Cooper, who is now in France with the 163rd aero squadron. Cooper is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Cooper, 917 North Jackson. Following is the letter written by Sergeant Cooper to Chief Hanlon, from France, on October 19:

"Chief Joseph Hanlon, T. F. D., U. S. A.
"I have neglected to report regularly as I have been as busy as a one-eyed boy at a three-ring circus, but will attend to such things better in the future. I have looked things over, over here, and it looks as tho this affair started from spontaneous combustion, altho there is evidence that this has been smouldering since 1872 and broke out in Serbia in August, 1914. It jumped to Belgium, and as it was near the edge of France's second alarm district France responded at once and laid a line. This being also in England's second alarm district, she also responded to a second, and sent a lot of her apparatus and laid a steamer line and started pumping,

leaving the United States to cover the rest of the territory.

"Then the United States answered a long call to Mexico to a little one there and kept an eye on the indicator for general. The United States had not returned from Mexico, which is in their first alarm district, when a general came in from Europe, which was responded to immediately. A little equipment was left here to put out the Mexican affair, while the regulars were taken to Europe, together with the substitutes, leaving a call for volunteers, as things in Europe were gaining headway. It was a long run, but the United States department made the run in good order, and started to work, and showed results as soon as a steamer line was laid.

"One of the peculiarities is the work of the chemical companies, which are doing great work. Owing to fumes encountered it is necessary to wear smoke protectors or masks. It may be noted that a number of primitive methods are being used with success, among them being the hand extinguishers, which have been a deciding factor in many instances.

"Trusting that this report will meet with your approval, I beg to remain,

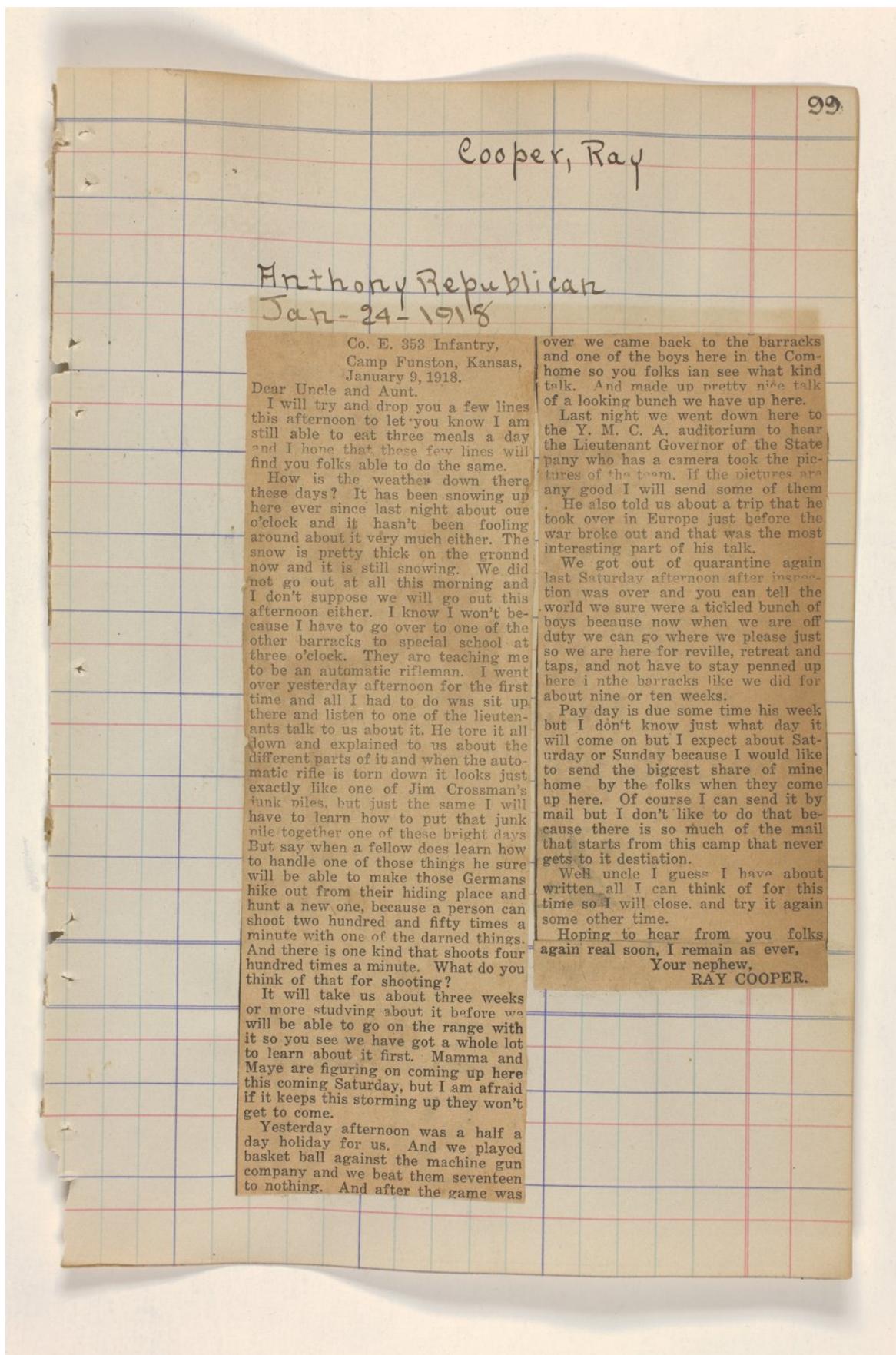
"SERGT. DUDLEY R. COOPER,
"163 aero squadron."

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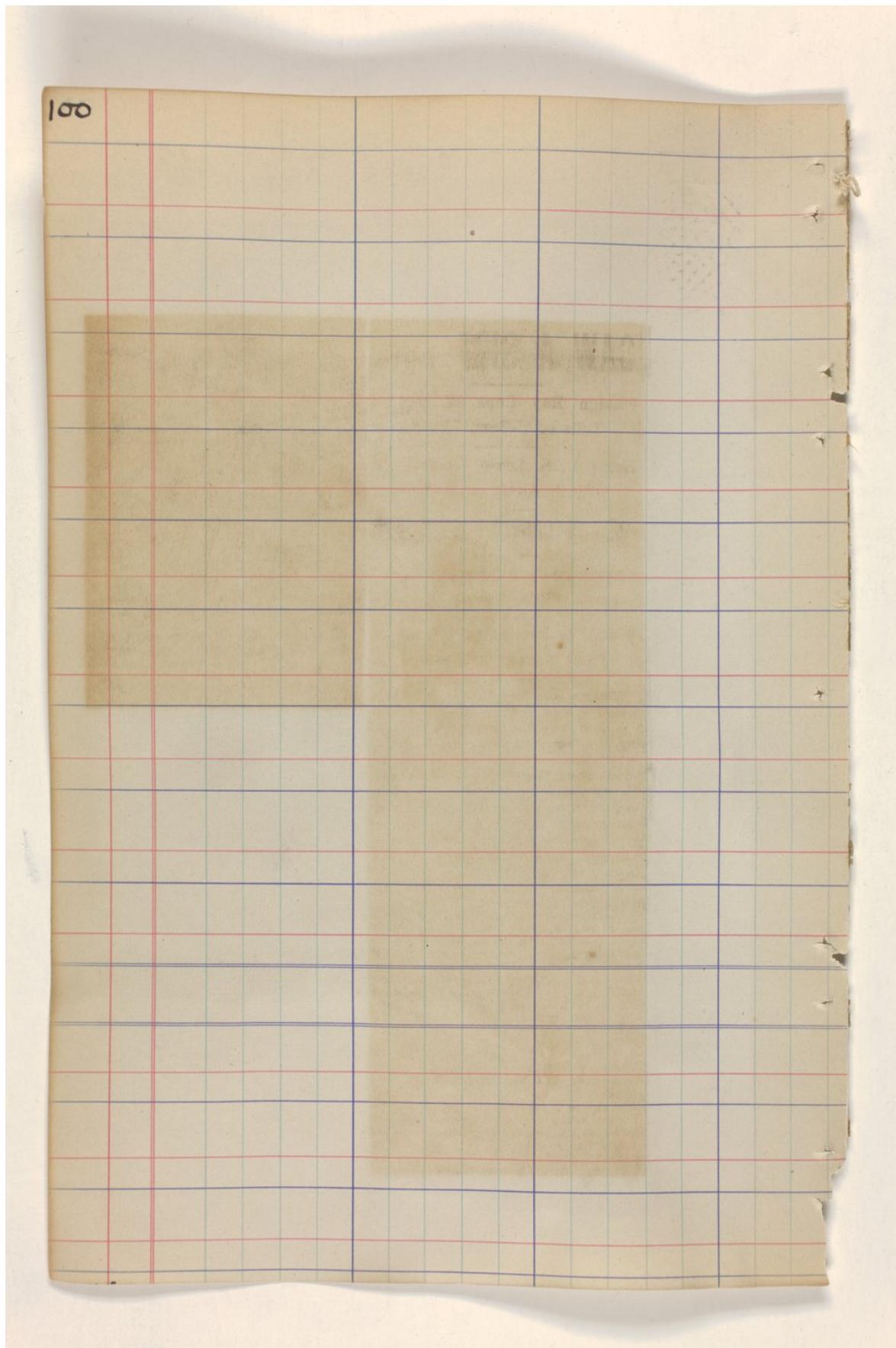


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Cope, Ray

Topeka Journal
July 13-1918

SAW A SHIP SINK

Ensign Ray Cope of Topeka
Tells of U-Boat Victim.

Large U. S. Vessel Goes Down
With No Lives Lost.

PART OF CONVOY LOST IN FOG

Considerable Trouble Is Experienced While "Going Over."

Writes to Parents in Topeka of First Voyage to France.

Ensign Ray Cope, formerly of Topeka, is now serving the country in the navy, and has written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cope, of this city, of his first voyage "over," dating his letter from "Somewhere in the Atlantic Off the Coast of France." On that trip he witnessed the sinking of one of the boats of the supply ship's convoy, and night after night he slept in his clothes, ready for action at an moment's notice.

A part of his letter written in the early part of June, is as follows:

"I have so far seen no subs, only a lot of whales. I expect to be back across the water sometime between the sixteenth and twentieth. Our new executive officer want me to help him in the organization and disciplining on this ship, which I am to do. Our meals have been fine. We have lots of cookies, candy and tobacco.

"I have had all of the communication work to do which takes a lot of my time. We heard of a ship being torpedoed 25 miles astern of us last night. We are now surrounded by patrol boats and destroyers—fine outfit for a sub to get mixed up with. We have had a good deal of trouble with fog going over. We were away from our convoy for about three days, lost, but we are all together now.

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Cowgill, David
Cox, Seth L.

Topeka Capital Topeka Capital
Mo 18-1918 March 23-1919

COWGILL TELLS OF FIGHT.

A letter from David Cowgill to his mother under date of October 17 says that he was then in a base hospital. He had been gassed, but was rapidly recovering. In telling of his first experience on the battle front he says, "We walked all night. At about 1 o'clock the barrage started just as we were passing the big guns. The roar was something great. We marched under the barrage to the front line trenches and got there just in time to 'go over the top' at daylight. This was my first experience at going 'over the top' and it was a great surprise to me. We walked slowly in front of the second wave and cut all the wires we came to for them to get thru. Our job was wire cutting. There was no resistance until we were thru all of the wire and our job was done. All we had to do then was to follow the advance or go back as we chose. We followed and the first thing I knew I saw some hands sticking out of a trench and some kids yelling 'Kamerad!' We took ten prisoners and two machine guns, then we ran into a lot of machine gun nests on all sides of us and the artillery began to fire at us. I lay in a trench until the tanks came up. When one of them got stuck we had to dig it out, machine guns firing at us from all sides, but we were lucky. The tanks cleaned out the machine gun nests and we went to a deeper trench while the shelling was going on."

David Cowgill is the son of Mrs. R. H. Cowgill, formerly of Topeka, but now in Boise, Idaho.

HAVE STATUS OF CASUALS

Washburn Ambulance Corps Dissolved and Scattered.

A letter from Capt. S. L. Cox, of the Washburn ambulance corps, has been received by Prof. J. E. Kirkpatrick, of Washburn college, telling of the location and work of the ambulance corps up to February 22 and of the plans of the corps.

"Our present status is exactly that of the casualties," writes Captain Cox, "since our original organization was skeletonized on December 13, and Sergeant Crabb started for home with the company records. Ambulance company No. 347 ceased to exist on December 13 last, and our personnel was transferred to headquarters, hospital center, Limoges, for duty. Most of us were stationed at the convalescent camp here until early in January, when we were moved down to another French barracks here in the center of the city. We are very comfortably situated here and the men have a fair amount of work to do, so are kept moderately well occupied.

"No steps have been taken toward the perfecting of a permanent organization among the men of the '347,' the several of us have spoken of such an organization at different times. I will either have Captain Dawson take the matter up or see to it myself sometime. I have no doubt that such an organization will be arranged for since it will be desirable from many standpoints.

"You need not worry about sending us any supplies of any sort, or 'things' to contribute to our comfort and happiness. We are quite comfortably situated and the only thing we care for is frequent mail from home—that is, aside from actually getting home ourselves. The latter is the thing in which we are the most vitally interested in, of course.

"We are hoping that we may be sent to Camp Funston to be mustered out. Embarkation instructions state that 'casual companies, even as small as one officer and seventy-five men may be organized in order to send men to camps near their homes for discharge. We should have more men than that in our organization who are from Kansas.'

"Five men and myself decided to take our leave of fourteen days as an opportunity to see something of the former front. Consequently, Sergeant Quant, Sgt. Elmer Euwer, Corp. Thomas Euwer, Pvt. Harold Loucks and Pvt. Louis Smith agreed to make up a party with myself and see what we could see. We visited Paris, Chateau Thierry, Rheims, Chalons-sur-Marne, Verdun, St. Mihiel, Commercy, Nancy and Orleans during our wanderings. One of the interesting features of our trip was the attempt to get a copy of Professor Gundry to a young French lady at Paris on the eighteenth. The lady lives here at Limoges, but has relatives in Paris, so she and Professor Gundry went there for the religious ceremony. They had previously had a civil ceremony performed here at Limoges.

"Captain Lerrigo is presumably in England on a visit just at present. He wrote me a few days ago that he expected to leave for Southampton either on February 11 or 12.

"We have some fairly cold weather here, but nothing like the low temperatures we have in Kansas. Just at present it is spring-like and nice."



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Crawford, Thomas L.

Topeka Journal
Dec. 21 - 1918

IN WINE COUNTRY

Shawnee Boy Writes of Way They Make It in France.

Thomas L. Crawford Sends Interesting Letter Home.

VISITED FAMOUS OLD CASTLES

He Saw 14,000 Wounded Americans in Paris.

Shell Shock Victims Are the Most Pitiful of All.

Thomas L. Crawford of the United States naval aviation forces, has written to his mother, Mrs. G. W. Crawford, of Route 1, Topeka, from his present station in London. He tells of visiting a famous wine center of France, some ancient feudal castles, including the storied castle of Bluebeard. He writes also of the efficiency of the Americans in handling their engines and materials, and he includes in his letter a paragraph concerning his visit to a base hospital in which 14,000 wounded men were placed.

Crawford's letter is, in part, as follows:

"I first landed in France in the heart of the wine district. The wine is made in a dirty and crude way. In and winery one can see thousands of bottles of wine that have been stored for from ten to twenty years. After grapes are gathered they are thrown into a press; a big wooden block is thrown down on top of them and is tightened until all the juice is drained off. Around the bottom of the press is a trough, and the juice is drained off in buckets.

Black Prince's Castle.

"On my way to Bordeaux I stopped to see the ruins of the castle of the Black Prince, famous in French feudal history. We passed one church

which was built in the thirteenth century still intact and being used. At Bordeaux I visited our new army docks. They give an American a feeling of pride.

"At Nantes I visited the castle of Blue Beard built in the fifteenth century. I went thru many dungeons where it is said Blue Beard kept his wives shut up.

"I visited St. Nazaire, a great port for Americans. There thousands of tons of supplies are handled by our army. At Savoye I found 60 miles of American warehouses. The French think the Americans are wonderful in their efficiency. It is nothing unusual to see one of our great cranes lift out of the hold of a vessel a six-wheel-drive locomotive, place it on the track immediately ready to go to work, on being fired. A Packard limousine, carrying three men was lifted from a ship and placed on the docks. The driver touched the self-starter, and the car was on its way at once.

At Big Base Hospital.

"I have recently visited a large American base hospital near Paris. It contains 14,000 wounded men. Two hospital units have been combined there. Men from all parts of the United States were lying there sick with all kinds of diseases and afflicted with every kind of wound. I saw one poor chap with a large hole completely thru the larger part of his leg. Another had his knee badly cut by shrapnel, and the rest of his leg was withering away. I did not recognize anyone but met several lads from Kansas. They were all glad to see some one from the home state. The one wish of the Americans in hospital is that they may reach home and their loved ones.

"The most pitiful cases were those of shell shock. Many of them have completely lost their sense of control. Some are unable to talk without stammering, and some have lost their voice. In some cases the lads can never be helped. They are a sorrowful looking lot, altho nine out of every ten men wear a smile. They want to talk to a visitor, but when they try to do so they become nervous and go completely to pieces, being unable to do anything more than stutter and mumble and shake from head to foot. I saw one poor lad who was continually walking the floor, jumping at times, shaking his fist, and throwing his head backward. He was afraid of me at first, but before I left the ward,

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he had decided to 'best up' on me. This hospital has wonderful conveniences for its patients. No country in the world has cared for its men as America has. Red Cross trains carrying hundreds of wounded come into this hospital every day. The Red Cross cars are hospitals on wheels. The coaches are elaborately fitted out. In the center of the car is a dispensary, and on either side are arranged the berths. Each coach carries thirty-six men. The berths are in rows of three decks. The coaches are long and easy riders. The French and British have nothing to equal them.

To Build High Tower.

"Paris has wide streets, in contrast to other French cities, and the buildings are of somewhat uniform architecture and height. The many parks are filled with monuments and statues. The Eiffel tower, built as a monument to the science of engineering, and the highest street tower in the world, is soon to be surpassed by a radio tower which the United States is erecting 'somewhere.'

"The art treasures have been taken from the Louvre and deposited in a place of greater safety. On account of the air-raids many of the treasured monuments have been covered with sand bags.

"I visited the Paris Grand Opera house, which covers a sq acre block. It is built entirely of marble, onyx and bronze. The ceiling is inlaid with mosaic work which outclasses anything else of its kind in the world. I saw Rigoletto played there. The opera house is owned and controlled by the French government, so that the seats are sold at very reasonable prices. One can see the best operas in the best house in the world for \$2. I wish the American people would follow the French in such a splendid plan.

"Everyone is interested in the outcome of negotiations for an armistice, and by the time you receive this, I presume hostilities will have ceased. I had hoped to be with you at Christmas, but I give that up. Whatever is my lot, I will do it willingly and try to make the most of it.

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Topeka Journal
Jan. 11 - 1919

HOME BY EASTER

Battery A Boy Expects To Get
Back by That Time.

O. B. Critchfield Writes Father
of His Experiences.

VOSGES MOUNTAINS BEAUTIFUL

He Was Stationed in Famous
Summer Resort Section.

Eleven Shots Fired 11 Kilos 11
Minutes to 11.

S. E. Critchfield of 120 North Clay street, received one of the "Father's Day" letters from France, written by his son, Corp. O. B. Critchfield, one of the Battery A boys. Critchfield served on the Mexican border, and returning, was called into service with Battery A, field artillery. He went to Fort Sill in October, 1917, and then to France.

He arrived in France April 13, on the ship George Washington. In France, he spent five weeks of instruction, taking radio work. From there he went to Angers, for drill, and then, he was given range finding practice with six-inch guns. In August the unit went into the Vosges mountains, and the first shot the battery fired against the enemy, was discharged August 20, 3:20 p. m.

Mountains Beautiful.

"We remained in position two weeks," Critchfield wrote. "The mountains are beautiful, with lovely valleys, cold, clear lakes and pure springs. In peace times the mountains were summer resorts of many millionaires. We left the mountains early in September, and after a good deal of moving about, we got into the fourth line on the front at St. Mihiel, where we were held in reserve. On September 20 we were moved to Clinion, got into position on the morning of the twenty-third, and that night we got shelled by the Boche. We did not return fire until morning of the twenty-sixth. All along the line, from the sea to Epinal, we opened up a

barrage, beginning the big drive that ended the war. Then we pulled out of our position and moved forward to a town that the Germans had held for three years, but they were finished when our infantry went thru it.

Was Near Verdun.

"Our next position was near Verdun, where we did some firing until the eleventh of November. On that day we fired 11 shots, 11 kilos away, firing the last one at 11 minutes before 11. We left that position November 17, and came to our present place, Sommiediene. All the time from August 15 to November 11, we were within range of Boche shells; marching was done at night thru the worst weather, for it rained constantly for three months. The worst of the fighting was in the Argonne forest, and we were there from September 23 to October 2."

"I hope to be home by Easter, or sooner."

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Crocker, Clyde

Topeka Capital
Feb-7-1919

RED CROSS SAVED LIFE

Topeka Boy Tells of Experience in German Prison.

Clyde Crocker, a former Topeka boy, a nephew of Mrs. Ella Sexton, 1915 Buchanan street, in a letter to his family under date of December 9, tells of his experiences as a prisoner of war in Germany.

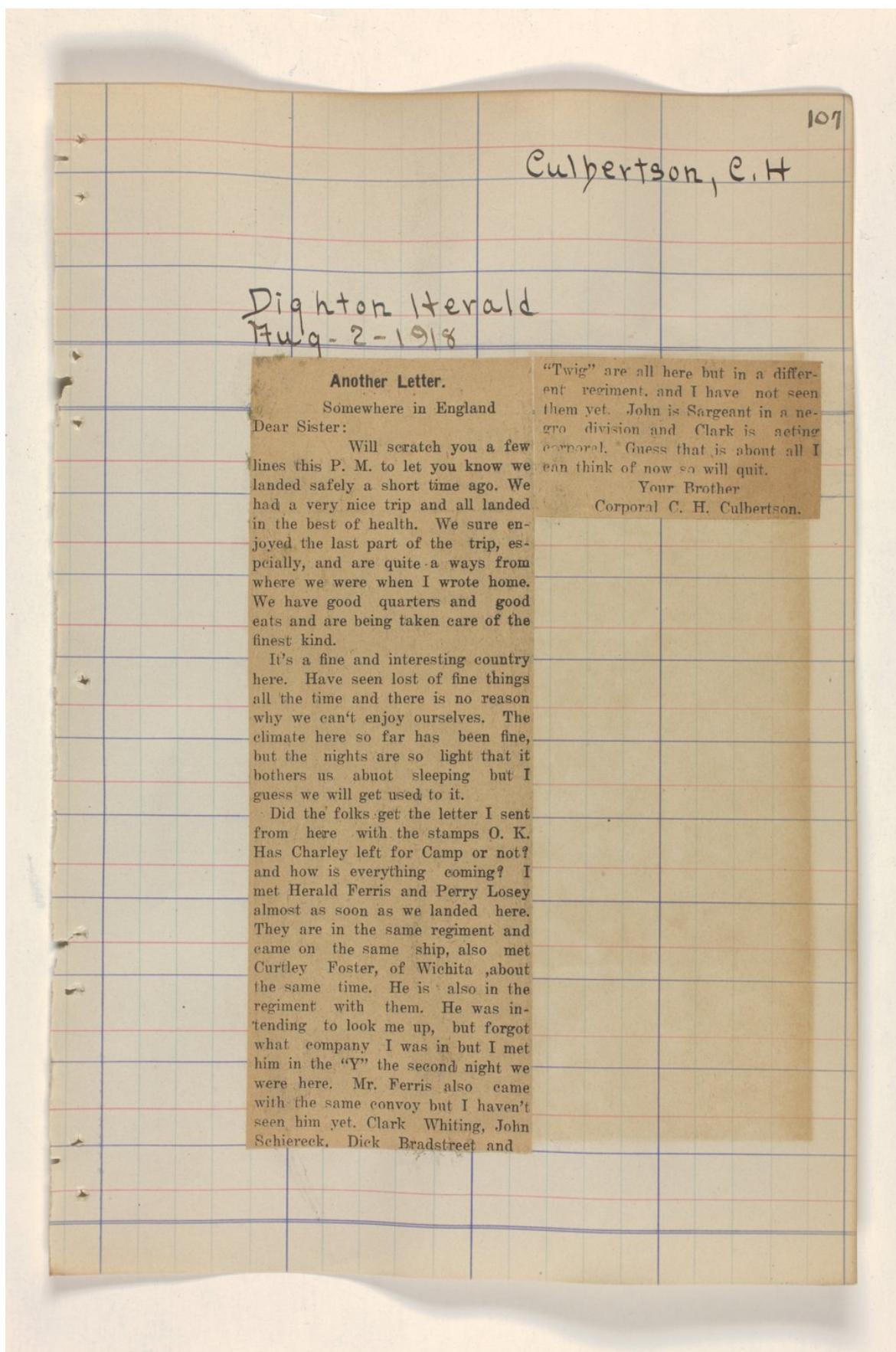
"Once more I am able to write you a note," says Crocker. "I have certainly had great experiences in the past three months. We were released from prison camp at Rastatt, Germany, Friday night and taken thru Switzerland into France. I am now in the hospital at Vichy, France. This is a fine place, the summer resort of France, similar to Hot Springs, Ark. It certainly seems great to be free again. I had a grand trip thru Switzerland. Had royal receptions all along the line. A great many of the boys have started home from what I understand. I expect to leave some time this month altho we have no orders, just supposition. I was slightly gassed when captured and my lungs have bothered me a trifle, but are all right now. I had everything taken from me what amounted to anything when I was captured. Yesterday was my first time to see an American paper for some time. Have had no mail from home since August 8. We have been given the best of accomodation since leaving Germany. We came in a Red Cross train with beds. Met Clyde Case, he had charge of our car. He is Pete Case's brother. I have lots to say, but it seems impossible to think of it. We certainly would have starved to death in Germany, had it not been for the Red Cross. I had an awful time fighting off pneumonia or the Spanish influenza, but I finally got it. There was no medicine there and times sure were hard. We lost several boys just before leaving, one from my company. This is all the paper I have, so must close. Give everyone my best. I hope to be back soon."

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Culbertson, Paul

Kansas City Star
March 21 - 1918

HAULS THE FRENCH WOUNDED.

**Kansan First College of Emporia
Youth Under Fire, He Believes.**

Paul Culbertson of Emporia, a former College of Emporia student, now in France with an ambulance unit attached to the French army, writes:

I suppose I am the first College of Emporia man to be under fire and I know what it is to hear the shells exploding and to hear the cannon roaring. I have carried some of the poilus in my car, who have come out of the trenches wounded and so covered with mud I could not tell whether they were blue or brown. I often think how easy it is for me to carry French wounded instead of American, for I fear I might lose my nerve if I could understand all these poor fellows say.

One evening I was standing in front of a dressing station watching the guns, troops and wagons passing on their way to the trenches. Eight men carrying two wounded soldiers came wending their way over the walls of ruined houses to the "poste." As they reached the door they set the stretchers down. The medical chief came out, felt the pulses of the two men and motioned for the first man to be taken inside. Then turning to a priest he said something in French. The priest kneeled over the wounded man and after a little while the stretcher was carried across to the little building marked "morte."

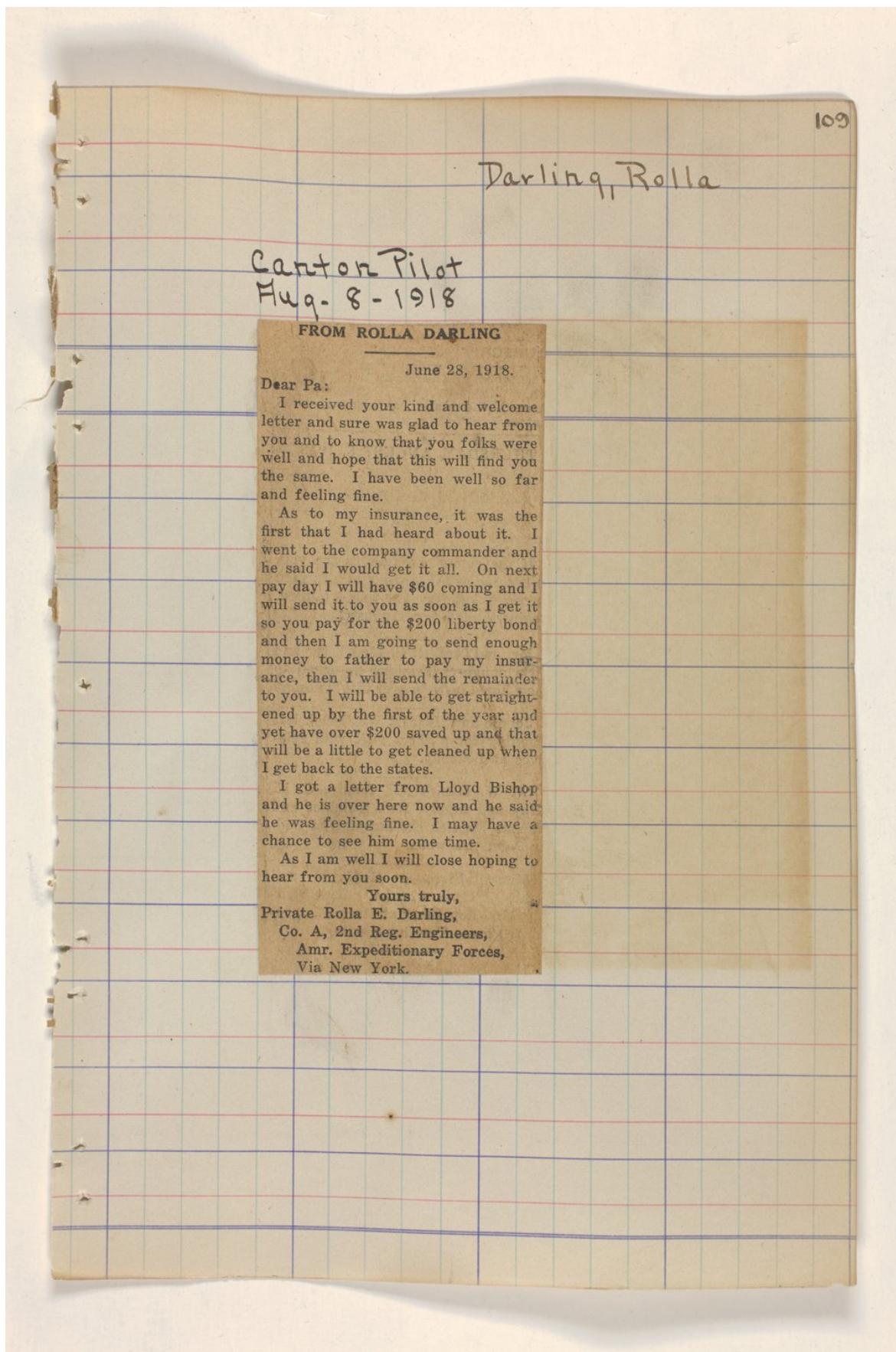
One evening I was driving a load of men when a big shell fell some distance away. Ten seconds later another landed about fifty feet to the left and rear of my car. I was deafened momentarily and my heart jumped, but I had a happy moment, because the shell landed to the rear and not alongside.

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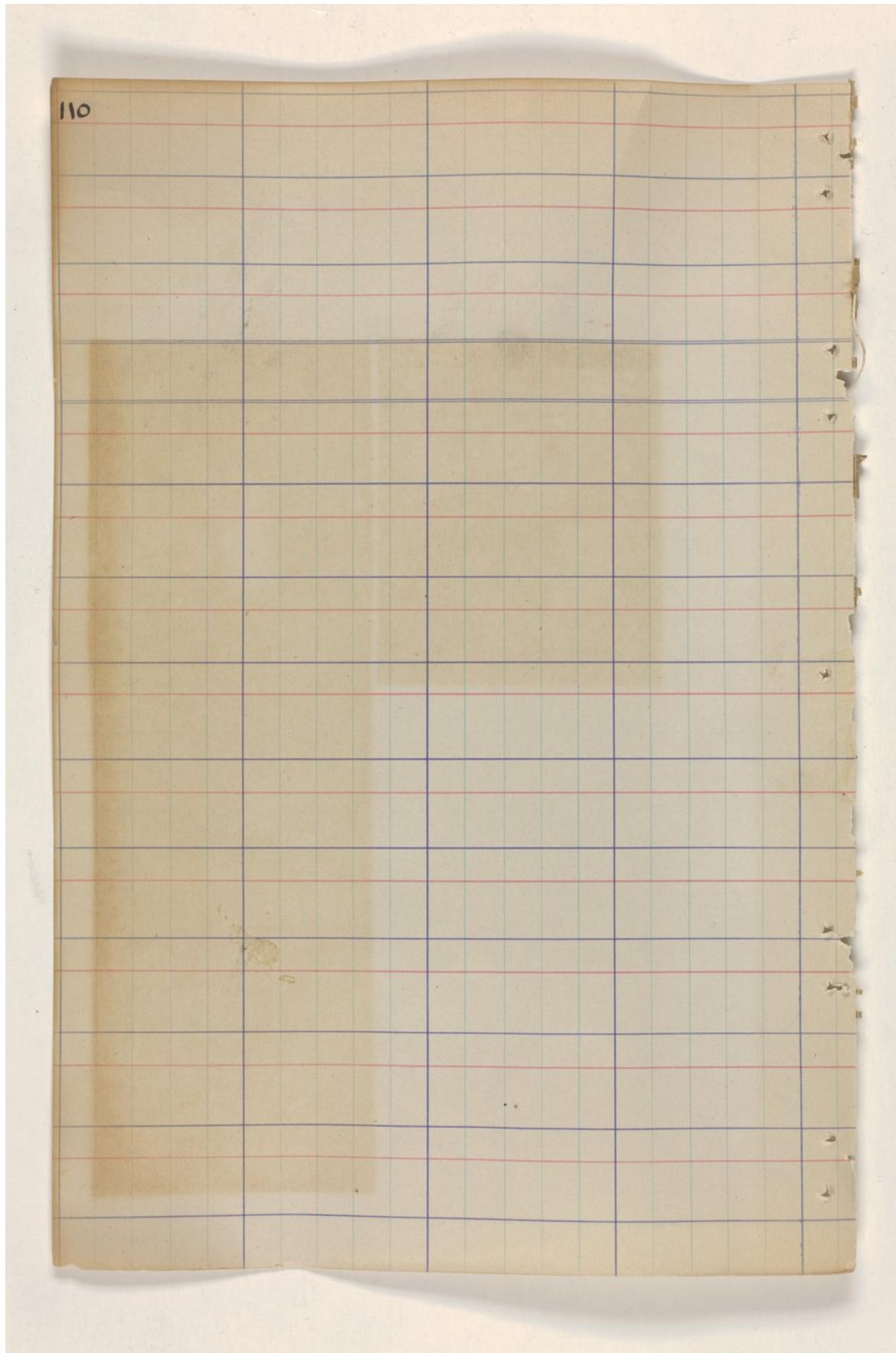


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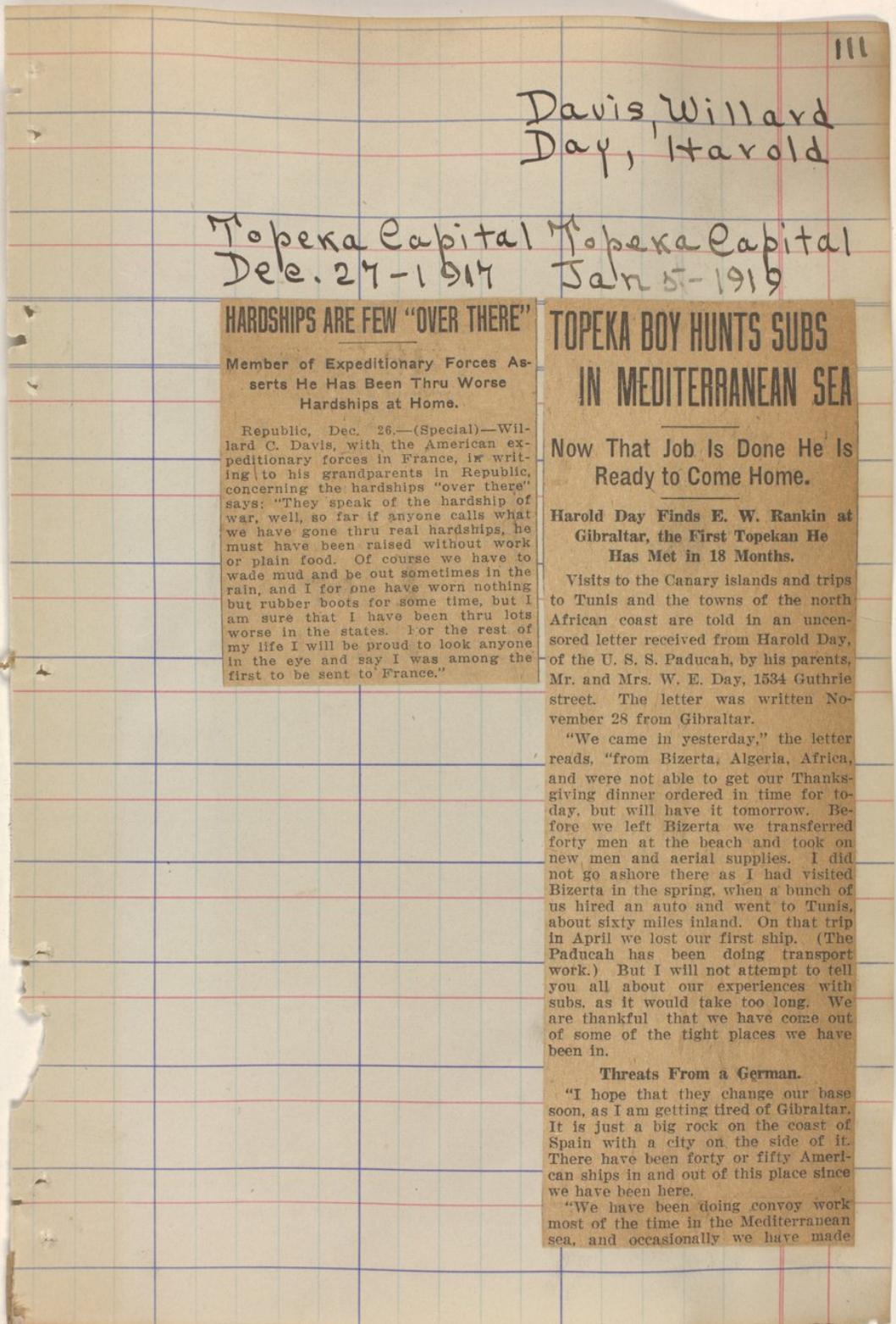


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HARDSHIPS ARE FEW "OVER THERE"

Member of Expeditionary Forces Asserts He Has Been Thru Worse Hardships at Home.

Republic, Dec. 26.—(Special)—Willard C. Davis, with the American expeditionary forces in France, is writing to his grandparents in Republic, concerning the hardships "over there" says: "They speak of the hardship of war, well, so far if anyone calls what we have gone thru real hardships, he must have been raised without work or plain food. Of course we have to wade mud and be out sometimes in the rain, and I for one have worn nothing but rubber boots for some time, but I am sure that I have been thru lots worse in the states. For the rest of my life I will be proud to look anyone in the eye and say I was among the first to be sent to France."

TOPEKA BOY HUNTS SUBS IN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Now That Job Is Done He Is Ready to Come Home.

Harold Day Finds E. W. Rankin at Gibraltar, the First Topekan He Has Met in 18 Months.

Visits to the Canary islands and trips to Tunis and the towns of the north African coast are told in an uncensored letter received from Harold Day, of the U. S. S. Paducah, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Day, 1534 Guthrie street. The letter was written November 28 from Gibraltar.

"We came in yesterday," the letter reads, "from Bizerta, Algeria, Africa, and were not able to get our Thanksgiving dinner ordered in time for today, but will have it tomorrow. Before we left Bizerta we transferred forty men at the beach and took on new men and aerial supplies. I did not go ashore there as I had visited Bizerta in the spring, when a bunch of us hired an auto and went to Tunis, about sixty miles inland. On that trip in April we lost our first ship. (The Paducah has been doing transport work.) But I will not attempt to tell you all about our experiences with subs, as it would take too long. We are thankful that we have come out of some of the tight places we have been in.

Threats From a German.

"I hope that they change our base soon, as I am getting tired of Gibraltar. It is just a big rock on the coast of Spain with a city on the side of it. There have been forty or fifty American ships in and out of this place since we have been here.

"We have been doing convoy work most of the time in the Mediterranean sea, and occasionally we have made

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Deaver, Carol

Topeka Capital
Dec. 2 - 1914

CROSSES TO FRANCE ON HUN RAIDER

Carol Deaver Tells of Trip Thru Submarine Zone on Prinz Eitel Friedrich.

Fairview, Dec. 1.—(Special)—Dr. H. J. Deaver, of Fairview, has received three interesting letters that were written by Carol Deaver, his son, while at sea. Carol Deaver is a member of the Holton Marine band. The band made the trip to France on the former German raider, Prinz Eitel Friedrich. While under disguise as a merchant freighter, the vessel is said to have sunk twenty-one ships.

"At one time this ship was a floating palace," said young Deaver in his letter, "but now she is stripped of all her finery and is fully armed. We will sight land Tuesday, October 31, my birthday. Our convoy is a big cruiser and there are two destroyers. Just now we are in the submarine zone, taking a zig-zagging course and running fast at night. Today we sighted a lifeboat on the horizon and our convoy went over and picked it up. In it were several dead bodies of Americans who had perished at sea. At midnight last night our French convoy of submarine chasers met us and are now all about our fleet, piloting us to a port, where we will be for a time."

"I got used to sleeping with a life preserver around my neck. I don't mind it at all now. Had another submarine scare yesterday."

"Well, the date is October 31, and we are in the harbor. At 4:30 this morning one of the submarine destroyers engaged a submarine. The submarine was reported sunk. The dope here is that we will not see the front before spring. In case our regiment goes to the trenches the band boys will be used as hospital apprentices and stretcher bearers and administer first aid treatment."

trips out in the Atlantic. The longest trip we have made was from the Rock to the Azores islands, down to the Canary islands, and into the Azores, where we stayed three days. While there some of us hired a car and went up into the mountains and over the islands. When we left the Canaries, the German ambassador told us that our ship would be sunk before we were out ten hours. Several merchant ships had been sunk off these islands, so we cruised about for a while trying to locate a sub thought to be lurking about the islands, but found none.

"We have made several trips to Genoa, Italy. On one trip I went to a cemetery where there are over 700,000 buried, many noted artists and sculptors. We were in Algiers from May 17 to July 5. While there we got a guide to take some of us up into the mountains, south of Beletia, and nearly froze.

Finds Some Oil Kings.

"While in Beletia we met some oil kings from Oklahoma that have been there six or eight years. They were certainly glad to see us. The last time I was in Gibraltar, I met a Y. M. C. A. secretary named Rankin, who is from Topeka. He used to be at the Daily Capital until about two years ago when he moved to New York City. I am going over to see him tonight. This is the first soul that I have met over here from Topeka. I have been away a year and a half and have seen no one that I know.

"They are getting together a crew to send to Turkey for the U. S. S. Scorpion, which has been interned since the war started. They are sending out a crew to relieve them, and my name was on the list, but I must have been excused some way for they have left me here. It would be a nice trip and I would like to go, but I would not get a chance to get back to the states soon. The only thing I fear is being transferred to the Philippines or China, on a torpedo boat. Last night the English sailors gave a banquet to the allied sailors, and we had a nice time. But our sailors and the English sailors do not pull together at all. I have seen some awful street fights between the two navies. The Spaniards cause a lot of trouble. Most of them are small but quick with a knife."

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Topeka Capital
Jan. 6 - 1918

PRICES SAME AS IN U. S.

Butter, sugar and milk are rarely seen on the tables in France, according to a letter from Carol Deaver, a member of the Sixth Regiment Marine Corps band, with the expeditionary forces in France, to his parents, Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Deaver, Fairview, Kan. Other commodities, however, are found in quantity and are about on an equality with the same articles in the United States as to price, he writes.

A good meal served in six courses can be procured for about 90 cents, he says, and hotel accommodations can be secured for less than a dollar a day. The French hotels are elaborately furnished.

The French people, as a rule, look upon the American soldier as more or less of a millionaire, undoubtedly because he is much better paid than the poilus, and of course the fact that the American soldier always has money has boosted prices in certain localities, according to Deaver's letter. He has found the French people very kind and courteous, and says that they will even go out of their way to do one a kindness.

Many French women in mourning are seen on the streets, and very few men in civilian clothes. Children of the poorer class wear wooden shoes.

A track meet and a football game were among the events on the program for the celebration of Thanksgiving, according to Deaver, who entered the 100-yard-dash in the track meet and played on the headquarters football team.

Topeka Capital
July 28 - 1918

BOCHE PRISONERS DIDN'T KNOW AMERICANS WERE FIGHTING THE KAISER

Fairview, July 27.—(Special)—Dr. H. J. Weaver has just received a letter from his son, Coral Deaver, a member of the Holton marine band, now in France. Young Deaver spent fourteen days and nights in the trenches and had but little rest and sleep. "We have the Huns on the run now," he writes. "We have taken many prisoners and they seem amazed to think that we are at war with them. All I have now is on my back, as I left everything I had when I went after the Boches. I am very proud to tell you that I was actively engaged in prac-

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Deaver, Harlan

Sabetha Star
July 16 - 1918

From Harlan Deaver
France, April 22, '18.

Dear Folks:-

I received your letter No. GIII last Tuesday and was sure glad to hear from you. Since you have my American postoffice number (726) my mail will come more regularly. It doesn't take long to get it here when it has landed in France and started for here.

I am faring as well as ever and feeling dandy. Seem to be holding my own in weight, too. Did I tell you that I weighed 150 pounds the last time I was weighed about a couple of weeks ago? Did you get one of my pictures that I sent you in my last letter? I am sending another of a different position, but of the same fellow in this letter. I also sent one to Fred and Aunt Allie so some of you ought to get them.

I guess I mentioned before about my "bunkee," John Kennedy, the fellow who bunks with me. We intended taking a bicycle ride out in the country yesterday afternoon but it rained and spoiled our plans. Bicycling is a very popular pastime as well as means of transportation over here. The fields are getting green, so a trip out in the country would be fine. There are eight of us fellows who have a small room to ourselves, so we have a better time than we would have in a large squad room. The French barracks are quite differently arranged than those were back in the states. Instead of each company having a separate kitchen and mess hall, we have several large mess halls and kitchens where we eat in large numbers. Uncle Sam is getting a goodly amount of supplies over here now so we have plenty to eat.

We had a couple of dandy meetings at the Y. M. "hut" yesterday. We have two ministers on the staff here. One gave a talk in the morning and the other in the evening. Then in the evening we had a dandy musical concert after the sermon. The man who attends these services can't help but be benefitted and go into the fu-

ture not only more determined to fight for the freedom of his country but to become master of himself and to live up to the expectations of the folks at home.

One corner of the Y. M. C. A. hut has been made into a kitchen and two American young women serve hot chocolate and a cookie for ten cents (or 50 centimes or one-half franc in French money) a cup. It sure tastes fine. There is a large number of American young women who have come over as Y. M. C. A. workers. It does a fellow good to see a real American woman, even though he doesn't know her.

I am still studying French. It wouldn't take long for me to learn to talk it more but I am afraid of making blunders.

I wonder how my Sunday school class is coming. Would like to happen into Epworth League some evening. I suppose Rev. Vernon's were sent back to Sabetha again at conference this spring. Did Mr. Woodbury speak about getting a letter from me about two weeks ago?

I am looking forward to getting the box that you sent. It ought to be here soon because I received the letter that was mailed the same day.

I am quite anxious to learn who was called into service from around Sabetha in the second draft. Must close wishing you good luck. Lovingly, Harlan.

Cas. Co No. 1, A. P. O., No. 726,
American Expeditionary Forces.

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Davenport, Kenneth

Topeka Capital
Sept. 2-1917

AMERICANS MORE SNAPPY THAN FRENCH SOLDIERS

But Poilus Mean Business, Kansan Writes Back.

Kenneth Davenport, Fort Scott Boy, Has Been In War Zone More Than a Year.

Fort Scott, Sept. 1.—(Special)—A dozen years ago George W. Marble, editor of the Tribune-Monitor, picked Kenneth Davenport out from among the high school boys of Fort Scott as the making of a good newspaper reporter. Marble was not disappointed in the boy who, after several years' service, went to the Joplin Globe as telegraph editor.

For several years Davenport had dropped out of sight, but a letter received from him by Mr. Marble yesterday, was dated "Somewhere in France," July 29. Discouraged over the delay in America's entrance in the war against the kaiser, he went to France more than a year ago and joined the French army.

Training for the service in France is similar to that at Fort Riley, Davenport says. Drill commands are in French, more simple than in the American army. By sound the American "right dress" in French is "adwagh alla-moh!"

Wants to See Kansans.

Kenneth Davenport is anxious for the coming of the Kansas soldiers. A mental preparation for the great struggle ahead of them, he says, is important and necessary. "At every camp here, speaking plainly," he says, "doctors have warned the Americans against immorality. Every American father should prepare his soldier son for service here; and should send him with a drinking cup and instructions to use it, as well as with a generous fund of worldly knowledge. German bullets are only a part of the danger; a Canadian soldier said he had been at the front seventeen months without firing his rifle."

Cold and rains are severe in winter, Davenport writes. Good shoes and socks are necessary for the Kansas boys. A cap and a coat lined with sheepskin are a boon. High boots, water proof, are a necessity. There is little opportunity to spend money.

Davenport says the French soldiers are not like the snappy looking men of the American army, but are worn and haggard with a vacant stare in their eyes, but they work hard and do not grumble. And in the same connection he tells of German airplanes that dropped ten bombs in the camp without injury to anyone the night before.

More Men Needed.

This young Kansan says he has seen very few women who are not in mourning, the insignia that tells of death of loved ones from German bombs and bullets. Most of the soldiers wear mourning bands on their arms, and soldiers recovered from their wounds wear "blessée" stripes on their right arms and can be seen everywhere.

"So far as one can see from a casual trip half across France, beginning at Bordeaux, the greatest need is for men," Davenport says. "America can help with its army. Fort Scott and Kansas know of the airplane and its purpose and how America can help by blinding the enemy. Planes are over this camp all of the time, mostly students just learning, but a few of the airmen do stunts that cause armies to halt to gaze. One would not believe unless he saw the marvelous glides and loops. It all seems strange to the peace of this farm with its sheep, geese, goats, work oxen, stone buildings, giant trees, sparkling spring and motherly housewives, some of whom are the bread winners now.

"The French treat Americans kindly but the shopkeepers cheat at every opportunity and even in places of class one is apt to be short-changed."

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Davis, C.M.

Hutchinson News
Nov. 4 - 1918

SALVAGE PLANTS.

Which are in Operation in France by the American Army Are Most Wonderful.

C. M. Davis, who is in the Y. M. C. A. work in France, writes a very interesting piece to the News, about the Salvage plants over there. His story is as follows:

The great amount of construction work carried on by the American Army is wonderful, however, in my opinion there is nothing so amazing and interesting as the huge salvage plant now in operation in France. There is nothing like it in the world in operation by any other army. I understand there is not a day passes but what some representative of an Allied Government inspects this wonderful plant and takes notes on its method of operation. Thousands and thousands of dollars, yes I am safe in saying millions and millions of dollars are being saved for U. S. Government. It is constantly being increased in its magnitude.

By the operation of this plant nothing is allowed to go to waste. Beautiful hospital Slippers are made from old campaign hats, that have been discarded. The soles of the slippers are made from these hats and the uppers are made from old woolen garments that are irreparable.

Oversea caps are also made from old uniforms unfit for repair as well as many other very useful articles needed for the comfort of the soldier. Some old garments are dyed green and marked "P W" to be used for the German prisoners of war. The old trench shoes that have been mended and cannot be mended any more are made into shoe strings.

The Shoe Department.

Shoes and boots are brought in by the thousand pairs. They are first washed and disinfected, sorted and then repaired, greased, inspected, packed and shipped out again. The production in this branch is about 3,500 pairs per day. The total value for the output for the month of August was \$449,599. About 80 percent of all the shoes first received are repaired. New machinery is being added

to this department constantly and will soon be able to turn out 7,000 pairs of shoes daily. At present this branch is operated by two officers, seven non-commissioned officers, 114 enlisted men, 280, males and 249 females civilians.

The depot has seven departments operating: laundry, clothing, shoes, rubber goods, harness and leather equipment, canvas and webbing and metals. The laundry alone employs 206 workers, over half of whom are civilians. All modern machinery and labor saving devices are used. Over 75,000 pieces are turned out daily.

The Clothing Department.

The clothing is probably the most important department. Its production is limited almost entirely to breeches and blouses, underwear, bedsacks and blankets. The daily output is 10,000 woolen breeches or blouses, 25,000 garments of underwear or bed sacks and 500 blankets.

After coming from the laundry, the garments are examined and marked for repair, or if not repairable they are cut up for patches. The patches for repairable garments are cut entirely from irreparable ones. After being repaired they are classified. Some are sent to the troops at the front for reissue and others for labor battalions. About 1,600 women are employed in this branch and 75 men. The value of the production for the month of August was \$2,040,831 while the operating costs were \$93,432.

There is a very great saving by the operation of the rubber goods department. It handles rubber boots, artics, slickers, ponchos and shelter-halves. It produces about 3,000 garments and 850 pairs of boots a day. A new feature just added to this department is the vulcanizing machine, which has proved most effective in the method of patching. The number employed is mostly women.

The harness department repairs all old pieces of harness brought in from the battle field. A thousand sets of harness weekly are repaired and 700 saddles. 150 women and 50 men are employed in this department. The value of this production to the government is \$215,453 monthly.

The Canvas Goods.

The canvas department handles leg-

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