

Letters from Boys Overseas

REGIMENT LOCATED NEAR THIRTEENTH CENTURY TOWN

George Gamble Writes His Sister, Mrs. John Albert Williams, From France—Strawberries in Blossom—Is Near Queen Anne's Palace—Where Is That?

France, That's All, Nov. 7, 1918.

My Dear Sister:

Well, I know you have no doubt wondered why you have never heard from me, but I have been busy and also have neglected to write to you and I have also been waiting to see something to write about. I haven't seen much, but will just say that I am still in the land of the living and feeling fine and truly hope these few lines will find you all the same.

We are across the pond from you in some or rather, near some city that I am not allowed to mention, but the place is very old and antique with its old buildings and some of which were actually built in the 13th century.

There is a cathedral here, much larger than Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, that was built in the 13th century and also the palace of Queen Anne.

The roads here have high stone walls around, or rather along side of them, and they tell me they were built during the old feudalistic days.

The climate here is very mild and I saw strawberries in blossom today. The people here all dress different and some of them wear wooden shoes and some of them wear aprons like "Mother Hubbards."

I witnessed a French soldier's funeral Sunday that was very much like our own only the mourners walk instead of ride and two altar boys carry crosses in front of the procession.

As for war news I guess you know more about it than I do as the news I get is very scarce and second handed at that, but from what I hear I think we will be coming home soon.

I was talking to a boy Sunday from the 366th and from what he says the Colored boys have done SOME fighting if only a few did come back from "over the top," also the old 8th Illinois.

This money over here looks like to

backo coupons, and is very confusing to me, but I hope I don't have to stay long enough to get used to it.

Well, sister, I must close for this time and hope to see you soon. Awaiting an early answer, I am, your loving brother, George.

SERGEANT GEO. W. GAMBLE, Hdqrs. Co. 809th Pioneer Inf., A. E. F. Via New York.

SENSATIONS OF ONE'S FIRST SEA VOYAGE

Moses Jordan Writes of His First Trip Across the Atlantic With Expeditionary Forces, November 7, 1918.

Dear Father Williams:

This is my first opportunity to write you since I left the states. I was hurriedly sent with the 806th Pioneer Infantry, in the medical detachment. I suppose you would like to know the nature of my work. I am being trained with a few more boys to care for the sick and wounded. Our work covers a broader field than that of a nurse, besides taking care of the sick and wounded, the sanitary condition of the infantry depends on us. We are to follow closely behind the infantry as it drives over the top or across "No Man's Land" and give first aid to the wounded. So you see, Father, I belong to a very important branch of the service. Besides my bit in the war I will return with a good knowledge of caring for the health of the community. I have met many medical boys who have seen active service in the trenches and who are skilled in medical service. Sometimes what I have to undergo in doing my bit makes me long for the post office, but when I see what our country has undergone and the task that now confronts it, I take courage and become as gay as I was the day I joined the army.

My trip across the ocean was pleasant, unpleasant, sensational, frightful, dreadful, educational, and all other moo-fying words one can think of in describing it. I have read the sayings of many poets and novelists about the sea; I have looked on the sea from the pen of artistic painters; I have heard about it from the lips

of eloquent orators and I have dreamed of voyages across it; but from whatever source my information came I am convinced that the half has never been told. After bidding my friends farewell, I boarded a transport and it steamed away. After all noise of land had ceased and the landscapes had vanished in the distance, and after the blue skies (in bowl shape) had encircled the sea, rolling of the waves and their surging and splashing against the sides of the vessel, sometimes pushing it out of its course, brought a peculiar feeling over me that is indescribable. My days at sea were not wearisome, for there was much to see that sometimes I longed for a thousand eyes to serve my greedy mind and insatiate wonderment.

Through association with other boys (and let me say, Father, that the sea will make the grouchiest friendly) I learned some interesting things about the social life of our boys throughout the states. I said throughout the states because we have boys from the southern coast of Florida to the Great Lakes and from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. Among us are boys of all classes, reaching from desperadoes to saints and from the most illiterate to the best the country has ever produced. There are hundreds of boys who cannot read or write; there are many who never left the regions of the plantations until the draft got them. The saddest case I found was an American, born in the state of Louisiana, who could not speak French or Creole or anything except a community dialect. He was the only one taken out of that community. The stories that some of the boys tell about the backwardness of their communities sound like fairy tales.

I am glad to say and can truthfully say that the subs have met their masters. The inventive genius of Uncle Sammy has made them almost powerless and it is now almost as safe to travel by sea as by land.

While on sea I went to the movies every day, attended boxing matches, hung around the library, and attended many religious meetings. After many days smiling France was spied one morning and I felt as happy as Columbus when he sighted San Salvador. I shall next write you from La Belle France. Love to all. Au revoir.

M. JORDAN, 806 Pioneer Inf., Hospital Corps, A. E. F.

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M. JORDAN, 806 Pioneer Inf., Hospital Corps, A. E. F.

Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson announce the coming marriage of their daughter, Miss Mabel N. Jefferson to Mr. George Atkinson, on December 23d, at Allen Chapel.

PRE-CHRISTMAS BAZAAR TO BE CONTINUED

Owing to the fact that the street car strike interfered with the attendance, the bazaar which was held Tuesday and Wednesday nights by the Women's Auxiliary and Altar Guild of St. Philip's Episcopal church, will be continued in the guild rooms next Thursday afternoon and night. This sale presents a good opportunity to buy beautiful articles suitable for Christmas gifts at reasonable prices.

For Rent—Modern furnished room, 1514 North Nineteenth street. Webster 5262. Mrs. G. Hickman.

FOR SALE

8-room thoroughly modern house. Paved street. Two blocks to 24th street car line. South of Lake street. Price \$2,100. Cash \$250. Balance like rent.

6-room, 131 North 37th street. Modern except heat. Chicken house and chickens go with house. Price \$2,500. Cash \$250. Balance like rent.

For rent—7-room flat, 1551 North 17th street, \$20.00.

10-room flat; all modern, 1527 North 17th street, \$25.00.

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BOYD

5 Days, Starting Matinee Sunday December 15

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RED CROSS ROLL CALL FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

American Public Asked to Respond With Universal Membership.

Is your name written there? Where? On the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call, of course.

Beginning with Red Cross Sunday, December 15, the entire American nation will be given the opportunity during the week of December 16 to 23 to line up for all those errands of mercy that the bright Red Cross against the white background has come to symbolize.

This is in no sense a call for funds. It is the annual call for service. Every member of every household, from the grandfather to the nursery, should be represented on the Red Cross Service Flag. Only dollar memberships are being asked for, and these are for the calendar year of 1919.

Everywhere throughout the fourteen Red Cross divisions the week will be celebrated as a rededication to personal service and self sacrifice. No matter what may be the immediate task ahead, there are bound to be increasing demands made on the Red Cross during the coming year, and every American, whether here or in foreign parts, has his part to play.

Through the Divisions every Chapter, and through the Chapter every Branch and Auxiliary will spread the Red Cross Message and endeavor to enroll every person in every community. Already the membership in this national organization has grown from some few hundred thousand in 1916 to more than twenty millions since our own country entered the world war. There are no limits set for the 1918 Christmas enrollment. Every American everywhere is the hoped for goal.

Programs subject to local conditions will be arranged for the week, based on suggestions worked out by national campaign managers at Headquarters. On Roll Call Sunday the Red Cross message will be preached from every pulpit, and all church meetings will arrange special programs of Red Cross activities.

With the co-operation of local artists, every community will be decorated with Red Cross posters. Posters will be used on all packages sent out from the stores during Roll Call week, and the movies will show films picturing the various Red Cross agencies at home and abroad. "For All Humanity" shows scenes taken on the actual battlefield. There will also be Women's day, club programs on Red Cross, special exercises in the Red

NO FIXED QUOTAS FOR 1919.

So great is the faith of the American Red Cross in the American people that no quotas have been assigned to Red Cross Chapters for the enrollment of members in the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call. Universal membership is the goal. Chapters are limited only by the number of people in their jurisdictions. The Roll Call will be finished only when every available person, without regard to age or sex, has been enrolled. Children may join only through the Junior Red Cross Auxiliaries, and their membership dues are twenty-five cents a year. The chief aim in enrolling is not to raise money but to increase the membership. Special emphasis is laid upon the regular membership at \$1.00 per year, but privilege will be given to enroll as a Contributing Member at \$5.00, Sustaining Member at \$10.00, Life Member at \$50.00 or Patron at \$100.00.

THE CLIMAX TO VICTORY.

During the week before Christmas the entire American people will have the privilege of answering the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call. The response should roar through the land with a unanimity that will stimulate to the uttermost the hopes of men in all parts of the earth. It will therefore be the climax of American idealism and will usher in Christmas with a Red Cross membership approximating the census figures. What the Red Cross wants is the approval of the American people of the Red Cross policy, and such approval will have the highest significance in the eyes of suffering people everywhere. President Wilson leads the response and passes along the message, "I summon you to the comradeship."

RED CROSS SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

The American Red Cross has established a manual training school for Belgian boys at Vaulruz, Switzerland.

PEACE MAKES GREATER NEED

Peace will not end the need of Red Cross relief work. On the contrary, the proclaiming of peace opens new fields of service for the Red Cross, and now, more than ever, the American people will be called upon to obey their generous impulses to bind up the world's wounds.

Membership in the Red Cross affords the noblest outlet for such impulses. Every American should answer "Here" to the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call.

WILL ENTERTAIN FOR STAR PERFORMERS

Messrs. Wade, Thomas and Black, who are stellar attractions in the Wonder Show at the Gayety theater for the next ten days will be entertained at a 6 o'clock dinner at the Top Notch cafe, Twenty-fourth and Hamilton streets, Friday night by the United Ladies' clubs of Grove Methodist church.

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June	4.17	Sept.	4.20
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		Nov.	4.22
		Dec.	4.23

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BUY BOOKS BY RACE AUTHORS

Within the past ten years YOUR race has made greater strides toward literary achievement than in the CENTURIES that went before. Become familiar with the work of RACE AUTHORS.

The Boy You Love
The boy you love in the training camp will make a better soldier and a better man if he knows the ringing lines of "Fifty Years" and the haunting pathos of "Black and Unknown Bards." You will find these in James Weldon Johnson's "Fifty Years and Other Poems," a book the critics of the world have called the greatest poetical achievement of the Colored Race. Professor Brander Matthews of Columbia University has written a remarkably fine introduction.

From the Fields of Alabama
A boy came fresh from the fields of Alabama to work his way through a session of the summer school at Harvard. A few roughly scrawled poems caught the eye of his professor. The result was a book of these verses. Today the author is in France, a corporal in a Machine Gun Company. Meanwhile the great literary newspapers of the east are saying that Waverly Turner Carmichael gives promise of rivaling DuBarbar. What do you know of this soldier author or his book, "From the Heart of a Folk."

In Spite of Bitter Handicaps
In Louisville, Kentucky, a Colored man, an educator and a poet, rose to a position where the best men of the community were proud to call him their friend. Now his son, scarcely more than a boy, overcoming the bitter handicap of falling health, has published his first book, and again the critics on the great metropolitan newspapers have acclaimed Joseph S. Cotter's "The Band of Gideon," not only a boy worthy of the best literary traditions of the day but also a

further proof of the rapid literary progress of his race.
You Have Seen With Your Own Eyes
You have seen with your own eyes the struggle of the Negro for education. You know the vital human side. That is why you will appreciate and want to read "Twenty-Five Years in the Black Belt," by William J. Edwards, the able founder and present head of Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute. Professor Paul J. Hanus of Harvard University has written the introduction.

Tender Haunting Lyrics
Isn't there some one you'd like to send a book provided you could find just the right book that would be a message as well as a book. Georgia Douglas Johnson has written just such a book of tender, haunting lyrics in "The Heart of a Woman." Why not make at least one girl happy by sending her a copy?
Do You Love Trees?
Do you love trees and the great out of doors? Maude Cuney Hare, daughter of the late Norris Wright Cuney, has collected the finest things written or said about trees in a beautiful gift book. William Stanley Braithwaite has written the introduction.

Another Race Bard
Many a scrap book contains treasured clippings of the poems of Charles Bertram Johnson as they occasionally appeared in the newspapers of the day. Now in "Songs of my People," a new book just from the press, the best of Mr. Johnson's poetry is brought together in permanent form and will give pleasure to the hundreds of admirers of his work.

There are other books, of course, and good books. It is impossible to mention all, and these are representative of the best. They are beautifully bound and are far above the ordinary book in book making as they are in literary value.

That it may be easy for you to secure them we will take orders for them at the publisher's lowest NET prices, which are:

Fifty Years and Other Poems, \$1.25. From the Heart of a Folk, \$1.00. The Message of the Trees, \$2.00. The Heart of a Woman, \$1.25. Twenty-five Years in the Black Belt, \$1.50. The Band of Gideon, \$1.00. Songs of My People, \$1.00.

Where the book is sent to a soldier or a sailor in a training camp there will be no charge for mailing. Otherwise, enclose ten cents for postage with every order to be sent by mail.

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