

Toronto, Feb. 5th. 1919.

Following are copies of recent letters from  
George:

From Echternach, Luxembourg, Dec. 5th, 18.

Well all I can say is that I have sure fallen down on the job this past week or two. But we have been so busy that I had no time to write in the daytime and at night there were no lights in quarters. We have evacuated most all our patients last night and this morning in preparation for our departure over the border, so I have a few minutes to devote to my neglected correspondence.

We are running a collecting station, which receives all footsore sick, and banged up men from the different divisions in the Third Army Corp. We are only one of many and believe me, we have been kept busier than we ever expected, and we had no transportation for evacuation we were flooded.

We are certainly seeing a beautiful country at present. It is so clean and substantial. The houses are big and roomy with real sure enough porches. The streets are wide and well kept. Some different from Sunny France. The building we are in here is an old monastery which belonged to the "Order of Benidictines", the birds who made the famous wine, We haven't found any hidden away in this place.

We haven't had any mail lately and as I haven't heard from home since Oct. 10th. which was before our beloved Raye's death, I am anxious for a letter. Am hoping that Mother stood up under the strain. She wants to take good care of herself as she has some mighty homesick boys who are counting the days until they can be again in the fold. I am in hopes that Ben has been discharged by this time and is home again. He will be good company for Mother and Dad as he is always so cheerful.

Well our next step will be into Germany. All we would have to do would be to cross the river here and we would set foot on the real German dirt. I haven't gone over the bridge yet altho' some of the boys have. Wish that we could go home from here, without going any farther. Wouldn't he so bad if the weather was nice and warm. I am fed up on this cold weather riding.

Am in good health and have gotten the best of a cold so feel rather satisfied. Will have to close now and get to work. Hope all is well in the east. Best love to all.

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From Prum, Germany, Dec. 11th, 18.

One year ago today we boarded the Tuscania and started on our eventful way to the front. And we sure got there. We have been on every front there was with the exception of the British front. I think our outfit has covered more milage in France and Europe than any one of the lot. We sure were on the run day and night getting there. And the Yanks kept going so darned fast that we really never knew just where we were at until it was all over.

We moved up here from Echternach yesterday and were supposed to go right on but there was a hitch some where, and we are here for a few days at least. We are quartered in a cafe on a main street, but as they have only sweet apple cider for drinking (in sight) we are very well behaved.

The weather is at last turning cold and from now on guess we are in for it. I see by the paper that Wilson and Gen. Pershing have said that the Occupation Army will be the last home, so guess it will be the last home late in Feb. or March before we get back to the States. Well here's hopes for some unforeseen incident that will send us home long before that. But I am afraid not.

Haven't had any mail so am still in the dark as to home news. An ambulance went to hdgtr's today for mail but hasn't returned yet. We are hoping that the trouble is such a large bunch of mail that he broke down. It would be worth waiting for. Will sure be glad to get back to the old fireside again and finished with this eternal writing. It wouldn't be so bad if we had a nice warm place to write in, but the cold, cold world don't look any warmer from an unheated room. eh? what?

Well our next move will put us on the Rhine, and then we ought to settle down for the long wait.

Hope that business is good and that you are putting across some real fast stuff. Guess it takes some real novel ad feats to catch the public eye these days.

Be good and keep your feet dry, eh? I'll try and do the same. The "being good" part is easy. Best love to all.

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From Ehrenreitsstein, Germany, Dec. 17th, 18.

Wie gehts. -How are all the Canucks? We have at last arrived at our destination and are what you might call settled for a while. Guess that when we move from here it will be in the direction of home. But I don't think that we will move for three or four months at the least.

This town is just over the Rhine river, from the big city of "Coblentz". Haven't had a chance to get over and see the burg yet so am not able to give you an description of it. Lots of time for that though. I forgot and left my fountain pen up in our barracks and am using a German penholder with a French pen point. They don't seem to want to work together or maybe its myself that can't get the combination. The front page looks like a bombed French town, eh, what?

We are running a hospital here on the order of the one we had at Langres, our first. There are two large brick buildings, steam-heated, electric lights, etc. It will make a dandy hospital and will be rather a decent place to spend out time. We are once more sleeping on cots, which is a great improvement on ground or floors. Feet aren't the only place that human beings can get corns. At least I've found it so. And the floors over in these foreign climes all seem to specialize in real hardness.

The weather hasn't as yet turned cold. We have sure been lucky to get over our trip before the snow set in. Our last jump was a long one and if it had have been cold, we would have certainly suffered.

We are all getting de-cooterized as fast as possible. We sure had our quota of the blamed things. In fact it was getting to be impossible to get a full nights sleep. Guess we will be able to stamp them out here as we have hot baths and steam sterilizers. Here's hopes!

Still no mail, but it can't be much longer now until we will receive some. The post office is close to us now and that ought to make our mail come to us more regularly than heretofore.

Hope you are getting good news from the various points and that you are in good health yourself. I am feeling fine and getting fat again. Will now close and get busy. Best love to all the gang.

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From Ehrenreitsstein, Germany, Dec. 21 18.

Received your letter of Oct. 21st, and altho' it was of an earlier date than the one I had from you some time ago, was glad to get it. It helped to fill up some void spaces.

Was glad to hear that Hazel and the girls are going to make their home with us at the old stand. We surely will be a big happy family and the girls will help to balance the man power that supernates at our table. I am looking forward to the day when I can get back and put my shoulder to the wheel and help make it so. Hazel's letter which came in with yours showed fine spirit and was mighty glad to hear that she was bearing up so bravely. We certainly were blessed with some queens for sisters.

Well C.V. the mill grinds slowly, but exceedingly fine. The peace signing looks a long way off, but expect that one of these fine days in the future will see it come to pass. Its a cinch that the war is over. But the hardest part of the game is always the waiting part, Still it can't be "elped y'know" so we should worry. Our hospital is running smoothly and we are handling our quota of patients, so guess that is all that is necessary.

Just finished a letter home. Have had no mail from them for so long that i'm rather homesick to see an envelope with #712 printed on the back. All the Western mail is tied up somewhere. Suppose



When we do get it we will get a bunch of it. From now on, as long as we stay here our mail ought to be more regular. The post office is just across the river. That helps quite a bit.

The weather is cold, but as yet no snow. We will probably get some of the beautiful for Xmas. "Isn't go bibble". Yes? Will close now. Hoping you have a most enjoyable time on Xmas day and sending love to all--

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From Ehrenbreitstein, Germany, Dec. 31st, 1918.

This will be the last time that I will write you this year. How sad? eh, what? Guess you will be able to stand the strain, never-the-less. Received your letter written Nov. 26th, day before yesterday and that was doing pretty good. Guess as you say the peace must have speeded up the mail service. With your letter was one from one of my friends in New York. Said that they had sure held some celebration in that city when the news of the armistice was confirmed. Well as I've said before they couldn't have been any more pleased than the boys over here.

The hardest part of the war is now upon us. The wait that will seem eternal. Every day seems a year and will until the day we see the only emblem of freedom and justice the world has, "Goddess of Liberty". Oh boy, guess we won't split the air when we catch our first sight of the old girl. Had a letter from Bob last week and he spoke of being sent to Harvard to finish up before sending him to sea. I have been in the dark right along as to the term of Bob's enlistment and can only surmise from his letter that he is in for three years. Am I correct? If so it sure is tough on him, as I think that he was coming along fine and really don't need the discipline that he will most assuredly get. I feel confident that by the time you receive this letter that Ben will be back home again. He will be a great comfort to Mother and a companion to the kiddies and Hazel.

I read your letters (copies) that you sent to me regarding your plans for a happy and wholesome #712. All I can say, O.V. is that I am with you to the limit. You have voiced my sentiments better than I could. I can hardly wait until I get back and get into the harness to do my share. We will make the old farm one of the homiest and happiest that the old city of Seattle has in it. We sure have the material to do it with. The only way to keep your family in is to make things so pleasant that they won't want to leave for fear of missing some of it.

I hope you didn't have to overwork yourself to catch up with your neglected work. Too much overwork is worse than the "flu" so watch your step. I am still in good health and watching my step. Hope all are well in the various corners of our scattered bunch. Once more sending wishes for the best, cheeriest and prosperous New Year that you have ever had. I am with love to all--

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From Ehrenbreitstein, Germany, Jan. 12, 19.

Just a line to let you know that all is well with me. Had a small cold but managed to shake it. We leave here for France in the next few days so this will probably be the last letter that you will receive from me until we reach our destination which is "Tours". We hope that this move means that we will soon be on our way home, but as yet there is nothing definite. But as Tours is in the embarkation district, it looks good. The weather is still mild here and we are hoping that it will stay so until we shake the dust of the Rhine from our shoes. I've had my fill of it and from the way the rest of the fellows talk I guess they feel the same. Haven't had any mail this past week from the gang but am in hopes that there will be some before we leave. It will be some time before we get any after leaving here as it will all come up here and then make the back trip.

We were relieved at the hospital yesterday and are now up on the hill in back of the town, in a large German barracks. We will turn in our trucks here and make the trip back by train. For which we are duly thankful. It sure would have been a cold old ride in the trucks. Imagine that on the other side of this Rhine valley it must be pretty cold, snow and everything. Once more we will shoulder our packs and hike. Lots of joy, eh, what!

Suppose you are having some real snappy weather in the east at the present time. Hope that you are in good health and have missed your old friend who likes you so well. Hope you will be able to get back to the coast again soon. I kind of keep putting your face in the bunch I expect to see around the festive board and hope it comes true. You and I left home so close together that I can't disassociate you from old #712. Guess that Ben will be the lucky one to get home first. Well home life will do more to build him up after the flu and pneumonia than any medicine would. Am wondering if Bob was at Harvard Xmas and whether you were able to get down and see him. Here's hopes.

If we are discharged in the east, I will try and see you on my way home. Would have a rather enjoyable chat I'm sure. But as yet it is all a pig in a poke and I'm not allowing myself to think about it much.

Will write again as soon as possible and until then be good and take care of yourself. Best love to all.

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From Ehrenbreitstein, Jan. 20/19.

I really ought to write to the folks tonight, seeing as three dandy letters came in from #712 today, but as I wrote last night will wait until tomorrow before sending another epistle in that direction. Also had a letter from Aunt Emma Randell and a couple from friends in the east - altogether it has been a rosy day. I was laid up all day so had plenty of opportunity for day dreams. The reason of my lay up is the "hives" and when I say they "itch", I can only say a small part of it. I'll take the cooties, fleas or anything in preference. Of course I have those also but have been so used to them that they have ceased to bother me, eh?

We haven't received our orders to depart, but are sure ready for them. Still I think that if we have to stay in Europe for any time at all that I would rather stay here, than go back to France and wait. The climate here is so ideal. Just like Seattle weather, in fact, it is even milder. So that is some inducement.

Guess Bob knows what cold weather is by this time. He must have noticed the change quite a bit on account of landing in the east in the middle of a season. His blood didn't get a chance to build up for the change. Still he is in such good physical shape that he ought to be able to stand the gaff. But here's one bird that doesn't want any of it. Pas de tout.

Wonder if Ben went back by the way of Toronto or whether he was shipped back so that such a chance was impossible. Am hoping that I will be able to see you before going on west. Will sure do it if humanly possible. I know that if I once get to the coast that it will take a team of good old Missouri mules to get me away from there.

We have had quite a few snaps taken by the boys in the outfit lately and as soon as they are developed will send you some. The boys are going to pool their films and make a big book so that we each will have them. That will be a mighty interesting souvenir and one that will always bring back the memories of our work over there.

I am in the best of health and spirits and heavier than ever. Weigh about 165 lbs. stripped, so you see that I'm not losing any weight. So you huskies will have to watch your step.

I am hoping that the weather isn't too severe in the middle east this year and that you have caught up in your back work. Well, old scout, am going to call a halt as the candle and my brain are both spluttering. Goodnight and best love.

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From Ehrenbreitstein, January 29th. 1919.

"Yours of Dec. 26th., came in and all I can say is, that you improve with age. No apologies are necessary for your lapse. I appreciate the amount of work you have on hand and your large correspondence list, and make excuses for you. Sure was glad to hear that you were in such good health. Hope the good news continues."



"Bet you was glad to see Bob, and am sure that you both enjoyed every moment of your company. Gosh, how I wish I could have been the lucky one! If you could only realize, C. V., how much I think of you and how much I have needed your advice. You are closer to my heart than you realize and I'm going to move heaven and earth to see you on the way back."

"Expect both Bob and Ben are back in civilian life again. It sure will seem most strange to me this time, to get back into it, and out of the rules and regulations that you have to buck in the military life. But I think that a little of it is good for every man. It proves to him that he can't have everything he wants when he wants it."

"Eblentz is a leave center at present and is jammed with soldiers. There is always some kind of amusement going on, and we are certainly lucky to be situated the way we are. Still it is only making up for some of the leaves that we didn't get. Our outfit never had any, but at that we were not the only ones, so we're not kicking."

"The weather is very cold and there has been snow on the ground the past three days. Heavy frost at night makes us button up our coats, I'll tell you. But as we have plenty of warm clothes and a warm barrack, we are not suffering in the least. Quite the reverse. Enclosed you will find a program from one of our shows. Better drop in as they are the "real candy". "Geo. I. Jones, 163rd., Field Hospital, American Ex. Forces, France."

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T O R O N T O , O N T .  
February 23rd. 1919.

Well Good People, it's been along time since I have endeavored to send forward any communication in the form of a Bulletin, and I'm not intending to try any excuses as no doubt I would not get by with them.

Hazel and the boys being at our old home, and Ray's home broken up, with Audrey living at "712" shortened up my "mailing list", and my responsibility to a great extent.

Candidly, my season's work has been a heavy one, and I have been so tired (possibly lazy)--at the end of each day that rest and recreation seemed the most valuable thing for me to take on in my spare moments. A selfish idea I know, but it had to be. This scheme has worked out all right, as I have been in splendid health all winter, and have not lost one minute of time to my firm.

The winter has been a marvel--almost like the Pacific Northwest. Just a trifle colder, and lacking the green grass and foliage. (And the glorious mountains).

During the winter I have had the pleasure of hearing most of the prominent men who have visited the city, and addressed the noonday luncheon of the Empire Club, an organization to which the Company kindly gave me a membership last Fall. Among the men I heard were Carlo Carpenter, the Victoria Cross hero who bottled up Zebrugge. This week we will see and hear General Pau, the French General who did so much towards saving Paris during 1914. Last week we heard Mr. Cyril Maude, the eminent English actor. About a month past we had ex-President Taft with us.

Letters from home indicate that the large family now assembled there are getting on healthfully and harmoniously. "Some family", too! Father, mother, Hazel, Ben, Bob, Marcia, Hazel Jr., and Audrey. 'Tears to me there should not be many dull moments in that "neck-o'-the-woods". And I hope to add one more member to the "ensemble" during three weeks of next July. If they will find me a good "job", I'll make it a permanent proposition again.

Now, I don't know when you will hear from me again, but I'll do the best I can.

With best wishes to all, I am, sincerely,

