

Over a Quarter Million Pounds of Tobacco was Sold on the Manning Market Tuesday and Wednesday, Netting Over \$100,000. Manning Leads the State

The Manning Times.

VOL. XXXVIII

MANNING, S. C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

No. 29

CROSWELL DAVIS WRITES FROM SUNNY FRANCE

France, June 15, 1918.

Smile, folks, smile. Nix on the sob stuff. Life in France is not a day-in-and-day-out proposition of living knee-deep in blood and mire of the trenches. Neither is it a life of dodging shells every few moments.

And this is not a letter about war or flying machines. It deals with civic attractions.

New that summer is here and the days are long, much can be accomplished. The huts that in winter looked cold and dreary have been surrounded with green grass and flowers of every kind. The walks are lined with clean white rock. Everything is in a clean, neat, orderly manner.

Fields that were once shell-torn now hold camps that have been transformed into plats of beauty. It is not that ugly clung-together-over-night camp of yesterday. It is a home—a home that carries with it the pride and satisfaction of the home-makers, who happened to be, in this case, soldiers of the A. E. F.

A look into these huts reveals further home-making. They in spare time have built trinkets, lockers and thousands of other things to recall home life and loved ones.

The athletic fields are very popular now. Volley ball, baseball, and every other kind of amusement exist until night, when you will find all of them have enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent.

The Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. huts are popular resorts to the men who wish to while away the time writing home or "chewing the rag," as it were, and a smoke with other pals.

Aside from the sentimental part of France is not a bad place. It is a great experience for the average young man—an education within itself. It is making a bigger man of your boy, giving him an opportunity to bring those traits to light that are bound to break through the surface when the test of manhood comes.

The assertion that the army is bound to break or make a man is erroneous. If it isn't in a man, it cannot break him. But if the good is in him it is bound to come out. He will come back to you a better man, mentally,

because of his wider education of the world; better physically, for the "roughing it" he must endure; and, perhaps, better morally, for to the average man, the army experience gives him a wider conception of right and wrong, of the big and little of life, and the wide variation of thoughts between sordid, depressing thoughts, and the clean, wholesome thoughts of manhood.

Of course, we are not all coming back, for each of us are offering our lives to make the world safe to live in, and some of them are going to be chosen. It is but natural that we should mourn our loved ones who have died, and those who are to die on freedom's battle-field. But thousands of mothers and fathers are blessing the day that gave them a son, that he may offer his life, for so worthy a cause. If your son's life is chosen it is a sacrifice worthy of any man and soldier.

That boy of yours is a valuable cog in a big piece of machinery, and he is proud of it, through and through. He is happy, and is a big man in a big business. And so it is up to you to keep the machine going "over there" while we give the Hun all he can attend to "over here."

This is the end of the story. Just these few lines thrown together to show a little sunlight in with the murky Hunism, and to let you know it isn't time to hang crepe. To some, war means trenches; to others it means big guns; to still others it means combats in the air. But to the most of us war is business—strictly business.

I have been working on the front since Jan. 19, with the exception of ten days when we were moving from one front to another. And, believe me, the First Division surely has made the Huns open their eyes. I do not believe they are regarding the Americans so lightly now.

So cheer up. We're happy and working like the devil, so that we can get this little unpleasant job over with, and go back. So smile, and nix on the sob stuff.

Yours sincerely,
CROSWELL L. DAVIS.

ALLIES STILL GAINING GROUND SLOWLY ON GERMAN HORDES

Number of Towns of Strategic Importance Taken by French and American Troops

HUN RETREAT CONTINUES

Midway Between Soissons and Amiens French Strike Blow by Way of Divergence With Splendid Results. Huns Fear Heavy British Attack East of Amiens. In Albania French and Italian Troops Continue to Make Progress

The Entente Allied troops on the Soissons-Rheims salient continue to gain ground, both on the western side of the battle front and on the south along the Marne and toward Rheims, notwithstanding the increasing resistance of the Germans and the bad weather that is prevailing on the southern part of the line.

While the latest gains recorded are not as great, on the whole, as those of previous days, they nevertheless have added positions of strategic value to the Allied line for the further prosecution of the efforts to clear the territory of the enemy. In the fighting more prisoners, guns and war stores have fallen into the hands of the American, French and British troops.

As a diversion the French to the northwest, midway between Soissons and Amiens have delivered a blow against the German line, which has been productive of excellent results. Striking on a front of about four miles Gen. Foch's troops penetrated the enemy lines for a distance of about two miles and gained the heights dominating the valley of the Aisne river and the plains beyond. Fifteen hundred Germans were captured by the French. The official communication issued by the French war office refers to this fighting as a local operation.

Huns Pushed Back
South of Soissons the drive of the Franco-American forces toward Fere-En-Tardenois has pushed further back the Germans on both sides of the Ourcq river. South of the river, notwithstanding fierce resistance, the Allied forces reached the railroad line between Armentiers and Coincy, running southward to Chateau-Thierry, and pressed on beyond it. This advance brings the French and American troops relatively to within seven miles of Fere-En-Tardenois, and also gives them a dominating position for big gun play over the eastern section of the railway line running from Armentiers to Fere-En-Tardenois.

Americans Take Town
On the northern bank of the Marne to the east of Chateau-Thierry the town of Jaulgonne, from which the Americans retreated during the German offensive, has been recaptured and left in the rear by the advancing troops. East of Jaulgonne the French likewise have advanced their line on the north bank of the Marne and clung to their newly won positions, notwithstanding the violence of the German counter moves and the statement of the German War Office that they were driven out.

British Gain
Likewise south of Rheims where the British are fighting with the French strong enemy positions have been captured and the Allied line advanced nearly a mile. The reinforced German front here stubbornly contested the advance but the British and French gained the advantage and in addition to inflicting heavy casualties took prisoners and five guns. The British alone captured 300 Germans.

The counter-attacks of the Germans continue with great violence, with heavy gun and machine gun fire behind them. Where they are forced to give ground the Germans are leaving numerous machine gun nests in the open to harass their enemies and aid in making secure their retreats.

Rain of Gas Shells
The Germans apparently are fearful that the constant nibbling at their lines east of Amiens by the British are sending a rain of gas shells over the Villers-Bretonneux sector as a precaution. The British on various sectors of the front in France and Flanders continue daily to make slight gains against the enemy and take prisoners and machine guns.

In Albania both the French and Italian troops are keeping up their pressure against the Austrians. In the latest reports from Rome and Paris considerable gains are credited to the Allied troops and also the capture of important positions and prisoners and guns.

German Account
Berlin, via London, July 23.—The headquarters report this evening says: "There have been local engagements on the western bank of the Aisne. Between Soissons and Rheims the Crown Prince's army frustrated a strong attack by joint enemy forces."

The text reads: "At many points on the front British detachments advanced against our lines. They were repulsed. Artillery activity revived in the evening. There was quiet on the battle front

at times. South of the Aisne, the enemy, as a result of his heavy losses, did not renew his attacks yesterday. The artillery duels also decreased in violence.

"On both sides of the Ourcq and between the Ourcq and the Marne the enemy launched violent partial attacks on nearly all sectors; they were repulsed. South of the Ourcq they were frustrated by our counter-attacks.

"Enemy detachments which penetrated our advanced positions on the Marne on both sides of Jaulgonne were thrown back to the river by counter-attacks. There have been local battles southwest and east of Rheims.

"Fifty-two enemy airplanes and four captive balloons were brought down yesterday."

Huns Counter With Vigor
With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 23.—The fighting continued throughout tonight north and northeast of Chateau-Thierry. The Germans by no means were slack in accepting the Allied challenge and struck back with great vigor. The fighting immediately north of Chateau-Thierry was so fierce as almost to rob it of the suggestion that it was a rear guard action.

With a minimum artillery fire by both sides the Americans advanced their skirmish line over yellow wheat fields, dotted with poppies, and through clumps of woods. It was Indian fighting modernized by machine gun work.

The Germans left on the field a great number of machine gunners in nests. Many of these guns were captured, and the entire personnel of a machine gun company tonight is swelling the already big list of prisoners taken.

Bad Weather Sets In
With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 23.—The weather along the battle front this morning was inclement, rain and mist prevailing.

German reinforcements were reported today in the district to the east of Soissons at the tip of the German right flank on the Aisne-Marne line.

While fires were reported in the district to the north of the Marne last night there were no reports of similar conflagrations along the line south of Soissons or that running southwest of Rheims.

The indications thus were that the Germans have determined not to give up additional territory along these flanks of their positions unless they are compelled to do so.

Very Heavy Fighting
London, July 23rd.—Immediately south of the river Ourcq on the Aisne-Marne battle front, the advancing French forces are reported to have had very heavy fighting today. Nevertheless, they have succeeded in reaching several places on the railroad between Armentiers and Coincy. This part of the railroad is more than six miles to the east of Neuilly St. Front.

The situation along the river Marne was unchanged today except that the Germans apparently overwhelmed some of the French troops across the river south of Vincelles and north of Dormans.

TO STOP LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION TO ENEMY

Washington, July 22.—The emergency corporation is making new efforts to cut off all possible leakage of information to the enemy through neutral countries.

There is no matter of graver interest or concern to the central powers than the progress of the shipbuilding program of the United States, it is asserted.

Today a general order was put into effect at all United States ports by the issuance of positive instructions to collectors of customs to refuse permits for taking photographs and specifications of American vessels and shipbuilding plants out of the United States.

Large quantities of marine documents considered as jeopardizing the military interests of the government are said to have been seized at the port of New York. Among the papers were detailed drawings of American steamships, sailing vessels and minesweepers and detailed specifications of merchant vessels and ships being built in this country for the French navy.

VON HINDENBURG AGAIN

Off Reported Dead; Now Reported Seriously Ill

London, July 23.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg, chief of the German general staff is seriously ill and has taken no part in military operations of the present year, according to information from Berlin, says a Central News dispatch from Berne today.

At great personal effort, the message adds, the field marshal was present at a few of the receptions, but went through the functions without speaking. He is quite incapable of writing, the advices declare.

HARRY LEVISON LIKES THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER

Tours, France, 6-20-18.

Dear Ben: Your letter dated May 20th received a few days ago. It was, beyond a doubt, read with more interest than any yet received.

Well, Ben, as this is June 20th, you are no doubt now in camp, and going through the first maneuvers of a recruit. Boy, my sympathy is sure with you, for I know how I felt the first few weeks in camp. But don't worry, you will gradually become accustomed to camp life, and as the days go by, you will like it better and better. (Continuous laughter.) She seems a little hard at times, but with all the hardships there is lots of pleasure intermingled.

Sister Jennie had already written me concerning Harry Riff going to camp. How does he like the change from a "Style-Plus" to an "Uncle Sam?" I know the old scout took it pretty hard to begin with. Bet he is enjoying it now, though.

Yes, Ben, it is best that you did not claim exemption. If you had, after the war, the civilian population, and even the soldiers returning from France, would have branded you as a coward and a slacker. There would be no peace for you anywhere. Fingers of scorn would be ever pointed in your direction; and the people would ask: "Who are you, that you failed to do your bit?"

'Tis better to suffer the hardships and dangers of a thousand hells than to be looked upon, and really be, an outcast from decent society. Although the soldier's life in France is not a bed of roses, I would not trade places with any boy in America today who is safe from all dangers, but looked upon as a slacker.

When this war is over and peace reigns once more, who will be "The man of the hour?" Certainly not the man who stands behind and shirks his duty to his country and to himself; but the man who sees his duty before him, and performs it faithfully regardless of all dangers that might lie in the path ahead.

I glory in your "spunk", and congratulate you on your decision. May there be many more to see and appreciate it as you do.

Many a man has yet to be sent over before that monster of all nations, Germany, can be whipped. If you could see the havoc wrought by this barbarous nation; see the thousands of children made orphans, all for the sake of the ambition and greed of one man, there would be no hesitancy on the part of any red-blooded American to step forward and say: "I am ready and willing to make the supreme sacrifice, so that this nation (Germany) cannot again rise and cause untold agony and suffering to fall upon peace-loving and more humane nations."

Many thanks Ben for wanting to send me a War Savings Stamp as a souvenir. Sorry you forgot it. Bring it along with you when you come over. Will appreciate it just as much then.

Your friend,
Harry Levinson.

Pvt. Harry Levinson, No. 2,312,437, Co. D. Hdqrs. Bn., A. P. O., 717, American E. F., France, P. S. Answer real soon.

OFFICERS HOLD UP RAINCOAT ORDERS

Action Follows Arrests in Alleged Graft in Contracts

MANY DEFECTIVE COATS

Not Known Whether Order Means Cancellation of Contracts or Seizure of Plants

New York, July 23.—Officers of the army quartermaster's department tonight notified concerns named by the Department of Justice in its expose of an alleged nation-wide conspiracy of bribery and graft in the manufacture of soldiers' raincoats, that no more deliveries would be accepted until further notice, and that payment would be suspended on large quantities of goods already delivered.

This action was taken by Captain F. C. Weightman, U. S. R., in charge of raincoat inspection, and Major Thomas McGrath, in charge of the inspection of all war materials in this district. It followed the arrest yesterday of seventeen raincoat men and the discovery of thousands of defective raincoats, ready for shipment to France, at the quartermaster's depot here.

Many Defective Coats

According to the investigators working under Assistant Attorney General McGrath, many bearing rejection marks and others which had not even been inspected. These defective coats it was said, at the request of the DWI it was said, were packed with other coats, in bundles packed by the manufacturers.

Investigators intimated that more rejected or uninspected coats had been slipped through since the place of inspection was shifted a few months ago from the quartermaster's depot to the factories. This change had been made, it was said, at the request of the manufacturers, who claimed that prompt performance of their contracts required earlier payment than could be had if inspection was not made until final delivery.

Meaning of Order

Federal officials would not state whether suspension of deliveries and payments mean that contracts will be cancelled or whether they would re-plant by the government.

HUNS CONTINUE RETREAT

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 23.—Information reaching the intelligence department of the American army tonight indicated that the Germans were still continuing their retreat.

Far behind their lines they are being subjected to a heavy fire by both French and American guns, which doubtless is hampering the movement of their enormous supplies.

CLEARING NORTHERN BANK

German Position at Uulchy le Chateau Becoming Untenable

Paris, July 23.—French progress in the region of Culchy-le-Chateau, says the Echo de Paris, will soon render the German positions in that sector untenable. New forces of Gen. de Mitry's arm have crossed the Marne between Pisy and Dormans, says the Petit Journal, which concludes that the Northern bank of the Marne in this region will soon be cleared of the enemy.

37 HUN PLANES DESTROYED

Shot Down by British and French Airmen

Paris, July 23.—Thirty-seven German airplanes were brought down or put out of action by French and British airmen yesterday. Four captive balloons were burned and many tons of bombs were dropped on German concentration points. This announcement is made in the official communication issued by the war office today.

GRANTING OF DIVORCES IS LEGALIZED IN CUBA

Havana, July 22.—Granting of divorces in Cuba is now legalized by a bill passed by the senate. Under it neither party to a divorce may marry a third party until a full year has elapsed from the time the decree is granted.

The divorced pair, however, may again become husband and wife through remarriage at any time.

The principal grounds on which a divorce may be applied for by the innocent party are infidelity, habitual drunkenness, failure to provide and failure to return within two years after judicial declaration of absence from home.

CYCLONE LIFTS WATERS OF LAKE UP TO CLOUDS

Fond-du-Lac, July 22.—During a slight rainstorm recently a cyclone formed over Lake Winnebago and the funnel-shaped cloud, dipping down to the surface of the lake, drew up immense volumes of water which were later discharged from the cloud in such quantities as to resemble a cloud-burst.

The Times lost one subscriber this week, but he has been replaced by thirty-one new ones.

He stopped our paper, claiming it was a Blease paper. Evidently he got his news mixed. At least it looks so to us.

You will no doubt be disappointed when you try to send me the things you speak of in your letter, as Uncle Sam has decreed that no more parcels or packages of any kind can be sent to the "Sammies" in France. In order to get anything from the States, I would have to make a specific request for articles wanted and have it endorsed by my company commander. I've decided not to do that, so you see, my receiving anything from the States is a bygone dream.

It certainly is a source of gratification to me to know that the folks back home are so solidly behind the boys over here. Without their help we could do nothing. In order to win this war each and every one must do his share. That "Work or Fight" law is a good one, and will no doubt force some of the heretofore idlers and loafers to find a useful occupation. It will go pretty hard with the poor fellows, won't it? Too bad they won't be allowed to "Bum" around while others work. They sure have my sympathy, as well as contempt.

You can just "can" that hero stuff. At present I am only a clerk, so don't have much chance to perform any heroic deeds. Will wait until you come over, then we will show "Fritz" a thing or two together.

I know you and Harry pulled a big one while in New York. Wish I could have been there. Wait until I reach the old Metropolis again; Broadway won't be wide enough or me to pass through.

I note what you say with reverence to your Liberty Bonds. That's fine! Keep it up. At the rate you are going, J. P. Morgan will soon look like a piker.

Ben, one hundred dollars in France today doesn't make a man as rich as you think it does. You must remember that these are war times, especially in France, and that everything is extremely high. Say anything to the French people about the high price of things, and they will say "C'est La Guerre", which in the language of God's people means: "It is the war."

Boy, this is a great country. You can have a good time or a bad time, just as you make it. When you land, don't squander your money on any and everything you see. You will no doubt be over here quite a while, so go easy. I made the mistake of being too free in the beginning, and now regret it. Experience is a good teacher. I am learning fast.

Glad you were so successful in your canvas for the Red Cross. That's a wonderful organization over here. But for that, many a poor soldier boy would suffer for lack of attention.

Well, so long, old scout. Give my regards to all my friends. Hope to see you over here before many days. It will hardly be my privilege to meet at the train, but nevertheless you will be welcomed. I am,

Your friend,
Harry Levinson.

Pvt. Harry Levinson, No. 2,312,437, Co. D. Hdqrs. Bn., A. P. O., 717, American E. F., France, P. S. Answer real soon.

FOOD CRISIS IS OVER STATES MR. HOOVER

American Food Administrator Makes Address in London

DROP OF \$8 BALE RECORDED

All Anxiety as to the Great Essentials of Food Past, He Says

London, July 23.—Speaking at a luncheon given in his honor by the lord mayor at the Mansion House today, Herbert C. Hoover, the American food administrator, gave a most reassuring review of the food situation.

We can say emphatically that all anxiety as to the great essentials of food is now passed," Mr. Hoover declared.

In a statement today on food problems, Mr. Hoover spoke of the great problem of agricultural substitution, which, he said, was dominated by two critical and related factors, the first of which was time, and the second expenditure in fodder and land productivity.

"To increase our beef production," continued Mr. Hoover, "would require from three to five years. On the other hand, we could bring about an enormous increase in our meat and fat production through swine within nine to twelve months."

Mr. Hoover said the American agricultural population had been urged along this line and had been given assurances which had led to a wonderful increase in swine production.

"I have in my possession the needs of the European Allies for meat," the food administrator went on. "We can furnish this whole volume in pork alone. We can summarize our present position by stating that within the next twelve months we can, with less pressure of saving upon our people, export 18,000,000 tons if necessary, and to this Canada will add 3,000,000 tons."

After announcing that all anxiety had passed Mr. Hoover continued: "We are building ships as a part of our submarine defense. We have now built up our food reserves in the nearest market as a further defense. The call for ships for food next year will be less than last and consequently we will have more ships for American soldiers."

DAMAGED STEAMER IN TOW

Believed to Be Ship Damaged in Explosion

An Atlantic Port, July 23.—A large four masted Belgian relief steamer passed here south bound in tow of the wrecking tug Resolute today. Her name could not be distinguished, but painted in large letters on her side, were the words "Belgian Relief Ship." It was thought she was the steamer which was damaged in an explosion at a North Atlantic port several months ago and was being towed to another port to finish repairs.

ABSORBED BY SOUTHERN

Carolina and Northwestern Railway is Merged

Knoxville, Tenn., July 23.—The Carolina and Northwestern Railway, 135 miles long and valued at \$2,700,000, has been absorbed by the Southern Railway and the management of it will maintain its corporate identity as have other short lines merged with the Southern.

BRISTOL PLANES NOT OF MILITARY VALUE

Washington, July 23.—Production of the United States of Bristol type of fighting planes has been discontinued after tests showing that the machine is not of military value, the War Department tonight announced.