

## CAPT. HUDGENS TELLS OF HUN WORK

SAW GERMANS RENDERING BODIES INTO FATS.

### Soldiers Come Home From the War

Lieut. Joseph F. Smith, of Waterloo, Reaches New York on Steamship Comfort.

New York, Jan. 19.—Four steamships, their decks crowded with American fighting men, hundreds of whom gazed upon the home shores from cots and convalescent chairs, passed the Statue of Liberty today amid a din from harbor craft, bringing home 4,992 heroes. The climax of the demonstration came when the hospital ship Comfort bearing 371 sick and wounded entered the upper bay and was hailed by cheers from the throngs on shore and the strains of "Home Sweet Home" from a band on board a vessel carrying Mayor Hylan's committee of welcome. As the Comfort came abreast the Statue of Liberty a great shout arose from her decks, crowded to the rails with soldiers in bandages, supported by crutches and canes or seated in easy chairs. Through the port holes of the hospital ship glimpses were caught of the more seriously wounded.

The other steamships were transports—the Lapland, which brought 2,065 soldiers; the Sierra, with 1,515, and the Wilhelmina, with 1,041 aboard. Of the sick and wounded brought back by the Comfort 120 were naval men and four were marines.

The troops of the Lapland for the most part were casual companies made up of men from base hospitals in France and England and most of whom were convalescent. One other detachment, the One Hundred and Fourteenth Trench Mortar Battery, which had not seen service at the front, was on its way back to Camp Beauregard, La. The casual companies and their destinations are:

Nos. 211, 212, 213, Camp Dix; No. 214, Upton; Nos. 215, 216., 338, 419, Meade; No. 417, Gordon. The Lapland also carried 56 casual officers.

Among the troops on the Sierra were the Three Hundred and Thirty-seventh Regiment of Field Artillery and 237 casual officers and enlisted men, the latter from hospitals in France. Also on board were the Three Hundred and Thirty-fourth and Three Hundred and Eleventh Sanitary Train of the Eighty-sixth Division, the headquarters field hospital and three hospital units and 122 wounded.

Among the wounded officers on the Comfort were Lieuts. Joseph F. Smith, Waterloo, S. C., and Benjamin F. Malone, Monticello, Ga.

The Comfort left Plymouth, January 5, and five days later put into the Azores after a stormy passage. A turkey dinner was served the wounded before the ship put to sea again and the trip from Azores was in smooth seas.

Germany was in dire straits when the war ended, according to Capt. Robert W. Hudgens, of Laurens, S. C., who arrived on the Comfort. He was attached to the One Hundred and Eighteenth Infantry, Thirtieth Division, and when the town of Bellecourt was captured the captain said the Americans found the bodies of German soldiers being prepared to be rendered into fats. A complete rendering plant was found beside the Bellecourt Canal, Captain Hudgens said.

Three wounded heroines also were aboard the Comfort. All were nurses and one of them, Miss Marie Smith, of Berkeley, Cal., was wounded in the foot by shrapnel at Chateau Thierry while attached to medical unit with one of the 16-inch naval gun crews. Members of the gun crew declared she kept on attending to the wounded until ordered from the field by an officer.

### Yank Germans Couldn't Keep Down.

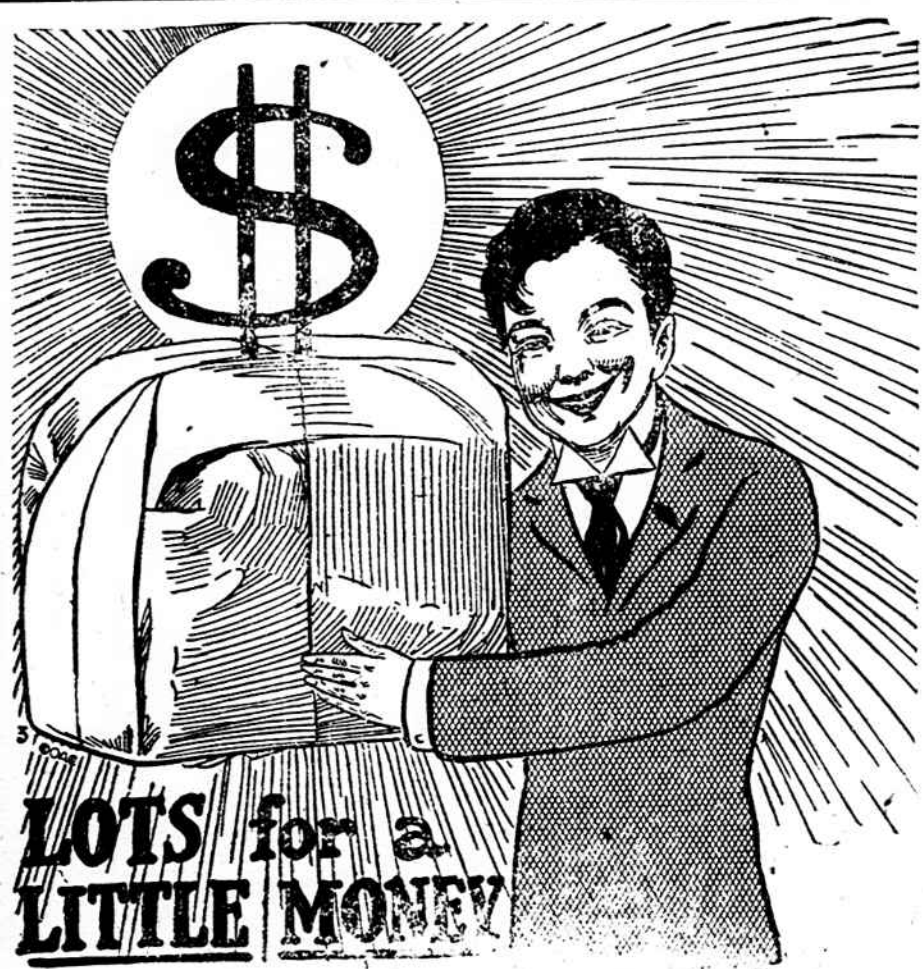
Fitchburg, Mass., Jan. 19.—Sergeant Gordon W. Hardy is one of Uncle Sam's soldiers that the Huns couldn't kill. Eight times his name was on the casualty list, but now he's back home safe and sound. Seven times he was wounded. Twice he was gassed by mustard gas. He spent nine weeks in a German prison camp, from which he made a daring escape. Hardy was one of the first 30,000 American soldiers on the firing line in France and he served with the United States divisions which were practically wiped out. This twenty-three-year-old lad has been complimented by General Pershing for bravery. He declined to try for a commission. "I want to be in action all the time and not scratching my desk with spurs," he said.

# Just Arrived

We have just received three carloads of mules and horses from the Western markets. These animals were personally selected by our Mr. W. P. Jones, and they are in the pink of condition. They are now to be seen at our stables. Don't fail to see them before you buy.

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BUY W. S. S. and Help WIN THE WAR

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J. J. Smoak  
Bamberg, S. C.

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