

## LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

From Sergt. Leon Yeargin,  
Bourbonne les Bains, France,  
Dec. 17, 1918.

Dear Mother:  
I haven't much to write tonight, but thought I'd better let you know that I am still kicking high. Nothing to do but find some way to pass the time away, which I find it quite a proposition, or was, until the last day or so. Since then I've been taking a ride on horse-back most every morning and evening. Went for a long ride this afternoon up in the hills near here. Enjoyed it lots, the scenery is great. Passed through a little town right on top of the highest hill around here and saw some of the oldest houses, one of them had the date 1505 with an inscription in Latin written over the door.

Well, I think the majority of the twelve boys here are ready to start for home. Some guy wakes me up every morning at 5 o'clock hollering at the top of his voice, "I want to go home." There is twelve of us here and about three of them want to go home so bad that the first thing they do when they wake up is to yell, "I want to go home." As far as I can see we are a long way from going yet. Every day we get machinery in. Some of the boys carried a tractor and rock crusher out to the quarry this morning. That doesn't look like gold home, eh!

Say, I haven't heard from you since the armistice. Had a letter Nov. 26th, written Nov. 4th. Since then I've had two mailed to Dejon, A. P. O. 721. Am anxious to get a letter written since Nov. 11th. Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Am expecting to hear from you soon,  
Love to all,  
Leon.

From Gary Evans Boazman,  
Somewhere in France,  
Oct. 9, 1918.

Dear Dad:  
I receive yours and Charlie's letters last Saturday, October 5th, and was sure glad to hear from home, and to know that all are well. I've been pretty puny with cold, but am feeling pretty good again. Well, I don't know very much to write this time, for I believe I've told you about all I know about France before, which is not very much. The weather is pretty cold over here

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now. I have not seen any of the home boys over here yet. I guess Mason Cole is with this division yet, but I haven't seen him since I left the States. If I see any of the boys, will let you know about it.

Say, I'm not sporting these French girls much. I can't learn their way of jabbering. Think I've learned about 2 or 3 words in French. I don't know if I have them exactly right or not. You see I have to use signs when I'm talking to these French people, something similar to talking to a deaf and dumb person, so I have a pretty slow way of getting along in France. At one place over here, I went to get a canteen of milk, an old man came out. I turned my canteen up to my mouth, as if I were drinking and pointed to a cow in the yard. Thought sure he understood, so he took my canteen, and brings it back filled with wine. As the wine was the same price as the milk would have been, I took it, for it's no telling what he might have brought next time. Well I guess I will close for this time, but will write again pretty soon. You write as often as you can. Take good care of yourself and don't work too hard.

Lovingly, your son,  
Gary Boazman.

(The following to his mother.)

Dear Mother:  
I hope you are well and enjoying good health. I'm feeling all right. At last I am sending you pictures of myself and two friends of mine. You can give one to Coz, Fannie Brown, if she wants it. She asked me to send her one when I had some made, but I'm going to have some made of myself alone the first chance, and will send you some of them. Tell Less and Rob I got their letters a few days ago, and will write them real soon. Mama, I'm sending a Christmas package coupon. When you read it, you'll understand what it is for. Send me something, I don't care what. I won't write you very much this time. Write soon. I will write as often as I can. With love for all the family,  
Your son,  
Gary.

From William A. Armstrong,  
Somewhere in France.

Dear Mother:  
I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. You asked me about the war. Everything is moving on nicely. You watch the papers and you will find out lots. You also asked me about the country. Well, you take a little trip over at Barksdale some day, and you will imagine how it looks. There are lots of pretty girls over here, but I haven't learned to talk French to them yet. I am feeling fine now, and don't you worry about me, for I'm coming home some of these days. I am trusting in God and I feel like your prayers have been answered. I want you to pray for me to be faithful to the end. Tell them all hello for me, and I hope to be home soon for I want to roam over them old hills once more. I will close for this time. Write soon.  
Your son,  
William A. Armstrong.

From Wesley Fowler,  
Rachefort, France,  
Dec. 9, 1918.

Dear Mama:  
I will write you a few lines this morning to let you know that I landed safe over here. Am well and feeling fine. We landed in France several days ago but haven't had the chance to write. I went ashore last night, the first time in three weeks, so you know I was glad to get my feet on land again. I don't like this town much. The population is great according to the town. The scenery is grand here. It is a flat, rich, fertile soil. The people seem to appreciate the U. S. boys. Can't understand much they say, but soon catch on to some words. There are a lot of Hun prisoners here working on the docks. They are guarded by our boys. We were about 18 days coming across, partly on account of bad weather. I sure have had some oral sea life—four or five days and nights were rough. I don't know how long we will be here, or where we will go, but I hope back to the U. S. A. for that is good enough for me. I am expecting to come back about the middle of January. I wish I could be home Christmas to help eat some of those good cakes and pies I know you will have. I spent Thanksgiving day about mid-ocean. You can imagine what a day I had. Now, Mama, don't be uneasy about me, for I am well cared for, and I hope some day in the near future to be with you all, for there is no place like home.

Your devoted boy,  
Wesley.

From Robert P. Chapman,  
France, Nov. 12, 1918.

My Dear Homefolks:  
It has been quite a while since I heard from you all, but will write again to let you know how things are going. I think everybody is happy. A

least I am. We have made another move. Would like to tell you where, but can't. We are in a village that looks to be about one thousand years old and I guess it is. Well, I guess all will hear the good news today. They knew we were over here and thought it was time to quit. We are hoping to get back in time to make a crop next year. Of course we can't tell how long it will take to straighten things out. But here's hoping it won't take long. I have never heard from my Liberty Bond. You all should have gotten it long ago. I am going to see the battery commander about it as soon as possible. I have gotten 5 or 6 papers and you can bet your life I was glad to see them, but of course I would rather read them at home. I have seen and learned a good many things, but I can tell anyone that army life is not a plaything. Not bragging, but I have not been what you call sick since I have been here. Of course I had some pretty bad colds and have one now, but leave that to me, I will take care of it. Will close hoping that this will find you all well. Give my best wishes to everyone. Tell the little boys, hello. Write soon.

Your true American son,  
Sgt. Robert P. Chapman.

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