

ALVIN BLUTH FEELS TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER



Charles Alvin Bluth, son of Mr. and Mrs. John V. Bluth, stationed at Camp Lewis since last March is writing home about the camp. He has seen thousands upon thousands of recruits come to the camp from the surrounding states, train and be shipped over to the coast ports for embarkation to Europe, and has received word from companions who reached the camp later than he but who are now in France. Owing to being underweight he has been unable to pass the necessary physical examination for overseas service, but has been accepted on limited service and is now in the headquarters company band of the 166th depot brigade, where he started as third class musician, but was later advanced to second and then to first class, and now to sergeant, as his letters disclose. In a recent letter he says:

"We leave here in the morning for Pendleton, Ore., for eight or ten days to play for the roundup, and then to Portland to boost the Liberty loan campaign. I am not very enthusiastic about it because it means ten days of hard work, but after all that is what we are here for. I received my promotion Saturday, that of sergeant bugler. There are only two above me now in the band. As you say, it would be nice to receive a commission, but I fear that is beyond me at present. In order to get a commission one must first get to be bandmaster and then build up a band. There is only one band in the brigade so I would have to secure transfer into the division before I would have a chance for a band, and then a commission is not given until one receives his call for overseas service, and there would be my stumbling block. I would have to be able to pass the overseas examination to get it and that I cannot do as I am on limited service. I am now playing first chair solo cornet which is very responsible and by no means an easy job. Lieutenant Chambers says the band is better than ever, so I guess we are making good, but as I say, it is very hard, as we are playing all the big overtures and standard music and I have to hit more high C's than I ever thought I would be able to. We just got through rehearsing for today, six hours, so you see playing that long and that kind of music requires some hard work. All we have to do yet today is to play guard mount and retreat, which requires about an hour's work. Well, dear folks, I must close as it is now 3:45 and I have to wash out a shirt and clean up before 5 o'clock."

The following is from a letter just received after the return from the Pendleton and Portland trip: "Dad's letter received this morning. We got back from Pendleton and Portland Thursday afternoon. We were tired and so spent Friday resting up. We are going to try hard to get home around Christmas time but cannot tell yet what my diploma or certificate of promotion. The added duties and responsibilities are much more than the increase of pay and one's actions must be much more closely guarded, but on the other hand it greatly increases one's prestige. I will try and have a picture taken so you can see the stripes and kid yourselves along that I am something in the army, although it is only a non-commissioned officer. However, in the regular army in peace time, it takes one several years of service to claim the stripes. As soon as the wet weather sets in steady our duties will be somewhat lighter and I will have more time for writing so can tell you more then. I saw a terrible thing at the roundup. A fellow saturated his clothes with gasoline intending to get on a horse and light it and run the horse around the track thinking it would blow the flames away from him; but the horse became frightened and instead of running, just turned around and around. The fellow jumped off and started down the track. Four men grabbed him and threw blankets over him but he broke away and ran again and fell right in front of the bandstand. His hands were burned to a crisp and his face charred. The only place he was not burned was his feet. His wife and baby were in the grandstand. She went crazy and died from the shock. He only lived a few minutes. It was terrible. Well, the dinner is ready and must close. May be home Christmas. Goodbye now, and all the love in the world to you both."

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"It is with Mr. Daniels' full concurrence that I now make this statement that there is no greater service that can be rendered by the civilians of the United States today charged with that privilege and duty, than to expedite the output of destroyers and anti-submarine and appliances of every description," Sir Eric said.

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"Indeed it is greater today than it ever was. That is to say, the effort is greater than it ever was. I think now we are approaching a point where submarine warfare is again the weakest front of the alliance."

In opening his speech, Sir Eric said that while he must resist the temptation to allude to the present political situation, there were two things which he was convinced had not changed.

Absolute Loyalty of Nations.

"One is our absolute loyalty to those nations who are associated with us," he said, "and the other is our determination to continue the war and not be diverted from our purpose until we have secured the only peace which could justify all this terrible suffering and destruction which had and is being brought about by the iniquity of our common enemy."

"On one thing I am clear. We must not relax the muscles of our fighting arm nor our war effort in any anticipation of an early peace. To do so would be the surest way to render any discussions which may take place prolonged and less satisfactory."

Reviews British Losses.

Sir Eric reviewed British naval losses, declaring his country's losses in fighting ships of all classes have been approximately 230—"more than twice the total losses of war vessels of the whole of our allies," and that 450 auxiliary craft, such as mine sweepers and trawlers, also have been destroyed. British merchant ships to the number of 2400, with a gross tonnage of nearly 7,750,000 have been sunk, he said, or "nearly three times the aggregate losses of our allies and 50 per cent more than the total losses of all other allied and neutral countries."

Germany is Not Beaten.

While British and American sea forces in all theaters of naval fighting are a homogeneous navy, Sir Eric added, the safety of lines of communication should not be taken for granted. "Germany is not beaten, is not nearly beaten, and in some respects is stronger than ever she was," he warned, regarding the enemy's naval situation. "Should the German naval policy be changed by force of circumstances, or by a spirit of adventure which it has so far failed to show, it will be met, and if it means to fight that fight will be a naval Armageddon in which your magnificent battleships with the grand fleet will, I am sure, take a worthy and distinguished part."

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Four tons of explosives are dropped each day on Bruges and Zebruges, Sir Eric asserted, so that these ports are of no value to the Germans, who, according to his latest information, they had installed there. In surface, he added, the allies have the mastery in the North sea, in the Adriatic and in the Mediterranean. Sir Eric added that "dangerous mine fields have been laid by our submarines and fast offensive mine layers right into the mouth of the Ems behind Helgoland," the operation being performed "night after night."

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"There are more Belgian refugees in France now than at any time during the war," Colonel Bicknell said. "Prices are higher, rent is higher, and large numbers of people, who, for the first year or two, retained their vigor, are tired, prematurely old, discouraged, sometimes almost helpless."

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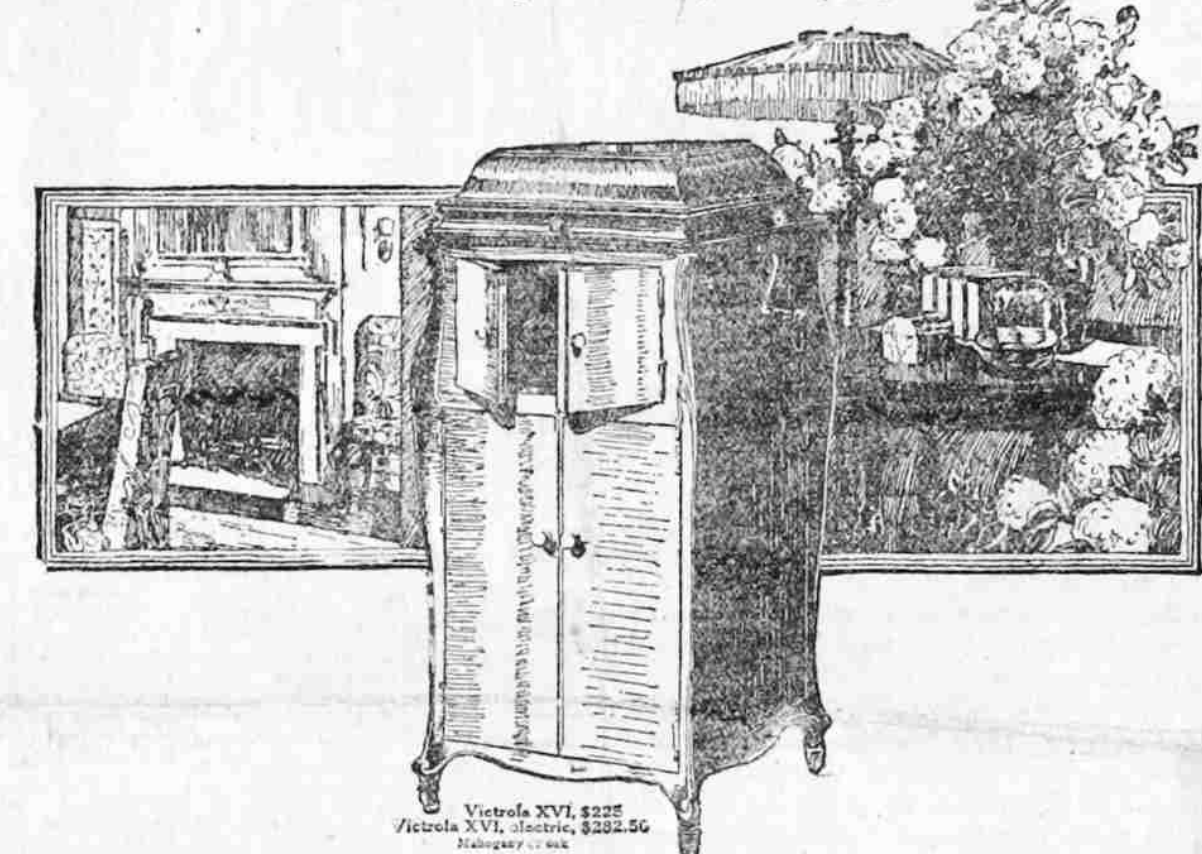
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PRESIDENT HAS PLEASED PEOPLE

No Peace With Kaiserism; No Armistice Are Terms the World Wanted.

SPEAKS FOR ENTENTE

No Thought of Stopping Fight—Senate Applauds When Answer Is Read.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—President Wilson answered Germany's peace proposal with a decision which not only fulfills the expectations of supporters of diplomacy, but also dispels the fears of those who predicted he would substitute victories at arms with defeats at diplomacy.

No peace with Kaiserism; autocracy must go; no armistice can even be thought of while Germany continues her atrocities on land and sea; one cannot be considered unless it is fully dictated by the allied commanders in the field in such terms as absolutely provide safeguards and guarantees that Germany's part will not be a scrap of paper; this, in a few words, is the president's answer.

If it does not bring a capitulation which may be more than an unconditional surrender, allied diplomats and American officials believe it may cause a revolution in Germany.

Beyond question it speaks for the entente as well as the United States. The dispatch of the president's reply was followed by the issue of the following formal statement by Secretary Tumulty:

"The government will continue to send over 250,000 men with their sup-

plies every month and there will be no relaxation of any kind."

Senate Rings With Applause

Quite outside of the formal phrases of a diplomatic document that was President Wilson's word to the world that he had no thought of stopping the fighting at this stage. The senate chamber rang with applause of senators as the president's answer was read a few minutes after it had been announced at the state department. Senator Lodge, the president's chief critic in his course until today, issued a statement expressing his gratification.

Opinion at the capitol and throughout official Washington was unanimous in approval.

The official text which will convey the president's decision to the German government and, more important, to the German people, was delivered today by Secretary Lansing to the charge of the Swiss legation who has been acting as the intermediary. It was given out publicly by Mr. Lansing at the state department at 6 o'clock this evening.

One outstanding point which does not appear in the president's note—a point on which the world has been asking questions can be answered tonight. When the president declared that the wrong done to France when Germany took Alsace-Lorraine should be righted, he meant that Alsace-Lorraine should be returned to France.

Those who contend the president's decision arranges the situation for something more than an unconditional surrender base it on the argument that he has now passed the stage where he might have accepted a surrender of the German military and naval forces and left the Hohenzollern autocracy on its throne.

Must Get Rid of Kaiser

Mr. Wilson, according to this view has now finally informed the German people that if they want peace they can only attain it by getting rid of the kaiser and his system. An armistice, it is true, might come first and the details of the downfall of the German autocratic government might be arranged later. But, this is what an

armistice would entail:

First—A stop to the atrocities on land and sea and the systematic destruction and devastation in the wake of the retreating German armies.

Second—The disarmament of all the German forces and the deposit of their arms and munitions at points to be chosen by the allied military commanders.

Third—The occupation by allied forces of certain German cities or strongholds of strategic importance. Probably also the occupation of all the submarine bases, a turning over of the German fleet.

In short it would entail a taking from Germany of everything with which she might break her word to an armistice.

From that point the United States and the allies might proceed to dispose of all that remained of Kaiserism if the German people have not done it before as President Wilson in his note plainly invites them to do.

Punishment of Criminals

While nowhere in the note does the president openly join with the entente statesmen in the demand that the "chief criminals" must be delivered up for trial, the president's confident point out that he plainly subscribes to the doctrine that the guilt of bringing on the world war is personal.

Pioneers of 49 Celebrate the "Days of Gold"

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14.—Eleven men who came to California in '49 across the continent by prairie trail or by sailing vessel round the Horn met here recently and drank a toast to "the days of gold." They represented the 41 remaining members of the Society of California Pioneers, which at one time comprised 3,000 lovers of adventure. For years the

pioneers have held a reunion in this city, but year by year the attendance has dwindled.

Among those who made the last pilgrimage from various parts of the country were three members of the vigilance committee which, in 1856, quelled a reign of terrorism and lawlessness in San Francisco by a number of hangings.

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John Norton

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