

CLIFFORD HANKS WRITES FROM FRANCE

**Says if People Could See a Battlefield
After a Battle, They Would Loosen
Their Purse Strings**

Mrs. Clifford G. Hanks has received the following letter from her husband, who is with the boys "over there."

Somewhere in France, Sept. 9, 1918
Dear Verna:

Don't know when I will get a chance to mail this, but will have it already to post at the first opportunity.

Since I wrote you last we have been on the move most of the time. It was raining when we left, and it has been rained ever since, until yesterday and today. We have lots of fun getting in and out of the mud.

Just before leaving the last place I wrote you from, we got our full equipment of Packard trucks. I have a pretty good second hand one in place of the British A. E. Co. Much prefer this one. Also have a new job; am now a sort of superintendent of trucks. Don't do much driving when we are in camp, but find plenty to do in keeping the other nine trucks in good shape. There is no change of salary or title in my new position.

Yesterday and today we have been stopping in what is left of a small French town; every building more or less demolished. We entered the town at night, driving across what had been No Man's Land a day or two before.

Yesterday morning Lamont and I visited the trenches that had been used the day before, a sight never to be forgotten, quite a few unburied dead.

I wish the people who hesitate to subscribe for Liberty Bonds could view a battle field the day after. I think it would have a tendency to loosen their purse strings. Also it might have the same effect on those people if they could have entered this town with us in the middle of the night, driving with out lights, sometimes a line of traffic on each side; cold, wet and hungry, to find a cup of hot chocolate waiting for you, served by a Y. W. C. A. girl, in what the shells left of a house. These women and girls have to pay more or less of their own expenses, and deserve a medal if anyone does.

Had a nice dinner today; canned roast beef, tomatoes, peas, bread and

coffee. While we were eating, a "Jerry" sneaked over and got two of our observation balloons, which were up in the air about a mile away. Both observers escaped by using their parachutes, and they got Jerry on his way back.

Saw several thousand German prisoners the other day being conducted back to the rear, having been captured a few hours before. Noticed one middle aged man with a wooden leg. They all seemed to be in good physical condition, and well clothed, and apparently not feeling badly at being captured. One prisoner, treated by our medicos, said he had been in the hospital for five weeks with heart trouble, and had

been shoved into the front line a few days before. He also said that they were told in Germany that the United States would not be able to get food to their troops on account of the U-boats, but he changed his mind when presented with roast beef, bread and butter, and then taken away in the side car of a Harley-Davidson motor-cycle.

Hope to get some mail soon. Must have a whole bag on the way.

Send this letter to mother as soon as you have read it.

Will write you both at the first opportunity. Write often, and don't worry. Am feeling fine, save for a bath.

CLIFFORD.

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