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The Eccentric

PART THREE

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 30

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1928

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Village War Vets Recall Armistice 10 Years Ago

By GEORGE C. WILLIAMS

Sunday marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice terminating the World War. The approach of this day which in 1918 ended the most terrific and destructive conflict in the history of the world, recalls to many Birmingham veterans who were overseas the part they played in the strife which involved all the principal nations of the world.

All of the following Birmingham men were in France, and a large number were on the front on Nov. 11, 1918, at 11 a. m. Edward Myers, George Townsend, Charles L. Misener, Joseph MacGregor, E. J. Mathieu, Peter Aristos, A. Cooley, Phillip Plumstead, Lloyd McQuarrier, Earl Moody, Gerard Putters, E. M. Mahaffy, Reginald Robinson, George Winslett, Sylvester Wilkinson, Harold Corson, Wylie Pearsall, Stanley Stacey, Stanley Groves, Samuel Baynes, Herbert Baynes, Jay Paddock, Charles Groves, Arthur Kroger, William Hansen, William Green, Earl Mudge, Walter Johnson, Lloyd Campbell, Ernest Phillips, Richard Hewitt, H. A. O'Dell, Joseph Kuska, Robert Graub, William Joseph Hornbeck, Bart Noss, Carl Johnson, Michael Fitzgibbons, John R. Parsons, Will Pepperell, and Dr. C. L. Baker.

Of this number the following are dead: Earl Mudge, Lloyd Campbell and Ernest Phillips. Probably more of the four year battle was witnessed by Mr. Misener than any other living soldier. As a member of the 22nd battalion of Canadian troops following his enlistment in October, 1914, he was in France and at the front in 1916. Continuous battle from that time on, except the time spent in an army hospital or on furloughs, was his lot.

Embarked after four months of training at Niagara the battalion in which Mr. Misener was enlisted embarked at Quebec on the "Delaware," one of 15 transport ships carrying soldiers across. The troops were taken to Liverpool, Eng. and soon after were transported from Dover to Calais, France. He was transferred to a machine gun company at this point and was in active service until wounded. When a shell wound the machine gun crew, Mr. Misener was wounded by shrapnel and also suffered from gas poisoning. He was in the hospital six weeks before returning to the front and had 18 months of front line battle before he was discharged.

"It was early in November, 1914, that the German 'Big Bertha' put shells in Paris, the advance having been made to within 100 miles of the French capital." The Hindenburg line had reached its proximity and was from that time showed back by the combined forces of the British Empire, French, Belgian and American armies. The Canadian troops were used for the relief of Mons from where the Germans retreated.

The section of the Canadians in which Mr. Misener was enlisted was used as shock troops in forcing the opposing forces to retreat, allowing others to come up and take possession of points gained. The machine gun units were literally sacrifice troops bearing the brunt of holding an advance made by the infantry, retiring only when the new position was secure, the man who was top sergeant of a machine gun crew said.

The method of laying a barrage while an advance was on, was described. Gun crews would hold in, by digging a pit and communicating their position, in connection with the advance of the infantry. The casualties of the shock troops were enormous. Mr. Misener says the average soldier's fighting life was 48 hours in this outfit.

Two war medals for distinguished bravery were received by Mr. Misener, who is recent to tell the facts concerning his actions which merited these awards.

A Live Sergeant

Views of the war told by Reginald Robinson from the standpoint of a line sergeant in Battalion A of the 27th New York Artillery. The array of "three-point-eight" German Howitzers with which Mr. Robinson was connected were stationed five miles behind the front line, then between Paris and Tours. The field guns fired 12-inch shells had a range of eight miles and were governed entirely by telephone control from observers in nearby mountains, in airships or observation balloons. The observers would spot the location of the enemy and direct the firing of the cannon using that location in relation to the spot where shells were dropping, Mr. Robinson tells.

After training at Camp McClellan in Alabama and Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, L. I., following his enlistment Oct. 18, 1917, Mr. Robinson traveled to London and thence to Brest, France. This company was composed of four batteries. In each were four cannon and the gun crew consisted of five men. This included the gunner, sergeant, in addition to two others. The battalion company to which Mr. Robinson was assigned upon arrival in the active territory had been destroyed three times. The methods of attack used against the artillery line were by shelling, cyanide bombs and often by chlorine, mustard and tear gas, which was spread by burning shells or bombs. Mr. Robinson spent two months in the hospital after shrapnel wound and also suffered from gas attack.

When the armistice was signed he was again on duty but his division was not active in fighting.

Duties of the engineer divisions were multifarious. Besides the work of constructing camps, barracks, supply depots, quartermaster's stores, bridges and railways, the

ARMISTICE DAY

In this year, which is the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, let us strive to carry through to a pleasant ending a great celebration.

We should pay homage to those who did not return to their homeland and friends. We owe this tribute not only to those comrades, but to their loved ones who survive them. Our associations with the loved ones in the world's struggle do not permit us to forget them. We should also rejoice on this day, the Armistice day of 10 years ago that permitted us to return to our homes and loved ones, to resume our peaceful occupations and to renew our friendships. It gave us the opportunity to readjust ourselves and to live the life we had formerly been accustomed to and to forget the experiences of destruction, horror, waste and death.

Our associations with the loved ones in the world's struggle do not permit us to forget them. We should also rejoice on this day, the Armistice day of 10 years ago that permitted us to return to our homes and loved ones, to resume our peaceful occupations and to renew our friendships.

Then let bells ring, and strains sound, so that the spirit of November 11th, 1918 may prevail once more.

MYRON J. CARVER, Oakland County Council Commander, American Legion.

engineers were used as a reserve to fill in on the front line in the infantry and other departments where fresh soldiers were needed. This angle is supplied by Joseph MacGregor, a patrolman on the village police force, who attained the rank of first-class sergeant while serving in the first division of the Fifteenth Michigan Engineers, following his enlistment in April, 1917. The regular army unit was mobilized at the Fairgrounds for active duty and in May, 1917, the entire regiment was shipped to New York where they embarked on the "Tuscan" for England. This ship was sunk in February, 1918, off the coast of Ireland. William Bouhner, Birmingham man, was on the ship and was among those rescued after 30 hours. Many lost their lives when the transport went down. The Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth divisions were shipped from Liverpool, England, to Le Havre, France. From there they went to the Central part of France.

Stop Drive
Camp Williams, the largest intermediate quartermaster's depot maintained, was built by the engineers before they proceeded to the British front in October, 1917, where they were located until June 1918.

The "improvised army" of Major General Carry, including Mr. MacGregor's section was used in stopping the German drive for the

channel ports in March, 1918, he tells.

On July 14, 1918, a four day attack on Paris was started. A counter offensive opened by American troops took Chateau Thierry. Mr. MacGregor was in the midst of this historical battle.

The Germans had succeeded in holding Argonne Forest as a stronghold through the thick of the fray and attempts to rout them failed until Sept. 26, 1918, the second offensive was commenced and after a determined drive the American troops gained this point. In the section of gulleys, hills and maze of thickets and woods, comprising the Argonne Forest, Germany lost its last key position. And the drive of the Allied forces, Nov. 1, found the Germans on the retreat.

The troop in which the Birmingham man was enlisted was located in the front lines during the six months, preceding the signing of the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918.

Following his enlistment in June, 1917, with the "E" company of the 32 Michigan infantry at Fort Brady, Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. Mix tells of his shifting from training camp to training camp

(Continued on Page 4, Part 3)

Your BROADWAY And Mine

By WALTER WINCHELL

Exclusive Central Press Dispatch

New York.—This town of ours. The Jacob Ruppert brewery phone number—heh!—is 1009. Atwater, the gab moon pitcher, "Varsity," Frank Tuttle, the megaphone juggler, ghost voices for Chester Conley, The Morning Telegraph switches to Smith. Harry Richmond sent May Tetter, the Kew-Roseville ensemble orchids every day, and probably telegraphs them now that show is touring. Horrors (Horace) Livers is published, and Francine Larimore still is premiering together. Lew Fields has the fascimile of his tag on all Mansfield theater duets. Eva Le Gallienne is going to play "Peter Pan" at the Lyceum. Theaters are dicker to purchase Hammerstein's theater. Lucky Strikes is experimenting with cork-tipped ciggies, which are oke. Sol Perla, of the "Hold Everything," male chorus helps his pappy undertake in B'klyn on Sabbaths and often motormans a hearse, a la Waite Hoyt.

Mainstemmers are wagging that Alexander Woolcott rejoins the Sun as dramatic critic when Gilbert Galbriel switches to South street.

Conde Nast has not purchased The New Yorker. The Nast's happen to be published in the same plant, which explains how the ramar started. Wit Coran, ghost writer of Earl Carroll's SEPost ad columns. Helena Rubinstein's husband, Edward Tiltus, conducts a school in Paris which peddles books that would have to be bootlegged here. The stage down at Earl Carroll displays this sign: "Through These Portals Pass The Most Beautiful Girls In The World."

Recommended to diversion series: "The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan," by Isaac Goldberg (Simon & Schuster). Ruth Eting lullabying "Beloved" and "Sonny Boy" on the Columbia platters. Moran and Mack in "The Jail House" ditto. R. Markert's hand drill in "Animal Crackers". The way Lilian Tashman kisses in "Take Me Home". "Meaning No Offense," a funny tune by John Riddle (John Day). "The Book of Rabelais," by John Flaff (Doubleday, Doran). The Mador Club orchestra playing "Chiquita," a past ditty. Alexander Woolcott's "Two Gentlemen and a Lady" (Coward-McCann). "Gone of the Lightning," at the Little.

You might have had a chuckle reading a new, advertised mouth wash ad in the October mags. When turned upside down, and folded, it revealed an unusual bit of public art work. Two lads in the agency which handled the ad, but who had nothing to do with it, have been aired. Only those in the social register will be admitted to the personal column of the Morrisone (N. J.) Topics, a new, newly mag. There's a projection room on every floor of the Paramount Building. In Fox News, Vol. 10, No. 8, the contents of "Gone With the Wind" and "Show Me State" and "Record Vintage Flows to Enliven Paris" are expected in the Le Monde, Frisco, Portland and Seattle editions, which appear in dry Hoover territory.

Babe Ruth's homecoming from

Birmingham the Beautiful

Well constructed homes and well planned gardens build a beautiful locality. Birmingham is noted for its beautiful homes.

Are you doing your part in this beautification program?

Let us plan an immediate planting this fall.

Visit Our Nurseries at
Birmingham
Utica
Southfield

The CORYELL NURSERY

Headquarters at
W. MAPLE AVENUE BIRMINGHAM

Phone your news items to The Eccentric. Phones 11 and 12. Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

Buy From Local Merchants

When you buy in Birmingham you purchase from well-established stocks of good merchandise at the lowest prices quality merchandise can be sold.

Local merchants are always on the job, give prompt service and contribute liberally in time and money to everything making for community progress.

For Greater Home Prosperity
Keep Home Dollars at Home—
Buy in Birmingham and Prosper!

Birmingham Savings Bank

Woodward Avenue, Just South of Maple Avenue

CAPITAL
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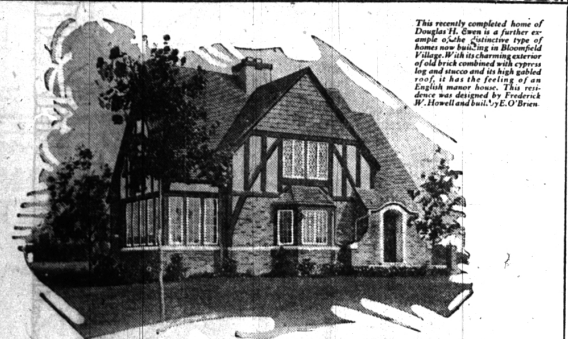
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Another New Home in Bloomfield Village

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But, it is unmistakably there!

To the family of refined tastes Bloomfield Village offers the unusual in neighborhoods. A carefully drawn Building and Use Agreement forever protects home owners against the intrusion of undesirable neighbors.

Prices for homesites of 75-foot frontage and up are as low as \$2750. Literature on request.

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Bloomfield Village branch office, Maple Avenue at Cranbrook Road, open Saturday afternoon and after 2:00 p. m. on Sundays.

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