

Walter S. Hackney, son of Mr. J. N. Hackney, of Center township, whose address is Co. K, 120 Inf., A.E.F., has been in France since June 5th. He, too, has had a taste of trench life. In writing to a friend, he says:

"I am feeling fine, having a very good time over here and am liking France very well. This country must have been beautiful as well as historical before the war, but in lots of ways America has France beat. America for me first and always!

"No, we haven't had any fruit yet, and it doesn't look very promising for any in this section, but I would take a chance at a watermelon.

"I went to preaching this a. m. and last Sunday also. The preacher was from North Carolina and was a Wake Forest College man. It seems strange to think I haven't been to Gum Spring this year."

W. R. Straughan, Bat. C, 113 F. A., A. E. F., writes as follows:

"You ought to have seen me picking blackberries this morning to make a pie. Another boy and myself picked the berries and the cook made the best at all. It was more like home than anything I have seen here.

"We went on a trip one day last week and saw some of the prettiest places, and they have got the best roads in this country I ever saw.

"They have lots of nice oats and wheat here. The houses are all built together and in some places the people, cows, chickens and pigs stay in the same house. Everything is built out of stone as there is no timber here to amount to anything.

"It stays light here nearly all the time. We have about four hours of darkness."

Mrs. W. B. Harper has received a card announcing the safe arrival overseas of her son, Eugene T. Harper.

Private Clarence M. Dezern, 306 Eng., Co. C., A.E.F., England, in writing to his father under date of Aug. 18, says:

"I am getting on fine; am getting anxious to hear from you all. Have seen lots of ancient things since I have been over in England. I have seen some things that were probably made some 800 years ago. This is a fine country and they raise lots of wheat and oats here I have ever seen anywhere. There are lots of irish potatoes and clover raised here also, but I haven't seen any corn. The land is very rich, the finest I ever saw. Tell Mr. Geo. Pilkington that I think he has a fine country.

"You all write to me real often. I will get your letters some time."

Soldier Letters, Walter Hackney, WR Straughan, Clarence M. Dezern, Eugene Harper, Sam Griffin

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Private Sam Griffin, whose address is Amb. Co. 322, 306 San. Tr., A.E.F., in writing to his mother, Mrs. J. W. Griffin, says:

"I like France better than any place I have been since I left home. We saw many pretty horses and cows on our way here. Seeing men cutting wheat and oats made me think of home. The houses are built of stone and brick and you never see a wooden house. Lots of pretty girls here, and the women work same as the men. Saw a woman plowing and one leading the horse. People work here on Sunday same as any day. Some of we boys went on a ten-mile hike yesterday and sure did enjoy it. We saw some pretty country. Am well, feeling fine and am eating every meal."