

FOREST CITY SUMMIT

OLIVER TWEETEN WRITES Somewhere in France October 1, 1918

Dear Brother Gilbert: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14th paper 1918

I will take the time to answer your four letters today which I received recently, two dated the 31st of July and the others the 7th of August. I am very glad to know that you are all well and I can write the same in return. I do not get mail very regular but it finally comes. I got twelve letters at one time and they are sure welcome. I am writing this letter in a dugout which is not very deep but is a safe place at present as the Germans have fallen back in retreat about 15 miles in this sector. This is my second time up to the front so in all I have been up to the front three weeks straight. We also had good success the first time as we drove them back about the same distance and captured about twice that many. I have seen about three thousand prisoners as they marched through back to the prison camps. Our battery has not lost a man and no one has been wounded though we have had shells fall very close but get used to them here. The other night one fell about four yards from me. And the gas has not been very much trouble so far. We have had our masks on several times but not for any length of time.

There is one thing, I believe the papers more now than ever as I see there is little of it fake. The first drive sure was a hard one, we started to advance about nine in the evening and about two o'clock in the morning we got to the place where we sure got the odor of fresh blood and them seemed to give us life as we then knew we had some for all the hard work we had put in. There is no word that can express the opinion as such a sight puts on a soldier. Now, whenever we start anything we all drive in with both hands and feet. But before we used to drag behind and work just as slow as we could as we did not see how much good we were doing. Yesterday morning I took a stroll out over no man's land a ways. I got as far as the German's front lines. I saw some of their equipment and that was all and the only souvenir I got was my pen full of ink. But I thought that was great as I was all out and I needed it bad. We're doing fine work believe me and as far as I can see we have God's helping hand behind us all and we must pray that he has. If I am not mistaken, I believe I heard that men between 18 and 45 registered in September.

I suppose Albert and Willie are in it too, but if they will have to go, I hope they may never see any real fighting and the training will do them good as I know it did me. I am glad to hear that the crops look good in Iowa as I believe you all need it. Now about my eats here are plentiful when we have a chance to get it but as it is sometimes at the front, we have very little but we have never suffered so very much and Sunday is something I have not had for the longest time. But I have three testaments that I am trying to wear out so I am well supplied if I do as I am taught. Will have to close with lots of love.

From brother Oliver Tweeten.

D c. 5th paper, Oliver sent B. J. Tweeten the texts of German propaganda letters dropped by planes behind the American lines.