

SGT Fred L. Bangs

Location - West-A: R24, C14



SOLDIER GIVEN SURPRISE.

Sergt. Fred Bangs returned home this afternoon at 1:58 o'clock, after nineteen months' service in France, and was extended a welcome which was a surprise. He had endeavored to keep secret the time of his arrival, but indirectly the information was obtained. The Arlon band, of which he was a member before leaving the city, went to the station in an auto truck, upon which was a banner "Welcome Home, Fred Bangs." The young man was taken completely unawares, and his intended surprise arrival proved a boomerang upon himself. Sergeant Bangs was in the band of the Twenty-third engineers.

A LOT OF TRAVELING.

It is Being Done by Some of the Soldiers Now in France.

France, March 11.—M. J. Rounds, B. P. O. E., 292.—Dear Sir and Brother: To begin with I want to apologize to you and to 292 for not writing before, but we have done a lot of traveling the last two months, and I am just beginning to catch up in my correspondence.

In the first place we are here, in what I always thought was the only country to live in as far as the climate was concerned, but either we are not in the most agreeable part of France or at their most unpleasant time, for we have seen "some" mud and rain, but the last week it has begun to dry up and the sun shines quite warm for about four hours around midday. There sure is a great difference in the weather we have here and what you folks are experiencing at home, according to a letter I received from my mother this morning, which by the way, is the first mail I have seen with the United States postmark, addressed to myself, in ten weeks.

We are doing road repair work and will have enough to do for some time, as the French roads are in need of repair for the following reason mainly: The scarcity of French labor, and the heavy traffic thrown on them since the United States took a hand.

One sees so many widows on the streets, and you can't help but think that France has surely done her share in this great war and the women folks have suffered along with the men, and are doing their bit by filling the vacancies left by the men in most every kind of vocation.

I can truthfully say that the soldier sent here from the states, has every necessity both in the line of clothing and in food, as we eat very good, in fact there is such a great difference in that line, other than I expected, that this life isn't so bad after all, and there is something about the army life that no one can explain, that is fascinating, and if one can keep in good health, and not weaken, he is generally satisfied with things.

I suppose you are somewhat surprised to see this letter typewritten, but as I have been assigned to the office for a while, I thought I would surprise my friends by using a machine, for they stand a chance then of reading it, as you probably know

American Expeditionary Forces, Feb. 9.—Dear Mother—At last I have arrived in sunny France and there sure is a great difference in the climate for this time of the year. We arrived at one of the larger seaports and were sent to this base by railroad.

We were on the train for fifteen hours and had a third class coach which was better than I expected. The scenery was wonderful, everything green and every one working in their gardens. I laughed to think of you people back home burning up the coal and probably having zero weather.

There is a marked difference in the people, buildings and their ways over here. On the train we passed a yard where two women were unloading a carload of brick and they sure were handling them fast. The women here are surely doing their share in the war.

We had an uneventful voyage and good feed, but every one was glad to set foot on solid land. We don't know how long we will be at this camp, perhaps some time, and possibly we may be moved near the fighting line.

Tell pa there are a great many Packards used here, also Pierce Arrows, Whites and some English and French machines. It sure looked good to see a Packard at work and I hope I can get one to drive soon, but it looks more like the pick and shovel for ours or most anything else instead of what we enlisted for, but whatever it is we can do it.

I am writing this at the Y. M. C. A. There is a canteen here where we can buy luxuries that are not on the army menu. We were advised to have our money transferred into French notes and as we get paid in French money we must forget the E. Pluribus Unum

Oshkosh businessman, Fred L. Bangs, dies

Oshkosh businessman Fred L. Bangs, 89, who had owned and operated the E.P. Bangs Trucking Co. for 55 years, died Monday afternoon in Mercy Medical Center.

He was born Sept. 18, 1893, in Oshkosh, the son of Emelius P. and Louisa Sarah Markart Bangs. He married Amanda Norkofski, Aug. 21, 1921. She died April 26, 1962. He married Charlotte Hayek Ewest, Jan. 11, 1969.



Mr. Bangs' father started the E.P. Bangs Trucking Co. in 1900. He began working for his father in 1907, using horse-drawn drays, then bought the business in 1926 and operated it until Aug. 31, 1981.

Fred L. Bangs Mr. Bangs became a member of the Arion Band and Orchestra as a flutist in 1913. He served in the Army 23rd Engineers during World War I as a musician first class, playing flute and piccolo in the band. He was a member of Cook-Fuller Post No. 70, the Last Man's Club No. 1, Trinity Episcopal Church and a former member of its choir. He was a lifelong member of the Fox River Valley Traffic Club and a former member of the Elks.

Surviving are his widow; one son, John, Oshkosh, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Form 1017 REGISTRATION CARD No. 137

1 Name in full Fred Lawrence Bangs Age, in yrs. 23

2 Home address 232 Cape Oshkosh Wis.

3 Date of birth Sept 18 1893

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born

5 Where were you born? Oshkosh Wis.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Manager transfer Co.

8 By whom employed? Camp Transfer & Taxi Co.

9 Where employed? Oshkosh, Wis.

10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? No

11 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify) Caucasian

12 What military service have you had? Branch None

13 years 1 Nation or State Wisconsin

14 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Fred Lawrence Bangs

48-8-13 A

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Tall Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Medium

2 Color of eyes? Blue Color of hair? Light Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both (yes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Lucius Porter
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct 8

City or County Oshkosh

State Wisconsin June 5-1917
(Date of registration)