

SGT Marshall H. Smith

Location - West-A: R27, C14

FROM AN OSHKOSH BOY.

He is in the Field Artillery and is Going to France.

(To the Editor.)

Headquarters Company, Fifteenth Field Artillery, Syracuse, N. Y., June 10.—I thought you might be interested in hearing from one who is with the field artillery. Several times I have received your paper from friends at home and several times I have seen letters from my friends in the coast artillery.

I am getting along fine. Of course I have no one with me from home, which makes it a little harder. The headquarters company of which I am a member are the scouts of the army and though a rather dangerous part we have many advantages over the battery. We drill every afternoon on signalling, semaphore, international, Morse and telegraph code. The United States army has a set of letters in a code which represent words which we have to learn. There are many of these and we have to study hard. In the morning we saddle up our horses and go on a long mounted drill. This consists of a system of marking a route for a part of the army back of you, laying of the telephone, making a panoramic sketch. This is very important for use in time of actual warfare. We must make a reconnaissance and with out field glasses take note of all the land, landmarks, high points, low points, infantry, cavalry or artillery of the enemy if any and make a panoramic sketch of all land within our sector to be reported on. We must draw quickly, for as soon as an opposing scout locates us we must be ready to make our exit. We must place our estimates as to the range, elevation, etc., on this paper and give it to the battery commander. In making these sketches, we point out the places where our batteries will be most effective. This work is certainly very interesting and the headquarters is very hard to get into. There are thirty-nine in this company, picked from the six batteries. So you see I was pretty much in luck to get in. We certainly get good food here and if anybody should ask you how it is tell them that if they need home cooking stay at home, but if they want vigorous outdoor life with good, clean wholesome food to eat, come to the army.

To realize the greatness of the problem undertaken by the United States in this present emergency, one must come to a regular army mobilization camp like this. Now there are only about 12,000 to 15,000 men here, but by the end of this month there will be at least 30,000. There are nine regiments of infantry, and nine batteries of field artillery, three of the Fourth field artillery, of which we all were originally members, and six batteries of the Fifteenth, which was newly made upon arriving here from Texas.

I certainly have seen a lot of the country since I left home. From Oshkosh to St. Louis, St. Louis to El Paso, Texas, and after a short stay there up here to Syracuse. Altogether it is about 4,500 miles I think. Some people may like the south, but give me the north every time and especially Wisconsin. At El Paso, we ate sand. It sifted into our beds, our clothing and everywhere and it was almost impossible to keep clean. There they only have about two good rains during the year. Since we came to New York, it has rained continually and we have been wading around in mud instead of sand. On the whole, army life is certainly great and the training is fine. You also can appreciate home cooking. How well I know that, for mother sent me a cake which I never got for some other soldier probably suspicious of the box deemed it a very good idea to take it before I got there to claim it. We will probably go to France before the snow falls, for they are making no preparation for encampment here during the winter months. I am writing this by candle light and my candle is almost gone so I had better close. I certainly would like to hear from any of the folks at home. If there is any service which I can perform for anyone, please let me know. Yours Very Truly, Marshall H. Smith.

(The writer of this letter is the son of Mrs. Martha W. Smith, 113 Otter street.)

Marshall H. Smith

Marshall H. Smith, 75, Green Bay, died Thursday in that city.

Memorial services will be held Monday at 12:30 p.m. at Schauer - Schumacher Eastside Funeral Home, Green Bay, with the Rev. J. Walters, officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home after 10:30 a.m. Monday.

Mr. Smith was born April 5, 1900, in Oshkosh, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Smith. He was married in Wausau to the former Charlotte Pradt, who survives. He served with the Second Division in France during World War I, and was a graduate of the former Oshkosh Normal School, now the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, and of the UW - Madison.

He was vice president in charge of sales for the former Marathon Corporation, Neenah, and from 1937 to 1951, he was vice president of Falls Pulp and Paper Co., Oconto Falls, which was sold in 1951 to Scott Paper Co. He designed Dorchester Apartment Building, Delray Beach, Fla., where he and his wife lived since 1956. They maintained a summer home in Green Bay.

Mr. Smith was a member of the American Legion, Oneida Golf and Riding Club of Green Bay, Country Club of Florida and Pine Tree Country Club of Delray Beach, Fla.

Surviving, besides his wife, are two sons, Howard, Green Bay, and Stephen, New York City, N.Y.; a daughter, Mrs. Sandra McConkey, Jackson, Mich., and three grandchildren.