

## Captured

Greencastle Man Tells Thrilling Experience on Hill 240.

Sounding off on the second week of *The Times* World war story contest! It was a great bunch of reminiscences that the boys of 1918 turned in last week, and it'll be hard for the judges to decide who gets the \$10 and \$5 prizes. They'll be announced Wednesday.

Better than any war fiction! That's what Indianapolis readers say about these stories that the home boys tell of their experiences overseas.

The starter today is told by John Henry Friend, Greencastle, who was taken prisoner by the Germans. He is past national counsel of the Ex-Prisoners of War Association.

BACK in France on Hill 240, near Exermon, on the morning of Oct. 9, 1918, we started to advance under the worst fire ever thrown into the Yankee ranks. Men fell right and left. Finally we halted and dug in about 9:15 p.m. on the far side of 240. There was a heavy fog about us.

We spied a German to the left of us with a couple of horses. His hands were up, but when we failed to fire he ran.

The major in charge, John G. Emery, ordered me to take the first squad I came to and clean out the ravine. So I took five men and we went out to whip the Hun.

Advancing to a ravine we saw men on the opposite hill, and I yelled over, asking them if they were Yanks or Huns. Their answer was by fire. We at once got down. Three of us, Ayers, Nunzetta and I, got into shell holes. Russell and Sillito fired, kneeling. Russell, beside me, was killed instantly. Sillito started to run for a shell hole but got his also.

Then one of the boys ran back for help, but turned yellow and failed to report our plight.

As we put up a steady fire on the front, I noticed that rifle and machine gun fire was coming from the rear. I got down and waited, thinking it was help coming up, but as soon as they ceased firing and I jumped up I knew differently. There stood, not fifty feet away, at least sixty-five Germans with their guns leveled at me, for I was the only one up.

Was I scared? No. I was past that point. I was frozen. Up went my hands. Then I was ordered to lower them and remove my belt. I did, and two guards were detailed to take me back. My other two buddies also were captured, although I lied, saying I was the only one there, but the Hun investigated for himself and found them.

We were prisoners for two months at the famous prison camp at Rossatt Boden, Germany.

Dan Abell, 1409 De Loss street, Company B, Thirty-ninth infantry, tells one, short and sweet:

WE were in the Argonne about Sept. 29, 1918. We were in trenches and Fritz was throwing over a lot of gas shells and everything else.

My buddy was gassed and was waiting to go back. A rat came through the trench, blowing and puffing, and looked about "all in." My buddy looked at the rat and said, "Where in H— are you going? Have you been gassed, too?"

W. M. Overly, 3703 East Vermont street, sends through this one, with a good touch of humor.

WHILE a member of the Signal corps in France I was detailed to stencil poles in a line we had just finished building. Each pole was stenciled with a number, below which was placed the letter U. S. A.—S. C. (United States Army—Signal corps).

While stenciling a pole in front of an engineering camp, I noticed a colored man sitting in the door of a bunkhouse. His appearance indicated that he had the home-sick blues. He watched me very closely. When I had finished, his face broke into a smile and this is what he said:

"Mmm, boy! Dat sho does look good to me—United States of America, South Carolina."

M. S. Ittner, 2267 Wheeler street, with the United States naval aviation forces in France, tells one that's a good joke on him:

IT was in the middle of August, 1918. We were quartered in an old French sardine factory at Gujan-Mestras. A big board fence surrounded the place. There was a post on each side. I was on post 2, dog watch (12 to 4 a.m.).

While walking along thinking about other things besides war, I was startled as I saw a figure moving in the darkness, moving toward the place where our gas tanks were stored. The first thought was that it was a German spy. I challenged him, but he kept coming.

I got all nervous and began shooting. This brought out the guard company, only to find that it was a Frenchman's big Airedale dog. The big joke was on me.

Officer Slays Youth

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., March 24.—James O. Booth, 19, was killed almost instantly by motor officer Robert Stewart, Sunday night, when Everett Pruitt, 18, driver of the car in which Booth and John T. Wiley, 19, rode, failed to stop at the office command. A pint of liquor was found in the auto, Stewart reported.

## FLAMES CAUSE DEATHS OF TWO CITY RESIDENTS

Southport Grain Elevator Is Destroyed by Fire With \$50,000 Loss.

Two persons died as a result of burns Sunday, and fire razed the Farmers' Co-Operative Company elevator and warehouse at Southport, with damage of \$50,000.

Mrs. Eliza Gustin, 79, of 1137 East Tenth street, was burned to death while preparing breakfast Sunday when her clothing was ignited by a kitchen stove.

She lived alone and her body was found on the back porch of her home by George Ross, 63, of 1143 East Tenth street. Clothing had been burned from her body as she had attempted to escape the home.

Gasoline Explodes

Mrs. Gustin was born in Brownsville and had lived here since she was 5 years old. Her husband, Robert T. Gustin, died sixteen years ago. Mrs. Gustin was a member of the Rebekah lodge. A daughter, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Danville, survives her.

Mrs. Amanda Mitchell, 39, Negro, 1824 Peck street, died Sunday at city hospital from burns sustained several days ago when gasoline with which she was cleaning garments was fired by her cigaret, according to firemen.

Owned by 240 Farmers

The Southport elevator, destroyed by flames early Sunday, will be reconstructed, J. J. Riser, Southport, manager, declared today. The elevator was owned by 240 farmers in Marion and Johnson counties.

Three thousand bushels of oats, wheat and corn were burned and the fire threatened to wipe out the entire town for a time. Indianapolis fire apparatus aided in fighting the flames, which spread to four privately owned garages.

## INTERNATIONAL CRIME PACT MOVE GROWING

U. S. South America in Favor of British Co-Operative Policy.

London, March 24.—Britain's efforts to gain closer co-operation among nations in the apprehension of international criminals have met with approval in the United States and certain South American countries. It was announced today.

The home office said the United States, Argentina and some other South American countries had shown a decided willingness to join the movement. The step follows the recent announcement of an anti-crime pact among Britain, France and Germany.

This accord includes arrangements to exchange police.

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## May Lose Job



## OPEN REVOLT IS NEAR IN INDIA, OFFICIALS FEAR

Few Observers Believe That Peaceful Character of Uprising Will Last.

By United Press  
BOMBAY, March 24.—Increasing vigor of Mahatma Gandhi's speeches against the "Satanic, demoniacal British government," and the growing aggressiveness of the all-Indian congress led to fear that India is on the verge of open rebellion.

The nation-wide campaign of

civil disobedience to British laws is scheduled to begin within the next month, probably coincidentally with the arrival of the independence leader in the Jalapur salt lands, where he openly will defy the national salt laws.

If Gandhi is arrested, which he

probably will be, this undoubtedly

will be followed by direct action by

his followers in various Indian