

Genesee News, August 30, 1918

## NEWS FROM OUR SOLDIERS

### Boys Widely Separated--Some Have Been In Big Scrap and Are Now Resting

Mr. and Mrs. John Lorang are in receipt of a very interesting letter from their son, Henry M. Lorang, who is a member of the 247th Aero Squadron now being trained in England. From his letters the following extracts have been taken:

"It is simply grand here now and as I sit in our mess tent, surrounded by the gorgeous scenery of this vicinity and inhaling the good, pure, fresh air and listening to the songs of the beautiful birds, I feel perfectly at ease. "The evenings are grand, too, and occasionally I am invited out to tea and have a dandy time. Last night I went to a schoolmaster's home and was royally entertained. I met his parents and his two sisters, whose husbands are at the front. They took me into their botanical gardens and showed me some very interesting trees, shrubs, plants, and vegetables. Then they introduced me to their native birds. The thrush has the sweetest song and then the English black-bird. Cuckoos are rare for the hum of the airplane scares them away. The blackbird is similar to ours but has a shorter tail and his beak is yellow. The female is of a grayish-brown on the breast and brown on its back. Its habits are the same and the egg is identically the same as ours. The thrush builds in low bushes and her egg is brown-speckled." He has an interesting collection of birds' eggs.

In another letter he commends the Y. M. C. A. in the follow manner: "I'm in our new 'Y' tent which was sent to us with magazines, papers, stationery and even a phonograph to amuse us during our spare moments. The Y. M. C. A. is a dear old friend! of ours and we soldiers appreciate the kindness."

In another letter he writes: "This must be a busy season at home. This has been a busy week with me as I was on night duty-then came the Fourth. The entire squadron was off for a holiday and we spread in all directions from London up to here and back. I went to.

medium-sized town where my Englishman friend's mother-in-law lives and they showed me around.

First thing before dinner a bunch of us boys went to visit an old castle of no little importance. We took three hours to inspect every nook and cranny and we dwelt for a long time gazing at the grand old stronghold, It was built during the tenth century. And many of our English nobles sought refuge within its impregnable walls. The masonry is Roman and I have a piece of mortar which I picked up and it looks as though it had been mixed just last week, it is so hard and perfect. The architect who built it got the enormous sum of 4½d (nine cents) per day and our guard told us the man worked merely for the pleasure of it.”

"There used to be a Catholic church just a little way from the castle walls and we could still see signs of the foundation. There was also a well there, beside the church, known as "The Lady's Well." "In the castle museum we saw a good many things of interest in the way of old pottery, clay pipes, stone axes, cannonballs of monstrous size, skulls, etc., and last, but not least, coins forged during King Charles' reign. That is what you would be interested in, but there was no chance of getting any.

"Then after going to other places of interest and I had had tea at my friend's place we went home. They treated me royally and I had a splendid day.”

His address is Henry M. Lorang, 247 Aero Squadron, 35 Eaton Place, London, S. W. 1, England.



247<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Force  
Pvt. Henry Lorang in back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from Left.