

THE GENESEE NEWS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1944

DON HUFFMAN IN THIRD YEAR WITH ARTILLERY OVERSEAS

Pfc. Don Huffman is in his third year overseas, and is now stationed somewhere in the South Pacific. His letter of January 5, mailed January 17, was received at Genesee Jan. 24.

It reads:

“Dear Pete:

“I suppose you have been wondering if I’ve broken my arm or something since the last time you heard from me. Well, I haven’t and I’ll try to give you a little news from this part of the world. Of course, the more interesting things will have to be left out, so I’ll do the best I can.

“It’s still very hot here. A person can hardly sleep nights and the mosquitos are big crows. A person would think that they were dive bombers if he didn’t see them. I’m still in the deep jungles. I didn’t think it would be possible to hear so many imaginary sounds at nights. This place is full of them. A lot of our boys have become pretty trigger happy, and you can them blasting all through the night.

“For quite a while I lived in a hole (like a rat.) It became quite a place. Bed room, dining room and fox hole, all in one. I wouldn’t even take off my clothes at night for a long time. It’s nice to have things handy in case. Our water supply was pretty bad and still is. A person could consider himself lucky if he could wash once a day. Even had to drink cocoanut milk but now we have enough drinking water.

“I’ve seen some pretty good ‘dog fights’ and it’s really something to see those Zeros get knocked down. Some of them explode mid-air. I’ve sweat out a few bombs that came pretty close to us, but a guy soon gets used to it. It will be plenty swell when I can get home and not have such things bothering me. It kinda gets on a fellow’s nerves. If you are up on your war news you should just about know where I am.

“I’m getting along fine and feel swell but I have lost quite a bit of weight and am beginning to feel like I’m getting old. I guess it could be the life I’m living, and believe me I’ll sure be glad when I get back to civilization. I can think of a lot of places better than this.

“Haven’t received a paper for a long time, but suppose they will come some time. I sure look forward to getting them. I got a card from Roy Weldin a few days ago so I guess he is still kicking. I had not heard from him for nearly a year.

“I suppose there is plenty of snow around there by now. Boy, what I wouldn’t give for just one hand-full of snow. Snow has just about become legend to me. How is everything around the old town these days. I’ll be sure glad when I get back.

“Well, Pete, there’s nothing to write about so I will sign off for this time. Have some of the guys drop me a line some time. I’d like to hear from the gang I used to run around with.

“Don”

“P.S. Am enclosing something you might like to read.”

The enclosure reads:

Dedication

Monday, November 22, 1943, will be the second anniversary of the 148th Field Artillery Battalion in this war. They stem from a parent organization that had taken the true meaning of the “Artillery song” for its motto, “Whenever-Whenever”, and had proved it, not idle words but established facts during five major engagements in the First World War. The present unit, in whom the old battle streamers and traditions are vested, has carried on faithfully, by becoming the first American troops to land in Australia, the date being December 22, 1941.

The safeguarding of military information prevents the complete mention of duties and stations to date, but among the highlights may be mentioned their baptism of fire. As part of a task force on its way to Timor they were attacked to savagely by Japanese aircraft that they were forced back to Darwin Harbor, where once more they underwent bombing and strafing. In this engagement the unit received 34 Purple Hearts and five Silver Stars, for gallantry in action.

Pfc. Time and their many other friends wish them “Good Shooting” and full success.

Other letters can be found in this book available in Moscow, Lewiston and Genesee Libraries, thanks to a grant from Idaho Humanities Council.

GRAIN PRICES	
Wheat, per bu.	\$ 1.23½
Gen Barley, ton	\$37.50
Oats, ton	\$39.00

The Gene

The Genesee News, Genesee, Ida

Forty-Seven Years Ago Genesee Men Answered First Draft Call

On Saturday, July 21, 1917, The Genesee News printed an Extra. It was small as far as newspaper Extras run, just a three-inch by five-inch sheet, but it carried news that would leave an everlasting mark on the people involved. That Extra carried the names of nineteen young men from this area who were called by the first draft of World War 1.

Accompanying this story, written forty-seven years later, is an almost exact duplicate of that Extra. Many of the men named in the first draft call are now gone. A few remain to recall the events that followed when they were asked to "Make the World Safe for Democracy."

Not all the boys on this first draft were called into active service. Some had exemptions at home, others had physical disabilities which kept them from answering the call. But others went and fought in this first great war. Among those who went, fought, and were lucky enough to return was Lew Jain, now a farmer out on the Rinrock section.

Mr. Jain recalls that he and another Genesee veteran, now deceased, Joseph P. Anderson, were taken from Moscow to Fort Lewis, Washington and given two to three weeks of training. From there they were sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, New York and assigned to Co. C., Oregon National Guard, to bring that outfit up to strength.

The two were shipped overseas and spent some time guarding shipping docks in France. These comparatively safe days weren't to last, and early in 1918 Jain was assigned to the Third Division while Anderson was sent to the 32nd division.

To this generation names and places such as Chateau-Thierry, Belle Woods, Verdun, Meuse Argonne forests, and

EXTRA GENESEE NEWS

Genesee, Idaho, Saturday, July 21, 1917

Following is a list of the names of Genesee boys drawn in the selective draft at Washington, D. C., yesterday (Friday) and last night.

This list will probably cover all the Genesee boys to be drawn in the first draft as only 129 are required from Latah county and the number of names drawn will be just 238:

- No. 6—Clarence Lewis Flomer
- No. 22—Walter Carlquist
- No. 62—Samuel L. Matson
- No. 75—Samuel R. Lange
- No. 77—Lewis G. Jain
- No. 85—Milton G. Rader
- No. 91—Ben Olson Ostild
- No. 92—John Eikum
- No. 94—Oscar Olson
- No. 106—Elja Lloyd Corbin
- No. 132—Anton J. Kambitsch
- No. 150—Jos. P. Anderson
- No. 153—Dallas Rogers
- No. 196—Russell A. Peterson
- No. 207—Ladwick J. Burger
- No. 226—Theo. W. Cole
- No. 228—Walter O. Sheldon
- No. 238—Nels. O. Burquist
- No. 244—J. W. Brigham

many others are merely names remembered mostly near Armistice Day. But to the men who fought here, who first learned the horrors of war, and who watched friends die, these names will burn brightly and forever in memories.

For men like Lew Jain it would be impossible to forget fifty-eight days of steady combat in Northern France without relief, of walking the battlefields of Verdun and seeing the corpses and bones of friend and foe alike strewn across the landscape. It is also hard to forget that in a short period of time in 1918, over 600 men were used to keep Jain's company of 104 men at full strength.

Veteran's Day Wednesday

Forty-six years later, America again prepares to observe the signing of the peace treaty which ended World War I. It's not Armistice Day any more. In honor of the young men who fought and died in all our wars November 11 is called Veterans Day.

Unfortunately November 11 has lost its meaning for many Americans, but for those young men who fought in World War I, November 11 has a very special significance. For Lew Jain, November 11, 1964, will be a far cry from the November 11, 1918 when he heard of the German surrender in a hospital in Vichy, France. For the veterans of World War I, November 11 is more than a date or a holiday, it is a constant, ever-lasting reminder of struggle, sacrifice, and suffering. It was for us that this sacrifice was made . . . we must never, never forget that.

Ed's Note: We are grateful to Mr. Henry Lorang who brought us this copy of the Genesee News Extra of 1917. It must be one of the few remaining in existence. Even the News doesn't have a copy.

Soldier's Letters
to the
Genesee News"
WWI
and WWII