

The clipping below is of a letter sent from Homer White to his mother, probably in the Fall of 1918. It was carried in the Risinsun weekly newspaper. The clipping has been handed down, generation to generation, since then.

Homer White Went

"Over the Top"

In a letter dated July 26th, to his mother Mrs. E. E. White, her son Homer writes as follows:

Dear Mother:

Haven't heard from you yet and this is the first chance I have had to write for some time. I am getting along first-rate and enjoying the comforts of a French city, and it seems good after living in the woods for forty days. We pitch our tents wherever we go and we move around quite a bit. Walked about 12 miles when we first came here.

The morning of July 19 we all went 'Over the top' and quite a bunch of us were knocked off, mostly wounded though. Our company had 16 left out of 150 but we didn't lose very heavily; we got a good leader and that is the reason we came out so good I guess. Two of the fellows in the same trench, just a little distance from me were hit by machine gun bullets. They were flying around all the time during the attack. I was surely glad to get out of there; one fellow in the platoon was killed outright.

I am feeling fairly good, but we are all crummy after living in trenches and out in the woods and dugouts. We saw many German prisoners marching by and bean-coop artillery captured from Germans. Going out that night we ran into some gas in a small town near the line and a few were affected by it.

The Germans are retreating and surrendering all the way along and are glad to be captured. The "Y" men go right up to the line with us, so we get stuff issued once in a while, chocolate and cookies and the like.

Coming back to this town we saw an aeroplane field—saw the machines start off and others light. They sure have powerful engines—they were French machines. Would like to ride in one while I have the chance over here.

Am feeling good and weigh more than I ever did before. Haven't received any mail. Hope everybody is all O.K. and tell them to write. I know I have got mail somewhere but it is hard to get. Well don't worry about me as I am all O.K.

Your son
Pvt Homer D. White;
83d Co., 6th Reg't.
U. S. Marines
via New York A. T. F.

