



May peace be your gift at Christmas
and your treasure throughout the New Year

Yarwood Notes

December 1978

Merry Christmas!!

Last September, I went back to Iowa to visit my Mother on vacation, to be there for her birthday. While there, she gave me some old newspaper clippings and letters. I'll use them for the first part of this letter.

from: a Decorah, Winneshiek Co., Iowa newspaper - probably in 1914
Decorah Boys Make Good

The Spencer Reporter last week Wednesday says:

Robert W. YARWOOD, of Battle Lake, Minn., is the new stenographer in the Citizens National Bank, taking the place of Roger GRAHAM who has been promoted to the position of teller.

YARWOOD is a son of Will YARWOOD, a former resident of this county, and GRAHAM is the youngest son of the late D. C. GRAHAM.

from: a Montana newspaper sometime in 1918 - *SOME TIME IN OCTOBER*

R. W. YARWOOD is another young business man of Ronan to join the colors. He made application some time ago for entrance into the ordnance department and also passed the physical examination, and the first of this week he received notice to report in Missoula today for service in Washington, D.C. Mr. YARWOOD immediately resigned his position in the First National Bank and he and his family are leaving today. Mrs. YARWOOD will accompany him as far as Spencer, Iowa, where she will reside with her parents. Mr. YARWOOD's work for the present is of a clerical nature and he states he hopes to see France soon.

Next is a letter from my uncle, Guy, to my father:

Return address: Pvt. Guy R. YARWOOD, Bat. F, 123 F.A., AFF in France. Franked with "Soldier's Mail". Marked: A.F.F. PASSED AS CENSORED A.1408 and signed by Lt. ANDERSON.

Address: Pvt. Robt. W. YARWOOD, 404 Second St., N.W., Washington, D. C., U. S. A. Address changed to "Ronan, Montana"

Ltr:

Stenay, France
Dec. 30, 1918

Dear Brother,

Well, I finally got 2 letters from you. Was waiting for them for some time. Got them about 8:30 at night on the 27th when we got here. (My birthday.)

I haven't written you for sometime but didn't know where to write you.

Our regiment was to have come here about the third week of December but the trucks that came were the Quads with ammunition train bodies so could take but one Battalion. The tractors took the pieces and the trucks took A & B Batteries. The rest of us waited for the trucks to return for us. They came in on the 23rd but we did not come until the 26th. It is about 160 kilometers.

We started at 9:30 with them riding all day standing up, pulling into Naives which is just this side of Bar La Duc and got into our billets for the night. Slept on the floor so you can imagine how much I slept.

Bar La Duc reminded me of home towns more than any town I've seen in France. Big glass plate windows with lots of electric lights, wide streets, etc.

Started from Naives at 9:30 my birthday and arrived in Verdun about noon and ate some dinner. Verdun sure is blown to pieces. Not hardly a building that hasn't been hit some. Now, there is the salvage dumps all over by the railroad tracks with old German cannons, rifles, shells, clothing, etc., that has been captured and picked up on the front.

Left Verdun at 3:30 and crossed the battle fields all the way from there, here, but didn't see much only for a few miles as it got dark and rainy about 4:15.

This is an old French Military Academy. Some of these old stone barracks have been hit some but not bad.

The way I understand it was captured by U.S. forces a couple of days before the armistice was signed.

Well, Bob, we had a pretty fair dinner Christmas after all. Bought a hog, butchered it so had good roast pork, pie, spuds, cookies, cake, candy and plenty of cigarettes, so can't kick under the circumstances. Hope to have a better one next year.

We will be here for New Year's dinner and after that will move soon for some other place. Don't know, but think it will be up by Sedan somewhere by the way all rumors point.

How do you like the army clerical work or as you say Office boy's work? Your letters were dated 11/3/18 - 11/30/18.

There is several cases of the Flu around, but for God's sake don't say anything to the folks about it.

You speak of inspections, we sure do have them lately, also drill and fatigue duty. Gee, there was sure some policing here when we came here. Every-thing from s---, straw, etc., on the floors. Sure a filthy German place.

Well, Bob, don't ask me when we will be home. The only way I can say is, When I get there, I'll be there. Hope it isn't many months. Not much news, so will close for now.

Your loving Brother,
Guy

Pvt. Guy R. YARWOOD
Bat. F 123 F.A.
A.E.F. in France

Send Lorena & Florence my greetings,

Bye Bye

(Lorena & Florence are my Mother and older sister.)

The second letter isn't complete. It also is from Guy to Bob.

Pvt. Guy R. YARWOOD, Bat. F. 123 F.A. 33 Div., A.E.F. In France
to: Mr. Robert YARWOOD, 613 F. First St., Spencer, Iowa. Address
crossed out and replaced with: Ronan, Montana.

Lintgen, Luxemburg
January 26, 1919

Dear Brother,

I guess I must write a letter to you today as I got your letter written at Spencer Dec. 30 also Oct. 20, written at Ronan. Mail is coming good now and have received nearly all our back mail.

Glad you got out old boy, but sorry you ever got it into your head to enlist especially at such a late a date. It is hard on a man married and with no more resources than you have. I think I'll have to get more jack when I get married some way or other and don't intend to work out all my life either if I can help it.

We are still drilling squads right and left, cannoneers post, etc. Wish the war would soon end or the other one soon start that we are drilling for so as to get through with it. I got tired one day and went to Luxemburg for a couple of hours without a pass. Was picked up by M.P.'s soon after we got there and were under guard for a week. Saw some of the country I'd never have seen otherwise though so I should worry.

Last night I went out to see a Luxemburg girl to break the monotony of life here. Say a person sure wants to be careful what he says around here as they are simply crazy to marry us U.S. soldiers and crazy to go to the U.S. They seem to think that all our streets are paved with gold over there.

There is plenty of _____
(That's where it ends. The rest of the letter is lost.)

Next is a long clipping that is a letter from Guy to a minister. Again, I do not know what paper it came from, but Austin is the county seat of Mower County, Minnesota, and Guy lived for years in Lansing, also in Mower County.

FROM FRANCE

Private Guy R. YARWOOD Writes Interesting Letter of Hard Fighting.

The following interesting letter was written by Mower County boy to Rev. A. A. MOHNEY:

Stenav, France.
January 1, 1919

I received your letter on the 27th which was my 21st birthday. Was glad to hear from you. For that matter we are always on the alert for any mail that might be coming.

I don't remember what I wrote in my last letter but will proceed to tell what and where we have been and seen since we left Camp Merritt on June 28th.

We went to the harbor on an old freight boat and loaded onto the Teiresias steamer the morning of the 28th sailing until July 10th. On the 9th we saw the coast of Scotland in the distance and saw our submarine chasers sink a submarine.

Got off the boat about 4 P.M., hiked a mile or two to the train out of Liverpool and rode all night, getting off at about 6:30 A.M. at South Hampton. There we hiked a couple of miles to a so-called rest camp and expected to rest a day or so, but about 1 P.M. the order came to pack up and get ready to cross the English channel for LaHarve. We went to the boat at 3 P.M. and steamed out at 6 o'clock. The next morning we woke up at the docks. Unloaded after dinner and hiked up to another camp to stay until Sunday morning the 14th when we boarded a train for St. Aignan where we were split into about a dozen different outfits. Some going to the Artillery, some to the Engineers, Quartermaster, Infantry, Military Police, Railroad outfits, etc.

On July 19th the Artillery detachment left for LaCourtine, an Artillery replacement camp where we were split once more, the company I was in going to the 58th F.A. Brigade. While at Lacourtine we went to the artillery range and worked on the sannons some. On the 27th we left for Valdahon where we joined our organizations on August first.

From then until August 22 we spent learning how to handle Army horses and also the care and nomenclature of the French 155 ML. Howitzer cannon.

On the 22nd we started on a hike for Besancon France which was about 22 kilometers. There we loaded on the train August 24th and started for the front getting off the next morning. From then until the third of September was spent in travel and in hiding in the woods in the rear of the lines of the St. Michael sector.

The night of the second ammunition began going up to our positions and the night of the third the firing batteries went up to prepare pits for the guns. In the day time we worked under the camouflage and at night unloaded and carried ammunition. The shells weigh about 95 to 97 pounds.

On the 12th at 1 o'clock we opened up the barrage. We were about a mile from Mons Sec. in a little village named Bouconville. Such a noise and flare of lights I never did see as that night. It was dark and rained all night. The piece I was working on fired 107 rounds.

On the 13th we moved up past Xivrey and we had a chance to see what had been destroyed by our artillery and visit the German trenches. It was a sight a person will never forget.

September 14th we began our night forced marches for the Argonne-Meuse front and September the 21st went into our positions and prepared for the next barrage which opened up on September 26th.

From then until October 12th we witnessed some of the worst fighting that ever took place in the war. We fired thousands of rounds and Fritz returned the compliment by sending us some. Over two thirds of theirs failed to explode, but one afternoon when we were pulling our guns into positions 14 men were killed right near us. Right then and there we swore vengeance on the Huns.

We made two advances on this drive which was the final one of the War. We saw several air battles and saw a few balloon and aeroplanes brot down.

On October 12th we were relieved and proceeded to the rear for a much needed rest. While there the 11th Field Artillery took our place in the brigade which went up again after a ten day rest.

We, the 123rd, turned in our horses harness, etc., and went to Doulaincourt, which is on the Marne river between Bar-La-Duc and Besancon to be motorized. While there the armistice was signed so we never saw any more service in the Lines.

We got our motors and stayed there until in December. On the 18th the pieces and first Battalion left for Stenay. The pieces being pulled by the tractors and men by trucks.

The trucks came back for us Dec. 23rd but didn't leave until the 26th on account of Christmas.

The morning of the 26th we left for Stenay, coming through Bar-La-Duc, Souilly, Verdun and across the battlefields all the way from Verdun here, but couldn't see much after we left Verdun as it was raining and got dark a half an hour after leaving.

This place is an old Military Academy of France and was captured by the U.S. Forces a day or so before the armistice was signed. They surely made a nice filthy place out of it, leaving everything imaginable lying around. It took us a couple of days to get it half way fit to sleep in. The barracks, which are made of stone, as all buildings are in France, aren't blown up very bad.

Well, I guess you are tired of this so will try something else.

We had a very nice time Thanksgiving, also a good turkey dinner.

Christmas we had fresh roast pork for dinner. Also got candy, cookies, jam, etc. from the Y.M.C.A. and Red Cross.

Today, which is New Year's, we had the regular rations.

I have seen things since I joined at Austin that I never expected to see and have seen some fierce fighting and shelling. I thought of

every evil also good things I had done in my life in about five minutes while the Germans shelled us continuously. They continued the whole afternoon.

While I thought of home and wished I was there many and many times, but I never regretted the signing of that little piece of paper which said I was a soldier in Uncle Sam's army. I think a good many of the boys at home wish they would have done the same thing.

I don't know when we will come sailing for the good old U.S.A. which is the only country to be in, but will go up near Sedan soon. May do a little guard duty for all I know.

As it is mess time and also near supper time I must close for now. Hoping to be with you in a few months, I remain

Your Brother in Him,
Pvt. Guy R. YARWOOD
Bat. F. 123 F.A.
A.E.F. In France

Mrs. Ralph L. COSGRAY, 10361 St. Rt. 22A, Deerfield, Ohio 44111
sent the following letter:

June 22, 1978
10361 St. Rt. 22A,
Deerfield, Ohio
44111

Dear Mr. W. R. Yarwood

My Grandfather was a Yarwood he died some time in Feb. I'll have to go to Lisbon Court House to get the records of his death and his wife's. I have been trying to get my sides' genealogy but I've had so much trouble because my husband is sick and it is hard for me. I'm a Mormon and as being L.D.S. we have to have our genealogy for our children to carry on. My Grandfather's side came from Manchester, England. My Grandfather's name was William Dennis (YARWOOD). He married Eva Blanche McDONALD. I can't remember how many children they had besides my father, Thomas Edward YARWOOD, b. Feb 24, 1908 in Lisbon, married Irene GASKINS, dau of Jordan GASKINS and Zoe BATT-DORFF. They had seven children by his last marriage and two by the first.

- I Wanda YARWOOD b May 4, 1948; m Ralph COSGRAY, Dec 20, 1968.
- II Ralph the son of Jeffrey Postlewaite & Edna () COSGRAY.
- III George Edward YARWOOD, b Oct 31, 1952
- IV Sandra YARWOOD b Feb 7, 1952
- V Dennis YARWOOD b April 27, 1953
- VI Thurza YARWOOD b June 25, 1954
- VII Wendy YARWOOD b May 31, 1955
- VIII Gordon YARWOOD b March 21, 1957

And by his First wife, Thurza, who died when their two children were still small:

- I Thomas YARWOOD, Jr., b Aug 24, 1937
- II Shelba YARWOOD, b Jan 16, 1940

If any of this is any help, I'm glad to help. I want to get the rest of the records about my Grandfather and his family. May God be with you in trying to get the Family Tree all together.

Thank you,
Wanda Patricia COSGRAY

Robert Yarwood THIBAUT, Independence Square Apt's, Apt 13-J,
East Greenbush, N.Y., 12061 sent the following information:

Harold H. YARWOOD (see "YARWOOD NOTES" Apr 1975) passed away 26 May 1978 at the age of 82. He was the last named YARWOOD in his particular line.

Harold YARWOOD and his brother Robert (d 1975) neither one had any children. Robert Y. THIBAULT and his cousin, Marilyn Yarwood TRACY have "Yarwood" as their middle names.

He also gave some additional information about their family:

Robert Harrison YARWOOD & Ida Mea HAMMOND (9/28/1865 - 1920) had 5 children:

Mildred A. YARWOOD m PRIOR; d May 1950
Harold H. YARWOOD d 28 May 1978
Gladys YARWOOD m MORTON; d April 1950
Robert H. YARWOOD, d March 1975
Katherine M. YARWOOD, m Joseph P. THIBAULT; d 8 Jan 1972

He mentioned that his grandfather and all five children had both diabetes and heart trouble.

Robert retired from the U. S. Coast Guard, and is now a real estate broker. Like his fellow retired Coast Guard CPO, Alex HALTY (of ROOTS) he is working on the family tree.

He has found that his grandfather, Robert H. YARWOOD (1842-1934) was born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, rather than Barton-on-Umber, and was the son of Robert Harrison YARWOOD, born in 1843.

Harold H. YARWOOD was born 18 Dec 1865, retired 1950 from General Electric Co., in Schenectady, N.Y., and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Amsterdam, N.Y. Gladys (Yarwood) MORTON also worked for General Electric prior to her death. He was very proud of the Yarwood name.

Mr. THIBAULT also sent his family work sheet with the following info.

Joseph P. THIBAULT, b 8 November 1909, Victory Mills, N.Y., son of Alexander THIBAULT & () PENDERGAST; m Katherine Margaret YARWOOD, b 22 July 1910, Brooklyn, N.Y., d 8 January 1972, bd Albany, N.Y., dau of Robert Harrison YARWOOD & Ida Mea HAMMOND, 28 Sept 1865 - 1920.

They had two children:

Robert Yarwood THIBAULT, b 5 Sept 1938, Troy, Rensselaer, N.Y. m 1 Aug 1964.

Mary Kay THIBAULT, b 13 April 1943, Albany, Albany, N.Y.; m June 1965, FRANKOSKI.

Joe Petsel YARDING, b Iowa City, Johnson Co., Iowa, 30 Dec 1913; d. heart attach, Chapel Hill, N.C., 21 May 1978; bd Iowa City, Ia., 24 May 1978. Leaves his wife, Florence (Yarwood) YARDING, Coralville, Iowa; 3 sons, Joe, Chapel Hill, N.C.; Bob, Lakewood, Colo., and Jim, Canyon City, Colo. Also 3 sisters, neices & nephews.

Paige Annette HARDING, b 2 July 1978, Canyon City, Colorado, dau of James George & Susan Gail (Miller) HARDING.

Another letter from Mr. THIBAULT gave me (us) some information about Walter A. YARWOOD - in California- that Harold H. YARWOOD had mentioned.

Walter A. YARWOOD, born in Rome, N.Y., was secretary to the Calif. State Athletic Commission in 1928, and was at the State Board of Equalization in 1936. His relatives settled around Rome, N.Y. and some around Picton, Ontario, Canada. Walter A. had an uncle W.W. YARWOOD who was living in Newark, N.J. in 1928. A cousin Miss Lillian YARWOOD in Utica, N.Y.; another cousin, Frank L. YARWOOD, native of Rome, N.Y., lived in San Bernardino, Calif. in 1928. Walter had a son, Claude, living in Olympia, Washington in 1936. Claude claimed he found a "whole tribe" of YARWOOD's in that area. Mentioned a Freda YARWOOD working in a coffee shop in Seattle in 1936.

He also mentioned that his aunt, Mrs. H. H. YARWOOD has told him of a former Yarwood by the name of Joan BLACKLOCK who is married to a minister in Amsterdam, N.Y.

ETHEL JEANETTE FADNESS

Ethel Jeanette FADNESS, daughter of Ernest Leroy and Jennie Risdahl YARWOOD, was born September 11, 1910 on a farm in Calmar Township, Iowa, and departed this life July 29, 1978 at Postville, Iowa, at the age of 67 years.

A graduate of Decorah High School, she attended Iowa State Teacher's College, Cedar Falls, and then served as a teacher in rural Winneshiek County, Iowa, schools until her marriage to Elmer J. FADNESS on April 29, 1934. Together, they farmed near Highlandville and in Canoe Township, finally purchasing a farm between Frankville and Postville. Three sons were born to their union, Robert, Richard and James.

Baptized as an infant at the Washington Prairie Church, Calmar, and confirmed at the Decorah Lutheran Church, she was a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church, transferring into membership at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Postville, in 1947. She was active in church activities, a faithful member of the L.W. In earlier years she was active in the area of 4-H work.

Preceded in death by her husband, Elmer, on January 24, 1966, and a brother, Melvin, she is survived by her three sons, Robert, of Huchuca City, Arizona; Richard, of Postville, and James, of Rochester, Minnesota. She also is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Theodore (Dorothy) REMONS, Burr Oak, Iowa; Mrs. Gladys BAKER, Muldrow, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Doris PEDGAN, Decorah; 2 brothers, Earl, of Greenfield, Indiana, and Donald, Rochester, Minnesota; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Interment will be in the Postville Cemetery.

And now for one final item - to end on a more optimistic note:

Bryan Anthony WOLF, son of Joseph and Marian (Yarwood) WOLF married Glenda Lee ARELL, dau of Mr. & Mrs. Donald ARELL, Saturday 11 November 1978, 2:30 P. M., Saint Catherine of Church, Reseda, California.

Best wishes to the young couple.

Sincerely,

Bill

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Norris C. Swenson, Pastor David R. Nelson, Associate Pastor
Postville, Iowa

AUGUST 1, 1978 — 1:30 P.M.

“ . . . I go and prepare a place for you, I will
come again, and receive you unto Myself; that
where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14:3

†

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

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long member of the Lutheran Church, transferring into member-
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Muldrow, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Doris Bergan, Decorah; 2 brothers,
Earl, of Greenfield, Indiana, and Donald, Rochester, Minnesota;
four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Interment will be in the Postville Cemetery.

†

Casket Bearers: Phil Bergan, Robert Bergan, Charles Fadness,
Raymond Fadness, Lester Van Wey, Allen Wahls.

†

Members of the family and friends are invited to a fellowship
hour at the church, following the service, served by the LCW.

†

Serving as organist is Mrs. Paul Schutte.

†

Arrangements for the service have been made in cooperation
with the Schutte Funeral Service, Postville.

THE SERVICE

THE INVOCATION

THE KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE PSALM

THE LESSONS

THE RESPONSORY

Pastor: I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he
shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
And in my flesh shall I see God.

Congregation: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine
eyes shall behold, and not another.
And in my flesh shall I see God.

THE HYMN

“Nearer My God To Thee”

No. 577

THE SERMON

THE HYMN

“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”

No. 459

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: O God, the Father in heaven:

Congregation: Have mercy upon us.

Pastor: O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world:

Congregation: Have mercy upon us.

Pastor: O God, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter:

Congregation: Grant us Thy peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COLLECTS

THE CLOSING PRAYER

THE HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

No. 550

THE BENEDICTION

THE AMEN