



Pictures above show scenes in the war cemeteries of France, which were recently visited by three Joplin Gold Star Mothers, who accompanied the Missouri delegation of War Mothers to the cemeteries to visit the graves of their sons, who fell in battle during the world war. The delegation returned last week after being guests of the United States government on the trip. The pictures, save the one at the lower right, in which President Hoover is shown greeting the mothers at the White house upon their return, were brought back home by the Joplin mothers. The Joplin women who made this trip are Mrs. Mary Everson, Mrs. Mary E. Calentine and Mrs. Susan E. Hammer. At the upper left is a picture of Mrs. Hammer at the grave of her son, and in the upper right is Mrs. Calentine at her son's grave. Mrs. Everson collapsed at her son's grave and was taken back to a Paris hotel, where she was under a physician's care three days. Larger picture in center at the top was taken just after wreaths had been placed on the tomb of France's Unknown Soldier in Paris. Mrs. Everson is shown standing at the officer's left. She pinned the badge on the wreath which was placed on the tomb. In the lower left of the picture is the St. Michel group of Missouri mothers at Napoleon's tomb, and at the lower right is the group received at the White house by President Hoover.

8 Aug 1940

Three Joplin Gold Star Mothers Await Day When They Sail for Shrines of Sons



Joplin's three Gold Star Mothers, who will cross the seas to visit their soldier sons' graves in France are, left to right, Mrs. Susie Hammer, 722 Florida avenue; Mrs. Mary Calentine, 3514 Moffet avenue, and Mrs. Mary Everson, 232 1/2 Main street.

Facing toward the east are three Joplin mothers, who soon will set sail for France to kneel at the graves of soldiers who were their sons. And their faces glow with anticipation as if some long-awaited dream is about to come true.

Four young men are the price they paid for the Allies' victory, and they are about to see the shell-torn fields where that toll was demanded—and the grassy sward of the great cemetery which cry out against war.

Not Embittered.
But they are not embittered be-

cause that price was demanded. They have a silent, strong pride that it was they who could make such a sacrifice "for their country," and they would be glad to do it again, they say. Not that they love war, for its hard reality has robbed it of glamour for them, and they have tasted its sordidness, but

they believe that war is inevitable and they harbor that deep-founded conviction that they'd "be ashamed of a son who was a coward."

Says Mrs. Mary Everson, 332½ Main street, whose son, Lieut. Ludwig L. Everson of the 129th machine gun battalion, went down in the terrible offensive in the Meuse-Argonne: "I am proud he made the sacrifice. He was a soldier, and he died like a soldier." And with a tinge of pride, she drew out a picture of her boy, a debonaire, laughing chap.

He was cut down by flying machine gun bullets as he was attempting to establish his machine guns and men further out in no man's land. "One of his sergeants told me about his death," she said. "He was struck in the abdomen, and Mr. Hatfield helped him back to where two German prisoners were preparing a stretcher. Mr. Hatfield followed him back to the field hospital. He was wearing his captain's wrist watch, since his did not keep good time and he was to time his attack. He asked Mr. Hatfield to see that Captain Sherman got his watch back, saying he knew he was mortally wounded. That was the twenty-sixth of September, 1918, and he died October 1 in a field hospital near Mont-faucon."

Lieutenant Everson is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American cemetery, at Romangue-sous-Mont-faucon, Meuse, France. His mother has a small, black-bordered card, which tells the section, block and number of her boy's grave.

"There'll always be war," she said, with the trace of a tear in her eyes, "the Bible says so. But there'll be other mothers who'll be just as proud to send their sons as I was." Another son, Paul Everson, was stationed at Bordeaux, France, in the motor transport division, and is now in government service in California.

The cruel St. Mihiel offensive made a Gold Star mother out of Mrs. Mary Calentine, 3514 Moffet avenue, but she answers the inevitability of death just as bravely. "If it has to be, I am pleased my son had the manhood to fight for his country." Her boy, Clarence Wheeler, served in Company A, 353rd Infantry, 89th division, in the St. Mihiel sector.

While he was manning an anti-aircraft rapid-fire gun, splattering bullets at enemy airplanes overhead, a piece of shrapnel caught him September 14, 1918. He died the following day, and was buried in St. Mihiel American cemetery at Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

One Son Slain

Mrs. Calentine mothered two other men who served in the war—Earl Wheeler, the youngest, who fought in five battles during the closing days of the conflict without being injured, and William Wheeler, who was with the medical corps at Camp Funston. Her wartime grief was made more heavy when Earl Wheeler was slain near Picher a few years ago.

To Mrs. Quale E. Hamer, 722 Florida avenue, goes the honor, however empty, of having given both her sons in the cause of the Allies. But she is not complaining. Her patriotism is above that.

The grave she seeks in France shelters Private John Hamer, who went overseas in August, 1918, with the Second Army, long after his brother Charles Hamer, had been in battle. John did not get into battle, being assigned to a headquarters troop, stationed at Toul, France. Influenza and typhoid ended his life November 23, 1919. He is buried in the St. Mihiel cemetery, close to where Mrs. Calentine's son lies.

That death, coming after the Armistice, was cruel, but the mockery was complete with the death of Charles Hamer in a veterans' hospital in Kansas City. He went through twenty-five months active service in Company C, 117th field battalion signal corps, 42nd division, and saw action at Tuenville, Baccarat, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne without a scratch but was "gassed." Mrs. Hamer treasures his government medal bearing the six bars upon which are engraved the names of those famous battles. He was made a corporal in August, 1918.

After the war, he went into Germany in the Army of Occupation, and later returned home. Due to the gas he breathed, he died February 10, 1922, in Kansas City.

To Visit Shrines

And now, after a dozen years, the mothers are to visit the shrines of their dead.

With them will go sixty-three other mothers out of Missouri, with similar sorrowful goals "across the pond." The Joplin women will leave here at 8:20 o'clock Friday night, August 15, arriving in St. Louis the following morning. The other Gold Star mothers of this state also will have assembled there, and a special train will carry them to New York, arriving the morning of August 17.

On August 19, they will board the S. S. George Washington bound for France, and eight days will be required for the crossing. From August 27 to September 10 they will devote their time to seeing the battlefields and cemeteries—the remains of trenches which witnessed almost unbelievable butchery, the

shell-holes—and the fantastic designs which the rows of white headstones trace on the soil of France.

On September 10 they will set sail for home, and on September 19 will be back in New York. A special train will take them to Washington, D. C., for a two-day visit, and then they will come back to Joplin.

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Do your false teeth drop or slip when you talk, eat, laugh or sneeze? Don't be annoyed and embarrassed a minute longer. Fasteth, a new powder to sprinkle on your plates, holds teeth firm. Gives fine feeling of security and comfort. No sticky, sticky paste taste or feeling. Get Fasteth today at Crown Drug Co. or any other drug store.—Adv.

THREE GOLD STAR MOTHERS READY TO START LONG TRIP

Joplin Group Will Leave Tonight for St. Louis, Where They Will Join Others on Pilgrimage.

FRANCE IS THE GOAL

To Visit Graves of Sons on Foreign Soil and Visit Tomb of France's Unknown Soldier.

The longest journey of their lives, to the war cemeteries of France, begins tonight for three Joplin war mothers, who will leave on the 8:20 o'clock Missouri Pacific train, St. Louis-bound. Besides being their longest journey, it probably will be the greatest adventure.

Mrs. Mary Everson, 332½ Main street; Mrs. Mary Calentine, 3514 Moffet avenue, and Mrs. Susan F. Hamer, 722 Florida avenue, will form the Joplin contingent to France and they yesterday completed their last-minute preparations for the leave-taking.

No Formal Ceremony

No formal ceremony will mark their departure, according to present plans, but a group of Joplin war mothers, headed by Mrs. Charles George, president of the local war mothers' organization, will be at the station at Tenth and Main streets to bid them farewell.

At St. Louis, the three elderly women will join seventy-six other Gold Star mothers of Missouri who also will make the trip, and a special train will carry them on to New York, where they will arrive at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Sunday and Monday will be devoted to the usual receptions and ceremonies that have marked the departure of each contingent, and at noon Tuesday they will set sail on the S. S. George Washington.

Landing at Cherbourg, France, August 27, a special train will escort them to Paris for a day of rest. On the second day there, women of each party will place a wreath on the tomb of the French unknown soldier. The Joplin mothers are carrying a badge from the war mothers' organization to place on the mammoth tomb under the Arc de Triomphe.

To Be Reception

In the afternoon there will be a reception staged by French war mothers and government officials, and the following morning the groups will go to the different cemeteries by motor bus to remain seven days.

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To Mrs. Huala F. Hanmer, 722 Florida avenue, goes the honor, however empty, of having given both her sons in the cause of the Allies. But she is not complaining. Her patriotism is above that.

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