

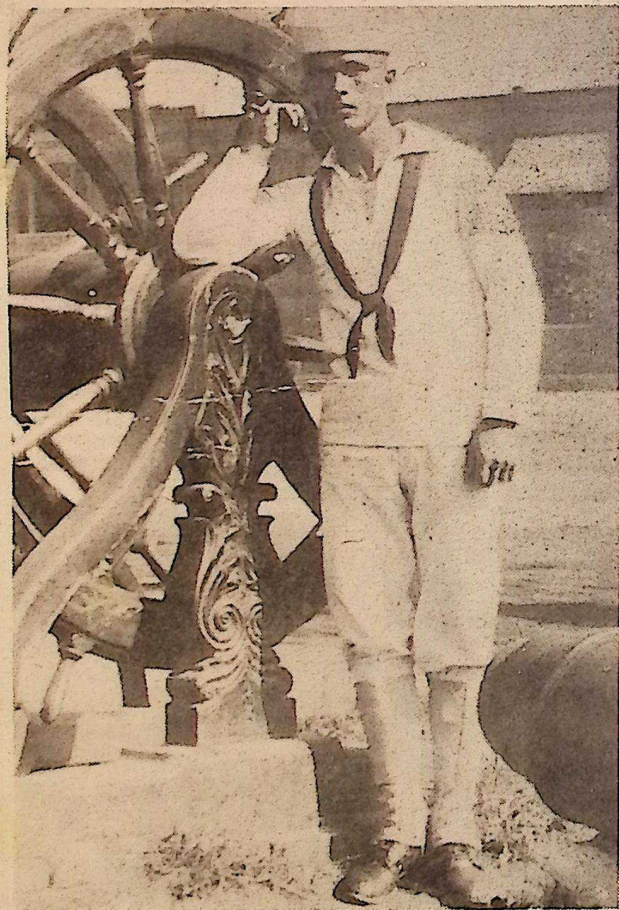
World War I: Osterville's people do their part

by Paul Chesbro

[Ed. Note: This week, Part IV features WWI recollections, letters-to-home, photographs with brief profiles... and brief profiles of Osterville people of whom we have no military era photos. Part IV will conclude the series until January, 1981.]



Private 1st Class, James Hansberry. 302nd, INF, Repair Unit. Served in France. Private Hansberry also served in Washington, D.C.



1st Class Fireman, Edward F. Souza. Enlisted in the U.S. Navy September 1917 in New Bedford. His basic training was at Norfolk Naval Station, Virginia. Ed was sent to France in March of 1918. While serving in France, he was sent to England to serve aboard a converted German liner/troop ship that transported American troops to New York. He made several trips back and forth between France and the U.S. bringing troops home at the end of the war. He was discharged in July, 1919. Mr. Souza, now 86 years old, lives on the old family homestead in Marstons Mills; years ago it was referred to as "the Plains".

... Letters to home

(Letter written September 1st, 1917, by Maurice Allen to his mother Mrs. Edith Allen. Letter was written from Newport, R.I.)

My Dear Mother:

Just a word to let you know that I am all right and am getting along fine. If you send me any cake or candy be sure and wrap it up good so it won't get broken up. Just wrote a letter to Frank and I was very glad to hear that he was exempted and hope that he will always be as lucky.

I hope you will notice my address is changed because if you send it to my old one I won't get it. Have you heard from Sybil. I wrote to her but haven't got any answer yet. Saw Karl Chadwick and Leon Hinckley yesterday. Some glad to see them two believe me. I suppose you have seen Betty by this time and what does she say. I am going to write to her tonight after I finish this. Hope you are well and strong. Wish I was there to get some of your vegetables. If anybody says anything about sending anything don't stop them- am just dying for something civilized.

Lots of love,
Maurice

(Extracts from a letter written to Margaret Hansberry by her sister Marie, a Red Cross nurse in France)

August 22, 1918

My dear Margaret:

This has surely been sunny France for the past few weeks; such heavenly weather I have never seen. It is very warm but not as uncomfortable as at home in the summer. Another one of Jim's pals is in my ward. I feel quite at home knowing that nearly all my friends are "somewhere in France." Have heard splendid things about Ed Daniel from one of his men. Also about Max Crosby. Did you know Ed had been commissioned?

Tell some of Max Crosby's people that I have heard splendid things about his soldiering and they have reason to be very proud of Max. Ed is said to be exceptionally clever in his line. This is surely a small world. Send me the addresses of any of the people whom I used to know at home who are out here so that I may write them or inquire about the various "outfits" from my boys.

... Contrary to any of our wildest imaginations, last night every one of us had a glorious evening at our first dance - "somewhere in France." Our base hospital gave the dance and invited some of the officers from neighboring camps and also the French people of the village, who have been very kind to all of our men and officers. The party was given in a casino which had been converted into a ward. The men moved all the beds out for the occasion and we volunteered to make them up again after they had moved them back. The hall was decorated in flags and looked so much like one we might find in the states that I am sure all of us forgot we were in France on such a serious mission. The American boys who have been over here for a long time treat us as if we were very wonderful creatures. Life goes on very happily for all of us here. Do write soon and often. A loving good-night and God bless you all.

Affectionately,
Marie



Quartermaster 1st Class, Elliott Lewis. Elliott served with the U.S. Navy Air Service. He was the youngest man from Osterville to serve in WWI. He enlisted on January 9, 1918 at Newport, Rhode Island, where he first trained. Later he was sent to 3rd Reg. 7th Co. 1st in Charleston, S.C.; then to U.S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida and later to Hampton Roads Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Virginia. He was discharged in Boston in 1921.



Nurse, U.S. Med. Corps, Marie Hansberry. She served at Base Hospital, Lemur, France. Marie was a graduate of Carney Hospital Training School for Nurses and served overseas with the army. On her return from France, she was in charge of the training program at General Hospital, Port Au Prince, Haiti, in 1920.

World War I Recollections

by Mrs. Jessie (Boult) Leonard

...of Mrs. Jessie [Boult] Leonard

"... I recall when my brother Hallett Boult was called into the army. He was taken to Hyannis by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams. He went by train to Fort Devens."

"... My mother was very upset, along with many other mothers in the village, when their sons were called to join the service."

"... The ladies of the village used to knit things and make quilts for the boys in the service."

"... The children of the village used to sponsor a tag day to collect money for the people in need overseas."

"... We also used to make sugarless, eggless, milkless, butterless cake. These commodities were hard to get, so we used lots of raisins and dates."

... Others who served

Frederic Scudder: Quartermaster, U.S. Merchant Marine. Was commissioned quartermaster in 1917 aboard the U.S.S. Dakotan. The Dakotan transported U.S. Army troops, arms and equipment from New York to St. Nazaire, France.

Frank D. Allen: Private. Enlisted September 5, 1918 and was sent to Fort Devens. He served in the 2nd Searchlight Division. His duty stations were in New York, Washington and Virginia. He returned to Fort Devens after the Armistice and was discharged Nov. 21, 1918. At 90 years old, Mr. Allen is the oldest living Osterville veteran of WWI.

Victor F. Adams: Enlisted while attending Brown University on September 15, 1918. He was stationed at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in an officers' training camp-Company F. Was discharged after the Armistice in November. Mr. Adams served in the R.O.T.C. at Brown, as a sergeant, in 1917-18. Graduated from Brown with the class of 1920, he served as selectman for the town of Barnstable for 33 years.

Thornton R. Adams: Chief Machinist's Mate, U.S.N. Thornton was the first man from Osterville to enlist in WWI- April, 1917. He trained at Newport.

Everett Verner Childs: Seaman 1st Class. Enlisted in April of 1917 in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was called to duty in August of that year. He made two trips to Liverpool, England and three trips to Brest, France on the troop ship U.S. Leviathan. He witnessed torpedo action that sank Tippecanoe. Mr. Childs now lives in Wilmington, North Carolina.
