

“Somewhere Over There.”

The following letter was received by R M Nichols from his son Lt. Lee Nichols, somewhere in France:

Nov. 14th, 1918

Dear homefolks, No doubt you are glad the war is ended but not half so glad as I am. The 311 Infantry went over the top at 6:00 am Nov 11th and it was something terrible; if the end had been 36 hours later; there is no way to imagine how hard it would have hit this regiment. The boys charged the machine guns like men and they stopped only when they could go no more. They gained two miles in that time and were sill going. The Germans said it was the best infantry the had ever faced and that no other soldiers would have ever come thru that artillery. It was almost like hail. The night before, eight of us stayed in the same shell hole but did not sleep. I had not slept any for two days. After it was over the Germans acted like men, they come over and helped take care of our wounded and they were shaking hands with some of the boys. We are still on the front but I think the Germans have withdrawn. They will be given no chance to come back at [illegible]. I have had no mail since Oct 31, since then we have been on the go. As yet I have not heard of any Alleghany boys getting killed. A boy [illegible] John since the battle and [Leff? Cliff?] had not been OK he would let me know. There is plenty of [grouse?] rabbits and [illegible] here. I am going to hunt some in a day or two [illegible] don't guess it would be of much use with only a rifle. Ammunition is plentiful. The [illegible] is covered with everything imaginable. It would be hard to get any idea as to when we will leave France. I am well, fine, and happy and will write you again when we get to a better place.

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