

Here are five Chicago boys who are taking part in the world war. At the top, left, is Henry N. Cooper Jr. David Annan is at the right. Below him, at right, is William Gemmill. Noble Weshard Lee is next to Gemmill, and below is Robert Redfield Jr. Photos of Gemmill and Annan by Mabel Sykes, Redfield by Koehne, and Cooper by Sykes & Fowler.

FRONT WRITE OF THRILLS

Little Danger of Being Killed, They Say; Believe Defeat of Germany Is Near.

Parental pride to-day filled the hearts of the fathers and mothers of the Chicago boys of "Sanitary Ambulance Section No. 65," which was officially awarded the Croix de Guerre for heroic bravery under fire in France. The honor was awarded to the section on the flag of the division. The section is composed largely of Chicago boys, most of them university students.

"During the period from July 10 to August 1 and in particular during the period between July 14 and July 23, and between July 31 and August 1, the ambulance drivers, who were under fire for the first time, have acted with perfect self-control and with a courage that has drawn the admiration of every one."

That is the tribute paid the men when the official recognition was made.

The parents of five of the boys received letters yesterday, the dates of which correspond with those of the dispatch showing that during this time the men were under the severest fire.

TELLS OF EXCITEMENT.

"We have just had some real excitement here," writes William B. Gemmill, son of Judge William N. Gemmill, 5406 Ellis avenue, from the Chemin des Dames. His letter carries the date of July 19.

"There is quite an air battle going on overhead. The Boches are trying to bring down a couple of French observation planes. They haven't got much chance of doing it, because the planes get away from them so easily.

"Yesterday I carried in a wounded German prisoner. He was a boy seventeen years old and scared stiff. He had been lying in 'No Man's Land' since the attack on July 14. When Germany sends her seventeen-year-olds in it looks like she has almost enough."

"In a previous letter young Gemmill, who is a student at the University of Chicago, told of bringing in the wounded from the German drive of July 14."

"I was carrying in six wounded," he wrote. "Our cars are fitted with four shifts of gears instead of three, the fourth corresponding with the third on American cars."

(Section 65 is using the French Berliot ambulance cars.)

"I was in the midst of heavy artillery fire. I could not make the shift into high and was running along on third. My engine got hot. I was forced to stop. A great shell burst within thirty feet of me."

"I am proud of my boy," declared Judge Gemmill in high, good humor to-day.

BELIEVES END IS NEAR

"He writes that it won't be long now—and I don't think it will be long before they have fighters over the front," he describes.

"He says there were 900 wounded killed or taken prisoner on the attack of July 14."

A graphic and descriptive telling of the experience of the ambulance driver in France is given by Attorney Robert Redfield from his son, Robert Jr., a University of Chicago student, who has been in the ambulance division three months. The division was dated July 15.

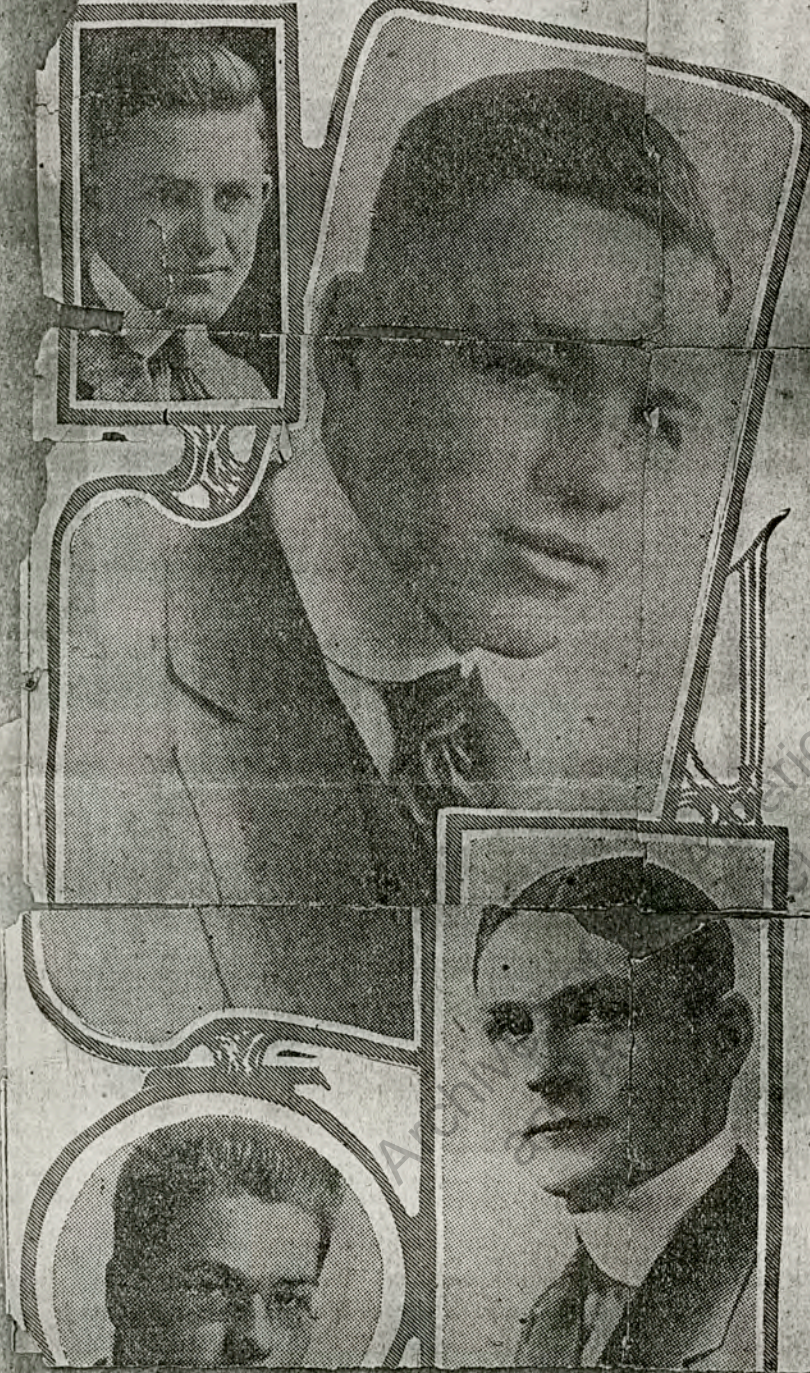
WAR "HELL OF NOISES."

"Well, I am on duty," he writes after telling of his rest in an ambulance ground station. "They have a lot of wounded ready. I emerge from the quiet cavern into a world where the sky is shattered, split, surging by report after report. The ground shakes and quivers. Aeroplanes are 75's below, German artillery overhead, mitrailleuse, whining shrill, the shriek of shells passing at a hell of noises."

He tells of the perilous route through dangerous and shell-ridden territory with the wounded.

"You can imagine that we stop to pick wild flowers on the way," he writes.

A letter bearing the date of July 14 and written "On Active Service" from the American Expeditionary Force on a letterhead of the "American Y. M. C. A." was received by Alexander Annan, 6350 Dante avenue, from her son, David H. Annan. Mrs. Annan says her son is



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