

Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, 4 February 1915. Image 011400190.

Correspondence from German

Wölschingen, Oberamt Borberg, Baden
4 January 1915

Hello Volksblatt Readers, Friends and Acquaintances,

For the new year I wish all of you happiness and many blessings and ask that when you pray for us to include the hope for peace to return to us here very soon. Until now the German soldiers have been holding their position in the East and the West. In December the commander-in-chief in France ordered his army to aggressively move forward against the enemy as it seemed to become paralyzed in their attempt to move further into France and time had come to press forward. He further mentioned that his troops had gained several victories and that he expects his troops to continue to be victorious. If this command continues to develop then we can sing the following: "Dear Fatherland be calm, strong is our line of defense along the river Rhine." An attack of the French and English soldiers on Christmas Eve on our defense line on the Rhine proves our strength. When our soldiers celebrated Christmas the English enemy planned to run over our camp but they found the defense line in place and were not successful. Our soldiers carried their weapon while celebrating Christmas. One soldier wrote to us and explained the situation: Suddenly there was a hail of bomb shells and it felt as if the ground was in flames, about 10 bomb shells per second. Then French and English soldiers stormed into our camp. They got as close as 50 steps from us when we moved out of our trenches and started firing at them. We shot them down. The remaining 270 men surrendered and 3000 English soldiers were dead. They asked for a truce in order to bury their dead and we agreed. But attacks continued and the Germans defended their line. There are still Germans in America this day who believe that all of Germany lies in ruins. I am writing to you that we don't know that we have to lead such serious war but know that now and then men are being called to serve when new wounded soldiers are found in the infirmary of Borberg. Until now we have been victorious and we will continue to win. In God's name, greetings to all of you from

your Baden Texan
Adam Herm.

Translated by Margot Hendricks