

Letters

Dear Chief Roberts,
Just wanted to let you know that I have mailed my letters to our elected officials concerning the 1/4 Blood Quantum restriction. I also sent a letter to the Indian Health Services in Rockville, Maryland, to Mr. Richard J. McCloskey.

I am sorry I was unable to attend the meeting at the J.J. Stipe Center this past Monday, the 18th, at McAlester. If there are going to be more meetings planned concerning this, I would appreciate information as to when and where these will take place.

I am 1/4 Choctaw Indian, but registered as 3/16 due to the fact that my full-blood grandfather registered as 3/4 in order to have the restriction on Indian allotment land lifted. Would there be any way possible to get his registration changed and corrected?

If this restriction is put upon the Indian people, there will, I'm sure, be a lot of people in the same position as myself.

If there is anyone else to send letters to protesting this proposed rule, I would be more than glad to write as many letters as necessary.

Barbara J. Herrin
HC 67, Box 560
Indianola, Okla

Dear Editor,

On the 21st of July, I had a healthy baby boy at Talihina Indian hospital.

I just want to tell everyone how wonderful I was treated and what great care I got.

The Choctaw people should be really proud of the hospital and Dr. Grant. I can't find the words to thank Dr. Grant enough for all the help and support.

any relatives that read this newspaper, I would appreciate if they would write to me.

Abbie Roebuck Taylor
Amer. Ind. Nurs. Home
P.O. Box 9
Laveen, Arizona
85339

Dear Editor

I am Mary Louis, wife of Solomon Louis.

I am writing in regards to the article which appeared in the *Bishnik* about the Choctaw "CODE TALKERS".

Solomon was a young man of 19 years when he enlisted in the armed forces to serve his country. I was a young bride and I was very sad to have him go but I knew it was an important duty. He returned home in 1918. We had three children who are all deceased. I have two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Solomon died Feb. 19, 1972 at Talihina, Oklahoma.

Mary Ann Louis

Dear Chief Roberts,

I have just finished writing twenty letters for my children and grand-children opposing the regulation concerning Indian Blood Quantum.

When I was a lad I remember being discriminated against by white children. Then I didn't even know what the word meant, but after sixty years, I have learned a little.

I am not a learned man, but when my people, the Choctaws, are again being persecuted by the Bureaucrats and Fat Cats in Washington, it makes by blood boil.

Most people do not understand the Trail of Tears. To me it was a heart-breaking tragedy. To think that our



It was at Albert Billy's (far right) suggestion that the Choctaw language was used as a code in WWI.

Code Talkers suggested by Choctaw soldier

Mozelle Dawson, of Coalinga, California submitted the following article for publication in the Bishnik. This information is true, to the best of her knowledge, according to what Albert Billy (Ms. Dawson's father) told her.

During World War I, with the tapping of the American Army's phone lines, the Germans were enabled to learn the location of where the American Forces were stationed at, as well as where their supplies were kept.

The American General, at the time, did not know what to do about the tapping of these phone lines.

Albert Billy, a Choctaw Indian, suggested to his commanding officer, that to confuse the German forces on the phone tapping that they were doing, to put "Choctaw Indians" on the phones, and let them talk in their native Choctaw dialect. This would confuse anyone who was tapping the phone lines. It was on Albert Billy's suggestion that Choctaws were then brought in and put on the phones.

As it turned out, the German's were more than just a little confused, and in turn, after the Choctaw code talker's were put on the phones, the German's immediately began losing.

During the night, some Germans were captured, and a General of the German Army said that he would like to ask just one question; what nationality was on the phones that night? The only reply that this German General received was that it was only Americans that had been on the phones.

Albert Billy's roll number is 6799 and he died in the year of 1958. He was a member of the 142nd. Infantry, of the United States Army and was from LeFlore County, Poteau, Oklahoma.

A Choctaw hero

Joseph Oklahombi, from Wright City was Oklahoma's greatest hero of World War I. He received citations from General John J. Pershing and French Marshall Petain for his action in the St. Etienne sector in France.

A month before the armistice in 1918, Oklahombi and his buddies in Company D, 141st Infantry, 36th Division, were cut off from the rest of the company. They came across a German machine gun emplacement, with about 50 trench mortars. The American soldiers captured one gun and turned its fire back on the Germans. For four days they held the enemy down, until help finally came. Of the enemy, 171 were taken prisoner.

General orders cited Oklahombi for his bravery in moving about 200 yards of open territory, braving machine gun and artillery fire. He was awarded the Silver Star to be worn on the Victory Ribbon by General Pershing, and the Croix de Guerre from Marshall Petain. The medals, along with his uniform and rifle, are now in the Historical Society museum in Oklahoma City.

Oklahombi, on returning to his homeland, was another soldier home from the war - no triumphal entry into the port of New York, no bands playing nor ticker tape parade. He was merely another soldier from the war making his way back to his home in the Kiamichi Mountains in southeastern Oklahoma to be with his wife and son, Jonah, where they still reside. Joe settled back to a life of farming, hunting and fishing.

As this country grew nearer the brink of war in 1940, Oklahombi was called upon to give his views of another conflict. "The United States must prepare itself and really prepare immediately" he said, "Of course, I'm not in favor of war, but if the peace of the United States is molested, we must be prepared to defend ourselves."

Besides his fighting activities in Europe during the war, Oklahombi was valuable to Allied Troops because of his Indian background. Allies used the Choctaw language as a code for messages - a code never broken by the German intelligence officers.

Oklahoma's greatest hero of the war had served in two ways which were natural to him - as a scout and as a translator. Oklahombi was killed in an accident near his home on April 13, 1960.

Dawes Commission Enrolled Indians

When the bill creating the Dawes Commission was before Congress in February of 1893, a letter was sent to the executives of the five nations by their delegates at Washington, D.C. warning them against the proposed legislation. Choctaw members of this group were J.S. Stanley, H.C. Harris, Green McCurtain, D.W. Hodges, Thomas Ainsworth and Jacob Jackson.

The law was enacted on March 3, 1893. President Grover Cleveland appointed Henry L. Dawes, Meredith Kidd, and Archibald McKennon to negotiate with the Tribes.

An act of June 10, 1886 authorized the Dawes Com-

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