

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE NEWPORT DAILY INDEPENDENT SEPTEMBER 26, 1918 P. 2

Dear Sister:

I know you are anxious to hear from your little Buddy, so will write you a line. Am just fine now. However, have been in the hospital for the past few days. I will go back to my company tomorrow. This is a beautiful country, but ancient looking. I must make my letter short as it is almost time for taps. I was slightly wounded in July but am proud to get back and give the "devils" another blow. Love to all.

Your brother,

Lon B. Simmons,
Compny L., 30th Infantry,
American Exp. Forces.

NOTES: Lon Bowen Simmons was born in Tupelo, Arkansas on February 1, 1895 and died in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 12, 1963. He is buried in the Sand Hill Cemetery in Auvergne, Arkansas. His military headstone identifies him as an Arkansas Cpl. Co E 154th Infantry 39th Division during World War I. He departed Hoboken, NJ on June 7, 1918 onboard the Manchuria. He was listed as a Private serving in 154th Infantry Co. 5 Camp Beauregard Automatic Replace Draft Infantry.

TRANSCRIBED BY MIKE POLSTON

The Arkansas Great War Letter Project

*The Arkansas Great War Letter Project is a special program
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<https://chsarkansasgreatwar.weebly.com/simmons-lon.html>

I can tell he was vague about revealing details. I think he did not want to alarm the family

The 2 articles plus this letter clarifies a lot of things for me. I knew there was a delay after he was shot. Some of the older cousins told me an obituary appeared in the Newport Independent. I understand now what happened. Somewhere I read that he pretended to be dead and later escaped and it took some time to find friendly forces. *Lon B Simmons to AFB Feb 3, 2023*

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE NEWPORT DAILY INDEPENDENT AUGUST 22, 1918 P. 1

I have been drilling hard every day from seven a.m. to five p.m., then one hour after retreat, Fred says, "and, man, I sure have got some appetite--never ate so much in all my life.

NOTES: This partial letter was written by Robert Frederick Seaton. He was born on September 10, 1889 in Jonesboro, Arkansas and died on August 7, 1952. He is buried in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Newport, Arkansas. His military headstone identifies him as a Pvt. serving in 25 Spruce Squadron During World War I. he enlisted on July 19, 1918 and was discharged on December 31, 1918. Before his enlistment he served on the local draft board. He was writing to the editor of the newspaper.

TRANSCRIBED BY ADIN TYGART

additional 6Feb2023: Fred Seaton was nephew of Arthur Bowie, son of Alice Bowie (probably buried on Ben Simmons farm near Tupelo), and named as grandson of Caniza Bowie in her obit. Worked as cashier for 1st National bank in Tuckerman, was census enumerator in Newport 1920 who listed Arthur and Cora Bowie family. Fred died at Veterans hospital in Memphis. Hospital called Cora Bowie and offered to bury him -apparently in Memphis area. Cora brought him back to Newport and buried him beside her son Buddy in Walnut Grove Cemetery. His first military headstone was brass and apparently stolen before 2009. I got replacement maker for him in July 2015. AFB