Greene County Boy Has Proud Distinction of Being Chosen to Attend Peace Conference.

Fred F. Marshall
Although he holds only the rank of private, Fred F. Marshall, of Cedarville, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall, has the proud distinction of having been chosen to attend the peace conference at Versailles. He will go in the capacity of an army photographer and will make the official pictures of the conference. His letter to his parents in which he tells about his good fortune in being chosen for this important work is as follows:

Paris, France, Dec. 18, 1918.

Dear Folks:-

This is an eventful day for me. Perhaps the most wonderful day that any boy of the A. E. F. could hope to enjoy—if only for a few days. The photo I am sending you tells the tale. I am once more living as a civilian and leave Paris in a few days for a trip to The Hague to photograph the peace conference and tour Belgium and Holland. I do not know how it came about but through some stroke of good fortune my name was sent in to fill the assignment and today I am roaming the streets of Paris “the gentleman and scholar” “Messer Fred Marshall.” I was given 450 francs through the American attache to purchase a civilian outfit and I have everything from socks to collar buttons. It is rather queer to get back in civilized togs again and I am not otherwise enthusiastic about these French styles, but to say the least it is like living again and a source of amusement. I returned to the laboratory at noon time today and I was lucky to get through alive. The boys came nearly mobbing me and swamped me on every side with questions and inquiries—“Hey! How did you get that way?” “How did you pull it?” “Is your dad a Congressman?” “Are you going home?” “Can you eat dinner with the president?” and a dozen other such remarks. “How much did they soak you for the coat?” “Let’s see how it feels to eat a civil suit,” etc., etc. I’m the vy of the whole outfit and I have the least idea why I was picked out for this job, for surely there are some 250 better photographers here than I, certainly with more experience. I have my passports almost completed and expect to leave for London any time now. I will likely go via London, thence to Belgium and to Rotterdam and on to The Hague, I will travel about Holland as a captain in a big courier car and get $25 per day commutation while traveling and $5 per day while permanently stationed. The entire trip will take about two months to fill and I expect to return to Paris afterwards and by that time our company will be packed and ready to go home. So you see after all I’m having a pretty nice time out of my position as a private in the Signal Corps, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world. As for the merriment of it that I have attained and be required to break over to Dutch. Worked out.

I am sending home some packages which will likely reach you in a month or two, more or less. One is a helmet for Lawrence.

From your loving son,
Frederic F. Marshall

Of course I have had photos of my civilian self later on. I long for dear old U. S. again, the only real country worth living in, unless it is England. England is fairlyland, the parts I have seen.

Be looking for me home in the spring or along about ground hog day maybe, I don’t know.

Love to all.

FRED F. MARSHALL.