

Chad Tenn, 5<sup>30</sup> PM Sunday

Dear folks,

Just a note to report. I am on my way back to camp after having again spent the night & day in the mountains. I took my books this time ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> study and did a little but not much.

I am about as usual and there is no special news. We are now in Bonaville and I believe they are as cold or colder than tents. However, they put a stove in each one yesterday and may be that will keep some. One reason why we like to get out on Saturday is in order to get warm once a week. My wool underwear, came last week (my shoes also) and believe me they came at the right time. Here's what I left, underwear, night before last. Wool underwear, Wool Sox, Pants, Wool Sweater, Sleeping shoes, Bath robe. I had over me, Poncho, Shelter tent, 2 Blankets doubled (I have done away with sheets, because they are too cold). So you can see it's some what breezy. However, I get along fine. and regardless of what it takes, I keep warm. I imagine if you can, my weighing 155 lbs. (not with all the above described clothes on, but a good part of them). Last night

in going up to mountains, I struck Penny  
shot scales in our refect. Weighed 155 lbs. Thought  
some thing must be wrong so got off and tried  
it again and it came to the same thing.  
Sweater was only extra thing I had on too.

While I think of it. Want Papa to see that 200  
worth of Liberty Bonds, I subscribed for this week  
are taken care of at M & P Bank. Don't care  
what he does with them. Didn't take them be-  
cause I wanted them especially, but because I  
thought it best. Just as leave sell them as not.

O, yes. I was notified the next morning after  
writing you all that last letter home. (Just Monday)  
that I would be on guard, Monday Night & Tuesday.  
Wish I had time to tell you about it. But  
carrying one of those rifles 8 hours in this  
weather will make a man out of you.

We had competitive drill yesterday, with all other  
Battalions, to see best. Ours & number 5 must drill  
off tomorrow to see which is best. Some excitement.  
We are expecting to win, so hope to come in with  
the "Laidon", that will be given.

Must stop for tonight. Write when you can.  
Love to everybody. Yours Sam.



# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN HOUSE

TWO THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TENN. Oct 7 1917

Dear Folks,

As you see from letter head I am now away up on Look out mountain. This is the first Sunday I have been away from camp and believe me I have certainly enjoyed it. Four of us came up the incline last night about 10<sup>30</sup> and we slept in a real bed and had real meals for the first time in six weeks.

This is just about the prettiest place I have ever seen. Every where you go for some 30 or 40 mile radius you see Stones, Slabs and monuments of the confederate war, and they are certainly located beautifully. We brought a K. along so will send a picture or two home in the next few days. (You will have to excuse such writing, for the other boys writing on this table shakes it so much I can't write properly.)

I don't know hardly how I happened to come up here and I guess I ought to be at home studying. But permission was granted Friday night, for all who wanted to, to go to

Atlanta Saturday morning or late Friday night, to see the big foot ball game.

A great many of us did not care to go but by far the most did go. We of course thought that since nearly every body left Friday night, that we would be free Saturday to go where we pleased. But nothing doing the few of us left had to get up as usual and instead of regular work, we spent the morning moving into and fixing up Barracks. We did not get through until about 2 or 3 yesterday evening and we were tired so we "washed up" and left camp. We took in a show expecting to spend the night in "Chat" and come on up here today. We were unable to get a room of any kind there, so came on up here where we found it very nice. I wish uncle Elliott could see this country up here. He would enjoy looking straight down for several hundred feet etc.

I don't know why we were given a little extra time (or rather why those who wanted to go to Atlanta were, and that seemed very unjust to us all,) unless it was because we have been worked pretty hard the last few days and were

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not allowed to go any where last Saturday or Sunday.

Of course our work is getting harder and harder, and none of us know how we are getting along. Of course we all hope that the longer we stay the better chance we have, but then it is very little chance for a man to do much unless he has had former military experience. We see that more plainly every day. We were issued rifles about five days ago. That is the Cavalry was. Up until then we had had no rifle drill at all. You can bet your life its hard for us, who never had any before to get on to this, when we have no time for practice. Yet they have it time to give us more than 15 minutes per day. Still we are expected to be proficient by now. You must be able to go through the manual with out a hitch, though we have

had all together about 3 hrs. drill. Friday  
at retreat (We march there every eve  
and I happen to be right in the  
front rank of the leading Battery)  
one of our fellows dropped his  
rifle, (Poor Devil, I guess he might  
as well fuck up and go on home)  
and of course that is a serious  
offense. Believe me, it made the rest  
of us new fellows nervous, and you  
should ~~of~~ have seen me swinging  
on to mine after that. (I had no  
idea that it was a serious offense  
before that, and as you have to turn  
your rifle completely loose and then  
catch it, I was some excited. It would  
not be so hard to do the thing if  
you didn't have to keep your eyes  
turned towards the skies and your  
shoulders back, etc at the same  
time. You mustn't even move your  
head. I hope I won't, but I might  
drop mine any old time.

I believe it is not very military  
to keep, and I haven't been, but  
see you do get tired of beef &  
Beane. I have eaten so much beef

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until I am ashamed to look a cow  
in the face and I can tell you  
exactly what part of the U.S. a  
Bean grew as soon as I sit down  
at the Table. You see our allowance  
was cut down since the last Camp  
so we are not being fed as well.

However we are getting along very  
well, for about once a day we get  
up to the exchange res and  
buy a "Green" meal. I have learned  
to eat oat meal and Shredded bro-  
cuet, so I fill up on those at  
every opportunity. I must be doing  
pretty well for I weighed the other  
day while passing through the exchange  
and tipped the scales at 150, better  
than I have ever done before.

(We must now go back to camp in order  
to be on time, so I will put this in my  
pocket and try and finish it there)

Well I am back in Camp having just come in and made up my bed before it got dark. We have no lights in Baines yet so I got that job off hand early. That done I came on down to U.M.C. and ~~was~~ am writing my first letter in it. And among a large crowd of letter writers.

When I came in just now I went fast mail box and got a letter from Papa, one from Miss Ida W and one from Louis Pimney. They were all enjoyed. Got mothers note the other day and enjoyed it very much. Hope Della & Jane are both getting along well by now.

I don't believe I have ever mentioned in my letters anything about the cost of living over here. You will probably be surprised to know that it is terrific. You can hardly tell where it goes but most of it goes for clothes. Every week its one or two Or Suspenders and a shirt etc. Think of it, when I went up to Look out last night I had on about \$12.00 worth of shirts, and then had on only two.

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We ~~must~~ always keep clothes in advance. For instance, I can't get up in the morning and grab a Pr Jeggins and put them on. I must have a Pr of Jeggins. They must be clean. They ~~must~~ be ready to put on. They must be in good condition. I don't have time in the morning to put a new string in or clean them up. They must be where I can grab them and put them on and nothing must go wrong unless I have another Pr ready, which I always do. As you know I brought pajamas over with me. Well I haven't had a suit on. Why? Because I don't have time to take them off in the a.m. Dressing just as fast as I can, I just barely have time to get ready. I have not been late for nor missed a formation since I have been here and of course I want to go

that way as long as I can. I sleep in my Bath Robe. I fold one of my Blankets double get inside of that fold and have my other Blanket doubled on top. On top of that I spread my "Poncho" which is very warm, though it has neither eye shape or form. Its merely some thing with a hole in the middle, but it come in handy. You will see then that by rolling up I can manage to get along pretty well. Of course on extra cold nights, I sleep in my wool Sox and my Pants. This some time in the morning as it takes some time to lace them up. I believe I started out on "the cost of high living" and am now on "how to sleep". Well, any way. I have had to buy four or five shirts, 3 or 4 Pr Pants etc etc. I don't know how I will get every thing home when I come.

By the way, I felt so ragged that I went in last night and freed.



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a cheap looking suit of Rakri. It was worth about \$400. The price was \$125<sup>0</sup> and the next better suit was 30<sup>00</sup>. I chose the rags.

I will try to find time to buy some sort of decent looking suit next Saturday as the issued blouse I have on was made for a stout man and looks some thing fierce on me. It was the best they could do.

(It seems the more I write the more I think of. I don't know what makes me want to write such long letters home, but I am like a loose car on that incline I was on today. When I get started, I don't know when to stop.)

We are getting a great deal of equitation these days. We learn to ride single mounts and also drive mounts. That is we must learn.

how to handle the teams. (Six horses  
hitched to each line & six to each  
wagon, & each has 2 drivers) Of course  
the single mount is only to teach  
you for the team. We are never al-  
lowed to ride with one hand &  
we use no saddles in single  
mount, for we must learn to sit and  
control. In other words each driver  
is going to have to drive two horses.  
He must learn to drive the horse  
he is riding, with his legs. His  
off horse must be driven with  
the reins & whip. Its interesting &  
I enjoy every bit of it. As no other thing  
else, we are short on horses to a  
certain extent so we have to walk a-  
bout a mile every day and bring  
the horses over. You should see some  
of the boys. Especially some from  
the north. Some of them just can't  
jump on a horse to save their lives, but  
believe me they will know how before  
they leave here. Of course we find us  
handling 100 horses, a fun man once  
and as we have to do a good job  
of grooming after riding you have  
to keep your eyes open. I recall

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two instances last were that I want to tell you about. (1) In driving me over the horses the other afternoon, one boy's horse got to cutting up and he ~~let~~ get away. The instructor happened to see it. I mean the assistant senior instructor of the camp ~~at~~.

I was close when he rode up to our capture and heard what he had to say. Poor Boy, it must go on his efficiency record and that means a good deal. He ought to have held him.

(2) after we hitched up to ~~the~~ one of the horses the other day, one boy in mounting the off horse (for practice) ~~hopped~~ put his left foot in the stirrup. The same instructor (he has a faculty of being at the spot where some thing goes wrong, though he has about 5000 min x 5000 acres land to cover) saw him. The boy, as soon as he saw his mistake began

to change feet. He was too late. The instructor made him put that foot back and get on. Of course he was sitting up there backwards and the instructor began to "rag" him.

These kind of things happen every day and interest me very much.

This week we must learn to get on a horse from behind. That is, horses are lead out and one man holds ~~the~~ one. Then we must get back about 20 steps and run and jump landing on the horses back. For all the world like playing leap frog. I don't think it is as hard as it sounds and am anxious to try it.

I don't take you long to get used to "fooling" around horses. You soon get over "Gimmidy" and can go to the Prescott arena, among 50 or 60 and clean spurs up from tip to hoof just like eating dinner.

We are looking to receive orders to go off on a week's "hire" almost any time. We are used to looking for any thing and it doesn't make much difference what happens. Time passes very fast and Saturday is here before

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Monday is good gone.

You see we have so many things to learn at once. For instance last week, in addition to all the other things, we had to learn to make "fortress" maps etc. That is, go out, & stay ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> a few minutes & come back ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> a map showing ~~roughly~~ <sup>roughly</sup> what you saw. This week it will be some thing else. When we came over here, they informed us that one requirement was that a man must bathe 3 times a week. I try to follow the rules and the only way we can get 3 baths a week is to take all 3 on Sunday. It is a fact. Last week the only bath I got from Sunday until yesterday was Thursday night at 9:30 o'clock in ice cold water in a dark bath house. (They have just been completed and lights are not yet in). You see we don't stop work until 9 o'clock and must

be in bed at 10. But from 9 to 10  
you have more stuff assigned to you  
for study than "Ford MacBride" could  
read over. You will understand  
that during the day we are fussed  
all day long from 5 to 9, generally  
getting in later than schedule &  
going out right on the dot.

It is cold over here at night and  
I hope we will soon have air promised  
hot water though we haven't seen  
any thing of it yet.

The boys (so the reports go) are being  
thinned out each week. You hear  
that such & such a company last  
day is or 16 men last week. We sup-  
pose it is true and we never  
know when our time is coming  
next.

I enjoy the letters from home very  
much and wish I could get more.  
We always rush for the mail box  
when we come in for lunch and  
you always feel better if you get  
a piece of mail. I enjoyed Papa's  
letter very much today especially what  
he had to say about the drafted  
negro's and their preachers. Wish I

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hear more. Wonder when those boys  
like Spencer me look to go.

When does Bob go? And what  
white boys have already gone and  
are soon to go?

I am glad Cotton is bringing  
a good price, and hope business will  
stay good this fall. I never think  
about business. In fact I never  
have time. I never was in a place  
before where I could sit down  
and think about almost any thing  
I wanted to think about and write  
a letter to whom I wanted. But I am  
there now.

Hope Papa won't work too hard  
and believe he will be able to &  
ought to get more help. Am glad  
he sold that lame mule, though  
I think I would have ridden him  
when I came home just for fun.

O yes I meant to say, when I

was talking about riding a while ago,  
that don't think I would feel nat-  
ural on a horse in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~mountain~~ <sup>mountain</sup> ~~now~~.  
If I would ride like we are  
learning to ride here, people would  
think I was putting on. With my  
knees up, heels down, legs tight,  
lens in each hand, sitting in the  
middle of saddle, & straight up,  
I guess I would be a curiosity.

One of our majors left us about  
day before yesterday. He was a "regular"  
and we knew nothing about his going  
until we saw in the paper that  
he had been ordered to a Post for  
embarkation. I guess he is on his  
way to France now.

While I think of it, I wish I could  
get a copy or two of the News & Herald.  
I don't have much time to read,  
but I could save them up and  
read them at the end of the week  
and it would keep me in touch  
with things there. I have not received  
a copy yet. It doesn't matter if  
they are a few days old. I would  
like to see what ever happens to be at



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home.

While I think of it. Have some body to tell Louie Penney that I appreciated his letter very much, for I did, and that I am going to write him a note some time in the next few days, probably next Sunday.

There are a hundred people I would enjoy writing to so much if I had time. There I will write to some of them next Sunday and leave off the letter home.

I realize that my letters home are very poor, but they are always written hurriedly and by turns etc. Always glad to have you to show them to any one that thinks they are worth reading. And will be glad if you can send them to B.V. Jones as I don't have time to write them much.

Tell "Gunt Jane" that I hope she

is getting along alright. And I wish  
you would remember me to Ruddy  
Coker by phone some time at  
your leisure.

How are the boys? Got Mack's  
letter the other day and enjoyed it  
very much. Hope he will write me  
just as often as he can and  
tell Tom I have been looking for  
a letter from him. Hope they  
are both getting along fine at school.  
Remember me to Miss Gene &  
Mr George and all 3 children.

I don't want to seem too military,  
but have come to the conclusion,  
that I want to see both Mack &  
Tom go to West Point. It gives  
them an advantage that can never  
be gotten any where else. You should  
see the West Pointers here. Every one  
of them are the "big boys" here  
and win a U.S.R. Major gets busy  
when a West Point Captain etc  
comes along. There is no comparison  
between the two and you don't have  
to be told so to know it.

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Well I have about "written out" for the first time since I have been here. Not that I have it more to say but I have written enough "junk" and I must now go and read 40 Pages of Drill Regulations by Candle light before I go to bed.

For the first time since we have been here, we missed our exams, Saturday, but we are going to have them tomorrow night. Among other things we will be examined on the "morse code" so I have got to get busy.

O, yes tomorrow after noon we have a big retreat. The father of the boy who got killed here in the last camp has given a flag and we must receive it tomorrow

amid much ceremony. If you can hit  
your life, I will be holding on to  
my rifle during this thing.

Give my regards to every body  
and write when you can and

I am

Yours's  
Shaw

NEILS CHRISTENSEN, Chairman  
ALAN JOHNSTONE  
J. W. McCOWN  
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J. L. SHERARD  
CHARLTON DURANT  
H. H. GROSS

W. S. MILLER, Clerk

## Finance Committee

Senate Chamber

Memorandum

~~Senate~~ S. C.,

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 1917

Dear Lilla - I rec<sup>d</sup> your note this morning and am enclosing check as requested. You ought not to wait until you are entirely out of money - should have written sooner. Hope you are getting along all right. There is no special news to write. As an all word. Mrs Geo Sandendale was buried today. Shaw seems to be getting along - he says he weighs 155 lbs - this is much more than he ever weighed. Even should he fail to get a commission, I am glad he is in camp - I am sure it will help him very much. Glad to hear from you - let us hear every week if only a card.

Yr affl

Papa



H. M. STANFORD, MANAGER

J. W. BROWDER, ASSISTANT MANAGER

## Signal Mountain Hotel and Cottages

250 ROOMS  
2000 FEET ABOVE  
SEA LEVEL

EUROPEAN PLAN

200 BATHS  
AUTOMOBILE SERVICE  
IN CONNECTION

"BURNT CABIN" THE FOREMOST CHALYBEATE WATER  
"EPSOMIA" SPRINGS THE FINEST MAGNESIA WATER KNOWN,  
ALSO PURE FREESTONE WATER

OPEN ALL THE YEAR—FIRE PROOF

BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW LAKE FOR BOATING AND BATHING : 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE : TENNIS COURSE : FINE BOULEVARDS FOR DRIVING : CONCRETE WALKS : MOUNTAIN PATHS  
MAGNIFICENT VIEWS : RAINBOW FALLS : NATURAL FOREST EVERYWHERE : REACHED BY THE PALACE CARS OF THE CHATTANOOGA TRACTION COMPANY

Signal Mountain, Tenn.

12/30

Sunday - Shows its 0 et 21st.

Dear Folks,

I am up on Signal Mountain today. We had a big banquet here last night, all the First Battery and its Officers attending.

Thursday

I wrote you all a card ~~Wednesday~~ night telling you that I was going on a hike. It was just like I said. It would be. We got up with it raining, and it rained all day. We went down, got our horses and truck out. What was it the name for it. And believe me it was or rather turned some cold.

We drove our Cannon and Wagons Seven miles out and pitched our Dog tents in the open. I didn't even get to take off my wet shoes until 7:30 this night at which time I went to bed. We were up before day next morning and after turning over guns etc to another Battery began walking in. As we were studying "positions" all the way in, we took in about eleven miles, across fields etc and reached camp about 11 o'clock. You bet that was some night. Of course I could not sleep, being too cold and having sore throat, cough, cold, and every thing else. You can imagine how I slept up here last night, and I

didn't get up until 10<sup>30</sup>. I am OK now and feel none the worse for the trip except a slight cough. When I was on my way out, driving that big horse, with my hands and feet about to freeze, and when I was grooming him after I got there (I had to carefully groom him twice before dark, as well as feed and water him) I wondered if the process of elimination had not set in. I thought perhaps that all that survived would get commissions, and the rest would get coffins, but we all came through OK. I believe we are all scheduled (the whole camp) to go into a Liberty Loan Parade coming Wednesday in Chat. Guess we will have to walk in, but then that is only 12 miles.

Our Battery had quite an exciting time the first of last week, in the competition drill. We must have drilled pretty well, for we not only won the "Grand" but received much praise from high Officials. I don't know how I happened to go through that thing with out making an error, but it happened that I got by.

We have only 5 more weeks here. It seems that they are putting off the "cutting out" process a long time, as we have had only a few from our Battery sent home, and they under the name of Physical Disabilities.



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Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Of course you can't always tell what that means, I don't know how I am getting along yet and it's hard to tell, how any body is making it, except those who have had Military Experience before, & most of our Battery have had that. The men who get even a Second Lieut in this camp, will have hustled.

Our work has changed some what in the last two weeks. I have not had to study as much as formally, though a plenty to keep me busy. It seems that we are having more of the practical. Don't know what we go into this week but understand that we are to take our Cannon to a range some time soon and do some actual firing with regular service shells. That will be exciting. You have to fill your ears with cotton & stand on Tip Toe each time the gun is fired.

We muchly surprised Saturday on getting in



in from our tube to find sure enough no water in our  
Bath Houses. It's the first we have had & it certainly  
was much enjoyed.

I got two copies of News & Herald last week and  
enjoyed them very much. I guess no one knows how  
much news is in a copy until he gets where he  
has been unable to see one for 7 weeks.

While I think about it, I sent a cheap Suit case  
home yesterday by Express, addressed to S.H.K. It is  
full of things I don't need and guess it better  
be opened up and the things put in my room.  
I packed that case last Sunday but of course  
could not get it off until yesterday. The key  
is fastened to case and the Express is pre paid.

I may send another package some time later as  
we want to get rid of as much stuff as we  
can. You can't appreciate that until you have  
to keep every thing you own inside of suit cases  
under your "Bunk."

By the way, I wish Pofa, would find out from  
Strause & Bros. if they keep "stock" uniforms. I  
want to know because if I should have reason  
to think, a little later, that I might get a "com-  
mission" I will have to order in a hurry. My  
idea is this. If they keep uniforms in stock



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Signal Mountain, Tenn.

K Mer Co can get them to send one or two, when I write, and then by have them at home when I reach there. I will write about this later if I have any reason to, but what I want to know now, is whether they keep them in stock. If they don't perhaps some other firm does. You see it would be necessary for me to have one uniform ready when I get home. I could worry about the others later. Strause Bros ought to put out a good one for \$25.00. Over here, retail, a decent one costs 50.00 to \$60.00.

But, I guess I am, perhaps, talking about it too soon, for I haven't the slightest idea yet whether I will need one or not. I am doing the best I can, but that doesn't necessarily mean much over here.

It's a pretty hard proposition that we are

all up against. If we write any thing about uniforms, of course people think we are sure of getting a Commission, If we don't write about them and should happen to get one, we would have to stay in doors, almost, until we could get one made, for of course you can wear nothing else after you get your Commission. Some of the firms over here measure you and make your uniforms and if you make good you take it, if not you don't. Of course that is the reason they are so high.

But I am tired writing about that subject. Its too far off. I am mailing Max & Tom a picture card each, that we took up on "Look out" Mountain two weeks ago. They are not very good. The one with my hanging over rock ought to show me about 1700 feet from the ground, and would if it had been taken properly. It was, however, of course a bluff. as I was only 10 feet from ground but it ought not to look that way. Hope we can take one or two up here today and if so will mail them later. Haven't been around on Signal yet as I have been writing since breakfast & its now only 1:30 o'clock. Guess I'll stop now and walk around a bit.



H. M. STANFORD, MANAGER

J. W. BROWDER, ASSISTANT MANAGER

## Signal Mountain Hotel and Cottages

250 ROOMS  
2000 FEET ABOVE  
SEA LEVEL

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200 BATHS

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BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW LAKE FOR BOATING AND BATHING : 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE : TENNIS COURSE : FINE BOULEVARDS FOR DRIVING : CONCRETE WALKS : MOUNTAIN PATHS  
MAGNIFICENT VIEWS : RAINBOW FALLS : NATURAL FOREST EVERYWHERE : REACHED BY THE PALACE CARS OF THE CHATTANOOGA TRACTION COMPANY

Signal Mountain, Tenn.

The whole camp is very much interested in the Liberty Loan, and the different Companies & Batteries are trying to out do each other. Our Battery is getting along pretty well. One fellow took \$10,000 worth. (A good adu for him). If I could sell them before I had to pay for them, I would take \$20,000 my self. So the game goes.

By the way, the man with the "Life whippers" in one of the lectures I mailed they toys is a friend from "Pa". He was in charge of some 2 or 3 Thousand boys in a College in Pa before he came here and evidently was an efficient man with a big salary. I mention this to show the type of men we have here. We absolutely have every thing in our Battery, Prize fighters, Pausers, musicians, Cow boys, etc etc. The fellow that is holding me on Rock is a former Cow boy. He knows how to ride.

I still get tickled at some of the men cleaning horses. Its merely a matter of getting down in the dirt, disregarding your clothes and every thing else, and by the time the whistle blows, having your horse, hoofs and all, shinning like a silver dollar. And you can't talk etc while you are doing it. I can't say any thing, but I watch lawyers & Bankers, who probably were never close to a horse before, try to pick up a hind leg of a mean horse. Its some thing to laugh at every day but your better not let any body see you laugh. Your just have to keep it in and try not to "burst." Your can bet your life that this thing of playing Chambermaid to a horse is some stunt.

There is no camp news to write. I have been expecting to hear of them calling for the men from the medical camp here (there are 5000 doctors in our camp, besides the doctors for each company etc) but so far I have heard nothing ~~from~~ about it.

Well I want to walk around a bit so am stopping until next time. Good luck to every body and I am  
Your Boy  
Shaw

# Savoy Hotel

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

RUNNING WATER

STEAM HEATED

ROOMS 75c TO \$1.00

ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATH \$1.50 TO \$2.50

834 MARKET STREET

Chattanooga, Tenn. Nov 4th, 1917

Dear B,

Just a note. I wrote a letter home this a.m. and of course it will get to you in the next few days.

Please take care of your self and don't work too hard. I enjoy your letters very much but know from them that you must be very busy.

We are just back from a weeks leave, which is probably the last we will take. I believe I will be home in the next 3 weeks, and of course we will fix it for me to see you. Though that sounds to much like I am sure of a commission which I am not. However, if I get one I will likely be stationed at Camp Jackson and if I don't, I'll be at home so I will see you either way,

I hope you are getting along fine in your work but for goodness sake don't try to over do it.

There is no special news over here. Many boys are being sent home every day and one never knows when his time is coming next.

I think a big part of our work from now on will be "paper" work, "forms" "reports" etc so that will be comparatively easy.

Must stop now & get back to camp. Wish I had time to write you a long letter, but each of you must make the letter home do until I get there.

Hurriedly, Your Brother  
Shaw

Dear B,

Wednesday night 8 o'clock

Thought I would drop you a few lines tonight before I go to bed so you would know about what time I will reach home. I don't know definitely yet but am pretty sure that I will leave here Monday night about 8 o'clock, reaching Columbia about 11 Tuesday morning & home on the Tuesday afternoon train. As usual I do not yet know, whether or not I will get a commutation nor if I do, what it will be. If I get one I will likely get to stay home until Dec 15th. If not, I will of course be there longer. We will likely know, the day we leave here, how long we will have at home and where we will have to report to after leaving home. So as soon as I get home, we will have to make some arrangement about seeing



each other, provided I don't get sent to Camp Jackson.

I got your note and enjoyed it very much but hope you are not working too hard.

Our work this week is of course mostly fixing up to go home, so is not as strenuous as usual. I have been half way on the secret list lately and am anxious to get home and try to get straightened up. Our nations, have become some-thing awful and it is gathered with every track has torn me up. I trust Oulomel might before long so hope to be in good luck by the time I reach home. And believe me I sure will be glad to get to Munstora one more time.

I thought Officers uniform and

legging the other day, hoping that I would get to use them. It was either get them and be ready for a commission or do with out and see how I got a commission. Have nothing to wear home.

Well there is no special news to write you and I must drop June's note so she will know about when I will get home. I guess I will wear the home folds when to expect me so I won't have to write them tonight.

Take care of yourself and I am your Brother

Stear

Dear B,

Friday night 8/1/06

Just a note, which won't  
get mailed until tomorrow, to  
let you know that I have gotten  
commission (2nd Lieut in Artillery).  
I just found it out a few min-  
utes ago and I am writing  
you at once because I am  
assigned to go a long ways  
from home. I am really wanting  
to see if you can't be home  
on next Sunday. I leave here  
~~Friday~~ Monday night (so far as I  
can now find out) and get  
home Tuesday afternoon. I am  
assigned to El Paso, Texas and  
as it will probably take me  
5 or 6 days to reach there from

home, you will see that I won't  
have a great deal of time at  
home. So if possible I would  
like for you and Jane to spend  
the week end (next) with me at  
home. If it is impossible for  
you to come of course I will  
try and get and suits and  
get to see you for a few  
minutes any hour, but as I am  
going to have a good many  
things to attend to, such as  
buying clothes etc, I would  
rather save as much time as  
possible. You can write me a  
letter as soon as you get this  
and address it to me at home,  
so I will get it as soon as  
home, you will see that I won't  
have a great deal of time at  
what ever I want in answer.  
I hope and rather believe that  
the arrangements we got are  
only "temporary" and that when  
the second draft army is chosen  
that we will be re assigned.  
But of course we can't tell  
any thing now, but must wait  
until we get to the place  
we are ~~not~~ now assigned.  
They first tried me, it seems,  
assigned to "Brig" but it must  
have been some mistake in  
that.  
Any way, I am hoping that  
I will get assigned to Camp  
Jackson some time later and

am going to keep on hoping  
until I feel out different.

There is no news especially and  
I must drop Jane a line right  
now so she will have time to  
make arrangements to get home  
for next Sunday.

(Of course the Sunday that I am  
referring to, for you all to be  
at home is a week from day  
after tomorrow, which I think  
is Dec 2.)

Hoping you are OK I am  
with love  
Yours Brother

Shaw

Dear Folio,

Tuesday 5 20 PM

On Train to Attala

We are now riding through snow storm, the ground being already covered and its still snowing.

We are about 2 1/2 hours late, having left Spartanburg about 3:00' PM when we should have left about 12:30

So I will likely miss my train tomorrow morning in New Orleans but that can't be helped, though there are a good many toys on this train from East Camp, going to all parts of Texas, and we may wire tonight and try and get them to hold over train. One fellow, who I am

now sitting with, I met as  
I went to get on the train  
in Spartanburg, who was  
in our Battery, so we know  
each other quite well. He  
is going on through to Doug-  
lass Arizona, so we will be  
~~together as far as El Paso.~~  
He tells me there are sev-  
eral on here going to  
El Paso, but they are Infantry,  
so we won't go to the same  
place. However think I will  
meet them so we can stay  
~~together in El Paso, unless~~  
some Artillery boys get on  
in Atlanta. I am in hopes  
some from Artillery will  
get on in Atlanta so that  
we can rejoin together.

Will mail this in Atlanta

(We are now passing through the  
Seneca) so won't get to tell  
you who gets on there.

Asked about Sugar in  
Auruburg and it was  
nothing doing. Peter went  
into restaurant to get din-  
ner and was informed  
that they could serve me  
Coffee but with out Sugar.  
Do you see its so close up  
in these parts.

Came down <sup>7.00</sup> last night  
with Mr Mcneken & Cousin  
Ed. Cousin Ed came in  
train just before it passed  
and told me good by.  
We forgot stayed at Newham  
last night but I got out  
before he did this a.m.

Last night was standing  
talking to Courin Ed and a  
fellow punched me and  
said he thought he knew  
me. I looked at him and  
called his name, though  
I hadn't seen him in a  
fort some years. He was  
an Ernestine friend and  
when I introduced him  
to Courin Ed, they found  
themselves to be second  
Cousins. Its a good thing  
I ~~met this boy too~~, for I  
thought I had a room  
reserved, and when I  
went up, found another  
fellow in it. Was informed  
it was a double room  
Of course that did it



out me so I just stayed  
with the friends and we  
had quite a pleasant time  
talking over things. He is  
a Cousin of Sam's wife  
and is from the same  
place in Georgia, I think.  
His name is W. A. White.  
He is a traveling man  
and has been all out  
in Texas, so told me  
a good many things about  
El Paso.

When I went into the  
Depot at Fortenberry this  
A. M., there stood Lucy  
Daly & Mary & Wellford,  
so I talked to them for  
some minutes before they  
left for Wrensboro.

When I got on train at  
Spartanburg, Conductor told  
me that I was not sure of  
getting a berth in Atlanta  
but that he had an upper  
open now, so I took it, with  
the privilege of changing  
in Atlanta if I wanted to  
and can. So, I am fixed  
for tonight.

Well its soon to be writing  
a letter, but know if I got  
this stuff off hand now I  
wouldn't have to spend so much  
time when I next write.

Tell every body good bye  
for me and I am

Yours  
Thom



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF



EL PASO, TEXAS. Dec. Sunday night  
7:30 o'clock

Dear B,

Just wrote Jane a note and then went down and had a good supper and now I am writing you one. My address is Battery D, 18th F.A. Fort Bliss, El Paso Texas. Of course it won't be that long as we are going to France very soon, probably leave this week, but of course my mail will surely reach me by being forwarded.

For news, you will have to read the letters home as I won't have time to write more than a note tonight. Must go on back to camp and get things ready to start to work tomorrow morning.

Of course I was much surprised on reaching here to know that we immediately left for France. but I guess it is just as well to go now as later though I don't feel very well qualified as an Officer yet.

But don't you all worry about me  
for I will get along some way and  
will write you when ever I get a  
chance.

When I go over I will find out before  
I leave and let you all know how  
to address me. I know there is some  
way by Code or other wise that is fixed  
so that one can let folks know how  
to address him in France.

When I get over there don't forget  
that you all must write once every  
week whether you get a reply from  
me or not, because I may not be able  
to answer and yet your letters might  
be coming on. So if you learn that  
I am across, and I should happen  
to get there with out giving you  
my address, remember that your  
letters should reach me as long  
as you address them to 18th S.A.

You see being an Officer I will now  
get my mail whether it has the  
Battery number on it or not, though  
of course its always best to have  
the Battery number on when you  
can.



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF



EL PASO, TEXAS.

I believe there is some way you can address the Overseas mail to Postmaster N.Y. but I am not sure, as that is only memory and if I should fail to give you my address, for any reason, you all will have to find out how to get it to the 18th G.A.

I am feeling fine but a little bit sleepy. So I must get on back to camp.

Guess you will hear some news from me over wire before you get this any way.

Give my love to every body and tell them all to write me when I get across.

And for goodness sake take care of yourself what ever you do. Give my love to the boys when you get home and I am with much love. Yours Brother Shaw



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF



EL PASO, TEXAS, Sunday 11 a m

Dear Folks,

as usual I am setting out to bore you with a long letter again. We are still in Texas with no more news than we had last Sunday when I wrote to you. We have no idea why we have not left here. Some seem to think that perhaps our Regiment wasn't in as good a shape as it should have been and others seem to think that traffic is holding us up. Then, some seem to think that perhaps supplies are the cause. It seems funny to have your stuff packed up ready to go at any minute and then suddenly talk of going almost again.

Last week was some what of a discouraging week for some of us. As I told you the new Major (at least we think he is the cause, and he sure is a hard worker, having risen from the ranks) started an efficiency school. It took this to show

some how little they knew. And I realize that if he knew how little some of us know, it would be all up with us. Our work was hard enough last week, though we did not have to go to school every day. This week it will be harder and we will have to go every day (except Saturday & Sunday) and we will have more to learn each night than we can. I got very much discouraged at one time last week and had almost come to the conclusion that I ought to resign my Commission go to some other organization and join as a private. When you realize how little you know, how much you are expected to know, and how much responsibility you are going to have, you feel like you are up against a wall. For in addition to our regular school studies we are being issued new books all the time (I think I was issued about 12 last week) on such things as French firing etc. I suppose that we are supposed to





EL PASO, TEXAS.

read these but when we are going to leave time I do not know. I have gotten over my discouragement to a certain extent but I know that if we stay in this country long enough that there are going to be a few less officers in the service. I have not any doubt but that a good many of the new ones are going to have their commissions taken away from them either in this country or over in France (I see where General Pershing has the power to take them away from Bgd General down, and I understand that he is certainly doing it). We start to school about 7<sup>30</sup> a.m. and get through at 5 p.m. The officers are changed around so that there will always be about 2 officers with each Battery and the rest at school. And we study a variety of things, from drill regulations to smoke bomb firing.



and when you see how much you have got to learn it almost covers you. Some times I wonder if, when a man sees that he knows so little, and yet is an officer, he should not say so, and go and do his duty as a private. In other words ~~if~~ I wonder if a man is doing his real duty to keep an officer when he feels like he don't know enough to hold down the job. In some respects its mighty nice to be an officer but I sure would have little worry if I was in the army as a private. But I am going to wait and see, how things come out and if a bunch of us get "fired out" I will not be surprised. From 4 to 5 in the afternoon we have lectures on such things as how to load transports etc, & how the French use their maps etc. We have a French Officer with us at present and he is a wonder. I have seen a good many French Officers in the last few months but none like him.



4  
EL PASO, TEXAS.

warmer again though I see from the paper this morning another cold will be coming

I got Mothers letter enclosing the clipping the other day. That is a good idea I would love to have each week "Local" enclosed if it is not too much trouble. Also got Pops letter & one from B. I sure do enjoy the letters immensely. I have another one coming from Papa soon. I am also got the Hotel in the shape he has and hope he can keep it that way. Hope he is over his cold by now and is alright again. It is hard for me to realize that I can't get a letter from home under 5 days and some times 6 or 7. Will be glad when we see the East again and I can write a letter home knowing it will reach there the next day or so even if I won't have time

to write more than one. However, I understand that we will likely have to stay at Port from 10 to 30 days, (that's according to the Major), but I hardly think we will be there that long. If you can keep that letter I wrote you some time ago for by using it you can tell when I am. One of the boys from here or else around here was one of the first to be captured by the Germans, so the Papers here have been carrying his picture and writing him up etc.

By the way, Mrs Pargan (Mrs Chappell) called me up some time ago on phone and invited me out but so far I have not had a chance to get to her house, but hope I can. Said Mrs Alice Walker had written her. That was my first run of both of them. I told her I would come out the first chance.

They are having a great fight in El Paso on Prohibition, the vote



# HOTEL PASO DEL NORTE

EUROPEAN PLAN  
OPERATED BY THE HUMPHREYS. S. G. HUMPHREYS, PRES.

5  
EL PASO, TEXAS.

coming Wednesday. You never saw the  
line. Auto's carrying signs both for  
and against. News papers are very  
kind this Hotel, which is about the  
largest & best is in a muddle over  
the question. The other day the morning  
paper came out with a big advertisement  
that if El Paso went dry the hotel would  
remain a hotel in spite of rumors  
to the contrary. It was signed by several  
directors. That afternoon a larger  
Adm came out signed by a man  
who said he owned 65% of stock  
and that if El Paso went dry, the  
hotel would be turned into a  
rooming house. So it goes.

Had a nice long letter from Christine  
the other day & enjoyed it very much.  
Will write to her as soon as I get  
the chance, but my letters here after  
are going to be shorter and less  
often than heretofore necessarily.

Will I must stop and write a few  
other notes. Write when you can. ~~They~~  
did appreciate Mothers Belmont & me.  
They are fine and I will read  
them. Love to every body.

My Dearest Charles:- your dear little letter just  
had. you showed just how much I love you  
The letter was enough to prevent me from  
you, but I guess in the present I will  
as I had up that nothing comes on there -  
I'm sending you some illegals read them  
as I see what I write. Every one of them  
I wish you could see them.  
I find time to send you  
to send me a letter & let me know how you  
are getting along. I don't want to hear  
with the wise. I don't want to hear  
to hear. I'm perfectly well.  
in work. Please write to me  
we think of you.

Thank  
to my mother  
Dearman member



EL PASO, TEXAS. Sunday Morning.

Jan 20, 11 3<sup>0</sup> o'clock

Dear Folks,

Here it is Sunday morning again and we are still in Texas. From what I heard, as I wrote last Sunday, I thought probably we would be gone by now. It has gotten so that we don't know when or what to expect. All of our Battery stuff is packed up in boxes and marked "American Ex Forces" - it looks like we are going soon anyway. Just think, the first night I got here or rather the next day I thought sure we would leave in a week and we have been here some thing like 5 or 6. However we won't be here that much longer. It looks to me like a bad time of year to take an army across when the weather is so cold over there but guess the Army Officers know best. A few of the officers and non coms are going to friend the regiment across for



the purpose of staying etc and <sup>among</sup> among  
the affairs are some of the next  
morning that reported when I did. A good  
part of them are going to train  
for Canton Obs. These names,  
I understand have already been telegraph-  
ed to Washington so they may leave  
any day. In fact I heard our Captain  
tell one of the officers of our  
battery to be ready to go any time.  
However it is possible that this  
bunch might leave here with us  
and then go ahead from Port of  
embarkation. I tell. Since most  
all of the stuff is packed up, our  
men are doing mostly Infantry drill.  
So far I have not had to get into that  
for which I am thankful for I  
sure do hate it, as I have been  
working in the Office. Had to go  
around and explain to the men  
yesterday, what the insurance act  
etc was and let them ask questions  
etc. A good many had not taken



EL PASO, TEXAS.

any insurance out, but after I explained the benefits etc nearly every one I saw took some. In fact only two refused. And you never saw such a cosmopolitan bunch as we have. Some can't speak enough English for you to understand and their names are such as "Poliziani," "Peyronosini" etc. Some of their parents live in Russia, some in Italy, some in other countries.

A rather interesting thing happened in Battery "A" of our Regiment the other day. A Corporal in that Battery was arrested charged with being a German spy and was said that he was a Captain in the German Army. I don't know what has become of him. It was said that they suspected him when he wanted to go across in advance as a French instructor. Can't tell how much is true and what about him.



I was Officer of the day for the first time last week. Not very busy at so far as I know. Had to make three trips to each post during the night but all the men seemed to be getting along all right and were on the job. Of course O D or any one else don't feel to kick when these fellows come out for they all are loaded and I don't think they would be tall to let you have a word if you did not see me in the morning.

We have a new thing coming on for this week. Officers School. Every officer in the Regiment both old and new will attend this school two days out of the week and it begins at 7<sup>30</sup> a.m. and ends at 4 P.M. That is sure going to get us to work and we will have to spend our spare time studying to be ready to recite. As I am writing this letter, the snow is coming down some. Had.



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

# HOTEL PASO DEL NORTE

EUROPEAN PLAN  
OPERATED BY THE HUMPHREYS. S.G. HUMPHREYS, PRES.

EL PASO, TEXAS.

no idea when I went to bed last night that we would have snow today. But the ground is covered this morning and the house is still falling though not as heavy as it was a short time ago.

From what I hear you all must have had some terrible weather. I am certainly glad Papa was able to get a little coal and hope you will be able to keep comfortable the rest of the winter. We are very comfortably fixed here and I do not suffer from the cold though I wear a good many clothes. Of course it is a little cold when you first get up these mornings (before daylight) but you soon get use to it.

I am glad Papa has been able to rent out the Hotel as apartments. It was a nuisance in its former shape and I feel sure he will find

it much more so <sup>concerned</sup> than for all  
concerned the way he has it now,  
I think it's a good idea, though I was  
a little afraid when he said some-  
thing to me about it & was that  
we could not get people to see it.

Winnifred seems to be keeping up its  
summer reputation in messages.  
I was surprised to hear of the last  
two or three that took place.

It sure is a peculiar feeling  
to get letters out here from 5 to 7  
days after they are written. I have  
never been in a place before where  
it took so long and often I have  
to figure a little to know when  
some thing referred to in one,  
happened. However they are always  
appreciated and enjoyed. I was glad  
that the telegraph office is in  
existence as it is the one way  
I can get news to or from home  
quicker.



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF



EL PASO, TEXAS.

We certainly do get poor news papers out here. The same news seems to be repeated from day to day and some how the news you get does not seem to be definite news like our papers at home give. Presaby its my imagination but I have a good deal of complaint. And if you try to get a copy of some such paper it is so old that its not much interesting.

I hope the winter this year will be winter and not long. Hope is going to be kept pretty busy and I hope we won't over do it. Hope this war will soon be over and I can come over and take the home work off his hands. And I have letter to the place where I think anything might happen to this war. With Russia running so much trouble, Germany's trouble and the Western front being reorganized puts me in a position where I can

Other than the war will be over in a year or that it can last indefinitely, I guess no one any where knows what to think and I am rather loathing for some definite reply to Lloyd George's & Wilson's speech by the Germans.

I heard that Queen M<sup>e</sup> & Henry M had gone to Charleston, but did not hear whether or not they had been accepted. Wonder if Gen. Hanken has gone too. Let me hear in your next letter.

My work is slow in the office and I spend most of my time making out Insurance claims, Abstracts, City Rolls, Etc & writing letters Etc. I am sure was disappointed that I could not get into the Q. M. for I know I would have had that work. But if by any chance I should get transferred out of the Civil Dept I will move the report again. But I am not expecting to get transferred, now, but am expecting to go over with the Regiment. I don't know what they are going



EL PASO, TEXAS.

Table

to do with <sup>all of</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>us</sup> in it, for the  
 table <sup>calls</sup> ~~only~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>appear</sup> to a  
 Battery and we have must near  
 ten, but it seems that we are  
 just stuck up here and have to  
 so on to get rid of us. I wish  
 we had our own cars get with us <sup>and</sup>  
 leave the ~~short~~ <sup>long</sup> ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> then  
 we could ~~leave~~ <sup>where</sup> we caught  
 and get many of the ~~fundamental~~  
 things that we will not get here.  
 As you probably know every thing  
 is so regulated, in the regular army,  
 that the Non Com's do nearly all  
 of the work. It seems to me that  
 a great deal of time is lost in  
 the army but I guess that can't  
 be helped.

The snow is now falling thick and  
 fast so I guess by tonight we will have  
 a good ~~size~~ <sup>size</sup> ~~evening~~ <sup>evening</sup> on the ground.  
 There is no special news for me to write

so I guess I will knock off writing some  
time later. Write when ever you can,  
as when come in mighty handy out  
here. People in Montana are mighty nice  
arent writing to me and I appreciate  
the ones they write but if you  
they cannot be too late in writing.  
Certainly appreciate the ones the  
write and am doing even one of  
them. Got nice letter from both  
Mother & one this week. Hope Gene  
and Jane are both getting along  
OK and guess they are. Guess Jane  
is in Ill. at present.

kindest regards to every body and  
I am  
Dad.

Received here Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
yesterday.



EL PASO, TEXAS, *Sunday Morning*

Dear *Felice,*

*Feb 2nd 1918*

As I told you in my last letter, my writing has to be cut down in quantity. We are now going to school every day and we have to study harder than we did in camp and do our work harder. Every one from Regular Captains down have to go to school every day and they are making it come hard. We are studying the French 155 Howitzer and their table of figuring out ranges etc is some complicated. In addition to that we have lectures etc and have to study Drill Regulations etc etc. And we have to recite just like we were in school. Then too we have "smoke bomb" practice every day. And in addition we have to drill Regular Captains and all every day at the guns. That is we have to do the privates work in order to learn their duties and the old Captains don't live that much.



Really we have only about 2 or 3 hours a day to spend with our Batteries, the rest being devoted to school. Yesterday we shot several ammunition and believe me those big 6" shells amount to something. You can see them when they leave the gun and you can hear them traveling on their way until they burst, when you see the smoke of the burst some 2 miles away. Of course they will shoot further than that but that's about as far as we used yesterday. I believe these guns are effective about 5 or 6 miles. And the projectiles they use are very heavy being 6" in diameter and about 2 feet long.

We have had no news. We are still waiting as usual but know nothing. The government is sending out a good many "Confidential Books" or rather pamphlets and we are <sup>Battery</sup> each of us have to give a lecture <sup>to the Battery</sup> on one pamphlet. Mine comes this week so I have to study up on it today. Subject is "Beyond Exercise Etc" as used by the English. I guess we will have to take up the English method when we get on the other side. Can't say I am very much interested over my subject.



EL PASO, TEXAS.

as it becomes hard to deal with the  
Payout Etc, as well as the Exercise.  
I hardly know how I am getting  
along. Some times I think not much,  
as for instance when I wrote you  
last Sunday and then again I think  
perhaps I am doing about as well  
as some of the rest of them. But  
I don't know and I can still very  
easily see how they could do with out  
a good many of us who have commissions.  
It is really hard enough to get out  
the kind of gun you have been use  
to when you know that you are  
going to have some time to study  
it. But with new kinds of guns (6")  
and when you are expecting orders  
every day to move it is some thing else.  
I am still not sure that the 18th  
will take all of us over. It looks as  
if they will, but I won't be sure  
until we leave. I don't see that it makes

much difference to us except I believe that the Government realizes that we should have some training before going over and now since we realize what we are up against, we would know how to study while teaching a draft army. I to all guess work and I suppose we won't know until we leave. Have heard one or two comment on President W's remark about the war being over this year and they seemed interested in his statement. We have got newspapers down here so can't get the news we would like to have. By the way believe I will let you all send the "State" in have it sent, rather, to me here. Then when I leave the address can be changed. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to glance at a paper that I understood whether it was old or not. And you might as well let the N & N be mailed too. I enjoy the Local Motion picture but that's a heap of trouble and then too the paper can just as easily be sent.

By the way forgot to say that one Officer has to spend a week in The



EL PASO, TEXAS.

Motor shops these days that is, each  
were an officer from each Battery as  
well as a few enlisted men are  
sent over to the L.M. Department to  
study Trucks etc. This is done be-  
cause we are going to be Motorized.  
This is my wish, so I won't have to  
go to school as related above and  
I am afraid it will be hard for  
me to keep up with both. But such  
is life.

A man who has been an ordinary  
citizen for a number of years forgets  
what real work and study is. Sometimes  
think of how much time I wasted  
when I was at home and compare how  
I spent it there & how here. From 7<sup>30</sup>  
to 1<sup>5</sup> in a dead rush & then worry &  
study every night as well a Sunday,  
to 10<sup>0</sup> P.M.!

Am glad to see Laurence E has been  
promoted and hope he will continue

to go up. It will be a long time before  
a "Camp" man will get a promotion  
here because there are so many above  
him. That is another reason why a bunch  
of new ones would not be put along  
side of Regulars. The chances of promotion  
are nothing like they are in the ~~reg-~~  
~~ular~~ <sup>National</sup> army. However, that makes no dif-  
ference to me for I will be satisfied  
to hold down a "2nd" for a long time.  
Just so, until I know a great deal  
more than I do now.

Got letters from Jamie, Pa, Mother & Tom  
this week and enjoyed them all. Also  
got nice letters from several other folks  
which I will have to answer with care  
as my time now will be very limited.  
All the letters are enjoyed very much.  
A nice long one from Cousin Mat yesterday  
especially. Well Maer I suspected a letter  
from him last week but failed to get  
it. Guess I will get one from Papa  
this week.

Guess I am getting a little more use to  
Army life but still there is nothing  
about it that appeals to me.



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF



4  
EL PASO, TEXAS.

See William Elliott has gotten a communication  
and am glad of it. Would it be surprised  
if he won't be sent over soon as given  
they are needing more for aviation.

Hope the Senate is about over with  
and that Pope will not be rushed from  
now on. I know they are keeping him  
busy but hope he won't over do it.

El Paso went "wet" last week so the results  
of Whiskey is still prominent. Every day  
or two it seems some body is shot or  
cut or something in El Paso. Believe  
they had to dynamite a Drunken Mexican  
out of a house about night before last  
after he had killed 2 or 3 people.

Well I must stop now and make out  
my notes on my lecture. If I think of  
any thing else I will have to write it by the  
if I have time. Love to every body and  
write when you can and I am  
Yours's Steve.





ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

# HOTEL PASO DEL NORTE

EUROPEAN PLAN

OPERATED BY THE HUMPHREYS.

S. G. HUMPHREYS, PRES.

WESTERN LITHO CO. WICHITA

As soon as I will  
get pictures some  
time in the next  
ten days I will  
send them  
over  
to you

EL PASO, TEXAS. Sat aft 5:30

Dear B,

Feb 9th 1918

Have just finished writing a note to Jane, and am writing this scratch to you before I go to supper.

There is no special news to write and anyway I will write a letter home tomorrow which you will likely see before long.

I came in this afternoon and as you requested had my picture taken. Don't like the job much, but am glad I have had it done so you all can have them.

There is no special news to write about. The inspector General was around to see us yesterday and of course that called for much sterring around. I guess his coming means that we will move shortly provided we made a good enough showing which of course we can't

tell anything about, I don't suppose we will know when we are going to leave until we feel sure!

The weather here is fine so I am as comfortable as can be and don't have any trouble at all in keeping warm.

We are going to school every day so we are kept busy every night preparing our lessons. I believe we have to study harder here now than we did a camp because here we feel like we have to know the lessons. And too, we have a very strict Major and it makes you more to keep up here he wants you to go.

It's been a good many days since I got your letter so I don't remember whether there was anything besides the letters you asked about or not. If it was you will have to ask it again. However I am keeping all the letters I receive, so if my mail takes





EL PASO, TEXAS.

a long time to reach me when I get to France I guess I will have to fall back on them.

I expect letters from both you and June each week. If they can't be long they can at least be a note. I don't have time to write each of you a letter each week, though I would like to. However my letters home are of course meant for you all and I know they are sent on to you & June. Whenever I get the chance I like to drop you all a note direct, which I do.

Am glad Lawrence E. got his promotion and know his folks are proud of him. I see that Henry M & Jincer M<sup>e</sup> are both still in Wauwata yet but wouldn't be surprised if they are not called before long.

Winnifred seems to have gotten on to the Red X Spirit from Mother's letters and it seems as if Mother would be kept pretty busy these days.

Just received a note from Mother this a.m. enclosing a note from you and also one from Mack and one from John Young.

Haven't heard any thing about Sam recently but suppose he is on the same ship. Wonder what has happened to John Hardin, I guess he has either entered some branch of the service or been drafted by this time.

Well there is no news and I must make out one of those "income reports" so must stop. Didn't know until this week that a soldier had to pay an income tax but it seems as if he does.

Take care of yourself and don't worry about me, as I will be OK when ever I can. Write when you can and I am well all love your Mother  
Sham.



EL PASO, TEXAS, Sunday Morn

Dear Folks, Feb 10th, 11 01 P.M.

We have been doing about  
muchly this week or at least we  
were for one day. The Inspector  
General was aroused to suspect our  
Regiment Friday and of course every  
thing was given up to that inspection.  
We don't know what the inspection  
means but suppose that on his report  
depends the time we are to leave.  
Of course we don't know what kind  
of inspection we passed, but I wouldn't  
be surprised if we don't hear some-  
thing in a few days. I understand  
that those officers and men who are  
to precede the regiment for study etc, which  
I wrote you about some time ago,  
have been notified that they have been  
accepted and that they will likely leave  
in the next few days. I also under-  
stand that they are due to precede  
the Regiment by about 3 weeks. If that

is so. Then we will likely be here for at least 3 weeks more but of course I don't know whether that is so or not.

As I wrote before, we don't know what is holding us up, so we live in the unsettled condition of not knowing when we will have to leave. For the inspection Friday the Officers had to "make up" their bedding roll, which of course meant that I had to "unmake" my cot etc and get down into my packed trunk and get out the necessary things for inspection. However our rolls were not suspected so after it was all over, we had to remake our cots and repack trunks etc.

Our work is very hard these days. I don't mean the work itself but the going to school and studying etc. We don't have any time left like we did when we first got here, being kept busy going to school and attending to Battery duties from 7<sup>30</sup> a.m. to 5 p.m. and then studying until 10 p.m. at night. So now the only time we have off is Saturday afternoon night & Sunday. In addition to studying



EL PASO, TEXAS.

American Warfare Etc, we are studying French & English Warfare which is of course now highly developed & very accurate Etc. I imagine that the National Army Etc has probably not gotten to a study of such things as above mentioned and such mathematics as French Range tables Etc. You should see the accuracy with which the French fire. I believe the public when they say that the French are the best Artillery men in the world. I imagine "sitting down" a "Barrage" at say 3 or 4 miles with such accuracy as to know that your men can go within 25 yds and never get hit. The French Captain told us last week that at the beginning of the war it was expected that you would kill some of your own men, but now that was unexcusable. You can imagine how much accuracy it takes when I tell you that before

the French fire they figure out, the temperature of the powder, the temperature of the air, the barometric pressure of the air, the direction of the wind, the rate of the wind, the weight of the projectile, the error in each gun, etc etc. all this and a few other things are figured before the first shot is fired. We are figuring on using the French 155 gun when we get across, which is just about the same as our 6 inch. It must be some gun and it has a range of from 1000 to 13500 yds. So we have to be studying this gun too though of course we have never seen one. Then too, we have lectures every day on bulletins issued by the government (Confidential bulletins) on war operations. We are issued so many books that we don't have time to even read them but guess we will have to study them all too. So you can see we have quite a little bit to keep us moving, in fact so much of it that those of us who never had military before can't take it all in.





3

EL PASO, TEXAS.

We expect to be motorized when we get over so one officer from each Battery spends one week in the motor shop of the Q.M. I spent last week there, trying to learn some things about trucks etc. I believe these shops are headquarter shops for the whole Southern District and they certainly are some shops. They do any thing to or make any thing for any kind of truck or auto and both sure do file us. They are some shops. Of course we can learn practically nothing about them in one week, but any how I got to drive a truck one day. Think I had it on some of the other that went down having had some experience with cars before, and trucks are very similar in a way to cars.

So far as my Battery work is concerned, I spend most of the time

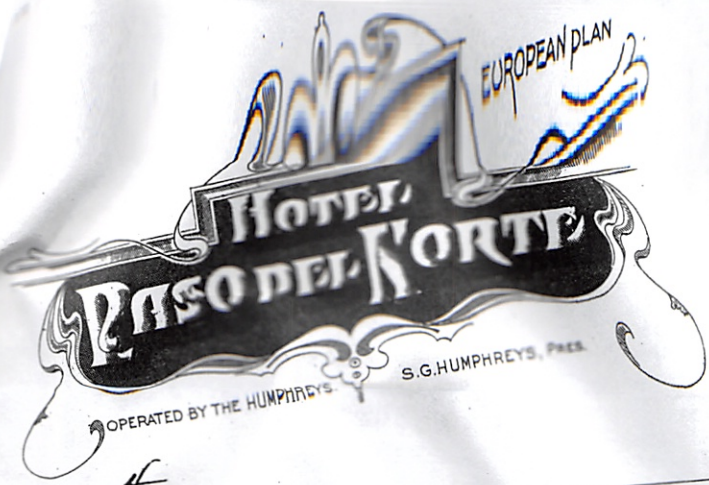
in the office. This new Insurance & allotment law is quite complicated in its application. In fact they seem to make changes in the law every few weeks. Of course minor changes. And Tuesday Feb 17th is the last day for taking out Insurance so I will be quite busy getting final report in etc by that day. Our Battery alone has taken out about \$1,700,000 so you can see it amounts to some thing. I believe only 20 men out of the 236 failed to take out some.

Mother must be kept busy these days. Herminora seems to have the Red & Spirit all right and I hardly think people on the outside realize how much good the organization really does.

I had a letter from Mother enclosing letters from Mack & John Quinn yesterday and enjoyed them all. Did not know anything about Mr. Quess death until Jane wrote me in her letter which I received about day before yesterday.



WESTERN LINO CO. WICHITA



4  
EL PASO, TEXAS.

Lilla B. has written me twice re-  
questing me to have my picture taken  
and while I didn't think much of  
the job, I came in yesterday and  
had it done. Well. Have the proofs  
mailed to me tomorrow and if  
they are any good, will bundle  
you all with some of the pictures  
before long.

The weather out here now is fine,  
though it has been raining a small  
bit this morning and I believe a  
small melting snow fell this  
morning for a while. I believe it's  
a little bit colder today and it has  
been last week but still, not cold  
enough to be uncomfortable all of  
last week, in the middle of the day,  
we would go with out any sort of  
coat on, nothing but flannel S-T, and  
one or two days they were comfortably  
warm. I hope the weather is <sup>comfortably</sup> this

moderated by now and that every body  
is comfortable. Of course we have  
a terrific sand storm every few days  
which covers you with dirt from head  
to foot, but we have gotten use to  
that, so don't pay as much attention  
to them as we use to.

See by the papers that several boys  
from El Paso was on the ill fated  
transport, but as far as I have heard  
all of them were saved. See in this  
mornings paper that one man has  
just called his wife that he is  
safe in Ireland. Don't hear much  
opinion expressed here about the  
war though most people seem to  
agree that Germany intends to  
make a desperate effort before U.S.  
can get there.

I did not know officers had to pay  
an income tax but we were notified  
that we did and were furnished  
with the income blank. I have  
mine with me now and I am  
going to fill it out the best I can.





EL PASO, TEXAS.

and mail it to Papa and let him  
send it to Collecta. It is impossible  
for me to fill it out like they want  
it as I could not tell to save  
my life, what a farm land, or  
how much I made when farm  
was sold etc etc. So if Papa can  
put in anything that I leave out  
I will be glad. Perhaps Mr Mack  
can tell him. I am going to make  
it out and sign it (By the way  
believe I will have to wait until  
tomorrow to sign it, because it  
has to be done before a Court officer)  
the best I can. If Papa can add  
anything to it before he sends it in  
all right or if he sees it is wrong  
he can get a new blank and fill  
out as much of it as he can,  
and mail it to me to sign, provided  
of course he has time. I glanced  
at the blank last night, and its

two or three sections of it that in so far as my business is concerned, a Philadelphia lawyer could not figure out if his books etc were in Wmmsburg & he in Texas. I guess too when Papa sends it in he better send my check with it and then I won't have to think about it any more.

Well, I must stop now and figure out that Blair and then study the French Range Table. Give my love to every body and write when you can. Look for a letter from Papa but was but guess they had been too busy. Get me know, when you write, what says from town was taken in the last draft, and if you think about it have the town paper and State sent to me here. Hoping you are all fine and that the Kaiser will soon be submerged, I am

Yours  
Shaw



EL PASO, TEXAS, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
20' O'Clock

Dear Folks,

I can't write you my usual long letter today for we have an examination tomorrow morning which I am sure is going to be hard and long so I must spend my time studying. Have been studying this morning and must continue to do so until I go to bed tonight. Since I have just had dinner I am taking this time off to drop you a note. Will try and find time to write again some time in the early part of the week.

Things are about as usual we have shipped our guns to another camp (last Friday) so now we have neither horses or guns. The detail that is going to succeed us had their equipment inspected yesterday so now they are ready to go any day.

I am still not sure about our going but think there is a possibility of tomorrow's examination having something to do with who goes in case they do not take us all. Guess if they do not take us all, that the ones that put up the best exam will go.

This week will be spent mostly in passing in review. Battalion reviews Monday, Tuesday & Wed & Regimental review Thursday.

So we don't know anything about when we will go yet, though it is commonly supposed that the detail will free us by some days. However our Col left today for Fort Sam Houston to be a member of the C M which are going to try the rest of those negroes. And I have no idea how long that trial will last, though it may last only a few days.



EL PASO, TEXAS.

Yesterday I shipped a bedding roll home containing a pair of shoes, leggins, blawets & books. So you can be on the look out for it at the express office. Open it up and take the stuff out of it. The shoes I can't wear now, they look like the leggins being too small for me. The blawets are some that I had to hurriedly buy one day when I first got here, believing I was going to leave right away and having to take what I could get. They are too bulky and not warm enough to carry across. The bedding roll was just the proper kind and we have had saddles to make a combination roll but, etc that is much more desirable. You can just stick all of the stuff around some where until I get home or until I die.

The leggins cost 7<sup>50</sup> are new and might as well be sold if you get the chance. They are good ones but too small for me.

Went around to Mr Bryan's store (Miss Chappell's husband) yesterday and met him and gave him a message to give his wife for me.

See the from the new address that things are going to be pretty strict about wearing or writing from town when enroute to Port so don't know whether I can get a message through or not. Will if I can as per my former letters.

Weighted yesterday and with my light serge suit on tipped the scales at 157 lbs so you see I am not quite as ram-boned as I used to be though I don't see where the addition shows up much.

I have one trunk packed and strapped and my other one almost





ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF



EL PASO, TEXAS.

so, so I can get ready on short notice  
 I thought I had bought almost every  
 thing I needed and have but we  
 must make a written report on the  
 20th of just what articles we need  
 and are short or rather what we  
 are required to have and are short.  
 To give you an idea of things I  
 have to get have

Field Glasses	4000
---------------	------

Trench Coat	6000
-------------	------

Pistol	1500
--------	------

Holster etc	700 or 8
-------------	----------

Boots	2500
-------	------

Shirts half etc	500
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	15700
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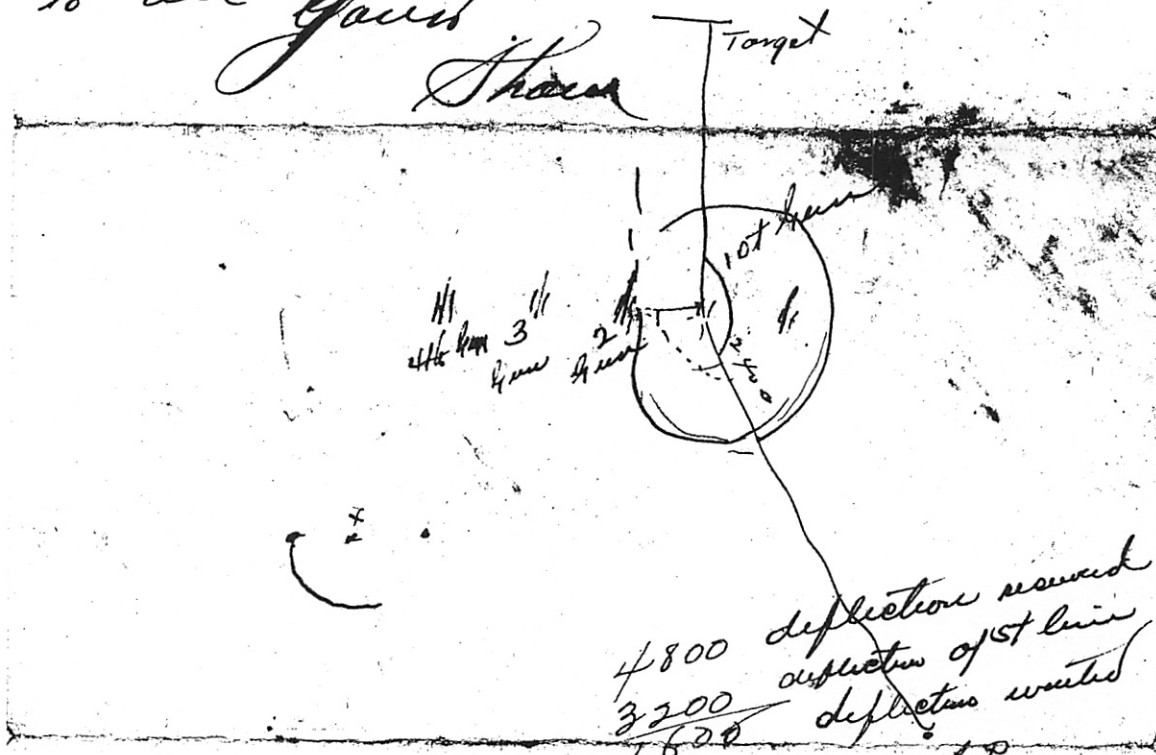
So you can see where at least  
 part of my officers salary goes.  
 But its good to know you will  
 have all you need when you get  
 there.

Submarines are not worrying us

even if one did go down the other day.

Well I must stop and write more  
later in the week. Excuse the page  
I did not know a part of my study  
was scribbled on this side of paper.  
Excuse haste and I am with love  
to all Yours

Shannon



4800 deflection assumed  
3200 deflection of 1st line  
1600 deflection wanted

Army Point

2000

P.D. said  
He on to P.D. as  
Dear June, to  
time to write  
to all long  
but will write  
P.D. about to  
morrow. I hope  
at Father's wedding.  
I have a big  
show

7 Bless Texas Monday Night  
Feb 18th 7<sup>30</sup> O'clock

Just a note tonight as I have just  
finished writing a letter home tonight and also  
wrote one home yesterday and you will likely  
get both of them. Got your note today and also  
got picture of a baby which I take to be of  
your Columbia friend. You were about the  
news about leaving for France and that is  
the reason I am scribbling the note tonight.  
The advance part of our Regiment moves tonight  
and the train is now waiting for them  
on the tracks right here in Camp. We are  
due to follow them in about two weeks  
but least if we wait that long as we have  
stay, it will all of our material. I imagine  
we will leave here about the first of next  
month. There be a little sooner and may be  
a little later. I am well and fine and  
weight nearly 160 lbs, (more than I ever weighed  
in my life) so army life seems to agree  
with me in one way at least. Well I  
must stop now and get busy. You will  
see the letter home in a day or two after  
you get this any way. Love all the "Munton  
'orks" and Miss Green my love and tell them  
all that I am going to write to each as soon as I can  
find time. Tell them that they don't have wait on my letters  
however before writing to me. Best luck and love your  
Mother Shaw.

Camp Fort Bliss, Texas  
Evening 6 O'Clock Feb 1886

Dear Tom,

I guess it look like I am reading  
through a bit to be writing you as am tonight  
when I wrote you twice yesterday. But the  
train that will take the first part of our  
regiment (the special detail) is really at last  
standing out on the track waiting for the  
officers & men to get aboard. It will leave  
some time tonight, probably about 8 O'Clock.  
So now we have at last begun to move after so  
much unsettled affairs and after thinking so many  
times that we were on the way. Of course this  
detail is given more for instruction than any  
other side and is supposed to precede the  
Regiment by some 2 or 3 weeks. But as we have  
gotten rid of all of our guns etc I hardly  
think we will be here more than a few  
days. Of course we will have to travel in  
sections when the balance of us go as there  
will be too many to go at once. We will  
surely travel in 3 sections, the first one going  
one day the second the second day and the third  
the third day or it may be 2 days between some  
of the sections. As we are the 2nd Battalion  
and the first Battalion generally travels first etc  
we will surely be in the second section. Of  
course we can't tell where we will leave but

My own view is that we will leave about the first of next week. I understand that no one is going to be allowed to send a letter or telegram from the train after they get on but I am not sure about it. I expect that we will go by Hoboken so you can write me a letter when you get this and tell me Mr. Holders address, if you know it as we will likely be around Hoboken some days. You need not bother about sending it however unless you know it off hand as I likely won't have much chance to use it. If I get the opportunity I will write the day I leave and if you should happen to be in N.Y. 3 or 4 days before or 5 or 6 days after I leave here (which is usually some where around the time he generally goes) he might find me over here. Just mention that because I happen to think that about March 15th is the time he is North. Of course this has been a busy day with all the Puterbas, for there are various and sundry things to do we order to get a bunch of men ready to go over. I think there are about 105 men and about 20 Officers in the detail. Of course they will join details from other Regiments in the division and they will all go across together. And you can bet we will be busy the day we leave if it takes so much work to get the number that went today off. It seems from the news we get from the papers that Germany's big drive is to come off in March.

It looks here we will be just 2 or 3 months too late to get in the big show. Guess however we will have plenty to do when we do get there, though one sees so much about peace in the papers that it would not be very surprising to see some results after the big attempt is made on the Western Front. Could any how I guess our hardest work will come in getting ready to go in after we get there for they say that they put in through some school after you get in France. If the press has issue on "Casting" is any indication they must, as a result of all the big "to do" today our "very hard" examination that was scheduled for this morning has been postponed until next Saturday Morning. Perhaps by that time we will have our orders and so won't have to stand it at all. Any way we will have plenty to keep us busy from now until leaving time if we don't have it. Each one of us have to attend lectures about 1/2 day every day three week and that will take a big part of our time. Lectures are on modern warfare in Europe etc and are delivered by French Captains and Officers of the Regiment. One reads and hears so much that one time you will think the war will be over in a few months and then

again you will think it will last for years. I incline to the former belief mostly because I guess, the Wish is father to the thought. By the way Mother said in her letter the other day that the papers would be sent me. You can just let them come on until I write you a different address as they will likely follow me up and reach me. Thank all the letters will reach me so don't stop writing because you think I never soon.

We are having right now, and have had all afternoon the worst wind storm or rather sand storm that we have so far had. Walk a hundred yards and your ears, eyes, nose and body are full of sand, and my coat is so covered with sand that I am now sitting on my coat, which I shook out before sitting on my coat. Of course the sand works all down in your corners, pillow etc. I guess you wonder why I don't brush my coat off. Because by the time I get ready for bed it will be dirty again and I am going to make one brushing do, you wouldn't believe, hardly, how thick the sand is on our floor even though it was nice & clean this AM and when I happen to put my hand up to my face, the sand seems to be about as thick there as it is on the floor. Really, when I feel my Ear, I feel bunches of "grit" in them. So its no use in trying to keep clean.

while the storm is going on. The storm will  
likely pass some time during the night and  
any way we are pretty well use to them by  
now.

I certainly wish I had known that our Exam  
was not coming off today. I would have  
got a some letters written yesterday instead  
of studying all day. I sure owe a bunch  
of them and would like to get them answered  
before leaving here.

Well, its now after 7 O'clock and I have  
got some studying and cleaning up to do.  
Gave to every body, take care of nurses  
and I will

Yours Truly,

P.O. I think that we will leave here for  
Camp Merritt N.J. when we leave here.



P.S. You seem to be popular with *Private*  
these days.



Dear B,

EL PASO, TEXAS, Saturday night  
March 23 1918

I have been intending writing you a note for a number of days but as you see I am just now getting it done. I have gotten your notes and enjoyed all of them. I wish I had time to answer each one of them as they came in but your car will see that I can't do that so just have to do the best I can. Got your fellain and appreciated it very much. However I had a feather fellain that I brought from home. It was mighty nice of you to send it and I appreciate your thinking about me and getting it for me. As I did not need it at present I sent it home and guess I will have it sent to me in France after I get over. (I am not going to give it to any private. I want to use it myself.) In fact I had to send a bunch of stuff home for after I had my trunks packed I found I was a good many pounds

over weight. I had to send boots, bath robe  
clothes etc home. We have to cut rye  
down to 250 pounds and with all the  
stuff they tell you to take it so some  
job getting all of your stuff in that  
desert.

Have you received my picture yet?  
Had a letter from home this week  
in which they stated they had come  
and that they thought they were  
pretty good. Want to know what you  
think of them.

Poor Bob is gone. I wonder how  
the poor niggers will get along.  
Don't imagine they will try to  
make a soldier out of him but  
likely a laborer or steward.

We are in the same unsettled state  
that we have been in for a long time.  
The men (not the Officers) have had  
their cots taken away from them  
and so have been sleeping on the  
floor for about two weeks. It turned  
cold again a few days ago so  
they were issued ~~bed~~ straw for  
their bed covers.



OPERATED BY THE HUMPHREYS,  
S. G. HUMPHREYS, PRES.

EL PASO, TEXAS.

Some cars have been standing on the tracks waiting for us for about two weeks also, but we can't load them until we get orders to move. The track runs up right back of Officers row so we can see them from our window. It's some unsettled condition to be in and is of course demoralizing. In addition to our not knowing when we are going, we reserves don't know yet whether we will go with this Regiment or not though we expect to. However, a few new Officers join us every little while and as we already have more than we need we don't know. Don't know whether that is keeping them from making transfers with us the Regiment or not, but know I have not been transferred to Supply as here they said I would be, yet.

the time I get in bed. However I was  
sleepy when I came into town this  
after noon so instead of writing letters,  
I lay down on the bed and when  
I got up it was after six o'clock.  
Some thing unusual for me.

For the first time since I have  
been in El Paso, the news stand  
in this hotel was sold out of after-  
noon news papers. The details of  
the big drive are coming in and  
of course every body is much  
interested. Some Officers seem to  
afraid the war will be over  
before we can get there.

When you get through with these  
hurred notes you can send it  
on to Gene and I am going to  
write one to her tomorrow and  
get her to send it on to you.  
Wish I had time to write more and  
you will have to excuse the scratch.  
Take care of yourself, write when  
you can and let me know of  
any thing you want and I am  
with love your Brother  
John

Dear Folks, Monday

21

Am still in N.Y.  
but expect to leave some time  
soon, though I don't know  
when.

There is no news. I am  
well and fine. Never ate  
more and slept better in my  
life.

Love my best to every body  
and write when you can  
and I am

Yours  
Sham.

P.S.

Send this note on to the girls  
and let them feel it with my  
others. Sham.



"WITH THE COLORS"



Some where on the Atlantic  
May 11th 1918

My Dear Pa,

I am writing you this note more because I feel like I owe it to you than because I have any special news for I know you will get my letters home and they have about all the news I can get by with. I started you a letter at Camp Merritt but for some reason never got it finished so put it in my suit case. I am writing this now because I am afraid I might not have time after I get to France. We are now very close to France and should reach there tomorrow morning. I thought yesterday that we would get there tonight and that there fore last night would be my most dangerous night but of course as we won't get there until tomorrow



~~the~~ the tonight is the worse. However  
the "Destroyers" are playing all around  
us so we don't anticipate any trouble.  
Dinner was glad to see them when  
they came out to meet us day  
before yesterday. When we got up  
in the morning we should see land  
though we get up pretty early, a-  
bout 3<sup>40</sup> A.M. Any way we should  
see it pretty soon after getting up.  
I have been on the water three  
weeks day after tomorrow so I have  
about enough of it, though I have  
enjoyed my trip very much and  
have not been real sick the least  
bit much to my surprise. The  
trip has been wonderful. Of course  
I have been more or less busy all  
the way over as such a trip as  
this calls for a good bit of Paper  
work and I ask in Charge of that  
Department. However it was just about  
enough to give me some thing  
to do when I needed it.

I am sitting on my bunk as I  
write this and the bunk above  
mine is not quite high enough  
to keep my head from touching it.



"WITH THE COLORS"



Three of us live in this state room which is just about 6 x 10 ft so that we can hardly all be in it at the same time. One has to almost stand in the day when while another goes to bed. But we are comfortable and get along fine. The food on this boat has been fairly good but nothing like as good as that on the other boat we were on. However, I think this boat had to sail before it was quite ready and that probably accounts for it. Any way, to my surprise, all these boats carry "Cantens" from which we can buy good candy etc. Understood that about \$5000 worth of candy was sold on this boat this trip and they have been out of it for days. I bought a good supply at first, so was well fixed. This certainly is a fine boat and is



not to be compared with the other  
one we were on. We can also  
buy all the cigarettes we want  
so if I have room in my suit case  
I want to get a supply tomorrow,  
though I have a good supply.

Haven't been the least in some  
on the whole trip. It seems that  
the nearer I get to France the more  
I want to get there. But believe  
me I was some home sick when  
I was out in Texas. Don't know  
why for since I have left there  
I think a good deal of Texas &  
want to take a trip out there  
when I get back.

To my surprise Hugh McMaster  
and myself unexpectedly met  
on this boat but you will see  
about that in one of my other  
letters.

It's now five o'clock and at 5<sup>30</sup>  
we have supper. After that we go  
out for Submarine Drill which I  
hope will be the last we will  
have. Our wireless today brings the  
news that 2 Submarine boats have  
been blockaded by the English. By the



"WITH THE COLORS"



way our ship got in connection or rather  
heard a Submarine talking by wave-  
less last night. It was with in 200  
miles of us. Of course we could not  
tell how many of them there were  
but they were operating off the  
Canary Islands. This morning we  
had a little out of the ordinary  
happening so some one told me  
though I didn't see it myself.  
They said one of the Destroyers  
saw something and took a couple  
of shots at it and then went  
flying after it as hard as it could.  
Guess it did not amount to much  
as that was all I heard about  
it. Some one told me also that  
the guns on our ship came  
very near to turning loose on a  
Porpoise this morning. Said it

Help your Country by Saving. Write on BOTH Sides of this Paper.



was lying off at some distance  
with just its fins sticking up  
and that they looked like two  
Periscopes so that our guns im-  
mediately got ready to shoot and  
stayed ready until they found  
out what it was.

Well I know this is a pretty  
foul letter but it will have to do  
until next time. I started it at  
4 PM and now its 8 o'clock so  
you see I have been interrupted  
to some extent.

I am as well as can be and  
getting along fine. Hope your  
all are and that I will have  
some mail from you all when  
I reach France. It has been almost  
a month since I have gotten a  
letter. Write when you can  
take care of yourself and I  
am with lots of love

Your Brother

J Shaw Ketchum 2nd Lt 18th FA

P.S. your letter send this letter on to  
Gene & home when you read it  
Shaw

(I believe this is #6)

(11)

Some where in France  
Sunday June 16 1918

Dear B.

I am writing you this instead of to all the Folks, not that it is not meant for all of you, but because I have received several letters from you and have not had the chance to answer them. So, its meant for all of you. I think I have had about three letters from you since landing here and the last one was written from Lamas though you said you would be home soon. However, I havint had a letter from any body in about two weeks now or at least since those I mentioned in my last letter home. Don't know what is the matter and guess when they do come they will come in bunches. When we come in for dinner each day we look on our "Pours" the first thing for our mail is get there in the mornings when we are out at work. Practically no body that I know of has gotten a letter in the last several days so I guess our ship hasn't come in yet. However, I will be looking for a bunch this week.

When I wrote my last letter home I was in bed with grippe and expected to be out about the next day. However, I was in bed about a week and had it a little tough. I think the sudden changes in

The weather caused it. I am out now and have  
been back at work for the last couple of days. Am  
not therey over my cold but feel much better and  
expect to get straight this week. I am deaf in one  
ear until its funny. I can sit at the mess table  
and not hear a bit of the conversation going  
on, so I want to hurry up and get straight. Of  
course the deafness is only temporary and caused  
by my being full of cold. You can bet I will  
have some job in making up the days I miss  
for we have all we can do each day, (beginning  
at 5:30 and the last class ending at 9:30) but then  
I guess I will get along some way. The thing you  
soon learn in the army is not to let anything  
worry you. Think I am learning that fast.

We fire every day and the instructors say we  
are doing good work, better than any Brigade  
they have yet had here. We have to hustle for  
our ~~exercise~~ time has been cut in half with  
the same amount of work to do. (as usual  
my letter was interrupted so that I began again,  
this P.M. instead of finishing up this A.M. when  
I started.)

We have just come back from Aviation field  
where all the officers went at 10 o'clock to have  
their identification pictures made. It began raining  
a little so the "taking" was interrupted. I guess we  
will therefore have to go back again and of course

it will be on Sunday<sup>3</sup> if possible. I have been almost if not entirely as busy today as I am any day in the west. We don't have time to stop for either Saturday or Sunday so that we even have a hard time edging in a talk.

The National Guard bunch, <sup>(Artillery)</sup> from D.C. have just come into camp so I have just learned. Roberts saw some of them and he said they told him they were from Greenville. Perhaps there may be some in it that I know and if so I hope I will get to see them before I leave here. Perhaps I will see some of the Officers this P.M. as the French Red Cross are having quite a big thing down to the Officers Club and we all have to go down. The entire Officers Club has been decorated etc and all out in front they have decorations too etc for a long distance, where they serve wine etc and where they sell wounded soldiers' conveniences etc. I have not had a chance to get down there yet though it started yesterday, but I am going down after while. I really don't know what all they have there but in passing there yesterday I saw that they were making quite a show. There are many red cross girls down there waiting on tables etc and really they are the first French ladies we have seen; that is, we have not so far seen more than one or two at

a time: while here we see some 30 or 40. I'll  
top this letter and go down there and then I can  
tell you more about it when I come back.

- Monday Morning -

Well, I went down to the Red Cross "creek" yesterday  
not after I stopped writing and it was there about  
two o'clock. I intended to stay about an hour or two  
but when I got back it was 10 P.M. We had  
quite a big time and every body from the  
Brigade Commander to 2nd Lieut's were there. I  
bought some souvenirs for each of you (Mother,  
Jane and you) and while I am not much  
of a judge on fine needle work, I hope you  
all will like them. Yours however, is not  
needle work but is about the same value as  
each of the things I sent Mother and Jane. They  
told me each thing was nice so I hope you  
all will like them and keep them.

You should have seen the things they had for  
sale. The Club proper contained the nice things,  
all kinds of fine hand work etc while the out-  
door booths sold things to eat etc. The place was  
jammed and packed all day afternoon long and  
the red cross must have made quite a bunch  
of money. There must have been nearly a hundred  
ladies and they enjoyed them selves as well

5

as make money. They can't get on to the war  
the Americans spend money and its interests  
to watch them, watching us. However, this really  
was the first chance we have had to buy any  
decent souvenirs since we have been in France  
so the Officers were glad both to get a chance  
to get the things and to help the Red Cross.

Among other things they did yesterday was to Auction  
off several things, one of which was a Wild Boar  
and the other big thing, a boat which was a repro-  
duction of Columbus' boat in which he made it  
to America. The Col of the 10th Regiment bought  
the Boar and "D" Battery of the 18th bought  
the Boat.

Well, I have been interrupted so much that I  
hardly know what I have written, but anyhow  
I must stop now and go to school. I know  
I won't have chance to write any more this  
week, so if I don't end up before class time I won't  
get this off at all.

I am going to enclose a small French medal  
for Ella Ketchum which you will please give to  
her for me as I won't have time to write her. These  
were on sale yesterday and I think make a good  
souvenir as they are a reproduction of the famous  
"Bout de Guerre" (not sure about that spelling) which you  
read so much about.



I feel much better this morning so that I am  
practically over my gripe. Give all my friends  
my kindest regards and I am with love to

see  
Your Brother

James W. Mitchell  
2nd Lieut 18th CA

P.S. The things I spoke of sending, are to be sent  
directly by red cross, I having left the addresses for  
each. In case you don't get them in a week  
or two after you get this letter, let me know.

James W. Mitchell  
2nd Lieut 18th CA

OK  
James W. Mitchell  
2nd Lieut 18th CA

New York

Some Where in France

Wednesday Aug 21 1917

A few lines today under the difficulty of a Brigade moving out. I began a letter to you last Sunday when I was taking a week's holiday but I did not get it finished. I have about come to the conclusion that it is not much use in my trying to write about all the interesting things, because there are so many that it is impossible to even mention in an ordinary letter. I hope you have written all the letters I have written in the last month or two weeks. The last few weeks have been quite the most interesting I will ever have in so far as seeing the inside of French life is concerned and I am sure that I have had an opportunity of seeing things that no tourist could ever see. Some of the things I have tried to mention in my former letters but I guess perhaps I have made a rather poor success of it.

Last Tuesday the Brigade was given instructions received orders to move to Camp immediately. The instructions were informal that a new Brigade would immediately come in and that we would begin instructing them. You can imagine that I feel more at ease now, since I have finished with one Brigade. However it still seems funny for me to be an instructor. Any way we must have gotten along fairly well for the Commanding General sent in a special request for all the instructors to go along with his Brigade. Of course he got the reply that the very reasons he wanted to take us along was the very reasons why we were

needed as instructors and that therefore we would be kept as instructors for the next Brigade. We took the request as a compliment. I think I got along fairly well with my part of the load though I had to study a good bit. I think I studied harder when I was teaching than I did when I was going to school myself. I remember of telling one of the Officers, just about the day they were leaving for Camp (He having said how much he appreciated our instruction etc) that I did not feel like I knew very much, in fact not much more than he did and he replied that at any rate all 6 Battery Commanders would like very much to have me in their Battery. But of course that is due more to my having been here longer than they rather than to any special ability. Soon after the Brigade got orders to move to Camp we instructors got orders that a new Brigade was coming in and that we would instruct them. Much to our surprise we were informed that the Heavy Regiment of the New Brigade would not come to the same town as the last heavy but that instead, a Light Regiment (75 mm) would come into our town and as a result we instructors were going to have to go to another town. (You will have to excuse this writing, for I am in that other town now and I am writing this letter by candle light, which is, of course some job; I can hardly see how to write, much less correct any mistakes that I make)

as a result of the order, I got ready to  
move out. The only thing that worried me  
was how I was going to tell the people  
with whom I staid, good bye and how I  
was going to thank them for all the kind-  
ness shown me. However it came out alright.  
When the last of the Regiment "pulled out"  
the new light Regiment moved in. I found  
the Col of this new light Regiment and  
told him that I was an instructor with  
the heavy Regiment which had just left  
and that I was going to be there for a  
day or two and I would be glad to help  
him out in any way I could. Before I left  
he immediately had me to help him  
look for a room for himself and I of  
course took him to one of the two  
houses, the scale of which had been  
so nice to Major Price and myself.  
In other words, I took him to the family  
that had invited Major Price and my-  
self to dinner several times. I, of course  
had to go in by myself and before the  
hol was admitted, I had to promise to  
take dinner (7 o'clock) with them. The  
last night I was there (you can imagine  
my taking a walk with a French  
family with out any one to even help me)

Finally the Col was admitted, things were  
gotten straight and I left for Camp. I want-  
ed to go up to Camp to see how our Parade  
was fixed and also to get some notes.  
As usual, when I left for Camp, I did not know  
where I was going to sleep, but that is the usual  
at first of my worries over here. I go from one  
thing to another, never knowing whether I will  
have a bed or not but some time I manage  
to come out alright. I caught a train, went  
to Camp and spent the night in my friend's  
4 number room (the heavy gun soldiers to go with  
the 1st grade had gone with them and so had a room).  
I enjoyed that night and the morning of the next  
day. I had to be in the city at 3 o'clock, <sup>10.00</sup> and  
I had to get my baggage and take it as I  
had promised. I got back on time and at home  
I saw some the kids at the house where I was  
going to their dinner. The people were just waiting  
to me, as they could be and informed me that  
the folks with whom I staid were coming here  
after dinner. I was glad of that because I had  
I found by the side of the Medical Hospital  
house (it was a new building in a place  
with a good view of the city) and I  
got to sleep I did not know what to do.  
and after dinner, the folks

with my I said, come on. As usual it  
was after 11 o'clock, when we got through our  
supper and drinks. I then took my horse, which  
a nice time I had and how sorry I was to  
have to leave the town the next morning at  
10 o'clock. At about 11 o'clock, when I got up  
to leave, the Matron of my house informed  
me that I would be served breakfast as usual  
at 6 o'clock. I was of course very surprised at  
this and the woman who told me to have  
that was of course. And I said I could leave  
the table with me. I said that I did not  
and in great haste she made a note of it and  
to the Matron in the evening I said I was  
sorry and she said she was very sorry and the  
note would make it easy for me. I know it  
was a fact for my friend was a "Noter"  
which means some thing in France. At  
about 11<sup>30</sup>, after getting the note and seeing  
that they were pictures which had been <sup>taken</sup>  
the Sunday before, we and my family left  
the house and I said that the note but I would  
take much I had said the note and I  
did not write or show him in telling them how  
they had not went on to my house to pack. I  
got to bed at 11<sup>30</sup> and was up at 6 o'clock  
the Matron brought it to me. She had  
a letter, which she had sent up to me  
and made you read it.

So I left my much favored town at 6 o'clock on  
Friday morning and caught the train for a junction  
it while the train was still in the station. It was  
myself or I wanted to have some one told me, at  
the time that it would be better to be in a town  
on Monday morning. On Monday morning we must wait  
to a town some 10 kils in another direction from  
the Junction, through which there was no Railroad.  
He told us that we could go over and make  
our Billet arrangements and then we could  
have his permission to go any where we liked  
(except Paris). We immediately began looking  
out for a Car or Truck going our way, but it  
seemed as if there was none. I found a man  
and being nothing or told the driver we had to  
go and go we did. Upon him to beat your  
rides as best you can find. I returned to the  
Junction and asked for a Billet and found  
there no billetes that I left the station  
but rather try to arrange for some one else  
not a man I thought. You see we had to  
wait to go to Warsaw and I think that I did  
not have much time to get back to the Junction  
and was sure that the only way was to go  
to the Junction to walk. I "let out" and  
the 10 kils way might have been a  
line. We caught the train for Warsaw  
and got a Billet at a hotel at Warsaw.

... we get the chance we take things easy.  
 We had a great time in wrens. I got lost a  
 time or two when I was walking by myself  
 and only got back to the hotel by getting a  
 hack. You talk about getting around in <sup>what</sup> ~~an~~  
 American, <sup>you</sup> you just ought to try to get around  
 in a French City of about 100000. Any way  
 I enjoyed being lost for I strayed into Market  
 street. I guess Saturday must have been Market  
 day for you never saw so many people in  
 one or two small streets in your life. The  
 Market streets were packed and jammed from one  
 end to the other, but I managed to work my  
 way all the way through and got to see what  
 was going on. I won't try to tell you all  
 I saw, but I saw every thing for sale you  
 can imagine. Ducks, Geese, Chickens, Rabbits  
~~Eggs~~, ~~Vegetables~~, ~~Eggs~~, both dead and alive and  
 all sorts of Vegetables, Eggs etc and in addition  
 small vendors were offering for sale every  
 thing from Buttons to Sticks.

As you probably have deducted by now  
 I am writing this letter as sporadically as  
 usual. I have started it about five lines  
 but never get much written before I am  
 interrupted!



We left Wines Creek at 10:00 am about 10 miles  
 and got to the junction about 11:30. The road was  
 15 miles from our real destination and it appeared  
 the more fact that we had 10 miles to go and  
 nothing to lose, did not say so. We looked  
 around and got supper and when we were  
 it was after 4 o'clock. We then were looking  
 around for a way, for we did not want to  
 be very late so as we did not know where  
 we were going to sleep. We went to the  
 next nearest house! Told them that we were  
 to go to the New England and that  
 I was up to them to provide the way.  
 They did. In 10 minutes we had a Miller  
 Cycle with side car and was on our way.  
 We went in the town OK and went to  
 a little hotel we saw one. The old man  
 and his daughters were in the parlor, dining  
 room, kitchen, and room, as they are all one,  
 and we asked them about a place to  
 sleep. They said they would see. They always  
 like to see new things and a new man  
 (I was a). To me and was the only  
 guide we had in the whole town. The  
 hotel was mostly watched by a whole lot  
 of Wines Creek, Wines Creek etc. The  
 town the old man we saw they were  
 down and bought a little of each. I was

and the old man to see us (they never open)  
and it was worth money to me now he is up  
to be to me tomorrow, it matters not if what they  
will now take a drink until we then found  
young Lisa with his aunt given some sort  
of gift. After the cider he showed us to see  
himself, furnishing us with a candle in each  
hand. I was writing this letter by candle light  
in my room now, and you should see the  
size of my room. It is just was put wide  
and 10 ft long. When you learn that it  
contains a bed, a water tub, a table, a chair  
a large Bureau and all my belongings you  
will see that I haven't much space room. In  
fact, with out my furniture, I could see my chair  
if my seat were in office, because with the  
chair and I get two rooms to sell the chair  
out from the water tub.

Monday Morning we were on the job after  
having gotten the Madame to look us up and  
with and coffee. The Poquell was already  
as we began teaching next week, it being at  
10:00 and Tuesday and to our very good  
surprise, the Poquell received orders to move  
to Camp. Wednesday. I began this letter when  
they were moving out. It is now Thursday 27th.

So I saw the white left and and and  
and and and in a bit. The  
and and and to sit  
and and and. To be the  
and and and would be in  
and and and to interest them. They  
did not know whether the  
and to this town or not, so we  
with we will remain here  
know. if we are not here  
days for us but I must  
and all this time at my  
I have written a letter) I  
and. I have especially  
I have a difference  
where I was before, I saw  
and do, here I get to see  
spirit.

To begin with, the  
Hotel has done  
"put us up" and she is  
would be entirely  
much she can cook on a  
is a good cook but I  
her cook as much as I  
I said before the room  
for every thing, so we  
and, give a meal and  
you don't know it, but  
the French never

you, so far as I know, any time and small  
troubles to make a fire with. I mean to say,  
that I have never seen a piece of coal used  
on a fire. The largest piece I ever saw is  
the size of a horse's nose. They never make  
stoves with in the fire, ever, except for  
the use of: as you know, there are not  
many of. And with this sort of a fire they  
roast a pig, bake a Chicken, Cook Vegetables, and  
eggs, make soup, boil Coffee, make Cakes and  
soon any thing else you ever think of. Our  
soup for dinner today was hot, soup, (contains  
Cabbage, onions, Potatoes & Carrots) Fry a little, Hot  
pork pie, Cold roast beef, Turn rind, butter,  
Coffee and was <sup>and</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>well</sup>. While we were eating the  
waiter asked if we would like to have an  
ice etc. Yesterday, we had Chicken instead of  
the liver etc. You can imagine that with  
this kind of food and nothing to do, we are  
getting along fine.

The old man of the house hobbles around  
the house and drinks Cider. Against the  
wall of the same room I mentioned is a  
wooden Cider container. It is built very much  
like a Grand father clock, except smaller and  
of course contains no glass. In the top, at  
an oblique angle is a lever and about the  
middle is a spout. I am watching the old

man take a cup over, put it under the light  
and pull the lever. He of course takes each  
from the same container but so far I have  
never seen him drink more than he has used. And  
the whole family drink it. It is a fact that I  
saw a French man take a drink  
of it since I have been in France. I am  
well understood that these people have  
by the good example of the good man, and  
consequently the good man from the country  
will do this. I am sure I would see both the  
family and the customers eat. You probably  
be surprised to hear that they do not  
eat with a knife. In instances  
I went down this morning about 10 o'clock  
and asked the Madam to look us some eggs  
etc. It must have been about 12 o'clock  
for them too, for as soon as our breakfast  
was served, the Madam got a glass of wine  
some where and the old man noticed it  
from the front. I don't know where the  
was, only off machine. Note, for I will  
see a small barrow full. The old man  
goes to a side board and gets out a bottle  
containing a big bunch of cold Mutton. Then  
to another and gets out a piece of  
bread. The Madam is sitting in the  
kitchen. The old man drinks

the blade of his knife across the palm of his  
 hand to clean it and then, with up the, one  
 pushes it up under his arm (its always my tongue)  
 and "yanked" off a slice. He then cuts off  
 a piece of the bacon with the same knife  
 and lays the piece of bacon on top in case  
 of need. Next he gets two cups and, one  
 for the container and draws two cups of  
 Oider. He takes one cup, the piece of bread and  
 the piece of bacon over and gives them to  
 the old Madam. He then procures bread and  
 bacon for himself just as he did for her.  
 They begin to eat, he stands and she  
 sitting down. They whittle a little, piece of  
 bacon and eat it and take a little piece  
 of bread. (I guess they have to cut every thing  
 into small pieces as they, like all the Cilles  
 elsewhere, so far as I know soon lose most  
 of their teeth). They keep the bacon on top of  
 the bread the whole time they are eating, by  
 the use of their thumb. In other words they eat  
 a meal very much like one of us would eat an  
 apple, using a ~~knife~~ knife. While they were eating  
 a customer came in to buy a cup of Oider. The  
 old man served it to him and all three went  
 through the habit of pushing one cup against the  
 other before they would drink. They merely pushed  
 their cups together by sliding them along the table

which I guess was necessary as well to make sure  
the goods were good. soon the Customer had finished, so he  
paid about two cents and departed. The old folks  
continued eating, stopping only long enough to let  
the old man repair the cups. They were spending  
so much time eating that I was really for my  
coffee before they were through (I was really at  
first, but they don't like to serve coffee with  
a meal) so I asked the mediam to please  
serve my coffee. She got up, served my coffee  
complete and never even put down either  
bread, bacon or knife. Such is life.

I could write about a dozen things like this  
but if I would try to mention them all I  
would never get through writing.

Saturday Morning.

There must be some likeness as now it is Saturday  
and I am sitting in my same room writing  
the same letter. I guess I try to write too much  
so am going to cut so much foolishness out in  
the future. I got sleepy before I could finish my  
letter Thursday night and yesterday (Friday) I de-  
cided to walk to a station 7 kilos away and catch  
a train for camp. I had to leave here at 7 a.m. to  
do so, but made it alright. I got back to the station  
at 4 o'clock yesterday evening and had to walk the  
7 kilos again. I just went up to the Quarters to  
get some money from the Quartermaster, to buy a few  
things from the D.M. and to see the people I knew.

so much thinking made me too tired to write and  
sleep.

I forgot to mention, that when I was up to see  
the day, I went out on the range to see some  
things after the morning was over and I was  
the first to get out of the camp. I was  
asleep to me and satisfied, and I  
to "I recognize me". I walked out and  
know made with me. It was William  
I didn't know how he was in the morning. I was  
very sorry that I did not get a chance to talk to him  
for a few minutes, but I only got to say a few  
words for every body was getting ready to go into camp  
and his Top Sergeant was getting ready to give "Fall  
in" while William was talking to me. In other  
words I was delaying a formation and I couldn't  
appear to do that for more than a few seconds.  
He looks well and seems to be getting along fine.  
He was apparently on the instrument detail of his  
post, so has a very good job. I am sure  
who you are going to see over and over  
about some, to the conclusion that in a few  
more months, there will be about as many <sup>men</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>area</sup>  
men over there as there is in France.

I am sure I will write a bit of interesting news about  
my department, they have done quite a bit and  
found off the very unusual stunt of being  
three times in ten days. If I could write  
you any details but I am sure that they have  
done well. I put him & his unit out of luck  
but there is no one in camp now, it will



I got your letter a few days ago this one and  
found it very kind to, I think, however, as I am  
to be getting letters addressed 'John of ...'  
W.C. 711 of it came to me that you had  
come to address me now, as it is my letter of  
up to the 1st of ... I used then some other ...  
... in ... I do not ...  
... and ... I think the  
... that (I ... for me). I think the  
... dated July 17th ... all  
... than a month old. ...  
of fact some of the letters in this bunch were  
written about the same time or ... that one of  
... I got a week or ten days ago. I am  
... that ... of  
... is, ...  
He said ... to ...  
... my letters. In the past, ... I have not  
written any letters to any ...  
... from ...  
... if I wanted to write ...  
... the Regulations, I could not for I do not know  
any thing. In the third place about all I write  
about is Customs and regulations of France. However,  
if I write any thing to you all that would ...  
... it should not  
(... that I will never do) ...  
it out. We have much to do to ...  
with ... you will under-  
stand that I am ... France, ...

at an old letter which I have been writing to you  
and by which you can see the various phases  
of this great town and beautiful place. I am  
in a hurry to do this, just writing about the same  
matter of fact I don't know whether or not  
it will be going on. The paper says there is and  
I don't know. But in the way, what can you  
do for my return around the, for you have a  
sentiment that undoubtedly will be very good.  
I don't know how the matter is to be done there  
in your mind that things in your mind will be  
in one part and things in the family  
in another. As soon as I find out when I am  
going to be, I am going to take you so that I  
can get some letters in a decent length of time  
I don't think that I have quite a bunch of letters come  
where there are and I don't know but I have no  
idea where they are. I would not be surprised if  
some of my letters to you had not been lost too.  
You should have gotten a letter from me every  
week since I have been over here with about the  
or three exceptions. At least, in the last eight weeks  
I have written you a letter every week, except  
one week when I went to the Court and last  
week, when I began the letter that you take the  
place of. As my paper are packed up and I am  
going to move down to the quarters this afternoon  
I don't expect to be able to see the contents of the six letters  
and I don't know what is true of my return.

That you asked me. O yes, I got my underwear. I had to  
to mother. I came the other day after much trouble and  
I was glad to get it, for the weather was just gotten  
so hot and I need it.

I certainly was surprised to hear about I had  
money and I guess I was surprised. I have about  
that and had but not at. I have and I guess  
you will remember I wrote you and asked  
you to send me and Red a present for me.  
I would of course need you to send I have  
one also. If it is not entirely too late I have sent  
one for you with the necessary explanation.

Will have written about a page in one letter.  
I have left out any things I have in mind in  
clude it in my next which I will try to write  
about the first of next week. I have that letter  
to be called down in a few weeks. The letter  
you will understand has to do with the last week  
and this week. It was several last week and finished  
the last of the. I am going to include the letter  
a page to you but I don't just to show that  
my intentions were really good even if my actions  
were not.

It is as well as can be said to say that, in fact  
I can hardly get into my letter now and I have  
to be careful here I write on the back of it  
for fear of making some thing else. I am trying  
to keep from buying any more. I believe I have  
enough provided I can't get any more. However  
I have on Tuesday I have to have them there  
I have to get them there.



Write some more cards, and every thing my love  
and affection to all!

Yours  
James O. Ketchum  
and H. F. A. School of Instruction  
A 70 7.11 Amer. Forces France.

P.S. Is Tom here? I hope not and hope he will be  
in the mountains all time in the mountains.  
and, by the way I have not yet seen the letters  
you and Mack wrote me, which makes me  
hope they will come up some time in  
the next few days.

Thank K

(It better to address my mail  
Amer. Forces rather than A.F.  
because some times A.F.  
means Australian Expedition  
My address at present is  
A.P.O. 4711, Amer. Forces, France  
See New York.

James O. Ketchum  
and H. F. A. School of Instruction  
A 70 7.11 Amer. Forces France

ANK...  
School  
No. 24  
aef



Miss Ellen B. Ketchum  
Vernonboro  
South Carolina  
USA



POUR OUVRIR, déchirer le pointillé, puis, un doigt  
passé bien au centre de la lettre, trancher ce bord.  
BREV. S. G. D. G. -- MODÈLE DÉPOSÉ



TO OPEN, tear off perforations, and with finger  
placed well in centre of letter, detach this border.  
W. H. SMITH & SON, 248, RUE DE RIVOLI, PARIS

Dear Pa, at Camp Oct 1918  
your and mother's letters both  
reached me today and I have not time to  
answer either one of them at present.  
Having reached camp Monday, I was assigned  
to a Battalion to go on the mountain  
is firm, with all that it embraces and  
I am going to have to work my head off  
to keep up. Every cut I get with, I seem  
I have a new subject, so I keep me hunting.  
You can imagine that I will have  
some thing to do when I have to know my job  
~~line for my talk~~ and you know  
that is fine when we see neither the lines  
that's doing the funny nor the thing we  
are finding at all addition to funny  
when you can see (by glasses) what we  
are shooting at. "I. S. S. S. S."

I am as well as can be though a little  
bit cold right at present as my "stomach"  
hasn't gotten a store up yet and its pretty  
cold. Probably you can see that, though  
from my writing.  
the weather is getting funny. Raw for

from my writing.  
The weather is getting funny. Rained for  
four minutes and then sun shined. Cold  
for 4 or 5 hours this afternoon.

But I stopped to write this note to tell  
you that I don't think a thing of you  
trying to come across. There is plenty  
for you to do at home. You are doing  
plenty and its as necessary for your work  
to be done as it is for the to be done.

But the main point is, that you can  
not stand this climate over here. You  
are not strong enough and you could  
not last at it. It would even be foolish  
for you to try. Then again it would be  
very hard for you to get around over here.

There are a lot of good people here but  
there are a lot not so good, and I would  
much prefer you would not come. Older  
people are the ones to come. You let

me attend to the business over here &  
you all attend to it at home. I am  
figuring on being back home before  
the time next year anyway.

Today's news - Bulgaria surrendered -  
Turks going to - Allies still taking  
Prisoners Etc Etc.



I certainly did mean to give I could a  
for it and write you all to give you  
one for me. I certainly am glad you thought  
of it and I guess my letter got lost where I  
wrote about Nell's I did not know a better  
place, but as soon as I found out I wrote  
you all another letter. Indeed you will  
pay for it any such thing. If I have not  
got money enough in the bank or at  
the store, I guess my credit is good or  
enough at other places to get enough.  
I am glad you all enjoyed all things  
I enjoyed them very much and I hope  
you need only one bundle of paper, I  
believe, since coming.

Must stop now I am Officer of day  
and must make inspection. Love to you  
today, take care of you self, don't work  
too hard, and don't come down and I  
am your Brother.

James S. Mitchell  
2nd St of Westboro Mass  
Amherst Mass

Received of  
James S. Mitchell  
the sum of \$10.00  
for the year 1871  
James S. Mitchell

Baie 19/11 18.

Mon cher lieutenant,

Merci bien sincèrement de votre aimable visite, nous sommes  
très heureux tous d'avoir pu vous être agréable. En vous offrant  
une cordiale hospitalité nous n'avons fait que notre devoir de  
français, car c'est bien grâce à nos bons amis les américains que  
nous pouvons maintenant vivre en paix - Victoire!! Guillaume II,  
son Kronprinz, tout son entourage de Gauditz et Diassassins sont  
en effet à terre avec l'impossibilité de se relever - Honneur à tous  
les vaillants alliés et à leurs chefs.

En les événements je suppose que votre travail va maintenant  
 chômer et nous espérons tous bientôt vous revoir à Baie.

La chasse est toujours ouverte mais le gibier commence à  
devenir rare, il faut donc se hâter, si vous voulez tirer  
quelques coups de fusil sur un gibier plus agréable que le coq.  
Veuillez nous prévenir quelques jours à l'avance de votre  
arrivée, afin que je prenne mes dispositions pour être libre  
et vous accompagner dans quelques bonnes parties de chasse.  
Donc à bientôt et recevez, mon cher lieutenant, pour vous  
sans assurance de nos meilleurs souhaits et

Avec tout à vous

Heurberg

At Camp Co usual  
Saturday night now

Dear B,

Two letters today, one  
from you and one from  
Ella Beatty and they both  
were enjoyed and appreciated.

Will write a letter home  
tomorrow or tomorrow night.  
Am writing this note to enclose  
a letter I received yes-  
terday from the man I lived  
with when I was at Base.

It was written in reply to  
a note of thanks I wrote him  
in which I told him that  
I was coming back to take  
the unit. You read it, much  
so you can translate it  
and keep it.

There is no news. I am well  
and am doing nothing at  
present but having a big time.  
Certainly am glad Papa is better.  
Love to all

OK

Your brother  
James J. [unclear] and  
[unclear]



Wolke Germany  
Mch 2<sup>nd</sup> 1919  
(all of a sudden I thought of  
it being my Birthday)

Dear Folks,

Yesterday just after Officers' call, and while I was waiting a few minutes to go to lunch, I thought to myself that as soon as I came back from lunch I would begin a usual long letter to you and that if I did not finish it then that I would finish it today. As I sat in the office my Major came along and said "we've got the white (auto) and go up to see Major Curston (my former Battery Commander, who long ago was promoted to a Major and sent to another Division) and the other's that have use to be with the 18<sup>th</sup>. He had already gotten a pass from our Division to visit another Division and I knew this would be a wonderful as well as a long trip. I knew that the Division our friends were in was located very near Cologne and I wanted very much to see that part of the country. You can bet it didn't take me long to change my clothes, swallow some mess and climb in. We went from here to Akerbach and from there followed a beautiful road for many miles down the Rhine valley. The road is just on the edge of the River, I should say it averaged about 200ft distance from the river and so of course the river was in plain view all the time. Never in my life have I seen so much beautiful scenery at one time. It was so pretty  
so in fact it is so clean and well kept looking

that I felt compelled to get all the car and just walk  
along and take my time, looking. (and you know  
I'm lazy when it comes to walking). I'm sure you  
have no idea of and I'm sorry I can't describe the  
"Rhine scenery." To my mind, a river - before this,  
just meant a big stream flowing through the  
country, unkept, no body around and to <sup>a</sup> more or  
less extent a lonely place. The Rhine, or at least  
the part of it I saw was absolutely different from any  
such thing as that. In the first place, along  
much of the River, the banks are very steep and very  
high. You can't imagine how steep some of the  
cultivated banks are. I am sure there are many  
places so steep that you could not stand <sup>on</sup> without  
holding to some thing to keep you from falling  
straight down for some several hundred feet. And  
think of it - every foot cultivated. If you could  
now see the grape vines that I saw growing  
on these hill sides, you would not wonder where  
"Rhine Wine" comes from. No doubt you wonder how  
such places are kept from washing. If you could  
see the hand made, rock terraces, some times with  
ten or fifteen feet of each other you would  
easily understand. My imagination will not  
stretch enough for me to conceive of how much  
labor was spent in fixing up even one acre of  
this ground. And as you look across the river  
and see such cultivation, you on the opposite side  
are traveling down an almost perfect and absolutely  
level road at say some 60 miles an hour. Not only  
that but your road passes through what remains  
you very much of a well kept lane. For instance,  
to day we were traveling down this beautiful road,

Two or three hundred feet so our progress was the river  
and between us and the river. The whole distance was  
a beautiful green and almost level and gentle slope.  
You see the road goes directly down the valley and  
has itself no slope at all, but the road being a little  
higher than the river there is a small slope between  
the road and the river. We were going good and I  
was intensely interested in the cultivated hills  
across the river, the neat little villages every few  
thousand ~~met~~ meters, the solitary castles here and  
there, the ruins of some old fortification. crowning  
the very peak of some extra high cliff, every once  
in a while and the many other things every one  
is naturally interested in, when I thought to my-  
self that I had not looked to my left to see  
what was on this side. I turned and saw that  
some hundred meters ~~the~~ away, the hills got steep  
on this side too and here their opposite were  
also cultivated. The steep ~~low~~ hills were much  
closer to the river, in fact they were right on the  
edge, on the right than on the left, but I im-  
agine the scenery is very much the same  
depending only on which side you observe from.  
I had not ridden far when I realized that at least  
one river was different from my idea of what a  
river ought to be. This was any thing but lonely  
villages every where, both houses on both sides and  
even on the river, castles, country inns and every  
thing that speaks of civilization and hard working civ-  
ilization at that. The Karahi had centres we passed  
at short intervals gave a sort of peculiar air to the  
them ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~as~~ ~~is~~ good looking babu

as a horse snout. They were good looking alright but they just "got of" seemed out of place. They truly were during the watch on the Rhine. Of course every short distance we would pass through a billeting area and there are thousands of <sup>the</sup> same sort of figures. They are on the job alright, but some have they don't just fit into the scenery, like that ugliest figure in the world, the Boche soldier. The hundreds of boats jutting away in mid stream attested to how useful a river, in a commercial way, we were observing. Some day when Commercialism breaks down the Barrier that now exists between Boche-land and civilized land, I want to spend a week or two just traveling up and down the Rhine. Something about the Scenery tells you more about ancient history in an hour than I could possibly get out of a book in a life time. And while I think of it I must mention just one thing that impressed me very much. I refer to the remains of an old fortification that from appearance must have been built when Attila was learning to do "Squad's right". It was a small fort capping the tallest Peak on the River's edge. It was right on the Rivers edge and hence when it was built the river afforded a natural protection. The ear on which it was situated was the steepest I have ever seen, so steep, and its sides so unclimbable looking that I could ~~help~~ but think what a hard time our modern infantry would have in taking it, if a hundred enemy endeavored to hinder them. And, perhaps this is the reason it especially interested me, right here I thought of Modern Artillery.



Thinking that Doughboys would have to sacrifice  
perhaps hundreds to take such a place, the thought  
came to me, "suppose they really were ordered to take  
it and they would call on you to help, what  
could you do." And this is the part I enjoyed. I  
made a sort of mental calculation of the situation.  
I imagined my self in some distant O.P. saying  
"short" "over" "over", "short," and then some such thing  
as "10 rounds, elevation same". As I say, I sort of  
figured the whole thing up and I came to the  
imaginary conclusion that in just about 30 minutes  
after the call for Artillery came, there would not  
only be no fort left; there would not even be a  
hill. I could not help but think of what one  
Battery of modern 155's could do in 30 minutes  
as compared with what any weapon of a contemporary  
age could do in a week. Some such foolish thought  
as this flickered through my mind as we whizzed  
fast, but even if it was a sort of self satisfied  
foolish thought, it certainly emphasized the "futility  
of modern warfare. If one would shoot at such  
a place as that with a modern piece of Artillery,  
he would naturally feel like the negro who saw  
<sup>for the first time</sup> a Battery of 155's throwing a "gun or Heine" across  
the execution." Boss let des nigger full det strong one  
time". Holding ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> car with one hand, he pulled the  
bangard with the other, and as the "through express"  
started on its journey, he looked up and said "Kaiser",  
~~and~~ "Count your dead." But, I must move on, or I will  
be spending all night trying to tell you about some  
thing that is impossible to describe and probably less  
interesting than many other things.

I don't know how many miles we traveled down this road but though it was a good many it was not enough to make me tired of looking. After a time we turned away from the River taking another road and from here on to our destination, the scenery is very much like it is around here. No doubt you would be impressed with <sup>the</sup> fact as you pass through any part of this country that there are no farm houses any where. All the farmers live in little villages and as you can well imagine you will pass through some sort of town every few thousand meters. We passed through many such towns after leaving the River, but nothing of especial interest which I can describe, except an occasional castle or some thing such, and I have already told you or tried to tell you of similar sights, until we reached ~~the~~ the outskirts of the town of "Neuenahr", our destination, where we noticed the "Apolonia" (?) Water works. We saw the factory that supplies probably and generally, if not at present, one of the most famous waters. Entering the town, we found it to be a famous health resort and consequently consisting mostly of beautiful hotels and play houses. We found Major Curston billeted in a luxurious apartment, an apartment that in ordinary times would probably have cost 10<sup>00</sup> a day, with plenty of servants and every conceivable convenience. Having sat down at a wonderful table, the Major, asked a German and a good looking, neat, German waitress, if you can imagine such a thing, served some sort of German wine and I said "Major, this certainly is a hard war". He said "yes" and I want you to see not only

"The Officers quarters and I mean you - 10. see some of  
the Quarters of some of our selected men." I came, I saw,  
I was conquered. You won't believe it, but many of them  
had 5<sup>00</sup> a day rooms, were sleeping between real sheets,  
and had maids to make up and care for the rooms.  
It certainly is a hard life for the boys in that town.  
We walked around the town quite a bit that  
afternoon and saw many interesting houses and  
places. I think the most interesting place we  
went into was the famous hot mineral bath houses.  
It certainly was a wonderfully equipped and beautiful  
place, just such a place as you can imagine  
would be fixed up for such men as John R.  
McKeffeller, who I was informed, use to make fre-  
quent visits here. I visited many rooms among them  
the Private Bath room of <sup>the</sup> Kaiser and as you can  
imagine it too was "some" swell. Think of soldiers,  
literally by the Regiment, using such places for  
baths. Don't misunderstand me. I don't mean that the  
soldiers don't deserve the best. I merely mean to com-  
pare the <sup>way</sup> they are now living with what they lived  
a few months ago. Think of it. A few months ago  
a bath in a mud hole in red hair was a God send  
Now, mineral baths and Turkish towels are an  
every day occurrence. Returning to the hotel, we  
had a real American supper cooked by German  
cooks and served by German waitresses. Of course  
we had an American Jazz Band to play while  
we ate and possibly a bit of German wine. After  
supper we visited the theatre. Arriving at the hotel  
after the show, we instructed the German Hotel  
managers to ... ..

To have breakfast served in our room at 9 o'clock  
the next morning. It certainly is hard luck,  
isn't it?

Sunday we took a long ride down the River  
cay (I don't know how it is spelled) and here  
again we saw much beautiful scenery, in general  
about like we had seen on the Rhine and equally  
as beautiful. I wish I had time to try and tell  
you just what we did see.

It is now getting late so I must stop writing  
another time. All I have to add is that we had  
just as nice a trip on the return as we did  
on the go.

I have no special news to write you. I am  
as well as ever be and my application for leave  
"went in" last week. Instead of taking a three  
day leave to Paris such as I spoke of in my  
last letter, I'm going to wait here until I  
hear some thing from my application. I think  
however, I will take a two day leave to Coblenz  
to try to see Herr Wagner, whom mother  
mentioned in her last letter and who I  
would have already seen had I heard of his  
being there earlier. (Don't think I can get to  
see Joe Caldwell, (I have a number of friends in 5<sup>th</sup>  
St. A, one of whom was my room mate for months at school)  
as he is across the River and its hard to get over there  
however I'm going to try. Write when you can and  
I am with love to all

OK  
James Mitchell  
2nd and 3rd  
1872

Yours  
John