

A.E.F. Letter No. I

AMERICAN

Y.M.C.A.

Somewhere in France

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

VII

Aug. 28 1918

Dear Mother:-

I am sorry that it is so "uncomfortably quiet" at home. We must have made just about the right amount of noise when at home; neither too much, or too little.

She must have gotten very tired of the detention camp; all new men are confined in this manner. The naval Reserve Training school has been receiving quite a lot of publicity of late, through articles I have seen in the papers. He has a lot of chance to do some traveling, but, - I am not exactly envying him, because I do not see much fascinating about the water. Our trip through England and France will far surpass any water scenery he will see. I hope he gets well located, and gets something worth while, out of the school. As I do not know exactly what the school aims to teach a recruit, I cannot form any idea about what his future duties are liable to be. It may be strictly naval, or in the merchant marine.

Our location in the woods is about ideal. The weather has been excellent, the first rain for three weeks came down last night, it was welcome, but not really needed.

We see only airplane raids and hear the large guns in the distance; those are the only direct signs of warfare we notice. It is quite a sight to see the shells explode in the air, wondering whether the next one will get the Hun aviator. On a short trip, my assistant and I stopped to get a view at the airplane guns mounted near us. They are of the 3 inch size, known as the French "75". Surely a slick little layout. With them were several one-pound rapid fire guns. We hear them in use several times daily.

The last letter I received was dated July 19; you should receive very soon afterwards the card sent from the port of embarkation stating that I had arrived safely overseas. I did plan numbering my letters, but I guess there is not much use doing it unless I remember the number. I start all over again and number this as No. 1; I have really made note of it!

The trucks are running well, and our eats have reached a good standard. The weather could not be improved much, and I hear from Philadelphia more than any other one source. So why should I kick? I have gained I should say, about ten (10) pounds, but just had my hair clipped off short. I'm an awful sight! It will grow quickly, I know.

Regards to you all, and good luck to Ike!

Lovingly, "Chick" -

Censored by
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