

THE RICKS, Rocky Mount, N. C.

THE LOUISE, Washington, N. C.

THE BLAND, Raleigh, N. C.



T. L. BLAND, Proprietor
JOHN A. TUCKER, Manager.

July 25 -
1917

Newbern, N. C., Wednesday night

My dear Papa-

Both of the
Foots thought it useless for
me to attempt to claim
Exemption and thought
my idea of joining
some command at
once the wisest plan
to adopt and both
of them, separately,
advised me to join
the artillery as the
life in this was
less irksome and
hard than the Infantry.
They also advised
that I join some
new unit where my

chance of promotion
was better. I considered
these things and thought
of this battery which
is a part of the newly
organized 1st US Field
Artillery Commanded by
Col. Albert Cox of Raleigh.
I thought particularly
of the number outfit
as Rodman Guise
one of my best
friends at Chapel Hill
was 1st Lieutenant of
it. So I came here
direct from Norfolk
last night reaching
here this morning
at seven o'clock.
Rodman and Capt.
Wetzel offered me
a Sergeant's place
so I have joined. The
Capt. said that if
I had reached here
yesterday he would



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Have been glad to have given me the first Sergeant's position but that I had a good chance to work so it as every man of the 200 in the battery is a green one, and he had given out the first Sergeant's place last night. The men met for the first time today for a little drilling. The Newbern boys are still living at their homes as the battery has received no tents or in fact any

uniforms or anything
else. The out of
town recruits are
sleeping in a warehouse
serving as an armory.
Every man is allowed
75¢ per day for food
until we go into
camp. I have
been at the hotel
today but tomorrow
will go to a good
boarding house
paying the small
difference myself.
It is thought that we
will go into training
in about 10 days or
two weeks at Greenville
D.C. The first two
months, I understand, will
be devoted to learning
the infantry drilling
tactics and then cannon
and horses issued for

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There are fighting
training. Katman
has been very
nice to me and
I really have spent
most of the day with
him, right much
of the time at his
home. I will supper
with them tonight. I
had no trouble in
passing the physical
examination tonight. I
was waiting on this before
writing you definitely.
The uniforms are expected
in 4 or 5 days and then
the Battery will present

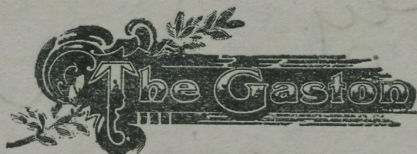
a much better
appearance. I find
the tactics so changed
since I was in ^{the} ~~years~~
militia several ~~days~~
ago that I will have
to begin studying at
once as the Capt wants
me to assist in
drilling the men
and I don't want to
be unfamiliar at the
start. I anticipate
no trouble in being
able to get home for
2 or 3 days before we
leave here and will
do this.

I hate more
than I can tell you
how sorry I am that
it was necessary for
me to leave you
but I believe I have

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taken the best step to
get into some new
Command with chance
for promotion rather
than be sent into the
Regular Army later as
a private.

Speaking for
myself however, I
do not object to the
hard training and
hardships and the
only thing that I do
not care for is not
being an officer.

I have been
thinking about you
every since I left

and do hope that
you are not feeling
so badly.

I am not
very anxious for
everyone in Edenton
to leave at my movements
so am not writing
anyone outside of the
family.

Please ask Mack
to send my mail
directed just to Newbern
and I will get in at
the general delivery.

I hope that you
will feel well
enough to write to
me and please ask
Mary & Mack to write
me they can.

Affectionately
Richard

July 25-1917.