

Battery "A" <sup>The</sup> 113 Field Artillery  
Sevier Branch, Greenville S. C.  
Sept 19-1917-

My dear Papa - [Judge Minton]  
[H. Dixon]

We arrived here Sunday night about 7 hours late and found at once that we are now in regular army life. Some of the trees had been cut down and the mess-halls built but the balance had to be done by us such as clearing away the camp-site, cutting down trees and digging up stumps

(2)

In other words we  
we given a woods and  
had to clear away  
everything and make  
a smooth encampment  
of it. We are not  
yet finished but  
hope to get things  
in presentable shape  
tomorrow. It has  
been pretty hard  
on the men but it  
is good practice  
and it will benefit  
all of us. To get  
used to hardships  
from the very start.  
I expected nothing  
but hard work in  
the army and I  
haven't been dis-  
appointed in my

expectations. I went on duty tonight at 6 as officer of the guard for the Regiment and will be relieved tomorrow evening at 6 so I feel a little responsibility tonight.

We get up at 5 o'clock (pitch-dark and very cold) and we find it hard to get the men to "fall in" promptly for ~~the~~ reveille so we officers have to be up and get them out promptly as it would be very embarrassing

④

if some higher officer  
caught the battery slow  
in starting the day's  
work.

I haven't been  
outside of Camp Sevier  
yet and do not know  
what kind of a city  
Greenville S.C. is. There  
are about 25000 troops  
here, with more  
arriving every day  
and most of them  
have to cut down  
the woods as we have  
done. The camp has  
no cleared land at  
all. I have seen  
Brownie several  
times. His outfit is  
encamping where  
some traps have  
just vacated so his

⑤

job wasn't quite  
as hard as auto.  
He is getting on  
very well and is  
known by most  
everyone in his  
regiment as I asked  
~~about~~ <sup>for</sup> him from dozens  
of 2<sup>nd</sup> he says +  
they all knew him +  
hope he and I can  
go to Greenville  
some night soon  
I am leaving my car  
brought down here  
as after I leave here  
I won't have the  
chance to take it with

(6)  
me again.

Personally I have been getting on fine and rather like army life. It is of course very rough and there are any number of discomforts but I have been feeling fine and I think I can stand what the next man can.

I hope you all are getting on as usual at home. Write to me when you feel like it & get the others to write. I'll write back that his bottle of wine was a life saver to us officers. We drank it last.

Saturday morning after we had gotten sent out to the line

in Northern leading  
out supplies in a  
driving rain.

Colonel Cox said  
today that he thought  
we would be here  
a very short time. How  
long I could not  
find out or whether  
we would go to France  
or to some other camp  
to train in shooting the  
3 inch guns. There is  
no artillery range in  
this camp. It is hard  
though to find out  
anything definite.  
Atlee Dickson