

My dear Papa -

[Judge Minton H. Dixon]

Sunday - July 24 - 1918 -

I received your letter

Wednesday and have sent the check
for the insurance to Mr. Gettys and
you probably will get the receipt some
time this week.

This is like a new
Regiment now. The change has stirred
every officer up and all of them are
trying to improve the Batteries to which
they were sent. It was a good idea
to change them around. I have been
busier in the last month than ever
before. A considerable number of
officers have been sent to Fort
Sill, Oklahoma - some to study
aviation and others to study Artillery. No
Battery now has more than 3
officers, when 5 is the regular
complement. So you can see how
we have extra duties to perform.

We have also recently gone into some problems in school that are more complex and difficult than any we have had since coming here. The first examination on them I made 65 but last week made 87 and ^{last} Friday I am quite confident I did better than this, tho the papers haven't been returned yet. Lieut. Meers corrects the papers for the General now and he estimated to me that I made one of the best marks in the Regiment. Hope I will be able to keep it up. These problems have to do with the changes in the ranges of shells due to the temperature, direction and velocity of wind, etc.

I don't have to go on the smoke bomb range but once a week now as the Colonel has allowed me to have other officers relieve me. This

gives me more time with the Battery
as at first I went on the Range every
day. There is no danger in my getting
hurt on the Range. I do not have
to even get anywhere near the powder.
Capt. Rodman is not expected back
from Fort Sill until another month
and Mears is temporarily in command
of Battery "F". Mears and I, and
Lt. Robertson who was with Battery
"C" are the three officers in "F".
All of the officers who were with
Battery "F" have been transferred to
other Batteries. It is rumored that
there will be other changes and that
probably some officers will eventually
get back to their home Batteries
but it is stated that all of them will
not be transferred back.

This good weather gives us a chance to exercise the horses and we take one or two horseback rides every day. Each Battery now has 150 horses

I was very much grieved to hear of Capt. Stone being wounded and trust it is not serious. Please let me know what you hear of him from Lt Stone from time to time

I am spending the day in camp today as Lt Robertson has gone to his home (Hillsboro, N.C.) and Mrs. family and fiancée are in Greenville and he is spending the day with them.

Brownie phoned me last night that he was coming over to take dinner with me today. He is an Divisional guest today, which keeps him very busy. Brownie is making a good officer and shouldn't get discouraged and I have been trying to get him to face that he is just as capable as

Anyone else to hold down his position. He is a better officer right now than a majority of officers in this Regiment. He should be able to get a pass now as it has been about 5 months since he was home. I will certainly do my best.

To get home sometime this Spring. I wish that we could try to get away together and will talk to him about this.

I received a letter from Minton and wrote to him. He appears to have gotten "broken in" in the Navy very quickly and writes as if he is getting on all right.

I am very much obliged to you for having the paper sent to me as I got some bits of local news from it. I have now moved into

Capt. Meddell's former house with
mess. Mess has been living with
Capt. Meddell since last fall. These
quarters are the best in the Regiment. Our
living-room is a small house 12+15 ft
made of tongue and groove and is very
comfortable. We sleep under a regular
Canvas-tent in the rear of the house. The
sleeping-quarters have a wooden-floor and
sides about 5 ft high. We are very
comfortably situated now and I hope
this arrangement will continue for Mess
is a smart, industrious fellow and I can
do more studying by living with him. The
original officers in "Battery" #7 were
not very studious or interested in the
work and I naturally was to some
extent influenced by them. I am always so
glad to hear from you and hope you
will write as often as you feel like it.
I am glad that you have been able to be out in
the Sun as I am sure you feel better from it.
Love to you all
Richard