

March 11-1918

My dear Papa-

In one of the postal cards you wrote me last week you said that you thought you felt stronger and I want to tell you that this is the most welcome news to me that I have heard in many months. I do hope that you may continue to improve, as I have often written you the part about being in the army that I dislike is the fact that I cannot be with you and try to be of some help to you. I have always felt that my first duty was to you, though now in time of war the government very probably rules otherwise.

I was with Browne in

Greenville Saturday and while he appears to be more contented than he was sometime ago, he still complains and talks of resigning. He says that he had rather be a sergeant than an officer. In my mind there is no comparison between a Lieutenant and an enlisted man and I hope that Brownie will become more ambitious. I remember that when I first went to work at Syer's my highest wish was to have a desk of my own and have charge of something and I feel the same way in the army. While I will be a first Lieutenant probably soon, still I wish for something ^{more} and would be eager to be a Captain, even tho' it takes with it the heavy responsibility for the 200 men, 165 horses and all equipment, clothes and

moneys. a battery of artillery
fully equipped means an
outlay of about one half a
million dollars. A lieutenant
has no ^{great} responsibility, merely carrying
out the orders of the captain. I was
thinking Saturday when I had charge
of our battery passing with the guns
how much more I anticipated I was to be
an officer than merely one of the
men sitting on the carriages and
I thought how much more credit
to my family and myself it
would be if we should be
passing thru the streets of
Edenton among my own
people, that an Edenton boy was one
of 5 who was in charge of the
other 200 men. Things like this
have always spurred me on
to do a little better than the average.

I think very often of the fish that you all will now enjoy for sometime and wish that I could get some of them. We have had fish here several times (sent up from Florida) but they taste very much like catfish. In about a month I will try to get a pass home and will get Brownie to get his pass at the same time. I suppose that Bessie will probably be coming to Edenton in a month and it would be a happy reunion if we three could be there with you when she comes.

The artillery range about 15 miles back in the mountains has now been completed and part of the 114th Artillery will go up on the 15th. Three batteries will go at a time and remain 2 weeks, then 3 more until all have gone. It will therefore be about six weeks before we will get a chance to fire the guns. It is very likely that I will have to

5

to
Fort Sill, Oklahoma for a 10-week
course at the "School of Fire" before
going to France. About 15 of
our officers are out there now
and some of them have
completed the course and are
now beginning to return. As
soon as one returns another
is sent. It is the present plan
to send every Artillery officer out
there. I hope that I will not be
sent until I get the pass home. I
wrote Mary B. a letter yesterday
about some things in Camp life
that I haven't written you and
you must ask her for the letter.
Please send me a card whenever
you can and get the others to write.
I don't believe I have had a letter
from Mae since I joined the army
With devoted love
Max