

Sunday July 28-1918

[Judge Minton]  
[H. Dixon]

My dear Papa-

I was much delighted this past week to have gotten a letter both from McDonald and Uncle Dick and also the two Edenton papers Uncle Dick sent me. It is very helpful to us to get letters from home and as for the papers I was so glad to get them that I read every word, even the ads.

Our schedule continues very strenuous but we have now accustomed ourselves to such a vigorous life and I hope we are becoming more efficient every day. The instructors are very much pleased with our progress and they consider the best of the best they have

1137a me of the best they have



seen here. Of course we do  
not know how long we will be  
here but probably will be  
moving within a few weeks.

When I first reached  
this camp I found that my friend  
Davis, about whom I wrote you back  
at Camp Devier, had been sent off to  
superintend the transport of some  
horses. I am now very glad

to say that he has returned  
and is still in Battery "D." He  
was greatly disappointed when  
he was not included last  
April in the School Detachment,  
as most of his friends were  
sent ahead. He and I had  
decided back home that  
we would go thru the war



3  
together and I had a lot of fun  
telling him when I left the States  
that he had not kept up with me.  
He now says that we must not  
be separated again. We have  
another large Lieut. in our  
Battery now. Lt. Bowman, about  
the size of Davis. The Captain  
of the Battery at Sewier, Capt.  
Johnson, when Uncle Dick saw  
on his trip, did not get over  
and we got a Capt from  
Camp Jackson, Columbia, S.C.,  
just before we left. He is  
Capt Vanam, from New Orleans,  
and knew Jas. Dillards family.  
He says that his sister was  
quite a friend of Mary Dillard.  
Since he has taken charge



The Battery has improved from  
the worst to the best in the Regiment

Our work here is very  
diversified but I still can find no  
part of it as interesting as being  
with the guns. I like this much  
better than studying maps or  
the other work we do.

I am quite sure that  
the papers are quite full of  
accounts of the part played by  
the American forces in stemming  
the German offensive of July 15<sup>th</sup>.  
I am sorry that I am unable to  
give you any first-hand information  
about what the United States troops  
did there but from all information  
I get from those who know, the



Americans had <sup>5</sup>no undue praise  
lavished upon them. They fight  
in a manner that the worn-out  
armies of Germany cannot now  
match and with 1,200,000  
Americans over here now and ten  
thousand landing every day, we  
are looking for the time when  
their presence will be felt over a  
much longer front. If the  
question is left to the troops  
themselves there will be no peace  
until we reach Berlin and when  
we do reach it and peace is finally  
granted them we want to see  
every allied soldier parade thru  
that City, even if it takes 6 months



to carry out this program. The  
lessons must be made to understand  
in a way not soon to be forgotten  
that they have not only been  
broken but crushed.

While this part of France  
is very picturesque and pages  
may be written about it, it is not  
quite so pretty as up near the Swiss  
border.

I hope that you all  
are getting on all right and that  
you are feeling about as usual.  
I think of you so often sitting on  
the front porch and everything quiet  
and peaceful. I know that your  
thoughts are of us, thousands of  
miles away. And I know, too, that



while wishing to see us and longing  
 to have us back with you  
 again, your bravery gets the  
 upper hand and your heart swells  
 with a sense of high pride to  
 know that you have three sons  
 who did not wait for the  
 "other fellow to do it."

I have run into 4 or  
 5 old friends of mine from Norfolk  
 who are officers in artillery  
 Regiments now here. - Gilham, who  
 I knew quite well and Capt. Nash, who  
 married Gertrude Gilliam, one of my  
 good friends. We have a  
 Norfolk officer in our Regiment  
 Beaman, son of N. Beaman, of  
 the Bank of America.



I hope that you all  
will arrange to have the Edenton  
paper sent to me. It does us  
a lot of good to get the home paper.  
I read with interest even the  
happenings of Roanoke and  
Muddy Creek. I don't know  
why but suppose it is because  
it is pleasing <sup>merely</sup> to see the familiar  
old Chowan County names in  
print again, as of course I do not know them <sup>personally</sup>.

Please write me when you  
can and get the others to write.  
I am sorry I haven't heard from  
Mary B. or Bessie and hope  
that they will write me also.  
With devoted love  
Richard