

Sunday Aug 18-1918.

My dear Papa -

I have not received any letters this week but was very glad to get the Raleigh and Norfolk papers you sent me and also the Edenton paper sent by Uncle Dick. Please thank him for me. I hope you all will continue to send me some papers for I want to keep in touch with the happenings back home as much as possible while away. Please send me clippings of interest whenever you can.

We have just heard of the German attempt to send the gas-rafts up to Wilmington and of course our Regiment was deeply interested in this barbarous attack on our home-people. The Colonel mentioned it in a short

Alex he made the other morning
to the men and they were
naturally greatly incensed and
made a mental note of one
more debt they owed the Boches.

This past week has
been a very interesting one.
We have been taking camping-
trips and returning the next
afternoon. A fully equipped
Regiment of artillery is quite a
large proposition to handle
on the march but the
General has expressed himself
as being very much pleased
and in fact quite surprised
that the Regiment, which of
course has had so little experience
with these equipments showed
to so well. It was quite

remarkable how these thousands and one different things can be done and looked out for without the loss of even a saddle-blanket. Every man of course has a certain duty and the hundreds of horses are watered, groomed, & fed & the hundreds of men get their tents up and in a short time we have an orderly camp.

Nearly all of my old friends have left us and probably will not return. Some as Swartz & many last week, have returned to America and others have been sent elsewhere. My friend Mears is still here but I see very little of him as he is in the telephone department.

It is very marvellous how well America has organized her war-machine

in France. For many months
after the declaration of war
there was heard on all sides
sharp criticism of the Government
for failing to despatch troops
over here but the results
have shown how important
it was to make arrangements
to take care of those troops first.
During the first 8 or 10 months after
our entry into the war huge
preparations were being made
in France for the maintenance
of the millions of Americans
that were to come. Great
docks were built, warehouses
covering acres were put up,
supply depots established and an
almost independent American
railroad with American engines

and American cars constructed from these ports of debarkation and from the depots of supplies to the front. These warehouses and these bases of supply further inland were stocked to their capacity with enormous quantities of everything necessary to keep men in the field. and what is the result of this plan of Gen. Pershing to provide maintenance before bringing over troops? It is that the American soldier 3000 miles away gets everything and more that he get at home. All of his requirements have been provided for. If he wants a pair of shoe strings even, or a new tooth brush, they are here - millions of them. There is no going around with torn clothes or worn-out shoes. All a man

has to do is to tell the supply sergeant what he needs and it is issued him.

And we must not overlook saying that the food requirements are included in what I have written above. There are no sugarless or wheatless days in this army. The bread is made of the very best all-american wheat with no admixture of other grain. Fresh beef from America is issued every morning and the entire ration issue is complete. From now on it will be only a question of sending over the men and with the record made so far by our troops on the front, it will be a disastrous day for the Kaiser

when two million of our
troops are on the line
and the command is given
to "carry on"

Another well-
organized feature in preparing
us for war is the thorough
training-schools that have
been established over here.
The very best instructors
are provided and every
detail, even the smallest
that would be encountered
at the front, fully explained
and drilled into the men.

The last 3 months
has brought great changes
in the morale and hopes
of the French populace. About
the time we departed Germany
was making the mightiest attempt
of the war to break thru
between Soissons and Reims -
take Paris and end the war.

These were really dark days and
the people could be observed going
about their work with grave
but determined faces. Whether
it were the half-naked men
I saw ^{working} one night in a Cannon-
factory in a town that we
passed or the old women of sixty
we saw the next day in the fields
a little further on - all were
determined that the spirit of
Verdun - "Ils ne passeront pas", should
still prevail. But now their
faces have changed - the barbarian
has been beaten back - Paris
is saved and the allies now
have the whip hand.

And the thing that
should make the ^{American} fathers and mothers
of those soldiers who are lucky

enough to have been in the fight) proud is that their sons are responsible for this turn of affairs. It was not so much the number of Americans in the battles but the way in which they fought and revitalized the wear-worn troops of England and France. Those who did not share in these fights are envious of those who are up there.

I hope you are feeling about as usual and that things at home are running all right.

I am sorry that McGonard will leave you but hope that he will not wait but go at once.

I have never gotten on ^{better} or been in better health than since coming over here, so do not worry

about me.

Please do write to
me whenever you feel
like it. I know that it
is a great effort for you
to send me a lengthy
letter and I appreciate
them so much.

With devoted love

Richard