

Sunday, Sept-8-1918.

my dear Papa-

When we have our mail delivered to us while we are deep down in dugouts it makes us feel not so far away after all.

The mail has just come and all the men of course were delighted to have had their letters sent up here. Among this batch of letters I had one from Uncle Dick dated Aug. 6th which is the first letter I received from home in 2 or 3 weeks. I naturally was very glad to hear from him and will write him in a few days. He has probably received some letters from me before now as I have written him two letters since June 26.

We have at last reached the ^{place} ~~place~~ that we have been looking for since we joined the army and which has been reached long after we expected to when we joined. We didn't think we enlisted that it would be 13 months before we went into action. We have now had 4 or 5 days actual experience at the front lines and while the Captain and I have to stay up most all the time both day and night, we have found the experience very novel and fascinating. The Capt. has been absent part of the time and I have enjoyed going to the observation station firing the battery and seeing the shots fall among the enemy's lines. I have sent you the empty

Case from the first shot I
 fired at the Germans. Tell
 Mary Beverly that I would
 rather send her a flower-pot
 in the shape of a German
 helmet so plant nasturtians
 in but hope to do that later.
 I am very glad to say that
 the first shot fired by this
 battery fell among some huts
 passing thru a village and did
 away with 5 or 6 of them.

We wish that we could
 tell you where we are on the
 front but of course cannot. I can
 say however that we are in the
 region not so far from where
 I remained for the first two or
 three weeks after reaching France.
 We are reminded today

today that these of us who sailed May
8th are now due 10 days vacation
but do not see a chance of getting
it with only 2 officers in the
Battery at the present time. When
we get additional officers we
expect to get our furlough.
Needless to say I shall go
directly to Paris. I have
gotter several bunches of papers
from you and Uncle Dick and
am very anxious for more and hope
you can't send them and also sent
clippings of interesting news.

I hope that you are
about as usual and that everything at
home is all right. I think of you so
much and if the present conditions continue
we should return home before many
more months. Please excuse the burnt sheet.
It came from a candle by which I am writing
with love to all
Richard