

Colmar, Luxembourg.
Sunday, Dec. 22-1918.

My dear Papa-

I am unable
adequately to express in words to
you my very deep appreciation
for your letters of Nov. 4th and
13th, realizing as I do what a
great effort it required for you to
write. It made me very, very happy
to get these letters in your own
handwriting again and I pray
that you may be able to write
me often now. I stayed away
on my vacation for two weeks
visiting Paris, Lyon, Marseilles, Nice
Monte Carlo and Menton and enjoyed

the trip very much. Menton is on the Italian border and we were allowed to walk over into Italy but could not go but a few steps beyond the boundary line. The most beautiful part of France is that section around Nice, right on the Mediterranean Sea. Paris is very gay now and the lights are turned on at night and the sand-bags have been removed from around the monuments. I stayed in Paris at the Hotel Oillon overlooking the Place de la Concorde a great public square, where 2000 captured German Cannon of all kinds and sizes were placed. I was there when the King of England and

2
two sons arrived and never saw such
great crowds. The Americans are
the most popular soldiers there however
and many times when we were
waiting thru the boulevards crowds of
girls would form a ring around us
and wouldn't allow us to pass
until we had kissed them all.
There were 6 in our party and
when we got back we found our
Regiment gone and so went to St.
Mihale where we secured an
automobile which overtook the
batteries. We have not entered
Germany yet, tho' one day last week
we encamped in a town only
a few miles from the border and
some of us rode on horseback across

the Moselle River at Remich into
German soil.

We are now billeted
right across the street from the
home of the ruler of this little
Country. She is a girl 23 yrs
old and lives here all the
time, going into the City of
Luxembourg 10 miles away every
few days to attend to State matters.

We do not know
now whether we will enter
Germany. As we went right
up to the border and then had
a change of orders sending us
back. I understand however that
we will remain here in
Colmar one or two weeks. We

3

are all eager ³ to get back home but I cannot hope that we will be sent any time soon and there is no way to get out of the army until we are mustered out in America.

Mary Beverly sent me some clippings from the Virginian Pilot which I was so glad to get. She also sent an Edenton paper which came yesterday and I saw in it that Corral Boyce and one or two other boys from Edenton had been wounded. I had often wondered how the Edenton boys had fared in the war and whether Estlin, Jule and Phillips Wood and Jossy had come out all right. I have seen no one

from Edmonton since I came to
France.

It is very hard for us
to be so far away at Christmas but
we will try to make the best of
it, hoping that it will not be so
very many months before we are
back again.

I am very anxious for
the day when I can return to you.
I hope and pray that your
health will improve and that I
will find you feeling as usual when
I get back home.

With devoted love to you all.

Affectionately

Richard