

[1918]

My dear Uncle Dick -
We have now been here at our school several days and have become thoroughly inducted into our schedule and routine. We are very comfortably situated here and are quartered in barracks comparatively new and have all modern conveniences, as shower-baths, etc. It is said that we are in the best school of its kind in France and in the prettiest part of the country. Our life here is very similar to that at a college - we have no strict rules and are allowed to do pretty much as we please provided we keep on the job during work- and study-periods. Our

Schedule begins at 8 o'clock in the morning and we finish at 4 in the afternoon. It is very different from our schedule back home at Camp where we were kept at it from 5³⁰ AM until 9³⁰ PM. We were very fortunate in having been sent on this forward school contingent as there are no men to look out for and we are given a chance to look about the country a bit. Of course when our Regiment reaches France we go back to our regular Military duties again. I am enjoying the work here very much and hope to know a little about the French guns after awhile. The French instructors are invariably

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Smart and attractive with their instruction.

I enjoyed very much yesterday a visit to the old city near our camp. This city was captured by Caesar and its position from a military point of view is described by him in his Commentaries. There are a certain number of entrances to it and the old arches over these roads are still in perfect order. These arches were little forts and have portholes and slits in them to permit mallets and bows and arrows to be used on attacking parties. We visited the ruins of an old Roman temple, many, many hundreds of years old.

The most wonderful piece

of mechanism I have
ever seen is a horologe
which is in one of the
Cathedrals at this City. It
is an enormous clock with
possibly 100 faces. each face
showing some different
Chronological data. For
instance the time of day
in various parts of the world
is shown - how the tides
are in various parts all
over the world etc. The
position of the planets etc,
are shown with their movement
from day to day and from
year to year. It took
some genius 20 years to
build this apparatus.

Some mail has
been received from home
by a few of the officers
since we arrived here and
I hope to hear from you all

Soon. A letter from Rome
would certainly be welcome
to us who are 4000 miles
away.

We are allowed
to write about most
anything except the
war. I believe I may
tell you however that
American troops are
now pouring into
France by the tens
of thousands - one convoy
landing 45000 a few
days ago.

I shall always
appreciate you coming
to Greenville to see me
before I left. It did
me lots of good to see
you and I hope you
enjoyed the trip.

I wish that someday

You can visit France. I
am unable to describe
it in a fitting way except
to say that across the
entire country it is
just one beautiful
hill after another and
every few miles a
little red-roofed village
nestling in a valley
around an old church.

I hope that you all
will write me when you
can.

With devoted love
affectionately
Richard

90 30th Division
Abrona School, Detachment
113th I.A.

American Expeditionary
Forces via NY

Censored
H.R. Bowen 113th I.A.