Fri. Oct. 26, 1917.

Dear Marie,

This sure has been a fine day for us here. How is your throat; I hope you won't have any hard luck with it. Yesterday the weather was fierce, cold, drizzily rain all ~~day~~ P.M. Of course it was the 5th Section's turn to water the horses and distribute the hay and grain. When we got back from the stables my feet were soaked. We have big heavy greenish colored raincoats.

Everything in the line of clothing & equipment has

(2)

that olive drab color and just matches the dead grass. A motorcycle sidecar in the field seems to blend into the background so you can hardly distinguish it.)

Well — these raincoats have a very quaint cut as they are intended for mounted service men. They are so long that they just miss touching the ground, and when fastened single breasted they are a regular tent. The back is split clear to the waist.

Yesterday I had my first taste of riding.

(3)

After an hour of snappy drill on "Shanks' horses" the fifth section and a few others went to the stables and saddled the horses. We have 34 borrowed saddles now so we had a pretty good column, riding single file, each man leading an extra horse, or pack mule. We went out in the hills which are heavily wooded. Gee, it was great riding that morning; the weather couldn't have been better. The Lieutenant got lost once and had to ask a party of Engineers,

(4.)

who were out making maps, the right road in. We went about five miles altogether, half of it on a good trot, and got in about 11:0 A.M.

My horse certainly is a dandy — he knows his business to a dot. One trouble with him is that he shys at motorcycles, and once, when we were at a halt out in the hills, a cannon fired a salute back at the fort and I thought he jumped a foot. One fellow was thrown off his horse but not hurt. Our saddles ought to be here pretty

soon now, and I suppose we will have regular mounted drill on our horses when they do come. Lieutenant Butler gives us Sig. Corps drill maneuvers every morning now. It is a lot more interesting than the Infantry foot drill. We are learning the silent commands now, as when we are on horses we will be spread out so as to make it hard to hear spoken commands. First the Lieut. blows a whistle for attention & gives the command by holding or waving his arm in a certain way for

(6)

each maneuver. The section chiefs repeat the command then the Lieutenant gives the command of execution, (which means to go ahead and do it), by raising his arm straight up and dropping it outsideways to the saddle. (That is when he is in one.)

Well I must quit. Won't you let the chevrons be enough? Will let you know about them later. Be sure to take good care of your throat.

Yours,
Forrest.

Here is a picture of
a couple of the fellows.
Sgt. Brown is the chief of
the fourth section.