

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
January 7, 1918

Dear Blanche,

Your letter received this noon. I thought I had thanked you for the fruit cake etc. It seems as though I owe everyone letters and guess I will never get caught up. That fruit cake sure was good and will be glad to get all you can send. I have been transferred to the First Section and it has a fine, healthy appetite for cake and fudge. It is about my turn to treat so how is it by you? I don't think the other Bassett has gotten any of my mail that he didn't bring to me. He is about my age and seems to be a fine fellow. I think if you make a printed "A" after Co. there will be no mistakes as he is in Co. C-6th and a written A may be mistaken for a C. I like the 1st Section better than the 5th as the latter is the headquarters radio station and moves about less than the other four, which are mule pack stations and see more real action in the field. We have the best non-com' officers in this section and some fine fellows. Our three mules are the best behaved, but we got a roughneck bunch of horses. "Ten" is the only sensible horse in the section. He is one peach of a horse, alright, but he has one fault and that is his hard mouth. When we are on a gallop, I can stand up in my stirrups and lean back on the reins and he won't notice it; however a little two-hand sawing will keep him back in line. I am "dippy" over riding and last Sunday a bugler and I went out for the afternoon and got caught in a sleet storm five miles out from the Fort. The wet snow and sleet froze as it fell forming a glaze of ice that our smooth-shod horses couldn't keep their feet on. We couldn't find a place on or by the road where they could stand, so after a couple falls, we had to dismount and lead. We came to a plank bridge where we had to sand the path in order to get Collin's horse across. It sounds pretty fishy but you wouldn't think so if you had seen Ten with each of his four feet skidding in a different direction at the same time. We got to the stables an hour late and it took another hour to rub dry and care for our horses.

It sure was storming some when we lit out for the Cantonments, a mile and a half away. When we got to the Post Exchange we Caught a Kansas City car to Leavenworth and got a good supper. There were a bunch of fellows skating on the paved streets after the storm stopped. Collins and I were a hard looking pair when we sat down to the table linen but we did justice to a good meal alright. The Company rode only once this week as the horses couldn't even walk on the dirt roads in the woods. They rode this morning though and I guess it wasn't so bad. I didn't go, as seven others and I went up to the Army Service School (War College) to enroll in the gas-engine class. It is a pretty sure thing that the Company will be motorized like the 410th Telegraph Bn. They have cycle-cars, a couple autos, and a lot of big Quad trucks. I go ~~to~~ to the class between 8 and 10 A. M. when the Company grooms the horses. I dont know how long it will last and dont feel very enthusiastic about it anyway. This morning the Captain at the College said that nearly all the Technical field organizations of the Army would be motorized soon. Our horses will probably be turned over to officers after we get them fixed up in good shape. Some system. I should worry how it goes but I like our horses mighty well. We sure do have great times. Our new saddles are fine, too, and mine just fits Ten and I. The Company sure does look good too, when we go out for mounted drill. We have been doing more practical field work lately.

We are pretty sure to move South This month so the weather will not hinder outside drill so month. It takes an awful lot of coal to keep these Cantonments going. The 410th Bn went to Texas. Well I think I better hit my little straw bunk. Dont Forget that fruit cake; it makes a real hit here. Thanks.

With love,  
Forrest.