

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

1/2 1919

Sommeville, France.
Dear Father and Sisters:-
To-nite as I write this I'm
sitting in a swell reception
room of a big Chateau (or
palace as the English speak)
beside an open fire place
which is decorated with white
and brown marble and big
French mirrors & above, &
in both reception and dining
rooms there are about 1800
worth of mirrors and
the walls of the dining
room are covered with
hand paintings on canvas.
The former owner of this
place was a wealthy furniture
manufacturer of this little
city of about 2,000 prior

the war. You can imagine as to how this palace is furnished with the finest of hand carved furniture.

Just across a beautiful green lawn lies from here is a never quiet, ever roaring water fall, fed from a big beautiful dam which is surrounded with huge fir-trees, some standing to the height of 70 ft. From this water-fall the former prosperous and wealthy manufacturer obtained his power to operate his plant, but now the power is used to convert electricity for the many American soldiers who inhabit this place.

Early in the war this little thriving city which is located about 6 kilometers ^{south} from our P.C. on the Meuse Sector of the Verdun Front was bombed by raiding Boche Planes and later shelled by the heavy Star cannon. It was evacuated by the civil population shortly after the first air-raid and only recently have the former inhabitants started to return in small numbers.

I occupy, just the same as the Col. other officers and two M.C.B. girls, a room in this big stone mansion. May send you a view of it if possible. We moved down on the 30th of Dec.

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For New Year's L.P.M.
dinner we put on another
big feed. Champagne and
white wine we had an
endless chain of those
make-joy drinks. I served
that juice to the 15 guests
until I got elevated from
inhaling it. But don't think
Old Mike didn't get his
ration of it. We, the kitchen
and dining room force had
the pleasure of drinking
"Champagne" water with
the Colonel. Some fine man
he is. Am sending you
some Menus of the feast
as I sent you one of Xmas
Dinner. (In separate letter).
Also sending you a little

piece of cloth used in decorating "Trog" furniture. And too, some comminiques.

Received Xmas Card from M.E.S.S. Thank to them for remembering a "hard-shell Baptist" when so far away.

Geo. Lubenst and Merle Phillippi transferred to Brigade Hdq. where Roy Hall and Ralph Moore are stationed. They like the change exceptionally well and I have the the pleasure of seeing them quite often as they are billeted only a block from here.

Was up to rear echelon on 12/31 where I met Warlow, but failed to see or learn of Geo. Devin. Stopped on way at Field Hospital where I had two small cavities in my teeth filled, they had never given me any trouble, just safty first, absolutely fine.

On New Year's Eve I received two letters from you under date of Nov. 24th and 28th, one from Aunt Nan, and one from a near by town also.

Thanks for John J's. address will try and locate him if not too far away.

Received an answer to the letter I wrote Sam Wacker. He is not over 40 kilometers from here. He is O.K.

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Wish I had known you wanted some "Frog" perfumery when I was in Gay-Paris, I certainly would have mailed you an assortment. But here we have only ripe or rotten goat cheese to use.

I have not received Xmas box yet, never has Jew Phillips nor a lot of others.

Trusting you are well, I assure you I am well, never hungry and burning heaps of wood. Don't worry about my welfare, for I am "sitting on the moon."

B of the way Chris is in this place, he is in charge of "A" Bat. mail, another one

of Uncle Sam's heavy job, works as much as some of
the rest of the Gold Bunch.

Latest rumor, is that we are going to Germany,
hope so, but army talk never runs the same from
one day until the next.
Hoping the "flu" is under ban, I remain

Your son and bro.,

Milo Main.

Bat. 7. 130 F.A.

R. E. F.

To Regt's Hdq.