

AMERICAN



From
M. H. Main.
Bat. 7. 130 F.R.
American C.F.

Exp. Officers
Mail.



censored
Willis T. Barker
1st Lieut. 130 F.R.

Wm Main.
Argonia,
Kans.
U. S. A.



"WITH THE COLORS"



July 26th, 1918.

"With the Army Forces
Somewhere in France."
Dear Father and Sisters:-

We are having more
rain again to - I write. Being
so near coast either by
south or west is partly
due to so much rainfall.

It sure does not seem
possible for the third largest
vessel in the world being
sunk by a torpedo. We were
in N. Y. harbor docked
near it just before our
departure and I thought
it the most beautiful vessel
I had seen and when we
got in the rough sea some
300 miles from Greenland
this big transport could be
seen sailing as smoothly as



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2.

a river steamboat. It was not far from where it was sunk where we had our battle with a sub, coming over.

Chris gave me an Argony dated 7/6 yesterday. I hope I failed to receive Tamy editions from Scottie yet, but possibly will later.

For pastime yesterday afternoon eight of us boys around the kitchen overpowered a French lad of 16 and moved his first crop of whiskers. He shed many tears when we cut his mustache off, for a French man takes more pride in growing a little black mustache than a Kansas Farmer would in raising 90 acres of corn.



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3.

This improved his appearance so much we then decided to give him a hair cut but, we had no clippers or shears. I got out my Red Cross scissors and the first cook tried his hand.

Well, we go off quite a quantity of hair, but it resembled a flight of stairs more than anything else. Altho after we gave him a shampoo and powdered him up, he looked much more like an American.

July 30th. Tues. 3 P.M.
Finishing a letter four days from the time I started it shows you how energetic I am. Could write every day as far as having time I would concern it. But, don't think we are not more than anxious to receive a letter from home.



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4.

To-day I received four letters from you dated July 8th, 9th, 12th and the 13th. Also one from Ruth sent on the 11th. You would be very much surprised to see the expressions on the boys' faces when receive no mail on mail-day. I want to thank you for writing so regularly to me. Don't think F. Q. Smiths are doing George right, it is no fault of his, it all lies with the Army mail service.

Yes, I remember Mrs. Gulick. Ruth wrote about meeting Mrs. Colin at the store. Ruth said she spoke well of me.

No extreme heat in this part of France, very pleasant all the time. In fact I am



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5.

bleached out like never before. Very little do I get out in the sun at any time. We don't wear our broad brimmed Champagne hat now, just the little skull caps with out a bill.

Arthur Knox and I were down the road Monday eve taking in the sights as we passed by the many wine and beer shops. Chinese and Algerian labors were to be seen along the road in big numbers.

Think I wrote you about serving fried chicken, lobster salad and champagne with many side dishes on the Fourth. Big field meet and boxing contest being held near by. I have not drank any



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6.

French liquor either since that day. Champagne being my choice after giving them all a fair test.

Alvin's estimate on the women and wine shops was not exaggerated at all. I would put it about four saloons to the block and as many French women as you wanted. Some of these French women are beautiful, while the peasant class taken as whole have big feet and ankles caused by wearing wooden shoes. But the more one learns about the French maids the less you care about them. They are not to be compared with the girls in the good old U. S. A.



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7.

In the States we called our money "Bill", but "over here" it is "Franc" and "Sou". I have had no difficulty in getting American money exchanged. The "Franc" is the unit of French money. its present value is 5.7 francs to the U. S. dollar. It seemed rather strange to hear the people speaking about the value of horses as 1500 francs. At present there is very much paper franc notes in circulation same as "scrip" in the U. S.

Thanks for the tooth picks. I gave the French lad one just now. He says they are only used by the big gentlemen or the rich class.

As to being homesick, never take time for that. Am mak-



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8.

ing this a vacation trip.
My hardest battle was at
Camp Doniphan.

I have never written Fern
yet, but have a handkerchief
to send her so may write
to her soon.

I received a second letter
from Raymond Flory a few
days ago. He is in England
yet. Says he takes a wild
ride in planes occasionally,
and is working on them
daily.

What do you think of
the Yankee fighting spirit
now? They all are
anxious to get it over and
believe me they have the
Boches on the run now.

The effect upon the
French caused by the