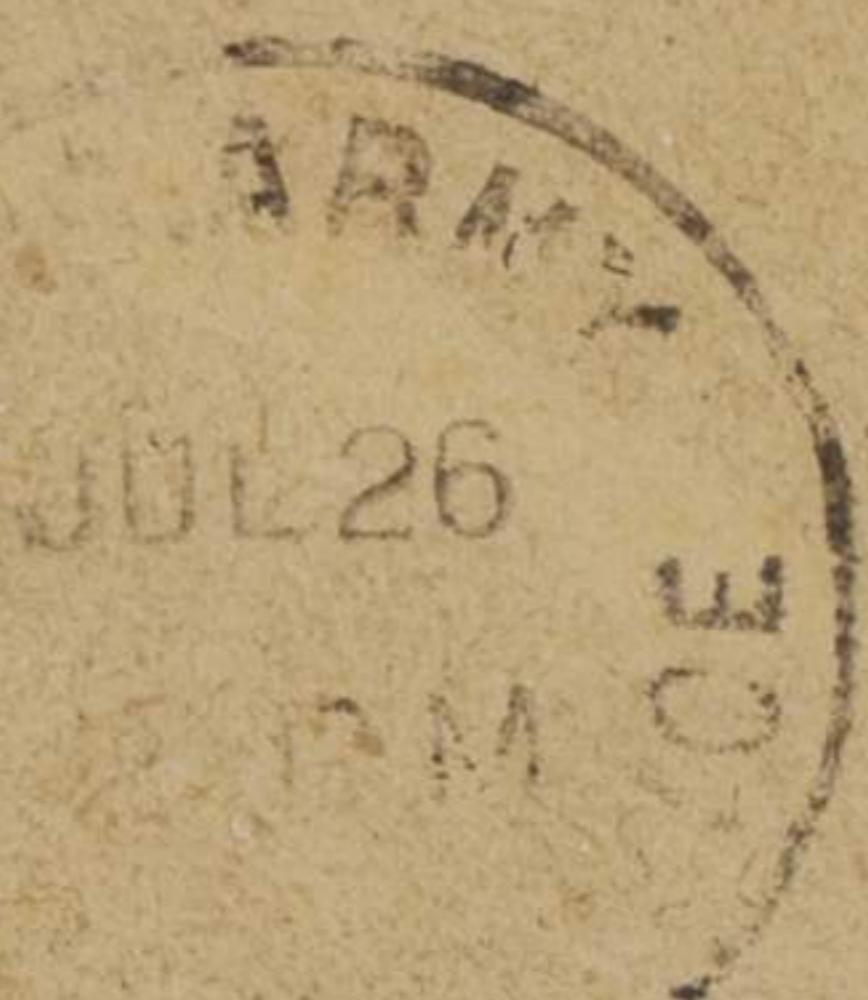


AMERICAN



From
M. H. Main.
Batt. F. 130 FA.
American C. F.

Esplorers
Main.



Wm. Main.
Argonia,
Kans.

U.S.A.



censored
Willis, Pa.
1st heat, 130



"WITH THE COLORS"



July 26th, 1918.

"With the Army Forces
Somewhere in France."

Dear Father and Sisters:-

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

I 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



"WITH THE COLORS"



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 Argus dated 7/6 yesterday. I hope I failed to receive any editions from Scottie yet, but possibly will later.

For pastime yesterday afternoon eight of us boys around the kitchen over-powered a French lad of 16 and moved his first scoop of whiskies. 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.



"WITH THE COLORS"



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.



"WITH THE COLORS"



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 expression on the boys' faces whom 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 applies with the Army mail service.

Yes, I remember Mrs. Glick. Ruth wrote about meeting Mrs. Collier 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



"WITH THE COLORS"



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 St. Mox and I were
down the road Monday eve.
taking in the sights as we
passed by the sherry wine
and beef shops. Chiffres and
Algerian labors were to be
seen along the road in
big numbers.

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



"WITH THE COLORS"



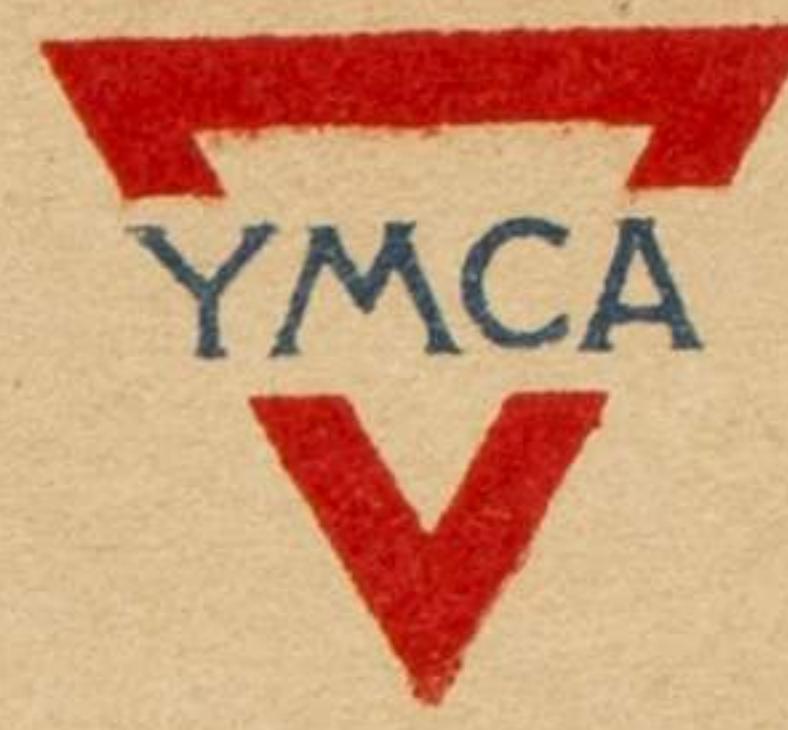
6.

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

Albin'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 pheasant class taking
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.



"WITH THE COLORS"



7.

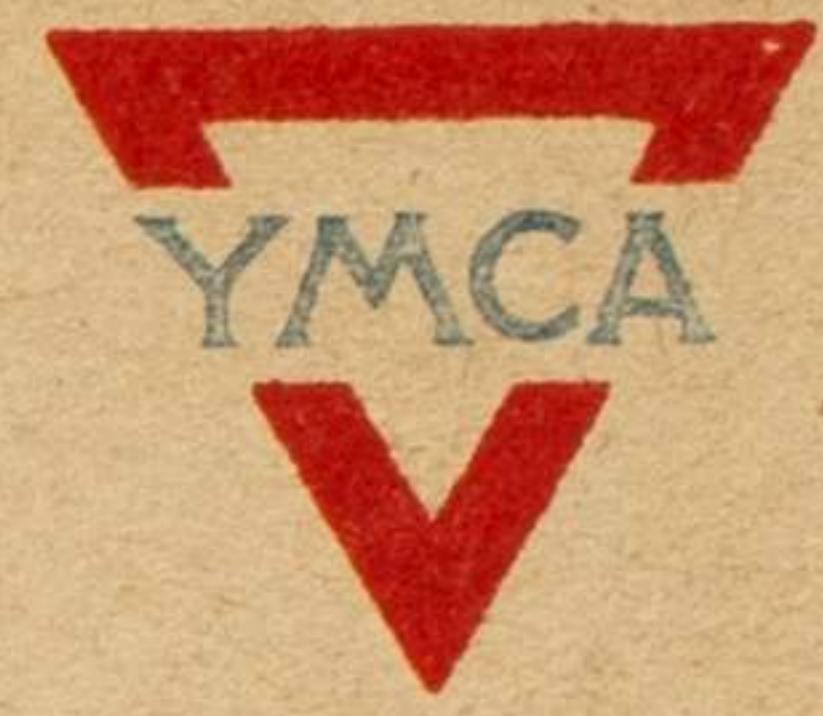
In the States we called our money "Bill", but over here it is "Franc" and "Sous". I have had no difficulty in getting American money exchanged. The "Franc" is the unit of French money. its present value is 5.7 francs to the U. S. dollar. It seemed rather strange to hear the people speaking about the value of horse 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-



"WITH THE COLORS"



8.

ing this a vacation trip.

My hardest battle was at
Camp Doniphon.

I have never written Fannie
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 vivid
ride in planes occasionally.
and is working on them
daily.

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

The effect upon the
French caused by the