

Rosieres France
New Bar le Duc
Feb 1 1919

Dear Bess:

It seems as if the first move has been made to take us now. An order has been put forth cancelling all beams and puns and setting a date for us to turn in our guns, horses etc and start for Le Mans which is a clearing place for home. I am not putting too much faith in things because there are many slips between the promulgation of orders and their fulfillment. It is no easy job for the Commanding General to change his orders so it is for me to give a man extra duty. Therefore when we arrive at that coastwise port I'll know we may start for home.

You've no idea how I'll hate to give up my guns, my French 75's; those implements of destruction which the Hun has said were weapons of the devil. You know I told

you in a letter from Coetzee
I don't that if I could only give
the command that fired one volley
at the Heen. I would go home
willingly and be satisfied. Well
there were some 10000 rounds
or if fired in volleys over 1000
volleys fired by those guns at Heen
and they did it all at my com-
mand. They are the same guns that
I learned to shoot with and with
the exception of one barrel which
I had to leave in the magazine with
a shell lodged in it there have been
no repairs on them. If the government
would let me have one of them I'd
pay for it and pay the transportation
home just to let it sit in my
front yard and rust. Now you
know quismen and section chiefs
especially become very much at-
tracted to their guns. They name
them Katie, Lizzy, Liberty, Diana
and other fantastic and high sounding
names and when they fire their

they talk to them just as if they were people. French grenades were very noisy when their guns are taken away from them. Germans do have an individuality. Not two of them shoot alike and weather conditions will affect each of them differently. Two of mine would shoot short of the range table one over and one almost exactly. Each of my section chiefs was usually certain that his gun would outshoot the other three and they were all jealous of the one who adjusted for me when I'd begin to shoot so I always gave them a turn about. I was very hicky in the Argonne to get to observe my fire and to adjust on three very interesting targets - at any rate it was interesting to me but I have an idea that the poor boys at the other end of the trajectory were not so interested except in getting out of the way. I put 43 shells on a German battery going down a road in less than

a minute. It caused quite a scattering out and that road was not used any more that day. One time up in front of Verdun I was lucky enough to adjust the whole battery and hit the target (a corner of a trench) with ten shots. It's the greatest spot in the world, shooting 75's is. You're never right certain when you start to shoot whether your shots are going to be near the target in your own trenches or in the next county. At target practice once I fired six shots with one gun and as far as I could discern that ^{six} never did come down, but when I fired the next shot for the general it hit right where it should. I don't suppose I'll ever fire another shot with a 75 gun and I know I won't with three I'm so attached to and it makes me rather sad. It's like parting with old friends whose stood by me through thick and thin and now I have to give 'em

to some ordnance chap to put
away and maybe later some
pop out of West Point will use it
for target practice and declare
they're no good because he don't
know how to shoot 'em.

I went riding with Major Gates to-
day. We tried to find the Chapel of Ste
Genevieve over in the woods about
5 kilometers from here but missed it.
It was the meeting place for the
hunts given by the Counts of Bar to
their neighbors the Dukes of Lorraine,
Burgundy, and Guise in ancient
times. We found a church over in
a neighboring village that was
built some 1500 years ago which
isn't so old as things go here in
France. There is a chateau in
Bar l'Écu that belonged to the
ancient Dukes of Lorraine. It is
a very beautiful place and escaped
the bombs and shells that some of
the rest of the town caught.

I've got a lot of Kodak pictures

of Verdun and my last battery
positions which I am going to send
to you as soon as I get them printed
I am enclosing you some views of
the city taken by one of my corporals
while he was riding with me one
day not long ago.

I am hoping to see you by
April 1. Be sure and keep on
waiting on a chance that orders
may be changed. I love you
Always

Harry Truman

Harry

Capt Artillery 1915

Amherst, E. F.