



"WITH THE COLORS"



July 31 1918
Somewhere in France
(Still far from the front)

Dear Bess:-

Your letter of July 5 came today and I as usual had a lot of gladness. I hope you had a good 4th but I know it couldn't have been a glorious one with the death of your grandfather so close to it. I do wish I could be there to help you decide whether you'd stay in a large house or a small one.

It wouldn't take me two minutes to decide. I am going to buy you an iron cross or German helmet or something like that and send it to you as soon as I can get where they are for sale. You can tell 'em I captured it or anything you like. Most war trophies are brought afterwards, or picked up on the field after the battle. Now days battles are just sort of a "You shoot up my town and I'll

shoot up youns." They say that Americans don't play fair. They shoot em up all time. I hope so because I want to finish this job as soon as possible and begin making an honest living again.

My Irish Battery went out on the range the other day and out-fired the others in the battalion on account of which I am rather swell'd up. The major remarked that "D. Batty" is all right," and then he proceeded to tell the others why they weren't. I was awful lucky and they say that a smiling face goes a long way toward getting things looked upon in the right way. Anyway I feel right encouraged. As I told you before if I am a success as the commanding officer of a battery of field artillery I shall have accomplished the best thing I could do in this war. I have my doubts about my bravery when H.E. shells and gas attacks begin. I am like a fellow Uncle Harry used to tell about. I have the hardest kind of head and body but my legs won't stand.



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I hadn't the slightest notion that I was causing you a headache when I wore my uniform to the party last 4th. I was so proud of myself for having it that nothing would do but I must wear it. I wouldn't make you an instant's unhappiness for all the glory in the world. But I've got to put my ability (if I have any) to its very best use now so we can really enjoy our great country and real happiness when it's over. I am sure you wouldn't want me to be any where else than where I am now.

I certainly appreciate your putting a star on the church flag for me. I believe in all churches even the Roman Catholic can do a man a lot of good. I had a Presbyterian bringing up a Baptist education and Episcopal leanings so I reckon I ought to get to Heaven somehow don't you

think so?

I have had more letters the last few days from unexpected sources. An old oil stock salesman who used to borrow money from me to get whiskey on sent me a fine letter and one of my good neighbors who never seemed to appreciate me at home sent me another. I guess I must be doing something besides cheat that "E Pluribus Unum" "In God We Trust" Government out of \$200⁰⁰ a month to go to school on. I am hoping most sincerely that they don't send me to the DCS or home before I get one chance at the front.

It is sure a great game if you don't weaken. Be safe and write me as often as you can because I think of you always and can never tell you how much I do think.

Yours always
Harry

Harry Truman -

Capt. 129 FA -

American E.F.