

Sunday August 4
1918

Dear Bess:-

Your letter of July 7 and one dated May back in April came yesterday and of course I was very happy and granted lots of favors to the battery. I told the mail orderlie if he did not get me an Independence postmarked letter he needn't come around me for the day. You should have seen him smile when he found one. I immediately asked for a pass - and got it.

The communique of today is sure a grand one and I

am only scared to death the
Dutch will get ~~excelsitingly~~
licked before O Battery gets to
reload a volley at them.

I shall be happy if I can only
get to order my Battery to fire
one volley at the Hun if I
get court-martialed the next day.
You know that would be some
thing really worth while. An
infantry man can only shoot
one bullet at a time with his
little pop gun but I can give
one command to my Irish
Battery and put 848 bullets
on the way at once.
You must think I'm

clean gone dizzy sure enough talk-
ing about what we and my battery
can do contiguously but if my over-
-coming of the thing turns out to be a
success so I shall be the proudest person
on earth.

We have figured problems and fired
imaginary barrages and such things un-
-til we can hardly think of anything else.
I take the battery out tomorrow to
shoot things up again and I am hoping
for good luck to stay by me until
it is over because the Inspector General

is going to look us over and see if we
can hit the target. If we pass I have
an idea that we will be allowed to take
our batteries up when we go.

Your dream came near being fulfilled
today. If I hadn't been a battery commander
they would in all probability have sent me
home as an instructor. I hope they don't
do it until I have earned a gold service
stripe and have seen the front, much
as I would like to be home. I'd be sorry
apologising for not having gotten to the
front.

I am surely very glad to hear
that your mother is better,
and I sincerely hope you have
no more sickness or worry.

Please don't worry about me
because I have every reason
to think that I'll safely return.

My 194 men think right well
of me and they are not going
to let any Dutchman run away
with me and there isn't a
shell made that can crack
my tin hat. Besides we may
not even arrive on the front
until it's a sure thing.

I hope you got to make

the trip home to see mamma and Mary. The horse is out here and Mary says he is a Dandy. I am glad he is for the Colonel simply made me a present of him.

I don't understand why you have not received any mail from me because I have written at least once weekly and lots of times twice and three times. There was a fox headed censor at Augers where we were when I returned to the regiment and he did not understand that the

General Order allowed me to mention
places in the SOS and I imagine
that he destroyed a lot of my very
best spoons. I was living at a beautiful
little wayside inn and was acting bat-
talion Sgt. (thought I was a real one) and
I wrote you a great many letters.

Even sent you some picture post
cards of the old Cathedral and other places.
This Camp is further from the coast
than that but I am afraid to tell
you where because it might
meet the same fate.

Be sure and write as often as you
can because I am always happy
when your letters come. I wish I
could see you oh how I wish it.

Yours always
Harry

Harry Sturman
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American E.F.