

France Oct 8, 1918

Dear Bess:

I wrote you yesterday a kind of a diggy letter and I am going to do the same thing today - trying you see to make up for lost time. There were some three or four weeks from Sept 10 to Oct 6 that I did nothing but march at night and sleep in day light. I thought of you every day and had I been able to write or mail letters even after they were written, I would certainly have written.

I came through absolutely unscathed - didn't even lose a man in the battery although every other battery had ~~lost~~ from one to half dozen fatalities. A couple of my men who were on special duty with the ammunition train were slightly wounded and that's all. The whole thing was a terrific experience and I'm glad I had it, but I'm also glad it's over with. We are now setting up and I guess we'll go in again when our turn comes. It is not as bad as I thought it would be but it's bad enough. The boys are all in the infantry. When a man goes up with them he really does something. We are only their supporters and don't get much real action. The easiest and safest place for a man to get is in the air service. They fly around a couple of hours a day, sleep in a feather bed every night, eat hot cakes and maple syrup for breakfast, pie & roast beef for supper every day, spend their vacations in Paris or wherever else it suits their fancy and draw 20% extra pay for doing it. Their death rate is about like the quartermaster and ordnance depts and on top of it -!

they are dubbed the heroes of the war. Don't believe it, the infantry - our infantry are the heroes of the war. There's nothing - machine guns, artillery, rifles, bayonets ~~or~~ ~~that~~ mines or anything else that can stop them when they start. If we could keep up with them they'd go to the Rhine in one sweep. The machine guards simply can't make their legs stand when the word comes to them that the Yanks are coming. They march on what's left of em.

I saw some clippings where "Ray" Carr and Capt Peirce had been taking the town at home. Neither of them ever got any further than a school camp about like Camp Doan's are here. If Carr ever saw a Belgian refugee it was in a morning picture. I am glad they got to go home and I don't blame them for making the most of it but I'd like to see them strike to what they've seen and not what they've heard. Neither of them got closer than 100 miles of the front.

Amos Smith is still with us and making good. Boston is a Captain and is going to be an instructor so I understand. He was in command of 1st Sabotary is now back and doing business at the old stand. Brundschu is in Headquarters Company and seems to be in bad with K.D.K. but that is nothing to worry about for we are all in that fix. He has been acting like Hindenburg here of late and is not as popular a hero as I'd like to see in his job. The men do not love him as they should for reasons which I will explain some day for which I can't say well blame the man. Perhaps you'd better not know too much about that line it might get me in very badly but I had to tell you. Please keep on writing because it helps put the pep into me. I love you more and more and shall continue to see it at compound interest for future payment.
yours always Harry.