

AMERICAN

ON ACTIVE SERVICE



WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

FRANCE, May 12 1918

Dear Bess:-

I am hoping for another letter today. Got one last Sunday and it put some much pep into me that I passed this weeks exams with flying colors. Even worked out my probabilities right and that's some job. I'm getting a college education in Geometry Trig and astronomy. I can be County Surveyor when I get back.

Everyone in the room is writing either to his girl or his mother. I am going to write mamma too because Gen Pershing has ordered everyone to although I don't need any order. There is absolutely nothing to tell you. I am in the same fix that Jack Hatfields nigger

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was I told you about on the boat. If you didn't get that letter maybe I'd better tell you again. This coon told Jack he wanted to write to Liza. Jack told him all right and started the letter for him as Dear Liza. The coon then said "I loves you" all right Jack told him he had that. I loves you Jack put that down for him. The coon scratched his head a while and then said you lovin' man, Henry.

I've told you about the 'Chateau' its park its moat its marble stairs & carved wood work, its ice cold baths and its little picture book village. I could tell you lots and lots of events but the devilish censor would only tear it up and you wouldn't get any letter.

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I don't know if I told you about the O'Grady exercises they give us every day but they are interesting — to look at and read about. They make us run and walk and play leapfrog and carry men on our backs and run relay races while we carry them. Then they line us up and give us exercises by separate command in which "O'Grady says" has to precede each command. If a man moves at a command that isn't preceded by "O'Grady says" he has to run a hundred yards and back. Then they make a big ring and make everyone face in and one man runs around and hands out a couple of shakalalas and the man on the right of the one who gets the whip has to run around the ring. If the one

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with the whip can catch him he  
wholes the mischief out of him. It's  
sure funny to see a little short  
man like Major Gates or Slagle try  
to get away from some long legged  
guy. The little one usually gets fanned  
all the way around much to the  
delight of the rest. I ran so fast  
the other day that I got a Charlie  
horse and was not able to run  
for two days. I guess it's good to  
take out the cobwebs that the studies  
put into our brains. I am dizzy  
most of the time but I hope to come  
out on top and then real business  
will begin. I heard that Bill Postain  
was not far from here at an  
infantry school but that he had  
gone up to General Hdqts so he  
may be on the front now

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for experience. They say it's  
great experience and that you  
learn more in a week than you  
knew all your life before. I ex-  
pect it's so. Hope to find out some  
day but I'm far from it now.  
Be sure and keep writing be-  
cause it's sure lonesome  
over here when there's an hour  
to spare from work. I'll  
write as often as they'll let me  
even if I can only say I love  
you I love you  
Yours always  
Harry.

Harry Truman

1st Lt 129 FA

American E. F. France