

American
Y.M.C.A.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Aug. 28, 1918.

Dear Father and Mother and

All the Folks at Home:

We are finally at the "Front". Tom and his outfit got in last, and I have not seen him yet. I will have to let you guess where I am. In some way you seem to keep pretty well informed in the States about what goes on over here. One thing that strikes me on the front is that if the Germans are as well fortified behind the lines as we are then it must be a costly thing to capture positions. But everybody in the American Army seems to be determined to "get there" if there is any way to do it.

Just as I started this letter they had a little fracas in the air near us. A captive ballon was shot down. the observers jumping in parachutes. I did not see it, but got out in time to see the shells bursting around the fleeing aeroplanes. None of them hit the planes, by the way. These boys all wanted to run out into the open to see the fun. We see a little of this kind of stuff every day.

Yesterday I had one of the most pleasant surprises since being in France. I had been out all morning on horse back, back behind the lines trying to find out about mail, and on my return Captain Fletcher told me that Sgt. Crow had been in to see me. Later on in the afternoon he came in. I had been ex-

pecting to John Crow, but it was Will. He had enlisted about the time we left the States, but beat us up to the front by a few weeks. He looks fine, and I judged him to be a good soldier. Wish he were with our outfit. Tell Mrs. Crow I saw him, please. I have no doubt he will get a commission soon, or would if in an outfit like ours.

Today the mail came which arrived at Coetquedan after we had left. I got only one letter, the one from Father written on July 27th. I was sorry to hear of Capt. Newman's serious illness, and hope he recovered. Was also sorry to know that you, Father, had been suffering.

As to us, we are getting along fine, are not in any immediate danger, and are not uncomfortable. Have lost sleep but I have about caught up by this time.

Frances, I sent a broken Elgin Watch to you. A base-ball hit it, broke the crystal and it fell in the dirt. I think if you have it cleaned and mended it will be quite servicable to you. I am going to buy one over here, as I find I cannot get along without one. The watch repairers seem to all be at the front so I could not get it mended here. If you, Frances, have a watch, fix it for some other member of the family, who does not have it.

Am quartered with Capt. Fletcher for the present as regimental Hdq. was too far from the men. I could not be with a finer man. Will not be here long, I think. I am constantly thinking of you all, long to see you and be with you again.

With lots of love to every one of you,

Affectionately,

Ben.

Censored by
Chaplain B.R. Lacy Jr.,
113 F.A.

Addressed:

Mr. B. R. Lacy Etc,

Raleigh,

N. C.

U. S. A.

Censored by
B. R. Lacy Jr.,
Chaplain.