

American
Y.M.C.A.

On Active Service
with the
American Expeditionary Forces.

No. 2.

July 1, 1918.

Dear Folks:-

We have just about settled down to routine work here so there is not really very much that one can write about. We are going to be here for a certain time, and then go we know not where. In the mean time we eat, sleep, and train for our arrival on the front. The men are eager for the training and are doing fairly well. They can see where their training is leading them to, and that adds to their interest in the work.

It seems quite a while since I have written you, but it was some time last week. In my letter I told of sending Father \$50.00 by way of the Y.M.C.A. They are to send you a check from N.Y. It sometimes takes quite a time to transmit money from France to U.S.A. But if you do not receive the check by September write to Y.M.C.A. 124 E. 28th St. N.Y. The number of the receipt is 66519, the date June 21, 1918. No doubt it will get there safe enough.

Today is the first hot day since we arrived. I do not think the thermometer registers over 85 but it is quite oppressive, and I am so sleepy I can scarcely see to write this letter. Guess I will have to go to bed considerably earlier tonight. It is hard to get to bed early and we get up at 6:00 so you see it is not easy to get all the sleep you need.

You people surely did not rush me with mail. I got a nice letter from Mother about a week ago, but since then I have heard nothing from home although two mails have come in from the States. ^{blank} ~~Emma~~ wrote me a letter on June 10th which arrived yesterday. I suppose that is about as quickly as they come at this day and time.

Yesterday we had two fine services. A nice regimental service with 500 to 600 there, many standing, and a communion service at 11:00 - the latter was remarkably helpful. There were three Presbyterian ministers, a Congregational minister, and four Presbyterian Elders. All were Y.M.C.A. men except Chaplains McSween & Lacy & Lt. Col. Lewis.

It is dreadfully dusty here - so much so that one can keep nothing clean either about himself or his room. Would exchange this place for my spot in N. C. quite willingly.

Wish I some idea as to when war will be over and we will be at home, but at present it looks as if anything could happen. If U. S. A. gets 2,000,000 fighting over here soon we may hope to wind it up.

Love for every one of you,

Ben.

Addressed:

Mr. B. R. Lacy,
Raleigh,
N.C.

O.K.
B. R. Lacy Jr.
Chaplain.