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Hello Everybody -

Long time since I wrote but mine been a busy bunch. When last I wrote we had just come out of a rather lively sector for a bit of a rest - but small rest it proved to be altho' mighty enjoyable while it lasted!

It seems that one night Gen. Foch had a mighty vision, and when it reached us it amounted to a

surprise attack on old Fritz
over a big front. It surprised
us as much as Fritz, for it
gave us only 24 hours to move
our big Division some 40
kilometers, and be ready to
step over the top. We did
it too as your papers have
witnessed, and in wonderful
style, for altho' the Germans
have today stiffened up a bit
they are still in retreat after
some nine days of hot fighting.

Yep I now have first hand
knowledge of a big battle -
I know what it means to
travel over hardly won ground.
I've seen prisoners come back
thru' the lines by the
thousands, and I've investigated
the enemy's home just after
he left it in great con-
fusion. There's nothing pretty
about it - a fellow I think
some weird thoughts at the

sight of his comrades dead
and wounded - but it's war
we're at, and in telling you
the american is fast proving
to be the pace maker in
the matter of making war.

now we're in rest again
in a quiet clean village -
catching up on the week of
absolutely no sleep and very
thin rations - organizing our-
selves for whatever the

war will bring next.

Our division is
now rated among the
highest class of troops
we have been cited by
~~the~~ Gen Pershing - the
French - the General
Commanding the Corps -
and the Division.

Tomorrow morning I am
to read to my com-
pany these citations
on our conduct. Truly
it is wonderful the
 strides we have made -
and to think that
I was ~~the~~ a lucky
one to be made part

of this outfit that is first
in everything - even to name
under the caption and
mayor the caption and
right to Paris - we had
a wonderful dinner in
the cafe du Paris perhaps
the gayest in the world -
I bought a few clothes -
then to the busy streets
Bergre and afterward a
picturesque point at the City -
with a new bath and
photo and every thing - what
a wonderful day. We returned
here about 11. at three
the mayor decided that
he and I should see the
opera and at six we
went on our way to Paris
again to the Ecole Normale
to hear Madame Butterfly.
What a treat it was. - The
opera house is one of the
above places of the world and -

ported largely by the government - the stars are world stars and every thing else was in keeping. I can't remember a more satisfying experience after the work and toil of the summer campaign.

We had missed supper because the opera starts early - so when it was over the chauffeur had a cheese sandwich made from a whole loaf of French bread

and a bottle of beer
waiting for us. Paris
cafes and restaurants
close at 9.30.

Truly this army
life oscillates between
the gay and the
horrible in mighty
quick cadence. It's
a wonderfully fascinat-
ing life, and I truly
can't see why I wasn't
over here four years
ago.

I'm enclosing the
two "Nettle et
Kintintin" They have
been adopted by

Parisians as a mascot against
the bombs and big beetles.
The theatres feature them
in songs - ~~and~~ everyone carries
a pair - and it is truly amusing
the fun they get from them.
Get some Frenchman to pro-
nounce 'em for you - I can't
describe it.

Someday I'm going to write
a book on pets and mascots.
Our battalion mascot was
a young wild boar. Tame-
trained and unique - until
just last week he was
missed. Some theiving French-
man. We're dogs and cats a
score, from whence no one
knows. A pair of puppies,
Mile and Pat, are beauties. I
was leading our mounted
section across country to
go into this battle when
two dogs joined up just like
they'd always been with us.
Now to day the latest develop-

a bright eyed lad of about
13 showed up at mess with
his mess kit, all decked out
in the regulation uniform.

It seems that the bunch
had taken a liking to him -
his mother and Father were
killed by a bomb, at Nancy -
and I guess he's adopted
until someone with more
military exactness than the
captain or I have - sends

him along. It's really
an interesting study.

Haven't had any
mail for a long time.
Last I heard Mother
was made asst.

matron at Elko High.
and Eva had a raise.
I think it splendid
if the work is not
going to be too
much. Before you have
taken good hold I'll
be there to see that
every thing is O.K. and
from Ruth I learned
that she was bound

for Boston. She too is
doing splendidly - and he -
tride me it is no small
comfort to know that
all who look to me and
that I look to are doing
so excellently. Ruth will
enjoy Boston too - only
I had hoped to take
her there myself. Hope
she doesn't get to France
before I can bring her
here myself.

I'm anxious to know
about Bert and how the
war is treating him. You'll
keep me posted won't you.

There's little else to
be said - I'm in excellent
health - can still make
everybody happy - still
sing a flat and act crazy -
work hard when there's

wants to be done, and
insist on playing just a
new hit harder than the
next guy when play time
comes.

Goodnight now - don't
worry when others are ir-
regular - it will never be
my fault - sleep cheerful -
and pray for our little family
to get together again -
Love to you all ~~x x~~ Tom ~~x x~~