

Base Hospital 51
September 20, 1918
Friday

Dear Mother: ...If you notice I put down Friday as I didnt know whether this was the twentieth or not. Over here you loose all track of the time. They sent all the nurses that was with Evacuation hospital fourteen here while they were moving as they had to get up there and a get a place for us before we could come. They have taken all our baggage except our suit cases. They are going to send for us in a few days when our place is fixed up. The doctors on my team have gone on with them. We are all on duty here in the wards. They are very busy here. I am on the wards where the German prisoners that are wonded are. It is quite an interesting experience for me. There is A guard on duty in their wards all the time, but they never give us any trouble. They are quite willing to be our prisoners. There R two of them that speaks english very well. One of them lived in the states before the war and was in Germany visiting his folks when the war was declared and they would not let him go back to the states. They put him in the Army. One of them told me he had been in the war four years and had been wounded four times. This morning when I went on duty I started doing dressings and I never stopped until dinner time. After dinner I started in again and kept it up until I went of duty. Never did so many dressings in one day in my life. There is a lots of very bad cases. The patients say they are susprised to see so many Americans over here. I asked one of them how much longer the war would last. He said Germany was about done for and they didn't think it would last more then two months more. There is a certain place the Americans are after and this german told me if they got it the Germans would make a peace proposal. I told him that wouldnt do any good as we wouldnt consider peace without victory. He said when that place is taken the germans are done for as it is one of their last strong holds.

They relize they are beaten and it is only a matter of time before we finish them up. In the wards there are some very young and some very old men. The German Army isnt what it used to be. They make very good patients and seem to appreciate what you do for them. The Americans are very good to them in the hospitals, and I guess that is why they put up so little resistance to be taken. One boy said he shot his officer so they could surrender. So after I talked with some of them I thought our job over here may not be so hard after all. I guess the whole size of it is they a fed up on war. I don't wonder much when you think they have been at it for four years. When you get over here and see what war really is you wouldn't wonder. The people in the states cant imagine what it is. You tell Lucy for me to tell the Red Cross I said if they would do less fussing about making dressings and not be so damd fussie about their being just so many inches, and get a move one and slap some together so they could get more over here I think it would be greatly appreciated by all concerned. If they could only be over here and relize the demand and relize it dont make much difference how they are made long as it covers the wound. I know they would cut

out a lot of their foulish whims. You can tell them I said so too. If we depended on them the wounds would not get much attention some times. It is quantity no quality over here. I have used gauze that the edges wernt turned in even. So I hope they will come to before the war is over...

Give my love to all the folks

Lovingly

Elizabeth