

Evacuation Hospital 15.

A.E.F.

Nov 13 1918

Dear Mother: . . . There has been so much happen since I last wrote I hardly know where to begin. The first and great important thing is the ending of this war. I can just imagine the celebration the people at home are having. I can tell you there isnt any one that can be more pleased then we are. I would like to tell you where we are but as our mail is still censored I am afraid it wouldnt pass yet. I suspose as soon as things are signed up, and every thing is all streightened out we can write and give the names of places.

For the present I will tell you what I can about the close of the war. As we are near the front we could always hear the fireing, and at 11a.m. the last shot was fired, and there is a city we are near that has been shelled to pieces. The cathedral is in ruins and the clock and stepel is about the only thing left. At 11 30 a.m. the day the war ended the chimes rang from the Cathedral for the first time since the war started. The french had a big celebration there yesterday and last night. Tomorrow night the Americans are going to have a time.

You cant imagine the joy there is in France to-night. We worked very hard operating all night last night but to-night there is only one team working and when I reported for duty to-night there was only one patient waiting to be operated on. They told me at the **Triage** that all the patients had been picked up and brought in. I expect our work is about finished as an operating team. I sort of expect to be sent back to the base but of course I will have to stay here and wait my orders. . . . The boy's up at the front are celebrating. We can see where they are shooting **star shell**. They look like sky rockets. They had some in this city last night and to-night. They are very pretty.

I have had the privalege of being with the nearest **Evacuation hospital** to the lines. This is the nearest nurses have ever been to the front. I didnt want to tell you while the war was on for I knew you would worry. I will tell you now though. We had to have our gas masks with us all the time, and there was a few night I wore my helmet back and forth to midnight lunch. When you see the shells whizzing all around you that is as near the front as I want to get. I must admit I was crazy to get near the front but I have had my desire satisfied here. Fortunately no one was injured at the hospital, but in the village a few yards from us two men were injured one day and in the city the germans were always throwing over gas shells, and I tell you this has been quite an exsighting place here. . . . Our operating room got on fire one night last week and burned flat to the ground. They was operating on five patients at the time and there was a few more laying around, and lots more in the next room ready to come in and still more being cleaned up getting ready to be ex-Rayed. Well every one turned to and got the patients out, and every one was out and no one got burned at all. The operating tables and some of the supplies were saved. It was quite exsighting for awhile. One of the buildings next to it caught on fire and we had to evacuate patients from one ward and had them on stretchers in the next ward ready to take out if necessary, but they saved the other buildings. It looked at one

time as though the whole hospital was going, but as there was no wind they was able to save the buildings near it. . . .

. . . It seems so go not to have the window all shaded and every thing in darkness around the hospital. It sure does look cheerful to see the lights shining at night from the windows and ambulances. People in the States cant half appreciate all these things....

Love Elizabeth

OK
Censored
C.F. Smith
Capt U.S.A.