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
suppose 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.