

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Nov. 7, 1918 491

Dear dad:

How is everything going, back that way? Are the turks "getting your goat" this year? Guess you realize the kind of turk I mean, at this particular season. At present, it looks as if we would not have to bother with any, this Thanksgiving, but we'll have 'em for Christmas, I hear.

The camp we are in now is ever so quiet. Even the town is dead, but the eats? Oh my! Why, last night I had the best meal of my life (in the army). That stew was just like mother used to make, and rice pudding made with milk and sugar, and oh! the tart! A blackberry turnover, with a crust that would melt in your mouth. On the level, you could not find a happier bunch of fellows anywhere. Everybody smiling from ear to ear. Why, at



present, I'm smoking a "Blackstone." Can you imagine that? And I don't have to pay as much for them as you do, either. Can get a box of twenty five, for nine francs, almost one dollar and eighty cents in money. Tobacco and candy issued to us, and a real bed (almost) to sleep in. Oh! this is some "little old Uncle" I'm working for. The only thing that is missing now is the mail. You see I've been jumping around so, that I guess no one can keep track of me. But some day, I'll get a whole stack, that will make up.

The scenery around here is very nice. It would be wonderful for anyone just coming over. But we are so used to seeing these antique places, that we don't appreciate their beauty.

Dad, if I'm going to Paris, I sure do wish that they would send me soon. How I'd love to be there when Peace is declared. Can you imagine it? And it's coming soon, too! However, I am not the only one who is waiting. There are several of us, all in the same boat.

What do you think of this 500.-bonus proposition? Have you heard the rumor? Sounds kind of fishy, to me. But what would you advise. Suppose I were to be given a chance, somewhere, over here, at my own trade, to assist the government, in "cleaning up," at my own present rate of pay, for a period of six months, at the end of which time, 500<sup>00</sup> would be paid, as a bonus. Should I accept? Of course, I am mad, to get back home, to you all, I've been away a year. Often I long to be back, but then, how do I know how things are running, over there. Think it over dad, and look around, then advise me



immediatly. You know, after this war is over, it may be four to six months, anyway before we get back. Give me your whole candid opinion of the proposition:

The news is very scarce here, dad, but I forget to tell you, We got paid, yesterday. I drew 89 francs and 90 centimes. Equal to \$16.<sup>50</sup> You see my first payment on the fourth Liberty loan was taken out, also the insurance. If I'm in the Army till next July 29<sup>th</sup>. I get a hundred dollar U.S. bond. Is my first one paid up yet?

Love and best wishes to all, I remain,

Your affectionate son  
Richard.

Post. Office No. Elly at 37834.

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A.P.O. 725.

A.C.F.

France.

O.K. Richard  
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