

Nov 16, 1917

Dear Mother, -

We have at last reached our destination & I had a good night's sleep for the first time this week. We traveled ~~by rail~~ & I got very little sleep. There ~~is~~ a car and a ~~small~~ car is about $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of an American one & about $\frac{2}{3}$ as wide. We had just ~~to~~ ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~station~~ ~~to~~ ~~take~~ ~~the~~ ~~train~~ ~~to~~ ~~London~~. ~~It~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~a~~ ~~very~~ ~~long~~ ~~journey~~. We are learning what war is. This noon we had bread for the first time in three days. We have been living on hard tack, corned beef and cheese. At two or three stations where we stopped though the women gave us hot coffee but it was black coffee & I can't say I enjoyed it very much but it was hot & that was the most important thing. We had an opportunity to see quite a lot of the country while on our way but from what I have seen I prefer ~~England~~ ^{England} is much prettier. The houses here are built in bunches.

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191

They are built in groups with the walls right against one another. The houses themselves are for the most part a combination of a barn + a house. They keep horses + chickens on one side of the house + on the other side the people live and sometimes they all use the same entrance. ~~Some of~~ the houses are all pretty with red roofs and fancy brick walls and the villagers there have a more prosperous and up-to-date look.

We are in a village which I imagine must be quite away above the sea level - I know it isn't very warm here. And mud - outside of a circus lot I never saw such mud. This, I think, is the rainy season and I haven't seen a dry spot on the roads here yet, they are one solid mass of mud. We are not in ~~the same~~ but ~~we are~~ in ^{different houses} ~~the same~~ in the village, that is we are ~~in the same~~ ^{in each house} ~~in the same~~ house. There are four ~~of us~~ ^{of us} Murphy, Fager, Kelly and myself. You know the first two. ~~There are~~

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191

who live there seem willing to do anything for us.
Last night they brought ^{brought us in down stairs} ~~us in down stairs~~ ^{and live in} ~~us in down stairs~~ ^{(and live in}
a room ^{on the second floor} ~~on the second floor~~ ^{on the third floor} ~~on the third floor~~ ^{as the} ~~as the~~ ^{have} ~~have~~ ^{left} ~~left~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{third floor} ~~third floor~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{half left} ~~half left~~) and we sat around the fire place and
tried to talk to each other. With my small knowledge
of French + Murphy's even smaller knowledge we
got on pretty good. The man taught us quite a few
words and I think if we are here long we can pick
up quite a bit of it + be able to make our wants
known at least. We got cots today and will be able
to make ourselves fairly comfortable. There are a lot
of pears and apples ~~to our~~ ^{to ours} and the
^{woman says they are} ~~woman says they are~~ ^{women} ~~women~~ ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{"pour vous", in other words "for} ~~"pour vous", in other words "for~~
us". To day she brought us up an easy chair. Running
water is something unknown here - the conditions are very
primitive but we'll have to make the best of it. The
people in the village are all ^{people} ~~old~~ + children, there are
no young people here at all and there doesn't seem to have
been any rich people here - it is a typical peasant
village, the kind I have read about but never~~~~

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191

expected to live in. Maybe home wont look awful good to me when I get back. We'll never want to leave again. I suppose well be here for the winter so were going to fix our room up as comfortable as we can and make the best of it.

I am feeling quite well even though I havent had as much to eat as usual for the last five or six days but I guess that didnt hurt me any. I hope you and Pa are feeling well. Write soon and let me know. A letter will look awfully good in this place. There is a lot of mail here now but it hasnt been passed out yet + I am hoping to receive something. Send a few papers if you can as you get more news about the war than we do and besides I like to know how things are getting along at home.

With all my love and lots of kisses for you both I am

Your loving son,
Charles.

RFB

2nd Lieut.

Charles F. Boughlin