

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME

A. Kerber

326th Supply Co.
A.P.O. #788

News, Feb. 25 1919

My dear Doctor Shepard:

I received your letter of February 5th yesterday. It took about 19 days to come over. That is about average time. We are constantly on the look out for any lessening of time that it takes letters to come over. There seems, however, to be little or no difference in time between the time it takes now and the time it took prior to November 11th even though transports do not require so much time to come over.

I certainly was glad to hear from you. Miss Hall writes regularly, of course, Professor Edgett writes quite often and then I get some incidents of school life from

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the students. Miss Hall deserves a big proportion of credit for her fidelity to the boys in her class. Her letters seem to be the first to get where they are going. Any movement to show our gratitude to Miss Hall I will heartily support. I am very sorry to hear that she ~~she~~ has had trouble with her shoulder, and hope that she will speedily recover. We hope to relieve her from the strain of writing letters to soldiers very soon.

Professor Edgett sent me a picture of the students and teachers at the seminary. It was taken about November 11th

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There doesn't seem to be a very big change in the personnel of the school. I was able to recognize many of the students. With all those ex soldiers and sailors and Marines coming back, it will be just like the old school.

I was not aware that we had lost six of our boys. Miss Hall's New Years Greeting told of but two of Class 14 men that were lost. I unconsciously ^{ous} took that to mean that the whole seminary had lost but two men. May I ask who the other 4 were? I am very sorry to hear of it. Still you have been very lucky.

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Have I enjoyed my military life? It probably will surprise you to know that I have. Some parts have been unpleasant but they didn't last forever.

I have been very fortunate in not having been ill one day since I left Rochester.

Several of our boys have "checked in" and at one time about 90 were in the hospital with the "flu" but I have not had to contend with anything like that.

Professor William Smith is the only Lima "boy" I have met since I've been here. I saw him pass as I was riding a truck here in Nevers, and got off and ran after him and catching him about a block back.

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Of course I was very glad to see him. He was on his way to the Army of Occupation via Paris and was going to catch a train in about an hour so we didn't have very long together. Neither of us had seen any Lima boys since leaving the states so we were doubly glad to see each other.

Congratulations to Claissa Stubble on her success, also to Pierce.

The burning of the Lima Insulator will prove quite a loss to many in Lima, also to many in the school. It gave employment to many of the people in the town.

I haven't any idea when I'm going to start for home.

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The boys here are getting very impatient and restless. Men absent without leave are very frequent. Many drink so much that they become disorderly. Altho^{tho} there are fewer Americans in Nevers that there were at any time since I have been here, there seem to be more men in the guardhouse now than at any other time. The guardhouse or "brig" is visible from my bunk and the looks of the men who line up before it do not show that the guardhouse is a very pleasant place to live in. In some instances allotments

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and allowances have not been paid and the man's family are actually in need. This tends to make him restless and impatient. And in some cases sickness and death in the family trouble him.

Received a letter from a cousin at Vichy. He is with Base Hospital # 19, all Rochester and vicinity boys, and expects to leave today for St. Nazaire and then - home.

I hope that Mrs. Shepard and you are well and that the year will be a prosperous one.

With best wishes,
Arthur C. Gerber.