



"WITH THE COLORS"



Sunday May 5.  
2nd Co 1st Fr. Bn  
158 Depot Brigade  
Camp Sherman

Dear Folks:—

My first week of soldiering has passed and passed rather quickly in spite of much standing in line inactivity and strangeness. So far it isn't so bad, and as far as worry about getting mixed up in the war is concerned there isn't any. I feel farther from the war now than I did when working for the Red Cross. It is rather strange, and in time will be a bore to have no responsibility, no plans to make and nothing much to exercise one's brain on.

We are well quartered and equipped. We have 150 men in this barracks, 100 upstairs here, 50 down. The mess-hall and kitchen, as well as supply room and office are in the same building. The latrine is about like a big

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Bath room, equipped with showers, etc. It is located just outside the barracks. We have been given 2 blankets, a straw tick, 2 towels, soap brush, comb, 3 pairs of underwear, 2 flannel shirts, 2 pair kakis breeches, leggings, 2 pair of shoes, a rain coat, mess kit, and a few other things. With all this one doesn't want many extras to drag around when transferred or moved, so I won't ask for much to be sent from home. When we get our guns, bayonets, ponchos, etc it will be still worse. We have good iron cots to sleep on.

Our mess has been good so far and there has been plenty both in quantity and variety. This noon we will have chicken and rice cream. Washing one's own mess kit in a tub of greasy water doesn't help to make one's meal any more enjoyable. It makes one hurry to get done eating so as to wash one's kit in the water when it is clean. Here at camp as well as in civil life, a man's actions and talk at the table indicate very well just what he is.

The men are quite contented, altho being in quarantine for another week and not allowed away from the barracks, not even to go to the y.m. or the canteen, is quite trying. I came with the



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Cleveland boys but most of them were transferred already. Columbus, and Toledo men, none of whom I know, are all mixed in already. There are very few men in the crowd whom I care much for any more. I sleep between two spaghetti Italians and they both have limburger feet.

Sunday afternoon

We had a big Division review this afternoon and 40,000 men of us were in it — some crowd I'll say. The depot brigade marched pretty well, doing squads right, squads left, and other movements altho few of us have been here more than a week, and some less than that. We really have had very little drill this week, so much time was consumed in getting, examined, equipped, transferred, and settled.

Sanitary conditions here are good, but the dust is bad. Naturally it irritates any bad nasal condition a man may have, and as a result there is considerable spitting, and a greater danger of infection. Fortunately I brought a nose spray with

me and use it freely and with great relief. The water supply is very low, and we haven't been allowed to take a bath yet much to our dismay. If we could bathe freely, life would be fine here. Perhaps we will be allowed to swim in the Scioto soon.

Well, there isn't much more to tell you out of our present, inactive, experience. Maybe I'll have more to add later.

Affectionately  
Homer.

Homer is now out of quarantine and feels very much relieved to be free to run around  
mother.