

276 Boulevard Raspail  
Paris, France

June 29 1917



Dear Mother,

I think I wrote you that our passports were returned to us in Bordeaux on Wednesday and we were given safe conducts to motor to Paris. Then we finely got the auto and started at three oclock on Saturday. We had another adventure, however.

Just as we were leaving the city, an old man got off a street car and ran desperately for another. We turned sharply and stopped but hit him a little with the mud guard and he fell over. He picked himself up and started to get on the car but we took him to a drug store and sent him home in a carriage with a policeman. He seemed pretty much dazed and shocked but he was not at all injured. Miss Ely was driving very slowly. It was extremely unpleasant and made us feel shaky for quite a while.

We drove about eighty miles to Angouleme, Saturday, getting there about eight oclock. It is a little old town on a hill with a wonderful view over the country from the top. The streets are in tiers it is so steep. Sunday morning we went to Mass before we started.

We got off early and had lunch at Poitiers and stopped at Tours for tea. The roads were wonderful and we went along with out stopping at all, so, though we did not go fast we made the trip in very short time.

At Amboise we stopped for half an hour to see the Chateau, a part of which is now used by wounded soldiers. It was a lovely drive along the river in the evening. We went along the south bank and saw the little houses built into the side of the hill.

It was eight when we got to Blois where we stopped for the night, but because we are an hour ahead it was still light enought to get a look at the chateau and the old concierge let us go into the court, though it was closed. *for the night*

The next day we went through Orbeans to Chartres where we took lunch and stopped long enought to see the cathedral. Then we went through Versailles to Neuilly where we left the automobile and took a taxi to the Hotel Crillon.

It was a fine trip up. The country was beautiful and seemed very well cultivated. Everyone was nice to us all the way. We had to take a lot of gasoline from Bordeaux as it is so hard to get that we did not want to take the time to go to all the officials necessary every time we stopped. It costs about a dollar a gallon and more than that in Paris. If we had not been so delayed getting off we would have stopped on the way more, but I got a good idea of French country any way.

Tuesday morning we went to the embassy and saw Ambassador Sharp and Mr Bliss who were both very nice to us. Then we tended to the automobile, which is a Dodge Miss Ely is going to use here in the work. We stopped at the American Ambulance Hospital in Neuilly for a while. One of the interns gave me my last typhoide picquer.

The hospital seems wonderfully equipped but does not seem to be more than half full due to lack of harmony between the director<sup>s</sup> and the french. They do wonderful work with jaw cases, and especially difficult things. It ought to be nearer the front.

- We then went to call on the Shurtleffs and stayed to dinner. Dr Shurtleff went out with us to look for a place to live and we continued the search Wednesday morning. That afternoon Mr Dresel from the legation in Berne came to see me at the hotel, because Allie had told him to look me up.

Thursday I spent the moring at the Vestiare, not doing much work but seeing how some of the things are done. In the afternoon I wnet with Miss



Curtis one of the workers to visit one of the refugees. She was a very nice woman originally from Paris who had been caught behind the lines at Charlepont when the french retreated. She had lived in a stable four miles from Noyon till the country was delivered with her little girl and a lot of other people. You should have heard the grateful way she spoke of the Americans who fed them after awhile - the Hoover commission.

The poor people are very very grateful, to the Americans for the help they have given, <sup>some of</sup> the others seem rather bitter, <sup>at our slowness</sup> and the soldiers take the attitude that it is about time we took the brunt of it all and gave them a rest.

Last night I moved to this Pension where Dr Shurtleff advised me to go. I have quite a nice room and the people are pleasant. The chief attraction is that it is near the work. I may not stay here long but it will do for the present. It costs ten francs a day, I doubt if I could get an food if I paid less. I dont see how they can feed me for that; the prices are terrific eggs are about eight cents a peice and butter about a dollar a pund.

You'd better not write me here as I may move soon.

I wish you could send me the Literary Digest. If you want to send me some invisible hair pins and some hair nets I should be glad to have them. They say they are impossible to get here, though I have not tried myself.

I have really begun work now and I suppose I shall be busy about all day. I'll write you about it in detail in a day or so. It semme very well carried on. This morning I spent unpacking boxes.

A great deal of love to you all

Eleanor