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Plattsburg, N.Y.
Co. 11. N.Y. Division.

My dearest Cousin Kate.

To-day is Sunday and the first day that I have had a minute to myself - this is almost litterally true - During the week any time left over from drills, hikes, lectures and conferences is consumed in study, making up the bunk, a quick shave, and a quicker shower (cold), cleaning the gun and practicing the semaphore, a system of signaling with flags - The entire camp is concentrating on this latter study as it requires a great deal of practice to attain any degree of proficiency. This will explain the system and you can easily see that it is quite difficult to read with any

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speed without quite some study. I have mastered this quite well however and was requested to help teach it to the platoon. I was a bit proud of my achievement but disappointed in being singled out by the captain for I intend being as inconspicuous as is consistent with the proper performance of my duties. There is a great deal of "boot licking" or todying to the officers by the candidates and before long they will get very tired of it and it will tell in their recommendations for commissions. There will be a time for making yourself seen but I believe to be about a couple of weeks before the final appointments. I had dinner last night with an officer who gave me several tips and the above is one of them.

We are very comfortable except for bathing facilities but these are almost completed

The present showers are all cold and by that I mean cold. I've had three and I know, and by the way disgraceful as it may seem that is about three more than a great many have had. And Thursday afternoon a chap named Ben Hur and I took a bath and a swim in Lake Champlain. The water wasn't nearly as bad however as soaping on the bank in the breeze. I shouldn't have told you this I know for now I know I will receive a Rhinetis pill in the next mail, but although we have had only a week of "roughing it" I have toughened to a surprising extent and its an mighty good thing that there is no such thing as Jim Crow laws up here for I know that I would have to ride back in the negro coach. I'm brown as a nut and I'm feeling fine, except for a

little stiffness in my arm caused by my first injection of typhoid prophylactic taken this morning.

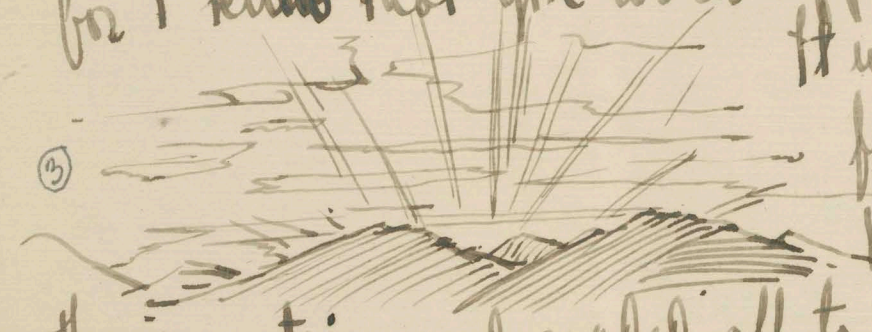
The food isn't especially good but it is substancial and almost always there is enough, but as the quality of the food has decreased ~~the~~ my appetite has increased proportionately and I have no trouble in eating enough to sustain me ☺ (2).

Last night I had real beef steak for dinner at the Witherell for we were given permission to leave from noon yesterday until 9-30 tonight. I thought it best to stick around and bone and write to you and Mother and make a few sketches for Cousin Frank.

Our hikes and setting up exercises haven't been at all strenuous yet. I imagine that the authorities consider that our studies are of principal importance for we can get the

exercises while teaching that first half million conscripts.

The country around here is perfectly beautiful - I dont think I could ever tire of it. The Green Mountains from the horizon ~~across the~~ to the East across the island studded lake and behind them we see the glow of the sunrise. The foot hills of the Adarondacks are equally as beautiful on the West and over them I saw the most beautiful sunset of my life. I wished for you and Cousin Frank for I knew that you would appreciate it too.



It was of a gorgeous fiery intensity just behind the mountains and graded off to rose and then just the edges of the grey clouds above were touched with rose and through the clouds the sun beams and shadows were

strikingly beautiful.[6]

I must practice my semaphore now - the company street looks like an asylum on a holiday with a hundred or so boys with flags and handkerchiefs and hats madly wooing them about in the air.

With a heart full of love,

Penrose.

Will you please ask Rebecca to send me ~~the~~ about six more of my white handkerchiefs. It was certainly exasperating to see so little of her before I left.

Written thus

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