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2d Provisional Training Camp.
Co. 7, Plattsburg, N.Y.
June 17, 1917.

Dear Cousin Frank,

The fifth week of my military career at Plattsburg has passed and there are only eight more before it is all through and I am still happy hearty and contented. In fact all the men here seem well contented, there are few complaints and smiles galore, and the grouch finds it a tough life here for there are very few who will lend him an ear. Of course there are kicks and complaints about the mess but that is to be expected, everyone considers it the proper thing to do and I must say that

complaints there are justifiable - Army beans and milkless, sugarless coffee are all right and to be expected occassionally, but when ~~when~~ we go out in the morning for a ten mile hike and combat exercise with a thirty five or 40 pound pack on our backs and a gun on our shoulder that has the peculiarity of increasing its weight very rapidly in proportion to the length of the hike, and then an hours physical exercise and another hours exercise with the bayonet it isn't right to sit us down to a dinner of tough, cold bolonie sausage and a piece of cheese and horrible strong tea. Well at any rate it makes for a rattling good business at the canteen. I should think that it would make the cook blush to see the line of officers and

~~cadets~~ candidates lined up after a meal in front of the canteen waiting their turn to invest in an ice cream cone or a box of crackers and a glass of milk.

Saturday was a strenuous active day. We have, until now, all been taking the same course of study, but Saturday we were divided up according to the particular arm of the service in which we are to serve. It being left, as far as possible, to the choice of the men themselves. The Coast Artillerymen have left for Fortress Monroe, Va., the Field Artillerymen will be sent to Syracuse in about a week, the cavalrymen will remain here and be trained as infantrymen; the infantrymen of course will remain here.

This of course necessitated a general reassignment of barracks. My address now is Company 7 instead of 11. All the moving was done in about an hour and it was very comical to see the boys lugging their mattresses, covering and baggage etc. about the company streets. We are all comfortably settled again now and ready to start in on the last lap

Monday.

No schedules have been issued for the work for next week and today has been one of great relaxation. A crowd of us took a boat excursion trip up to Burlington, Vt. The trip up the lake was superb; the blue mountains, the charming little islands and above all the sense of nothing to do was very enjoyable. This is the first day of real relaxation I have had and I feel very much benefited by it.

When we landed in Burlington a couple of us went for a car ride to Caden Allen Park. We did the swings, the seesaws, fed the deer and climbed a young mountain on top of which there is an observation tower erected to the memory of Gen. Allen. From the top of the tower we obtained a

wonderful view of the mountains and the lake. We had to wait for about fifteen minutes for the car and we whiled it away hunting the elusive four leaf clover. The hunt proved very successful as you may see. I had never found one before in all my life and today I found all these besides one which I sent to Mother. They work out very well for there is one for you, one for Cousin Kate, and for Rebecca Kate, Margie and Charlie. These are really very practical clovers and I hope that you will use them. In getting off the boat this afternoon I found a dollar bill on the steps, four or five people in front of me walked right over it after I saw it but they hadn't any clovers and weren't looking for anything and so they didn't

get it.

We had a bang up dinner at the Hotel Vermont and ordered and ate everything on the table d'hote menu.

I haven't taken my re-examination for hearing yet. I am awaiting a clear dry day and to recover from a cold. Conditions must be ideal for it looks like my last opportunity to enter the aviation corps. I will let you know as soon as I get definitely settled. I wrote to Dr. Thach of Auburn for a letter stating my educational qualifications and I have just receive a corking reply.

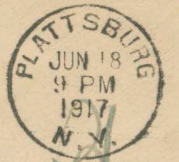
I think of you very frequently, Cousin Frank, and long to see you. I am wondering if this is good horse back weather and whether you are taking a plunge before

breakfast, how the garden is looking. I suppose that the lilacs and the flag lilies are all very beautiful now.

Taps!! Good night, sir.

Affectionately,

Pen.



Mr. Frank R. Chambers,
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