



On Active Service

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

November 11, 1918

In France

Sweetheart:— This is the day of days for France. The day they have watched and waited for for lo— these 4 years of war.

This noon when news of the signing of the armistice was published every whistle & bell in France broke loose, and such a din you never heard in all your life. The big boats tied up in the river blew incessantly, and the guns on them fired round and round. It was carried to the church steeples where the bells of the old cathedrals heralded peace, and the French, one and all, old & young came out of closed Chateaus and dingy barricaded doors to celebrate the big event.

Everybody closed up shop, except
our army and the whole of
France tonight is one big
Carnival. Some of the boys
back from Bordeaux say that
the city is gone clean crazy,
old women & young girls hugging
& kissing the soldier boys,
everybody full of wine.

It aint no safe
place for me so I stayed up
in my little old camp, but
I can see from my window
the rockets & glare of the
city, once more turned into
the gay white day, after 4
years of dingy street lamps
& darkened signs. Every now
and ~~A~~ then a distant boom
~~for~~ a cannon is heard from
a celebration some distance away.



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2.

The French people are clean crazy, they laugh, cry, wring their hands, and say, 'Tres bon Américains, La Guerre finit', and then offer wine & food.

It's a big occasion for them, for we don't realize what it means to them. Nobody will ever realize their suffering.

It's sure funny to see them.

Am anxiously waiting for tomorrow's paper to get some of the real dope.

I can hardly realize that Germany could 'crumble' so quickly, but I reckon it's true, for our boys are walking

thru them so fast that tank trucks can't keep up. Their lines are completely smashed, and many an American Division stands ready for an immediate call to the

front from behind the battle line, fully equipped, well fed, and dead anxious to get in.

I'm in that catagory now. Sure am disappointed that I didn't get up but we will get there very soon, as an army of occupation anyway. So much for the doings of the big day.

Yesterday we had our Ishpeming reunion. Bill Myers, Walter Sterne, Herman & myself. We met at the Cafe Bordeaux at 10.30 A.M. visited the parks, cathedrals & all the points of interest about Bordeaux, ate like Kings in the Chapon Fin, the finest restaurant in the city, ~~and~~ came back to camp in the afternoon, with a wonderful



3.

day behind us. Am sending you a few postals to show you some of the things we saw. I can tell you more about them soon.

Everybody wonders now what Uncle Sam is going to do with his vast Army here.

Latrine rumors are beginning to come into their own, as in days at Camp Grant.

Whatever they do, you can bet I'm coming home just as soon as ever I can!

What a wonderful day it will be too — when I cross the gang planks once again bound for the good Old U.S.A. — and my sweetheart Anniski.

Got your letter N^o 40 today, also the chocolate & gum — I'm the envy of

all the company, because I get
so many letters. - but I tell
you its some fine.

Herran sends his love
to you and the family.

Must close now and
get to bed.

My sweetheart, goodnight,
and leaves a prayer for the
sweetest girl in all the world
from her hubby.

Love - hugs - kisses.

Jelly, Hayden

Captain U.S.A.,

Co. A. 311th Engineers
A.P.O. 916.

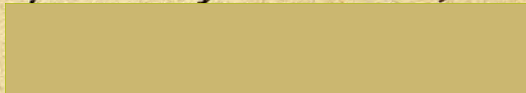
American



Elzey Hayden
Captain U.S.A.



Mrs J. Elzey Hayden



O.K.

Elzey Hayden
Captain U.S.A.

Ishpeming
Michigan