

[Margaret Cline in France to Lily and Viola in Salem, Virginia]

June 18, 1918

My Dear Sisters,

One month ago today we left New York. It really seems more like a year than a month. Although we have had some very good times in that month. We had a lovely time coming over. The weather was just grand and ocean wasn't rough but just a few days. I was sea sick for a few days but after that I sure did enjoy every minute of my time, and was almost sorry to see our ship land. We had some excitement the last few days of our journey. We would have felt slighted if we hadn't had just a little fun. Quiet a few told us that if you were not sick crossing the ocean we would be when we crossed the English Channel. But as it happened the Channel was as quiet as a lamb. One could barely feel the movement of the ship. So we enjoyed our trip across the Channel veery much. The sun didn't set that night until ten o'clock and when it did go down it was one of the most wonderful sights I ever saw.

I like France very much, but can't say that I'd be contented to spend the rest of my natural life over here. The villages are so queer to us. These people sure are not living a fast life like we do in the U. S.A. such a luxury as a hot bath is almost an unheard of thing over here. Although we have plenty of bathers here at the hospital. But until we got here didn't know what hot water was like. You can imagine what we looked like traveling on the train for five or six days and very little water of any kind to wash your face.

The trains are queer dinkey little things - they almost look like toys beside our trains. Gee it does your heart good to see one of the American trains come along. They have some of them over here that are used mostly for hospital trains. I wish you girls could go through one. It really is so wonderful how well equipped those trains are. One of the U. S. Hospital trains was the first thing to greet us when we arrived on French soil. The patients had all been taken out of the train and taken to hospitals. The hospital where we are now is a beautiful place. Also a very lively place. The ward I am in isn't very lively just now, but that won't last long. I certainly do like the work and would not have missed coming for any thing. I think I'll like it even better when we are in our own "Base 38." Our unit was separated and sent to the four winds but we hope to be together again before many months.

I have written to David several time but haven't heard from him yet. I sure hope I'll hear from him soon. I just wonder if he has been getting his mail. I sure would like to know where he is.

I had my half day today and went down in the village. Augers is where we are. It is a very pretty place but you can't see the prettiest places, as they have high stone walls around every person's place. Every family seems to have a garden, which is their soul's pride. They really are worth being proud of, for they are wonderfully well cared for.

Love to both of you and every one else.

P.S. Am sending you a stamp I happened to have, and we don't use stamps over here.

Sister

[Endorsed by J.Faleys, 2nd Lt. 9 Inf (censor)]