

Clarence Kjelson

Writes from France

France, Feb. 18.

Dear Folks:

Will make another attempt at writing a letter this evening. The two letters from home dated December 11 and 14 were received, and it sure was some pleasure to hear from home.

I do not know where all our mail has been this long time, but we can hardly expect to receive it very regularly as we move about a good deal, and then the American Expeditionary Forces cover a good deal of territory, so it requires some time to locate and sort mail when it does arrive here. We had been expecting mail ever since landing on French soil, and January 14 it came in rather surprising, as we had almost given up hopes of having any while at this camp. There was a car load for our division, and I got seven letters out of it, so I felt pretty well satisfied.

Learned that I have three packages on the way and am now waiting eagerly for them as one is a box of cigars and the other two contain cigarettes and other articles. Thanks very much for the money order, tho' I have not been able to get any on it so far. May be able to cash it when we move to another camp, and if not will try to cash it with some one who sends money back to the U. S. The last time we were paid was November 16, on the train from Camp Green, North Carolina to Camp Mills, over two months ago. Signed the pay roll recently so we will no doubt be paid soon. It seems as tho' one must have money, even in the army, in order to feel satisfied.

This week has been very spring like here. Monday was a beautiful day and Tuesday and Wednesday were damp and rainy, while the last two days have been sunny and warm. There is no snow to speak of and the ice is melting away fast, tho' it is rather wet and sloppy. It is about like April weather in Dakota, only a little warmer, perhaps. It may be too good to last, however, and as I cannot speak French, I have not been able to learn whether or not this is the spring season here, but I presume it is.

I have been feeling fine ever since I got over my cold at Camp Merritt, and I only hope to remain in good health. We expect to move again soon and it is hard to tell when we will get mail again. Will try to write about once a week and will be glad to have you folks write rather often as mail is sure appreciated here, although we get it in bunches far between times.

Will close for this time and will write again about a week. These letters may not leave camp every day but then they will not be delayed as much as mail coming here.

Love and best regards to all.

Corp. Clarence H. Kelson.
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41st Division.