AMERICAN YMCA

On Active Service
WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

American P.O. #726
June 22, 1918.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
132 East 19th Street,
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have yours of the 12th of May written in Washington. You are a wonder the way you find time to write. Even though I haven't received all the letters that you must have written, if you have written every two weeks, I have had most of them and I do not need to tell you how grateful I am for them.

I hope to hear in your next about your Woman's Committee splurge. I hope the work is progressing so that you feel more satisfied with it. I am glad you have gotten Mrs. Martin to speak. She evidently turned out to be a regular soap box orator. I have letters from her full of the busy whirl she has been in this winter. I think it is lovely for her to be footloose for once and be able to dip into everything. She apparently loves it.

I am interested to hear about Mollie and Scott Nearing's being under investigation. Tell me anything more that you hear. I heard Selon Borghum was coming over here in the Y.M.C.A. As I remember it, our friend was Gutson, wasn't he?

I am interested in what you say about the air craft business. It corresponds with what Tarkington said in a letter I have just had from him. He thinks by August we will be really showing results in that line. I tried by the way to get him into the Y.M.C.A. I ought to have known, just as I should have with you, that he wasn't physically able.

Things are going well over here. As you travel around France you get the idea that the Americans are laying a great foundation for war. If we ever get 10,000,000 men we will be able to feed them, etc. Such warehouses and storehouses, and, of course, the men are coming in in enormous quantities now, and almost entirely combatants, I hear. If this thing keeps up, as it is going now, we ought to have a very appreciable number of men in the line within a very short time. In fact, I believe we have now, though the French don't seem to be using but a few divisions so far. Everybody has absolute confidence in the French generals, and I hear no kick at all about our men being placed under them, instead of under our own officers.

I had a good visit with Raymond Fosdick last week. He had been with Pershing for a day and I gathered that he is pretty well pleased with the civilian work/the army, which, of course, covers our

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work, the Red Cross, etc.

I dined with Max Foster last week in Paris and he gave me some news of the states, I missedMrs. Richardson. She made a flying trip, but Harry Brown saw her and said she had some fine stuff. I ran into our old friend, Judge Lindsey the other day. He was as sweet as ever, but somehow or other he seemed to me to have lost his pep. I got the impression someway that he had pretty much done his work in the world, though he is full of all sorts of important bills that he is going to introduce into Parliament in England and all such things.

Our boys here are a wonderful lot, and the pride and affection the French show in them is touching. You feel as if they thought these boys were going to be their saviours. We have got to live up to a pretty big notion that these people have of us. The more I see of them (the French), the more I take off my hat to them. I see now why you are always so enthusiastic over them.

I hope you are taking care of yourself. Let me know how you really are the next time you write. In a bully letter I had from Esther the other day she said you had your usual May delusion that you were going to spend a great deal of time at the farm. I wish you would fool her and the rest of us for once by making a whole summer of it up there. Give my love to her and Clara, Sarah, Ella, and all the people in the valley.

We are all in good spirits here in spite of the repeated German offensives, and I somehow think the worst is over and before long we will have something to show.

Always faithfully yours,

Burt

O.K. Geo F Osborn
Capt, M.R.C.

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