

Please  
return

I'm writing Mrs. O'Brien

Convois Automobiles

L.S.A. 3.

Par Parc Dijon

France.

Monday night. March 7<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Mother,

Mr. of 1<sup>st</sup> enclosing one from Trin arrived yesterday. Many thanks for seeing about spare beds, I had to buy a pair of galoshes, none of us wear them, result was they just for 2 days & my son throat went at last. In this constant wet it is no want to get rid of colds. Several have colds & throats & the men too. I doubt if any man will be fit enough for the work, he helps in kitchen now, looks thin & miserable still it is a great nuisance not having him, so hard to keep having Suffering men & no money to keep em all clean & happy. I've spent four hours at it this aft. noon washing & cleaning & cleaning stretchers, pillows with rubber pillow cases & blankets, every thing gets so dirty & often stretchers & pillows covered in blood. We son's pretent to wash cars, no consequences

for one reason & no time for another, but mind's now  
has to try & keep clean & use paper's now & again to  
his report. The wounded who probably have been in  
trenches for days are opened covered in mud. When  
cleaning my car out this aft. noon I found 6 packets  
of cartridges, rather alarming. Often the wounded from  
trenches have their rifles with them on stretchers  
with muzzles pointing at me, one wonders if the  
thing is loaded, as likely as not it may be.

It is nearly dinner time, we dine 7 p.m. Dinner  
11-30. I only got in from garage at 1/4 to 6, I  
had meant to write several letters, it is so hard,  
tired at night & on for all day & night too at times.  
Yesterday 6 cars including mine left 8 a.m. & got back  
here 7 p.m. Last night we went - have some gentle  
100 miles fetching wounded from a hospital or  
rather from 3 different hospitals in one town to  
a large military hospital in another 12 miles away,  
the furthest town we had to go to is 22 miles from  
here & we had to run between the two, I  
carried 24 men including 6 officers & 2 of them

II I helped to carry into the hospital. Only 2 of the lot  
 on stretchers, rest sitting, the removal with frozen  
 feet & hands to be carried on a man's back, & put  
 sitting in ambulances. It is a most painful thing  
 I believe. They are all so patient & take it all without  
 any complaint. Between the two towns where we were  
 moving yesterday there was tremendous fighting last day,  
 or early out. Lasting 17 days. Villages destroyed, huge shell  
 holes all about, spaces & trenches & wire entanglements.  
 One heard of some all about Belgian towns being  
 destroyed, but little about French ones, you can't imagine  
 the state of some of these villages & parts of the towns,  
 absolute ruins. On a pass near here we have been over  
 a few times there was very heavy fighting, thousands killed  
 & marks found of German invasion, they were pushed  
 back from there to where they are now, they never got  
 here, but were within a short distance. No call today,  
 first day off since we came. Heard guns about noon  
 today, but last 3 days very little fighting if any, so we  
 have not been called to the trenches. Last is, we  
 happened to arrive just at beginning of big fight which  
 lasted 4 or 5 days, now, for moment, they are comparatively  
 quiet. We passed a tremendous lot of cavalry yesterday

at a town we were at. This evening my kind landlady  
 gave me coffee & some little cakes  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 8. & I went to  
 Mass at 8. Opposite. as there was no call this evening.  
 I went again at 10, out of Villa Mass, lot of people &  
 a good practical sermon, very easy to understand; my  
 landlady was there. How awful these catastrophes in Italy  
 seem to have been. Many mountains splitting & moving  
 about & under floods. I see a new nothing; about them  
 in Toronto papers. It started to snow again at noon, but  
 seems finer tonight. There a thumb last few days &  
 snow had disappeared. I bought peppermints with me, &  
 a small tin, yes, they are very nice to have & on a cold  
 night they are good to suck. I hope you get Mr. Standard  
 with account of our trip to Wisconsin & will keep it;  
 the man who wrote it left us there & thanks & returned  
 home. I hear another disappears in very ill this week.  
 We shall be short of men if they go on getting  
 laid up. One who expected going up to the trenches  
 & said he was too near firing, has been made  
 out of bed room cleaner & kitchen help to the man,  
 he is quite sound, so it reduces our disappearances  
 a lot.

Best love  
 A.