ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
NAME  
Paul B Hendrickson  
2d Bn 319 Inf  
A E F  
MAY 6 19  

Dear Father and Mother:  
Today we are playing at the name of departing troops. This place here  
the Red Cross has very extensive accommodations for soldiers care for them hundreds at a time. The place here where we slept on the ground with our pup tents for shelter - now in less than eleven months is one city of barracks + necessary equipment for the handling of two divisions of men at a time - in other words - accommodations for over 70000 men. paved streets + board side walks. I could hardly believe my eyes as we marched into the place where but a few months ago, was bare fields + we were the first to sleep in them. Our mess hall feeds 7000 men in 40 minutes and fine food. prepared tasty and in our barracks we are furnished two extra blankets; and  
with our three - makes it comfortable fo
us. We came in here last Friday morning about 2 o'clock. We hope to be out again soon. Those old boats out in the harbor look most inviting and I never had such a desire to get out on one before. We know nothing definite when we will sail.

Well, I've seen the women of many countries and no joking, it gives you a wonderful feeling of pleasure to see, meet and talk with American women again. They give a home-like feeling to a red cross and you, that you can't feel in a good French home or any other one I know of. They get out and play ball with the boys here, and do all they can for their entertainment. Well, good luck to the boys leaving today. Hope to be with you soon myself with more thanks of love for you, than there is miles that part of Iowa as ever your loving son, Paul B.