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Letter from Ceylon Kingston to his mother, dated December 19, 1918

Ceylon S. Kingston

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Martigny-les-Bains, Dec. 19, 1918

My dear Mother:

The regiment was suddenly moved from La Marche last week and Monday I came to Martigny-les-Bains. This place is about three miles from La Marche. The rest of the "tank" soldiers are here but they are getting ready to move out in a short time. The statement is made that they will form part of the army that will hold the occupied territory in Germany.

In addition to the tank troops here there is a large hospital with accommodations for 1000 patients. There are about 908 here now. Many of the former prisoners in Germany that are now coming back in all kinds of bad conditions are being treated here. There are three foyers here — one in the hospital and two outside of town. I am helping now in the hospital foyer. The patients who are well enough to be up and around spend a good deal of their time in the foyer. Here they read, play games, smoke, talk, etc. There is a variety of nationalities — French, Algerians, Moroccans, French negroes from the French West Indies, Annamese from French Cochin, China, etc. There are three Americans here — Mr. Rioux an American French Canadian, Mr. Ashby from the University of Texas and myself. We live in a French house outside and board in a French home. Both are very good and comfortable.

North of here at Contrexeville, a half dozen miles away, is a large American hospital which can accommodate 2000 patients. It is only a quarter full now. They have a splendid American hospital force. If I should be sick there is where I would go. I am feeling fine. I am not sure that I shall continue in the French branch of the work. When these foyers here are closed I may ask for a transfer to the American service. I think I told you about it in my last letter.

Love to all and a Merry Christmas

Yours, Ceylon