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Letter from Ceylon Kingston to his mother, dated January 4, 1919

Ceylon S. Kingston

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J
Thisancourt, Vorges Jan. 4, 1918

My dear Mother:

Well I got a little mail from home. Last Sunday I went down to La Marche from Martigny and took dinner with the American officers. I found that your letters written Nov. 9 had been sent to La Marche. Well the Foyer there had been closed and the postman took it to the American camp. I read John's story of Canton's too early celebration. Even over here the Americans celebrated peace much more noisily than the French. The French took it more calmly. They were tremendously glad that the war was over but they had endured so much in the four and a half years that they did not feel like making great celebrations. They are cheerful but in a very quiet patient way.

I have been transferred from Martigny les Bains to Thisancourt. This is a village about four miles west of Mirecourt. We have young recruits here of the 1919 class who are getting their military training. As I write the machine guns out on the range are rapidly firing which is the only gun fire that I have heard in France.

I have a good place to stay. I have a comfortable room in a house woned by two elderly women. I take my meals with the officers. There are four officers who have the men in charge. The officers are very agreeable. I am the only American. Yesterday afternoon I walked to Mirecourt which is a town of about 5000 people and got a haircut and some little things.

The weather is rainy. There is no snow and in the place of snow we have lots of mud. France certainly has a mild climate.

I enjoyed the letters that John and Betty wrote. You must have been quite excited over the news that the peace had arrived. When I get back I will have many interesting things to tell you about the life over here and all the little things that make French village life so different from American.

I hope to be able to come back in the spring. If I could get back in time to return to Cheney for the summer school it would suit me best.

With love to all.

Ceylon