

Austin Che
1/31/96
Period 3
U.S. History A.P.
Boggie

July 16, 1918

Father,

I am really enjoying France. This place is very beautiful and I already have learned how to speak some French.

The people here are very friendly. The peasants give us food and share everything with us. A few days ago, on July 14, the French celebrated Bastille Day. There was this big party and our entire army was invited to attend. The French have become happier since we have come. Just our presence gives them and our allies hope. I truly hope we can break this deadly stalemate.

Here money doesn't matter. All that matters is friendship and the ability to survive. I have made many good friends since I joined the army. Training and fighting together can really bring people together. I would trust anyone in this group with my life, even though we have only known each other since we signed on.

We have started our final training. We are really soldiers now. There is even a possibility that I will be promoted soon! I hope we can start fighting the Germans. We will kill the kaiser and make him pay for this war. I hope to come home soon.

Love,

Your son

Austin Che
1/31/96
Period 3
U.S. History A.P.
Boggie

August 7, 1918

Father,

Tell Mother not to worry. I am all right. I have been very lucky. The very first skirmish we had, several of my friends died as they went through no-man's land. I have had no significant injuries.

Perhaps I should explain how we are fighting. We are fighting mostly in trenches. The enemy is in opposing trenches and there is barbed wire in the middle. The center is called no-man's land. We have to charge through this area to get to the enemy.

Some of my friends have been separated from my company. They were to join some reinforcement groups to help the French. It seems that the French need help in some areas where they have become weak. However, General Pershing is trying to keep the American soldiers together.

The places where we have charged through have been horrible. Everything is in ruins. Houses are gone; all that is left is some piles of wood. The French are going to have a difficult time in rebuilding after this war is over.

My commanding officer takes care of us. I know that he is looking out for the safety of us. I hope that I can be a good officer someday.

Love,

Your son

Austin Che
1/31/96
Period 3
U.S. History A.P.
Boggie

November 22, 1918

Father,

I am a lieutenant now! I am in charge of a small group of soldiers. I understand now what it feels like to be in command.

I have received several badges of honor for my courage and devotion. Once, I received a badge for risking my life to save a soldier trapped in no-man's land. I was just doing my job as lieutenant.

However, I am getting real tired of fighting. I cannot recall the battles that I have fought. It seems to be all a dream. All this death and blood is making me regret becoming a soldier. It isn't as great as I thought it was.

I was recently slightly injured for a few days by a gas attack. I didn't put on my mask fast enough when the attack came. However, what was really scary was seeing those people that didn't put on their masks. The gas burned their lungs and they are dying a painful death.

I really want this war to end. This war that had no reason to be fought in the first place has brought death to millions and cost billions of dollars. I don't want to kill Germans anymore. I want it to go back to the way it was before the war. Hope to see you soon.

Love,

Your son