

Transcription

Copy of part of a letter written by George Francis Murphy in France c1916

[something crossed out – suspect this is part of an unidentified letter. In letter 36038 he mentions that his current dugout is not the same as the one with a stained glass window 19.10.16] about 4 mls from where I bought your watch. The 3 day march from there was fairly tough. – Paris is the only large city we did not pass through in the train But we saw Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Versailles, and the city in the distance. Lyons is a beautiful city, and the Rhine will need to be some stream to beat the Rhone Valley. The old feudal castles, and Roman castles were wonderful sights. I grieved for my camera almost every minute. A crucifex “abattu en 1792’ is no uncommon sight – though of course they have been re-erected. But I’ve seen houses dated 14th & 15th century, and the unfinished cathedral of Sens, and the lights of Calais. The winter in these lands must be awful. Even now, it is cold, wet, and muddy under foot. – In our first Billels I had a room (upstairs) about 16’ X 14’ with a ¾ bed – wood, - and about 7 mattresses on it. In the next town we stayed at the cure’ gave me a nice large room, nice bed, &c and about 17 images. In the billets back behind I use a stretcher, & my sleeping bag. In the trenches I do the same. My dugout in trenches is about 8 ft wide, boarded, and 15 ft long. The bunk is also 15 ft long. I have a stained glass window in it, fragments of shells have played havoc with the designs. We pump the water out every day. At one end I have a fine stove (for room heating) with sliding front. It is in fine working order, and is especially useful for drying boots &c at 2 a.m. – (Did you hear that bang?) As for myself I have plenty of underclothing, and boots