

May 17, 1919-
June 15

Dearest little grandmother:

I suppose you think I'm crazy by my putting May 17 then scratching it out and writing June 15, nearly a month's difference!! But you see I had started this letter at the time of the first date and had gotten as much as "Dearest little grandmother" written, when I was interrupted and am just now finishing it today - or rather tonight as it is ten thirty and Sunday.

I'm enclosing three snap shots of Vernon's grave which Ben took when

he visited it in April and see
the snow hasn't melted! Also
the negatives which you may
give to Aunt Julia so she can
have as many duplicates made
as she wishes, giving you some
because we want you to return
the three finished ones to us
as they are the only ones we
have. Ben said he had an
awful time finding the exact
spots because all the crosses
were so covered with snow
and he had to scrape that
off to find the name, then to
even find the cemetery itself
(as there are so many now in
France) was worse. I'm also
sending two pictures of Daddy,
one ~~before~~ with Ben before Ben
was made a lieutenant and
one with Dr Waggoner - now
a major. Do you remember him?
~~He~~ was our dentist here for years
before he entered the service and
Daddy and Ben ran across
him accidentally while they
were in Paris together. You
may keep these if you like.
The one of papa and Ben was
taken at Ben's school where
Daddy went to see him graduate.

Of course you know Ben's
here at home now and father
is in New York? We are so
happy! It just seems too good

to be true. If only Alston now can get out of the Navy why our happiness will be complete. Bernice came home for a few days and just in time to greet Ben when he arrived! You know she's going to take a post graduate course at Emerson and summer school work at Harvard both this summer.

Benjamin has brought home some wonderful things and gives us "lectures" on his travels and experiences every night that he's been here and that six days. It's too bad you aren't here to enjoy it all. He brought home a machine about the size of a watermelon

which the Germans use ~~to~~^{as} a "feeder"
for their horrid machine guns. He picked
it up while visiting the "Hendenburg
Line"!! His gas mask, camouflaged
helmet and other overseas equipment
are also very interesting. But what
will that be to Daddy's experiences
etc when he has really seen fighting.

Tuesday afternoon - The girls of
The High Schools of the city are going
to dress in white, and each school
will have tissue overseas caps of the
^{colors of} ~~each school's~~ colors to be worn by the
girls of their own school. They will stand

on each side of the "Triumphal Arch"
built for the purpose on Alamo
Plaza and throw flowers at
the heroes of the nineteenth
division - 360th Infantry -
Poor Vernon, I don't see how
I can keep from crying when
as those many khaki clad
war heroes tread, tread, tread
on the roses and the regular
rhythm will seem to me to
say "Vernon is dead, Vernon
is dead" - - . Oh isn't it awful?

Yesterday at the Traves Club,
about two hundred convalescents
of the 90th were entertained by
the High School girls and
Mildred met one ^{man named} Jeffery and
only a private ^{by} rank who
said that he was given an
order to carry to Vernon
while the battle was raging,
and when he had crawled
to ^{within 6 feet of} Vernon, he dropped to the
ground and when Jeffery reached
him, he found him dead, with
a bullet which had gone straight
thru his forehead ^{to} the skull;
so poor Vernon evidently
died immediately. Then Private
Jeffery said he helped bury V. three
days later. Ben has the address
of a sergeant in the same pla-
toon who will give you all
particulars if you wish to
correspond with him. Ben

P.S. When Ben showed Southern's grave and
told us about it we all cried & cried. I made us
nalgas, as we hadn't before that he would never come!!

hasn't the man's name and address
here with him but can get ~~them~~ if you
or Aunt Julia wish ~~them~~.

Malone Jr is on a Y.M.C.A. Camp at
Kerrville; so mama, Ben and Bobbie
went up to see him today. He's enjoying
himself fine - has splendid, delicious and
well cooked food and good leaders.

Ben says that while he was in
Paris, a policeman chased him, so he
jumped on some scales and got a weigh
(way) !! - Of course this didn't really happen - he was
just "talking".

Mama doesn't improve, just
stay in bed one day and up the next
two - but is no worse.
Sincerely Abby.