Soldier Letter Analysis

Date of the Letter: ____________________________________________________________

Author of the Letter: _________________________________________________________

Audience/Recipient of the Letter: ______________________________________________

Where was the letter written? _________________________________________________

What details about soldier life does the author discuss?
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How does the author feel about his home?
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How does the author feel about his current situation?
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Name: ____________________________   Date: ____________
September 5, 1918

Joseph Lawton, Secondaviga, writes from France.

Somewhere in France,
Aug. 4, 1918.

Dear Mildred, Clifford and all:

You will notice from the heading that I am now in France. Last time I wrote to your mother and thought I would write you while awaiting some mail from the U.S.

I am in a small, ancient town of about 300 inhabitants in the south central part of France. The day we arrived it rained the first they had since March, so the crops have suffered some, but other parts of France I have seen are raising wonderful crops of vegetables and grain and every
available foot of land is used. I am sleeping in a barn with four other chaps and it is not bad at all, with a good bed of straw. There is a thin partition, about a foot from my head, are 20 sheep, 2 goats and a horse and they sometimes make strange noises in the night and wake you up, but I soon expect to be able to talk their language.

Seems funny not to be able to talk with the people and you have to dig out your dictionary to get at other dictionary words and everything else and still I am a miserable failure, but I am getting a few new words each day.

The people who own the barn where we sleep are very old and they have lost their three boys in the war.

There are plenty of Si boys over here and I don't know where they
were. Will you try to get the address of Jeff Bennett, Joe Velty and Tunney and maybe sometime we might run across each other.

Let me know if my traveling bag came back O.K. I sent it the day before we left camp.

Will you also give Sherman my address so he can write, as I do not know his address. Shall be glad to get the Sentinel wrap it pretty strong as it will come thru O.K.

There is a little mail coming to me from the U.S. the last few days but I haven't received any. If you can also send the magazine now and then I shall be pleased to have them. There is nothing at all here in English to read.

Am getting stronger each day now and my side only bothers occasionally, by swelling some
and quitting at times. It was reported aboard the transport that I was dead, some fellows even claiming they helped lower my body over the side. When I did get around the fellows looked at me as though I had returned from the other world. Very impressive to attend your own funeral.

Saw Hugh Moore. His company is quartered about 3 miles from here.

Well I guess I will close as I think of nothing more. We have to be in bed at 10:30 here (4 p.m. over home) and get up at 6 in the morning. We can get milk for 10 cents a quart and eggs are 80 cents a dozen. Myself and another chap buy a quart a day and have an egg milk shake every night. We are allowed to drink wine over here but I don't like it at all.
you can get my address from the envelope and be sure and get everything on. Also put in the corner "A.P.O. no. 773" and this will get a quicker delivery. Write soon and often and I shall try and do the same.

love to all,

Joe.
Lawton Letter
Sept 5, 1918

[Handwritten text below]
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Joseph Lawton, Ticonderoga, writes from France.

Somewhere in France,
Aug. 4, 1918.

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[page 2]
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