My Dear Mr. Nabrit,

Several months ago when I received your very informative letter on Howard's activities and other Howardites, I promised to write you a long letter because at that time I didn’t have ample time, however, since that time I have been moving so very fast until I have scarcely had too much time for personal correspondence. As you will note since my last letter, I have been moved from England to France.

The moss covered chimneys and side walls of the Buildings left standing, a very definite indication that the buildings were quite old. Some I’m sure dating back to the 16th century. The thatched roofs that still remain, remind one of a garden; springing up from the top. As a result of the warm rays of the sun (sunny France), wheat and corn may be seen sprouting. Evil springs from the dark core of the world and brings with it life, and things without flesh and blood, things void and begin to stir. This period of liberation is liken unto that of the Renaissance Period to the French people. Streams of moving columns of peasants may be seen filing by. They are returning to the ruined cities in which they once lived, only to find nothing but a heap of ruin and an occasional chimney, and a few pieces of furniture only to be salvaged. The French have had so many such similar interruptions in their civilization as a result of war. I suppose even she very young children have grown weary.

II. After all most of the fighting today, to my mind, is being done with much courage and fortitude regardless of the capacity, whether on the front or on the docks. I say this because not too many of us are represented in actual combat groups comparatively speaking, from the representation of colored troops in this theater, they are performing their duties willingly and with much proficiency, not stopping to ask what we are fighting for; well wouldn’t it be kind of hard to say what we are fighting for at any rate? In the last war perhaps various answers such as this would be applicable: the French were fighting to keep the Germans away from Paris; the English didn’t want them near the Channel; the Russians were trying to drive them back into their own country. Perhaps each little spot in Europe is looked upon with greedy eyes with every neighboring country always ready to plunge into a war of aggression or for defense of some traditional holding. I sometimes wonder where does the culture lie, on this side of the ocean or at home? I only believe there are many more monuments and museums erected abroad!

From all latest reports of the war today, all five fronts are progressing according to schedule and plan; armored spearheads and tank columns make advances in France; liberators make progress in the Pacific; the Russians throw in crack regiments on their front, allied forces in Asia make advances and in Italy, Florence reported to have been cleared by the polis (unofficial), and flank the Gothic line. I sincerely hope by the time you have received this letter the Allies will have reached Paris, the Russians in Berlin and this phase of the war ended.

III. After all it does take from eight to eleven days for mail to reach the III
United States. When this gigantic task is over and the free people can resume their normal way of life, I suppose it will be like PUTTING DOWN A HEAVY WEIGHT.

A few of former Howardites that I have by chance been able to contact are as follow: 1st Lt Benjamin C. Smith, T. Sgt. Joan C. Houseit, S/Sgt. John T. Riley and Private Thomas H. Chase. Our Chaplain at the present time is 1st Lt. Lewis A. McGee although not a former member of Howard. He is no doubt known around D.C. Prior to Chaplain McGee, Captain Edward G. Carroll, former staff member of Morgan College.

At this time I wish to extend my very best wishes to all, and I hope that this year will bring one of the largest classes to Howard ever in history. I have planned to return to Howard and resume my studies after the war is over. I beg to remain.

Very sincerely,

T/Sgt. Frederic F. Clanagan